

"His Image / Identity Marred" Isaiah 52:13-14

¹³ Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. ¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; Isaiah 52:13–14 (NKJV)

I. Our catechisms and confession speak of mankind's fall, and the sorry state of sin and misery that fall brought us to -

Question 17 Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery. (Rom. 5:12)

Question 18 Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell? The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it. (Rom. 5:12,19, Rom. 5:10–20, Eph. 2:1–3, James 1:14–15, Matt. 15:19)

Question 19 What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, (Gen. 3:8,10,24) are under his wrath and curse, (Eph. 2:2–3, Gal. 3:10) and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever. (Lam. 3:39, Rom. 6:23, Matt. 25:41,46)

1. The larger catechism expands on these, but while effects of sin & misery are listed, one important influence of sin is omitted. That is the DISTORTION of God's image –

In question 10 of the WSC We are told by the catechism that man was created in God's image in knowledge, righteousness and holiness –

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

2. "Renewed" in knowledge implies what we know is true, original knowledge was LOST by sin, and so was true righteousness and holiness. Sin might not have erased the image of God in man, but sin definitely DISTORTED that knowledge -

II. Scripture clearly tells that God's image is distorted in sinful man –

So His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; Isaiah 52: 14 (NKJV)

I believe Isaiah 52:14 refers not only to how our Lord Jesus was beaten physically before He took His cross, but also to how God's image was distorted in mankind, because of sin –

In Psalm 22, where Jesus speaks to us from the cross –

1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? Psalm 22:1 (NKJV)

A. From that cross He counts human beings the ANIMALS, they had become by sin -

¹² Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. ¹³ They gape at Me *with* their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. Psalm 22:12–13 (NKJV)

B. *Not only bulls and lions, but also "dogs" –*

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; Psalm 22:16 (NKJV)

3. *Entire kingdoms of men are termed "beasts" because the ungodly tend to rule,*

A. *By popular opinion, - many are BEASTS*

B. By brute force –

² Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. ⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. ⁵ “And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’ ⁶ “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷ “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. Daniel 7:2–7 (NKJV)

¹⁷ ‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings *which* arise out of the earth. Daniel 7:17 (NKJV)

4. Note also, the verse referring to Nebuchadnezzar who was HUMBLED by God, who acknowledged God and His sovereignty, it is said that his wings were clipped and he was given the heart of a man –

⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. Daniel 7:4 (NKJV)

5. Beasts –

- A. Lack knowledge of God!*
- B. Lack righteousness, a moral compass!*
- C. Lack holiness, a relationship with and loyalty to God*

6. In Zechariah 1 ungodly governments are compared to “horns” which are symbolic of brute force dominance of a beast, these are contrasted with Craftsmen -

¹⁸ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns. ¹⁹ And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem." ²⁰ Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. ²¹ And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up *their* horn against the land of Judah to scatter it." Zechariah 1:18–21 (NKJV)

Bighorn sheep / rams have horns, they establish dominance by brute force banging into each other, these are representative of ungodly men who rule only by brute force POWER –

These are opposed in Zechariah 1 by the craftsmen, who use their minds to build.

7. See how the BEAST in Revelation is describe, note first, he is called "the Beast" –

13 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)

A. Beast – animal not man!

B. Ten horns – complete brute force dominance!

C. See the description of this dominance –

⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. Revelation 13:6–7 (NKJV)

III. See how our nation has moved more and more to a beast ideology and identity –

- 1. The theory of evolution says we are not created in God's image but rather we have evolved from apes / animals / ape-like ...*

Monkey DNA

(Sing to the tune of Y.M.C.A. by the Village People)

Young man, you're just hanging around. I said, young man, your arms touch the ground.

I said, young man, you make an eek, eek sound You scream when you're unhappy.

Young man, there's a place you should go. I said, young man, it's spelled z-o-o!

You can go there, and I'm sure you will find Many of your own kind!

It's fun to have Monkey DNA. It's fun to have Monkey DNA. You can swing from the trees, you can do it with ease ... You can do whatever you please!

It's fun to have Monkey DNA. It's fun to have Monkey DNA.

You can pick your nose clean, you can have a good meal, beware you don't slip on the peel ...

Young man, are you listening to me? I said, young man, what do you want to be? I said, young man, you can forget all your dreams. But you've got to know this one thing!

No man is much more than a slug. I said, young man, you're just an evolved bug,

Richard Dawkins, he told me it's true What a primate bummer for you!

But It's fun to have Monkey DNA. It's fun to have Monkey DNA. You can swing from the trees, You can do it with ease ... You can do whatever you please

It's fun to have Monkey DNA. It's fun to have Monkey DNA. You can pick your nose clean, you can have a good meal, beware you don't slip on the peel ...

It's fun to have Monkey DNA. It's fun to have Monkey DNA.

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- 2. Sports teams are lions and cardinals, dolphins...*



tigers and bears, eagles,

- 3. Today, children in schools are animal persona, an animal*

taught to choose "furries" and IDENTITY!

They meow and bark and roar at each other and their teachers at school; and this is all a part of their choosing their own identity, which also includes choosing whether they want to identify as male or female!

4. *All in opposition to God's design –*

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)

5. *Ultimately, even the medical profession has gone along with this providing what is called "gender affirming health care", giving children dangerous hormone puberty blockers, and performing surgeries, removing breasts from girls and penises from boys.*

Why do doctors go along with this? They have also, a good portion of them, rejected God, and so they in a distorted image of God which would include normally: knowledge, righteousness and holiness ...

They lack the morality that goes with the idea of the SANCTITY of human life, so they LIE, telling little boys they really can change them into girls and girls, we really can change you into boys ... They work for the money, not the ultimate welfare of their patients.

6. *Such craziness when we see it all around us, such immorality is part of God's judgment -*

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans 1:28 (NKJV)

7. *Such rejecting of God changes people, they are no longer craftsman, building things up, rather they become beasts, tearing things apart -*

A. *Abortion – killing babies is called "healthcare"*

B. *Euthanasia – killing children or adults is called "healthcare"*

C. A sanctity of human life ethic is replaced by a quality-of-life ethic, and so now we have what is called "affordable health care" where we decide whether a person's life is still worth the price of their health care ...

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25 (NKJV)

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. John 10:10 (NKJV)

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