

Introduction

(Purpose: to capture interest, to remind them of last weeks' point about the dignity of humans, and to encourage the mothers)

This is the only time the article is used. It's "Day one...day two...day three...*the* sixth day." It's another indicator of the climactic nature of day 6.

As we saw last week, this passage points to the immeasurably high dignity of human beings in comparison to every other created thing.

Robert Hicks in The Masculine Journey begins ch.2 on p.31 with this quote from Darwin: "Man with all his noble qualities still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin."

Evolutionists believe we have a lowly origin. The humanist wants it both ways. They say that man is supreme - the highest being in the universe - yet that dignity is hollow. It comes from nothing.

I don't know what Robert Hicks is doing, but Christians believe that mankind has tremendously high origins. We are in the image of our Maker. This gives man dignity.

And the blessing man receives is so amazing it boggles the mind. A man and a woman can just decide to bring into existence an eternal soul!

You might think that would be the prerogative of only the highest angels or some heavenly court.

Or you might expect only the most qualified of people would be allowed to do that, and that they would have to go through a long application process and training...

But our authority in being in God's image and ruling the world on His behalf is such that any married couple is free to decide to have children whenever they want.

What a massive, immense blessing – that we are given the ability to proliferate the image of God on the earth!

So it's very fitting that we should be studying this portion on Mother's day (mothers, make sure you listen to last week's tape).

Just like all God's other good gifts, ungrateful man tends to disparage procreation, but in Scripture it's always a blessing. And I believe it's the highest and most amazing of all physical blessings.

Gn.1:26-31

26Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,

Finally on Day 6 God makes Adam, who, according to 1 Co.15:45, was the first man (which rules out the theory of a race before Adam).

Image

(Purpose: Define image, help the people appreciate the image in themselves and others, contrast with evolution)

Everything else is **according to its kind** but we are **according to His likeness**. The only thing an animal is similar to is another animal of the same species. We are similar to God.

Up to this point it's been "let there be. let there be..." but on Day 6 He doesn't say, "Let there be a man." He says, "**Let us make man in our image.**"

The language becomes intensely personal. For the first time God makes persons, and the point of doing that is relationship. That's the purpose of personhood.

The fact that we are in His image is repeated 4 times in this text, and again in ch.5.

Definition

(Purpose: to make the foreign concept of image in the ancient world understandable and easy to remember)

What is the image of God?

Whatever it is, one thing we can say for sure is it must be something inexpressibly high and lofty. And certainly not something that could evolve.

The word translated **image** (*tselem*) describes a concept that we do not have an English word to describe.

The English word "image" is very misleading, because it simply refers to a visual representation of something.

If we try to import that into the Bible, when we read about the idols, which the Bible calls graven images, we tend to assume that the pagans made their statues in such a way as to be a visual representation of what the god looked like.

That is not the case at all. The pagans worshipped their idols because they believe those idols were in the image of the gods. But that's not to say the image looked like the deity looked.

What they meant by image was that the idol represented the deity and the work of the deity was accomplished through the image.

So when Moses uses the term **image**, that's what would have come to the minds of the readers.

There is also a third element to this concept of image, and we see it clearly right at the beginning of ch.5.

Gn.5:1-3

When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man." 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

Verse one says Adam was in God's likeness, and v.3 says Seth was in Adam's likeness and image. It's clear the Lord intended this passage to instruct us as to the meaning of image and likeness.

Our being in His image is something like the relationship of our children to us.

This goes beyond the statements about plants and animals reproducing according to their kind. When it says Seth was in Adam's image, it's saying more than just the idea that Adam was reproducing the same species.

Animals are the same species as their parents and they look like their parents, but they are never said to be in their parents' image.

A son is in his father's image not because of genetic similarity, but because of his capacity to be and act like his father. An infant isn't much like an adult, but because he bears his father's image, the older he gets, the more that image develops, and the more he resembles his father.

So the third aspect of God's image is that we are in His image in the sense that we have the capacity to be like Him in various ways.

So the image of God involves three parts:

1. We are designed to reflect God
2. We have the potential to resemble God
3. We have the authority to represent God.

1. We are designed to reflect God.

The way we are designed represents things that are true about God.

People have wondered if our bodies are in God's image. There is debate about that, because God is spirit, and is not a limited, corporal being like we are.

He is not confined to a certain space like we are.

Our bodies are dust to dust. That doesn't resemble God in any way.

On the other hand, however, your body is an important part of who you are. You are not just a spirit bouncing around inside a shell. Your body is a very real, very significant important part of what you are.

Your body, soul, mind, spirit, will, etc. – they are all interwoven so closely that it is impossible to draw lines of separation between them.

Your spirit is so intimately interwoven in with your material body, that both effect one another.

If in your spirit you are not walking closely with God, the guilt from that can effect the neurotransmitters in your brain, which has an effect on your mind and soul by causing depression. It can alter the chemical makeup of your physical body.

It can work the other way too. If you stay up too late on Saturday night and wake up on Sunday morning physically tired, that can effect your spiritual ability to worship God and to focus in prayer or be responsive to the preaching of His Word.

A virus can come into your body and weaken you not only physically, but very often we find when we are weak or tired physically, temptation is suddenly much harder to resist.

You are not three parts glued together, or two parts or five parts... you are a unified being. And so all of you is involved in being the image of God.

Your body is in the image of God not in the sense that it looks like some divine, physical body, but in the sense that it has features that correspond to things that are true about God.

Our Bodies

And so were not surprised to see that the human body is light-years beyond anything else that has been made in wonder and complexity.

The human body makes everything we have talked about so far look like a puzzle for a 3 year old.

Even if you ignore the immaterial part, the physical aspects of the human body surpass anything else God made.

Your body has 100 trillion cells, and each one has a tiny strip of DNA coiled up inside. Encoded in just one of those coiled up strands is all the information that dictates how every single one of those 100 trillion cells will function throughout your life.

A strip of DNA from one of your cells is over 6 ft. long. If it were stretched out you wouldn't even be able to see it in an electron microscope. It's all coiled (without getting tangled) inside a cell.

The human heart is the size of your fist and weighs < 1/2 lb. Since yesterday it has already pumped 1800 gal of blood. Every single day that little blob in your chest does enough work to lift 36 tons a foot off the ground.

You have never had more brain cells than when you were born. By age three, you had already lost half your brain cells, and it's been declining ever since. (encarta "Brain I")

So we all have much less than half the brains we started out with, but those remaining brains cells have grown and developed considerably.

Even as an adult your brain has 100,000 billion (10^{14}) electrical connections (more than all the electrical appliances on the whole earth). Yet it fits in a quart jar.

And all those 100,000 billion electrical connections operate continuously day and night for 70+ years on 10 watts of power – fueled largely by cheeseburgers and french fries.

I pointed out that the idols were not designed to look like the deities. But that's not to say that they way the image looked is of no consequence.

The appearance was significant – not because it looked like the deity, but because its appearance represented things that were true of the deity.

For example, an image of a god of fertility might be covered from top to bottom with reproductive organs. That's not to say the god actually looked that way or had that kind of physical structure (or any physical structure for that matter). It's just that those features were symbolic representations not of physical features but of characteristics.

In the same way, our bodies are designed to reflect things that are true about God. The passages that talk about God's ability to see, hear, feel, etc. are not so much anthropomorphisms as our bodies are "theomorphic."

God made us with eyes and ears and senses, because He wanted us to understand when He told us He is a perceptive being – He can see everything.

God made us with muscles so we would understand when He told us about His great strength.

God made us with a will so we would understand when Scripture tells us about God deciding to do things.

God made us with mouths, so we would understand when God tells us that He is a God who reveals Himself.

God made us with emotions so we would understand when He speaks of His love, anger, compassion, sorrow, joy, etc.

God made us with noses so we would understand the metaphor of God saying that our prayers are like a sweet smelling fragrance to Him.

We are walking illustrations of what God is like, and our bodies are an important part of that.

For one thing, it the vehicle for all the other aspects of the image of God.

For example, language and relationship. How am I going to relate to you without the body?

How am I going to show someone compassion or love without the body?

I need my body to read God's Word.

I need my body to sing praises.

I need my body to preach the Word.

I need my body to pray (my brain)

One of the important attributes of God is that He has power. He can do things. He can bring about change. If a rock is here, He can make it go over there.

And so in making us in His image, He has given us bodies so we can also do things. Our bodies are the only thing that enables us to *do* things.

We don't have infinite power, but He has given us *some* power, and the vehicle for that power is the body.

We can do a lot of the things God can do, but only if we have a body.

Maybe that's why demons seem to be so insistent on being in a body – even if it's the body of a pig.

And there are other aspects of being human that illustrate what God is like. We have personhood, will, emotions, self-consciousness, the ability for abstract thought, language, a sense of eternity (Ecc.3:11 **He has also set eternity in the hearts of men**)

We are not gods

We don't want to take too far. We are not gods.

The images of the pagan gods were worshipped, but humans are never to be worshipped. That is clear in Scripture.

Kenneth Hagin says, "Man was created on terms of equality with God, & he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority."

(Hagin is especially skilled at combining blasphemy and heresy in a single statement.)

The distance between man & God is infinity. He is Creator, man is a creature He is infinite, man is finite.

1. We are designed to reflect God

2. We have potential to resemble God.

Being in God's image means we have the capacity to resemble God by attaining to certain attributes of God.

This goes beyond things like personhood, conscience, self-awareness, abstract thought, speech, etc.

I think those are part of it, but mostly those are the tools that enable us to attain to things like faithfulness, justice, wisdom, righteousness, love, compassion & holiness rather than being ends in themselves.

Those are the things Scripture highlights as being the attributes of God that are most important.

Eph.4:24 **put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**

Col.3:10 **you have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**

Like Seth, when he was a little guy, admired his dad and longed to grow up to be like him – so we look to God and long to become like Him.

This is where the relational aspect comes in. The animals don't long for anything except the next meal.

They do wonderful things, but just because of instinct. They glorify God just by their existence, but it doesn't arise out of a decision of the will rooted in a personal relationship and a certain disposition toward God.

We have the capacity to become more and more like God in our character, and that process is accomplished through the relationship – the interaction between persons.

The non-personal elements of the creation each have their role. Even the maggots carry out a role in this world. And so does the sun. Some roles are more important than others.

If one maggot perishes, it makes very little difference. But if the sun goes out, that's a little more noticeable.

But in the non-personal world, whatever God made you is all you will ever be.

All the giraffes are the same. There are no great giraffes and lesser giraffes.

And if we were just another species of animal, that would be true of humans too. But it's not. Not all people are the same. Some build great institutions, some sacrifice to help thousands of people, and some murder and rape and abuse children.

We are unique in that we can choose our level of significance. To the degree that you resemble God more and more, you become more and more significant.

Every human being has the capacity to attain God's attributes. And again, we honor mothers because so much of that is dependent upon mothers.

In the earliest, most formative years it is the mother who has the greatest influence. And God has equipped women in amazing ways.

Even untrained, inexperienced first time mothers – think of the kind of work they do in raising their children – working to develop the image of God in those children.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone did their job with the same level of devotion, investment, earnestness, and commitment with which even the average mother has in her job?

What if everyone had the willingness to work 7 day weeks every week, 24 hour days, wake up in the middle of the night to do their job, never leave that job even for a moment without first finding someone to take over for that time...willing to do the most unpleasant things in the most trying circumstances...

You will never find an employee anywhere who will put forth the kind of effort that a mother will put forth with her baby. Even women who are generally lazy and irresponsible in other areas tend to put forth an amazing effort when they have children.

Why is that? It's because the image of God is so precious, that God takes special care to see to it that those who are first to nurture the life that bears that image are extraordinarily equipped.

All mothers are to be honored, but especially those who understand that caring for those children can

be a profound act of reverence if she is conscious of the fact that those children bear the image of God.

And the degree to which they reflect God is dependent to an enormous extent on the efforts of the mother.

1. We are designed to reflect God
2. We have the potential to resemble God

3. We have the authority to represent God.

God's work is accomplished through us. We represent Him on earth and therefore carry authority to rule.

In ancient Mesopotamia there is a lot of royal language associated with the term "image."

They said the common people were a shadow of the gods, and the king was in the image of God. Being in the image of God carries with it the authority to rule and to carry out God's work.

And this is the aspect that is focused on in this text.

God wants us to manage this world, and all human beings have a part in that.

Believers, however, have an infinitely greater part in that.

Not all human beings are equally important. And we found that your level of importance is up to you to a large degree, because you can choose to attain more and more the attributes of God.

Your level of importance is raised even higher depending upon your level of faithfulness in carrying out God's work.

The only thing that gives any meaning to life is God's calling – that is, doing what God wants you to do. What else could possibly have any meaning?

And the wonderful thing is God calls each one of us to a specific task in life.

Every human being is called, first of all, to become a Christian. And then every Christian is called to become more Christ-like.

And on top of that, every member of the Body of Christ has its own unique function. And God calls each of us to carry out our function.

Implications of the image of God

Every human being everywhere is in the image of God.

Every human being, from the moment of conception,

- is designed in such a way as to reflect God
- has the capacity to resemble God by attaining to certain attributes of God
- and has the authority to represent God, which means God accomplishes His work on earth through him.

Those factors have implications in the way we think about and treat other people.

Gn.9:6

"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

Notice where that command comes. It is not part of the Mosaic law. You can't make an argument that the death penalty is not longer appropriate for today because the Mosaic law has been fulfilled.

The death penalty for murder is not an illustration or a shadow like the sacrificial system. It's a decree for all of humanity, given right after the flood, and it's based on the fact that every human

being is in the image of God.

If you kill someone, you are striking a blow at God Himself.

The same goes for mistreating people in any way.

Every human being is due a certain amount of respect because of their origin & the fact that they bear the likeness of God.

Jas.3:9-11

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

You curse someone in God's likeness, you've cursed God.

If you come here and praise God in the worship time, and then turn around and gossip about someone, that's like if you tell your wife she is beautiful, but when you see a reflection of her in the mirror you say, "That's ugly."

If a master artist makes a self-portrait, & you look at it & say, "Whoa - that is hideous." you have just insulted the painter.

Our world values life in accordance with attractiveness and usefulness. There is more and more effort to legalize the killing of unwanted children even after birth.

And there is an effort to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide.

People get old, or diseased, or in the way, and the world says, "Why not kill them off? They are a drain on the rest of us."

But God says, "They represent Me. They are on this earth on My behalf, and they bear My image – don't harm them!"

I don't know if there is anyone in this crowd who is abusive toward your children or your wife. But if you are, stop it! Before you open your mouth always remember your children, wife, husband is a bearer of the image of Almighty God.

Pr.14:31 & 17:5 **He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their maker.**

You mistreat someone it is a display of irreverence to God.

The solution to the problems between human beings is not to guarantee everyone rights, but to generate respect for human life, and that comes from understanding the image of God.

The mad grab for rights hasn't solved anything. The solution to the problems of people mistreating one another is a high regard for human dignity. And that comes when we measure people not by ethnicity or gender or appearance or intelligence, but by the image of God.

Contrast with evolution

Think of the contrast between the implications of evolution or image.

1. Is man designed in such a way as to reflect God, or is he just protoplasm waiting to become manure?

If you are in God's image – if you represent Him, He accomplishes His work through you, and you have the capacity to relate to Him and resemble Him, that has some serious implications on how I should think about you.

But if you are just another random conglomeration of pieces of matter, what does it matter what I do to you?

2. If creation is true man has the capacity to resemble God by attaining to certain attributes of God.

If evolution is true, there are no attributes that are any better than any other attributes.

Evolution undercuts completely any basis for morals or ethics.

If we got here by survival of the fittest, how could we possibly punish someone for murdering someone? We don't put a cat on trial for killing a mouse.

According to social Darwinism, the highest beings on the evolutionary scale are all the ones we have in prison. They are the strong ones who are able to exploit everyone else's weaknesses for their own advantage.

If evolution is true, why do we punish anything? Have you ever heard of a court among monkeys? Or a dolphin judge or jury?

Want to know about dolphin morality? They eat their young.

I believe the dominance of evolutionary theory was a major cause behind the moral disaster of the 60s, which started with a rejection of authority. If there is no Creator who owns me and to Whom I am answerable, then there is no basis for human authority.

And when young people reject authority, they tend to ignore standard that they can't immediately understand the rational behind. They assume it to be useless tradition, and out it goes.

"I've thought about it for several days, and I don't know why marriage is necessary, so we will just live together."

It came as no surprise that Eric Harris was wearing a Natural Selection T-shirt. The statement he was making by that is obvious. From the standpoint of naturalistic evolution, what argument can you make against what he did or what Hitler did?

3. The image of God means man has the authority to represent God, which means God accomplishes His work on earth through him.

But if evolution is true there is absolutely no meaning to life whatsoever, and life is hopelessly futile. Nothing anyone does can be said to have anything more than a relative importance at best.

There is no work that has meaning, no job that has meaning, no pursuit that has any meaning of any kind.

Ro.1:21-32

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools... 28 since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind,

Once you give the creation the credit instead of God, the lights go out. All that's left is foolishness and futility and depraved thinking, and life becomes a downward spiral.

I know there are still some who are clinging to a belief in evolution because you think good science demands it.

And some evolutionists have criticized creationism as being non-scientific because it's not falsifiable (it can't be proven wrong – how do you disprove a miracle?)

I would like to suggest that the Genesis account is falsifiable. We believe the Genesis account based on our confidence in the authority of Jesus, who also believed it. And we regard Him as a reliable authority because of the resurrection.

Want me to give up my belief in Genesis one? All you have to do is disprove the resurrection of Jesus as a real historical event. If you do that, I will drop not only my belief in Genesis one but all the rest of Christianity.

So it is falsifiable. All you have to do is demonstrate historically that we do not have adequate evidence to prove Jesus rose from the dead.

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On the other hand, I wonder if evolution is falsifiable. Given all the gigantic problems with the theory that already exist, what scientific discovery could possibly convince the evolutionists that it is not true?

I don't think there is anything they could discover that would do that.

So all that gives you an idea of what the phrase **image and likeness of God** means.

The main point of our text, however, isn't on the definition of the image of God - rather it is on the result:

26 ...and let them rule

Since we are in His image, we rule. There is royal language throughout - man was created to rule.

This is not just pre-fall (Ps.8)

That is a role we see in heaven as well. 1 Co.6 says we will rule the angels.

Subduing the earth involves harnessing the energy and resources and making good use of them.

One mark of a good ruler is one who understands priorities. When we put the interests of animals or the environment ahead of those of people who are in God's image, we have become terrible rulers with completely skewed priorities.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male & female he created them.

Both are equally in His image.

Another thing this shows us is that God is not male or female. If God were male, He couldn't say the females were in His image and vice-versa.

The idea that all people are in God's image was already a unique idea in that region, but the idea that women bear the divine image would have really been counter-cultural.

Are there aspects of the image of God that women tend to reflect more than men? Yes, and it's easy to illustrate. Many times I have asked a group to make a list of feminine characteristics.

When you look at such a list, it looks like a list of the attributes of God.

- Beauty

PS 27:4 **One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD**

- Gentleness Isa.40:11 **He tends His flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. He gently leads those who have young.**

- Tenderness Lk.1:76 **you...will...give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God,**

- Graciousness Ex.34:6 **he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate & gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love**

- Nurture & motherhood

DT 32:18 **you forgot the God who gave you birth.**

ISA 66:13 **As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; & you will be comforted over Jerusalem."**

- Emotional Who has more extreme emotions than God? (love, hatred, anger, compassion, sadness, grief, joy, excitement, etc.)

- Compassion Ex.34:6 **he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate & gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love & faithfulness**

Men and women both wonderfully reflect the image of God.

The Blessing

28 God blessed them

The statement about us being in God's image establishes our status in the created order. We are God's vice-regents.

The blessing establishes the functions we as humans have as a result of that status.

& said to them, "Be fruitful

He blesses man with fruitfulness.

Those of you who are expecting right now are enormously blessed. Those who have had children have been richly blessed by your Creator.

God gave you the ability to bring into existence an eternal, immortal soul by your own decisions.

Another word for "mother" is "one who has been blessed by God."

Not every person receives every blessing. God gives many blessings to everyone, but no one gets them all, and some of you perhaps long to have children but have not received that particular blessing.

But God has His purposes behind that. That shouldn't prevent you from rejoicing on behalf of the others who have been blessed in that way.

& increase in number; fill the earth

Other religions consider sexual activity even in marriage as less than holy. Even Christians have thought that (monks) The Essenes thought that way. Usually those movements die out (obviously).

But the intimacy of marriage is a good thing – a holy, righteous thing. It is participation in the blessing of God.

The point of saying fill the earth is not so much as a command – that God is trying to get the earth filled up with people. The point is that there is no restriction on procreation.

The myth of overpopulation is incredibly pervasive in our day, as it has been many times in history. And it's just as untrue as it's always been.

The world isn't even close to being over-populated. In fact, it's not even fully populated.

All 6 billion of the world's present population could fit in TX, and each group of 4 could have almost an eighth acre. The rest of the globe would be empty.

Despite an expanding population, Earth is experiencing a food *glut*. Global food prices have fallen by half since 1950, even as population has doubled. ... Enough food is now grown in the world to provide each resident of the planet with almost 4 pounds of food per day.

For the vast majority of the world's people, population increases have gone hand in hand with *improvements* in living standards.

What has ruined people's lives is not overpopulation, but rather efforts to control population which have become inhumane and gruesome.

In China the one-child-per-family policy has resulted in the infanticide of 10 to 20 million female babies. 90% of the children in Chinese orphanages are female.

Forced abortions are inflicted upon the women there who get pregnant with a second child, and now China has created a society without brothers, sisters, aunts or uncles.

And millions of young Chinese men will never marry or have even child of their own because there aren't enough women to go around.

And it's all so unnecessary.

There is plenty of room. But as long as long as there are enough people on the earth for one of them to get in the way of another, or to create some inconvenience, there will always be howls about overpopulation.

In fact, even in the ancient world at the time of Moses people considered the earth to be overpopulated (Walton p.134)

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth & every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 & to all the beasts of the earth & all the birds of the air & all the creatures that move on the ground-everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." & it was so

Man was made to be the recipient of bounty.

Meat is not mentioned – obviously since there is no death yet.

This is a striking passage, because the pagans believed the reason people existed was to produce food for the gods. But here God is the one who provides food for man.

31 God saw all that he had made, & it was very good.

Each individual part has already been pronounced good. Here the whole of it all together is good – very good.

There is absolutely no evil. God did not create evil.

Everything God made has been good - TOV - beautiful, useful, excellent, symmetrical, well arranged, ordered, structured.

Even the chapter itself. This is a masterfully written account. The arrangement and structure are amazing.

One example: It took 7 days

In the Heb. v.1 has 7 words,

v.2 has 14

The intro to the ch.2 (vv.1-3) have 35 (7X5).

“God” is mentioned 35 times,

“earth” 21 times, sky 21 times,

“and it was so” 7 times,

“God saw that it was good” 7 times.

There is a symmetry and complexity the bleeds even into the text of the account of the creation.

**And there was evening, & there was morning--
the sixth day.**

1 Thus the heavens & the earth were completed & all their hosts. (armies)

Benediction: Eph.1:3-7 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins

Review Questions:

1. Robert Hicks in The Masculine Journey begins ch.2 on p.31 with this quote: “Man with all his noble qualities still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin.” That quote describes:

- a. A Christian world view
- b. A non-Christian world view

2. In the ancient world, to be in the image of a god meant

- a. To look like that god
- b. To represent the god and to be the avenue through which the work of the god was accomplished.