



The First Gospel

In The Beginning
Class 1

Every Word is Important
The Picture is Just as Important
Stop & Reflect on God's Instruction



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:1

LORD, *You* have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, *You* are God. Psa. 90:1-2

He who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb. 11:6



FAITH begins with the God
who is always there

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:1

Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other... Deut. 4:39

Therefore you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Deut. 6:5



FAITH puts God first,
loving Him above all else

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:1

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:38-39

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 1 Pet. 5:6-7



**FAITH submits to God,
and finds rest in His Hands**

The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. Gen. 1:2



The enduring testimony to the power & love of God!

FAITH responds to God, trusting completely that all things do work together for good in God's hands

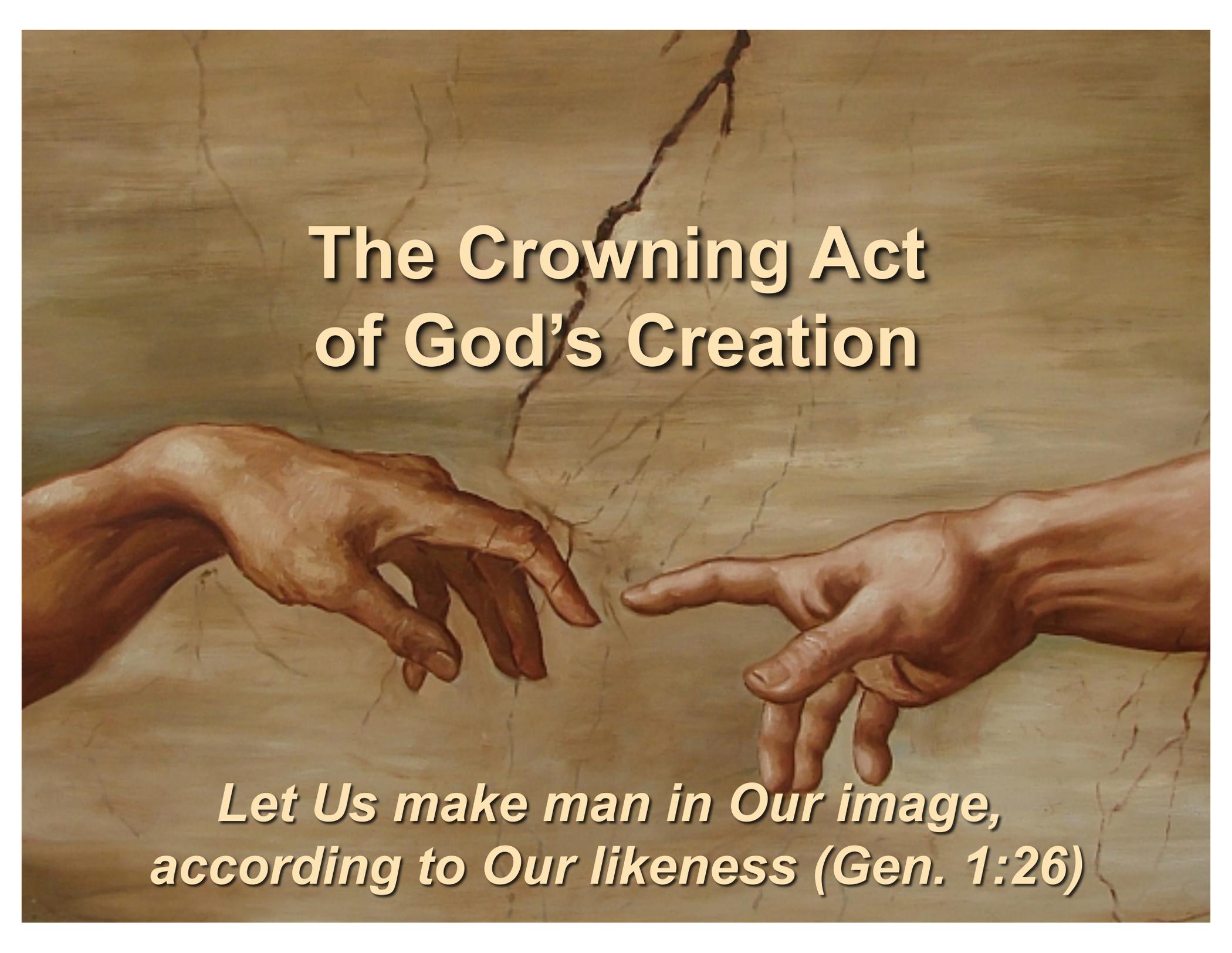
Faith begins with the God who is always there.

Faith puts God first, loving Him above all else.

Faith submits to God and finds rest in His Hands.

**Faith responds to God, trusting Him completely
in all things.**



The background of the slide is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It depicts the hand of God on the right, reaching towards the hand of Adam on the left, with a small gap between their fingers. The background is a light brown, cracked stone texture.

The Crowning Act of God's Creation

***Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness (Gen. 1:26)***

The Creation of Man

UNIQUE GRAMMAR

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

Gen. 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever..."

Gen. 11:7 "Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

Isa. 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

The Creation of Man

UNIQUE GRAMMAR

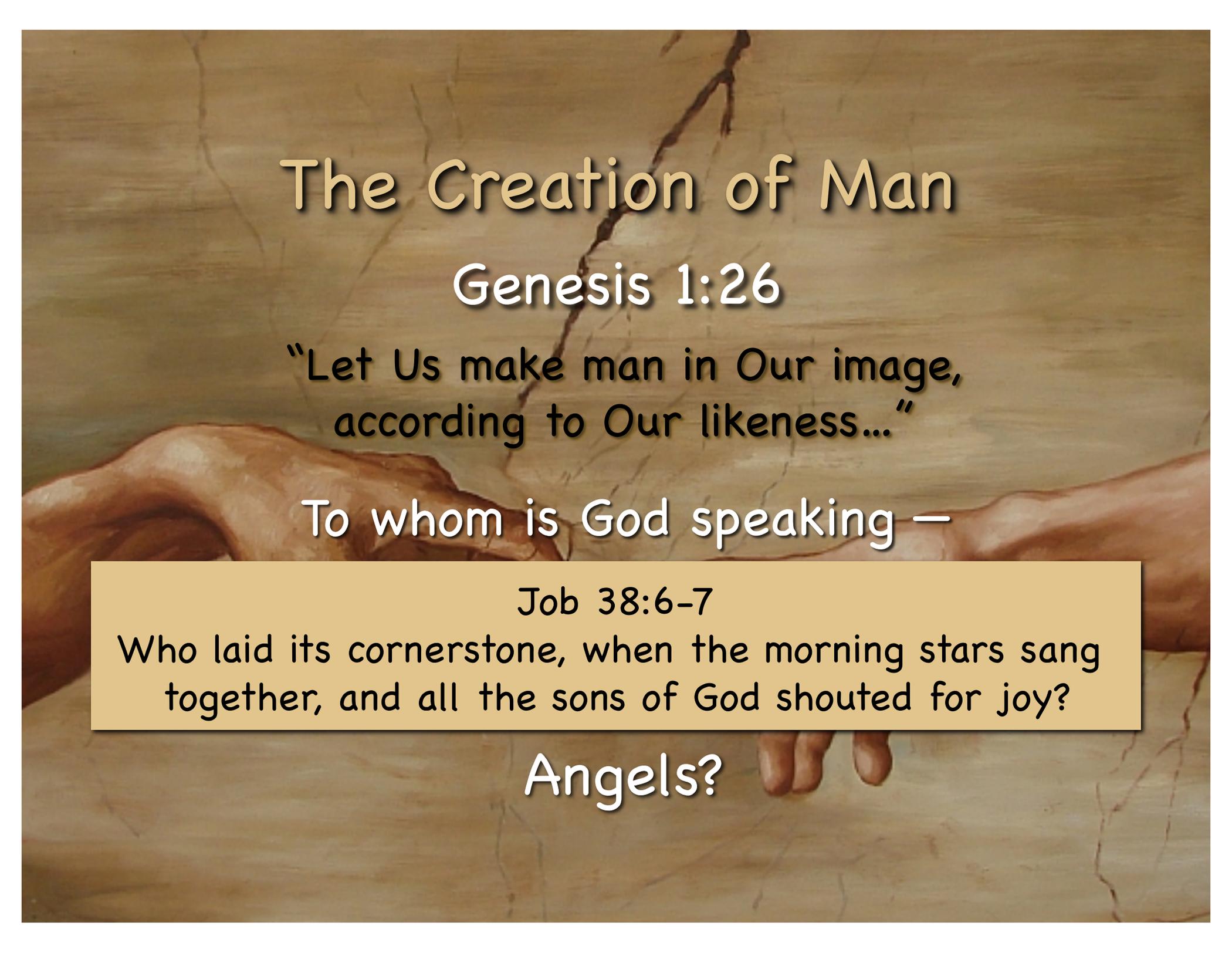
- Then Elohim (plural) said (singular) ⇒ **One Being, God**
- Let Us make (plural verb) man ⇒ **Speaking to others**
- in Our image (plural ending)
according to Our likeness (plural ending) ⇒ **Share same image
and likeness**
- “God created man in His own image;
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.” (v.27) ⇒ **Other beings derive
image and likeness
from God**

The Creation of Man

UNIQUE LANGUAGE

- All other creative acts:
 - “Let there be...”
 - “Let the sea abound...”
 - “Let the earth bring forth...”
 - in Our image,
according to Our likeness
- ⇒ **“Let Us make...”**
⇒ **Direct connection**
- ⇒ **Completely unique**

Man is a Special & Unique Creation



The Creation of Man

Genesis 1:26

“Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness...”

To whom is God speaking —

Job 38:6-7

Who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang
together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Angels?

The Creation of Man

Genesis 1:26

“Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness...”

Why is God speaking to the Angels?

Job 38:6-7

Who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang
together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

God is sharing His plans
and His work with *His sons!*

The Creation of Man

Genesis 1:26

The expansion of the Father's Family!

I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." (2 Cor 6:18)

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:26)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. (Eph 3:14-15)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! ...Beloved, now we are the children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when he is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn. 3:1-2)

The Creation of Man

Genesis 1:26

**“Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness...”**

So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves...according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. (v.21)

Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind. (v.24)

Man was created to be after God's Kind!

The Creation of Man

Likeness

(d'mooth - homoios)

Definition (BlueLetterBible.org):

Likeness, resemblance, similitude, pattern

And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man... As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man...lion...ox...eagle. (Ezek. 1:5,10)

Outward form or appearance

Does that mean we look like God?

The Creation of Man

Likeness ≠ Physical Form

Deuteronomy 4:15-18 (NIV)

You saw no form of any kind
do not make an image of any shape formed like
-a man or a woman
-any animal on earth
-any bird that flies in the air
-any creature that moves along the ground
-any fish in the waters below.

The Creation of Man

Likeness = Authority & Abilities to Rule

You have made him to have dominion... (Psa. 8:6)

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. (Gen. 1:26)

The Creation of Man

Image (tselem - eikon)

**Definition (BlueLetterBible.org):
image, from idea of shadow => representation**

You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image!
This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood
before you; and its form was awesome. (Dan. 2:31)

They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped
it and sacrificed to it, and said, "This is your god, O Israel,
that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" (Ex. 32:8)

The Creation of Man

Image = Divine Attributes

Definition (BlueLetterBible.org):
image, from idea of shadow => representation

Please, show me your Glory...

The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and kind, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy and faithfulness, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty...

(Exod. 33:18; 34:6-7 lit. trans.)

The Creation of Man

Image = Divine Attributes

Likeness = Authority & Abilities to Rule

Divine Family of Rulers manifesting the Father's Name in their rulership!

What is man that You are mindful of him...? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen—even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. (Psa. 8:4-8)

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."

God's Finished Earth

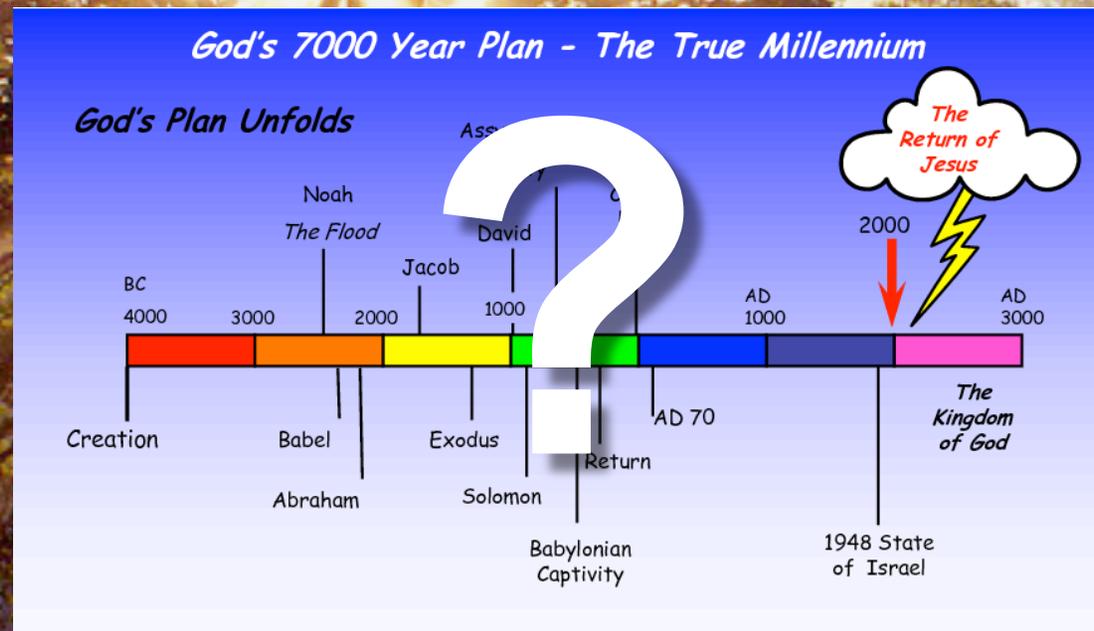
I have given you *every herb that yields seed* which is on the face of all the earth, *and every tree whose fruit yields seed*; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given *every green herb for food*; and it was so. (Gen. 1:29-30)

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Gen. 1:31)

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord... Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:1-9)

God's Finished Earth



THEN COMES THE END, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power... For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet... Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)



God's Finished Earth

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

(Gen. 2:1-3)

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ... Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest. (Heb. 4:9,11)



God's Finished Earth

*O Lord, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
May my meditation be sweet to Him.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!
(Psa. 104:24,33-35)*

