

What Does God Look Like?

‘Jesus said, “Who do men say that I am?” And His disciples answered and said, “Some say You are John the Baptist returned from the dead; others say Elias, or [an]other of the old prophets”. And Jesus answered and said, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Logos, existing in the Father as His rationality, and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to His creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being co-equal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple”. And Jesus, answering, said, “What?”’

“What?”, indeed! You all remember Peter’s actual answer, right? “You are the Christ”, he said. Or, if using the Hebrew word, “You are the Messiah”. Now, exactly what that means is hard to nail down, and scholars and scoffers have been trying to do that ever since. What is “Christ”, “Messiah”? Those words, the first Greek, the second the original Hebrew, mean “the Anointed One”. And it refers to the special, unique Individual on Whom God has

poured out His Spirit, tasked with a special, unique mission and duty, namely, ultimately, to become the One Who does everything necessary to enable the entire world and creation, and all of humanity who accept Him, to be saved from complete destruction and annihilation forever separated from God in hell.

But what does God look like? Recall the similar query from Philip in John 14:8-9: 'Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied". Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know Who I am? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father! So why are you asking Me to show Him to you?"' So according to Lord Jesus' Own words, He is the spitting image of Father God. Like they are identical twins! They are distinct, yet the same, and within one another. We can stop there, as our minds twist themselves into knots and break multiple brain bones as they attempt innumerable mental gymnastics to try to understand the Trinity. Still, if you and I had lived in the first century, in the Holy Land, and if we had tagged along with the crowds fascinated by this miracle-working Man named Jesus, we would have actually seen God! Indeed, this was the profound privilege of all who beheld Him while He walked on the earth, but most especially of those 72 disciples and the 12 apostles who essentially lived with Him during the last three years of His earthly life. To say nothing of the blessed woman who gave Him earthly birth, Mary, who beheld Him and held Him from a Babe in arms till His lifeless, mutilated flesh came down from the Cross. If anyone

knew what He looked like, it was His mother Mary.

And yet, for those three decades He walked upon this earth, there is not even one sketch, picture or painting of His likeness. He certainly had a body, a face, everything that makes a human man a man, yet no one alive now could pick Him out of a lineup. Indeed, even after His resurrection, the people who had known Him the longest couldn't immediately recognize Him. For He was somehow different, yet the same. And, in His providence, no one who saw Him in the flesh made any likeness of Him. But in the two millennia since, people everywhere have desired to know what He looks like, and have created thousands and thousands of depictions of Him. But none of them are His actual appearance.

This is no accident. For God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, can not be reduced to a visage analogous to a human in a photograph or picture. For He is as beyond us as Creator, beyond even what we can imagine or conceive. Yet He was one with us, like us, while simultaneously God. And why did He come down from heaven to us? Well, if we summed up every reason, it could all be rolled up in one fact—because He loves us. When you love somebody, really love somebody, you will do all sorts and kinds of things you would never conceive of doing for anyone else. That, in a nutshell, is why God came down from heaven to earth. Because He loves us. Now back in the Old Testament, specifically in our reading from Deuteronomy 4, we see here the beloved, Chosen People of God, the Israelites. God communicates to

them through a prophet, a very great prophet, Moses. God speaks to Moses and Moses tells the people what God said. None of the people see God. Not even Moses sees God fully, as to see what He actually looks like. But everyone saw the effects of God's presence. There were atmospheric disturbances; light rays were cut off, refracted, deflected. Sound waves emanated from seemingly no sources. Towers of fiery flames reached into the sky but nothing was burned. A huge column of smoke billowed straight up into the sky while strange lights flashed within in. God was there, but no one could actually see Him.

When God spoke to Moses, He gave the people the commands by which they would live beautiful, joyous lives. Among those laws were the pivotal prohibitions against what is called idolatry. Listen to it from Deuteronomy 4:15-19: "But be very careful! You did not see the Lord's form on the day He spoke to you from the heart of the fire at Mount Sinai. So do not corrupt yourselves by making an idol in any form—whether of a man or a woman, an animal on the ground, a bird in the sky, a small animal that scurries along the ground, or a fish in the deepest sea. And when you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the forces of heaven—don't be seduced into worshiping them. The Lord your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth." From this we see that God knows that we have an irrepressible tendency to worship objects that we make in the shape and form of various living things, or astronomical bodies. Animals are

among the most popular sculptures to which people, both ancient and modern, bow their heads and worship. Speaking from experience, Japan has any number of foxes, badgers, bears, monkeys, birds, the moon, the sun, mountains, trees, etc. that are seen as divine and must be respected, if not outright worshipped. But even all those fade into insignificance compared to the one central entity “deserving” of worship—mankind itself.

‘One day man came to God on His heavenly throne and said to Him, “Which do You think is harder, to be man or to be God?” “Being God is much harder”, God answered. “I have a whole universe to worry about, planets and galaxies. All you have to worry about is your family and your job”. “True enough”, said man. “But You have infinite time and infinite power. The hard part in being a man is not doing the job, but doing it within the limits of human strength and the human life span”. God answered, “You don’t know what you’re talking about. It’s much harder to be God”. Man replied, “I don’t know how You can say that so confidently when You’ve never been human and I’ve never been God. What do You say we change places for just one second, so You can know the feeling of being man and I can know what it feels like to be God. Just for one second, that’s all, and then we’ll change back”. God didn’t want to, but man kept begging and pleading, and so God finally relented. They changed places. Man become God and God became human. And the story goes on to say that, once man sat on the divine throne, he refused to give God back

His place, and ever since then man has ruled the world and God has been in exile.'

Well, we know that isn't quite true, though many people actually think it these days. It is but a mirage. For the actual entity being worshipped, the power behind the throne, is not the man on the throne, but none other than the great imposter himself, the devil and Satan. That is how the great, diabolical enemy of our souls wants it. For now. But ultimately, he wants everyone to worship him, openly. And, by gosh, we're seeing glimpses of this in the world already. Just last week, an Australian news program was briefly "interrupted" by a two-second scene of devil worship. And the newscaster continued on as if nothing untoward had appeared on the screen! The world is being prepped for the "grand appearance" of the antiChrist; this being indwelt by the devil himself, to be worshipped and rule the world. Thankfully, it'll only be for a brief 3½ years, and we who've given our lives to the One and Only True Savior, Lord and God, won't be here when all that comes down. But we will be joining Lord Jesus when He comes back down to put a final end to the terror the antiChrist unleashes on the earth, as we take him into custody, and the Lord God binds him for the next thousand years, and thereafter, for eternity.

At that time, dear ones, we will see what our Lord and God looks like, for then we will be like Him. Our eyes will be like His, so we can behold Him as He really is. Take comfort knowing this sure future as we grieve the violent turmoil in the world today.

