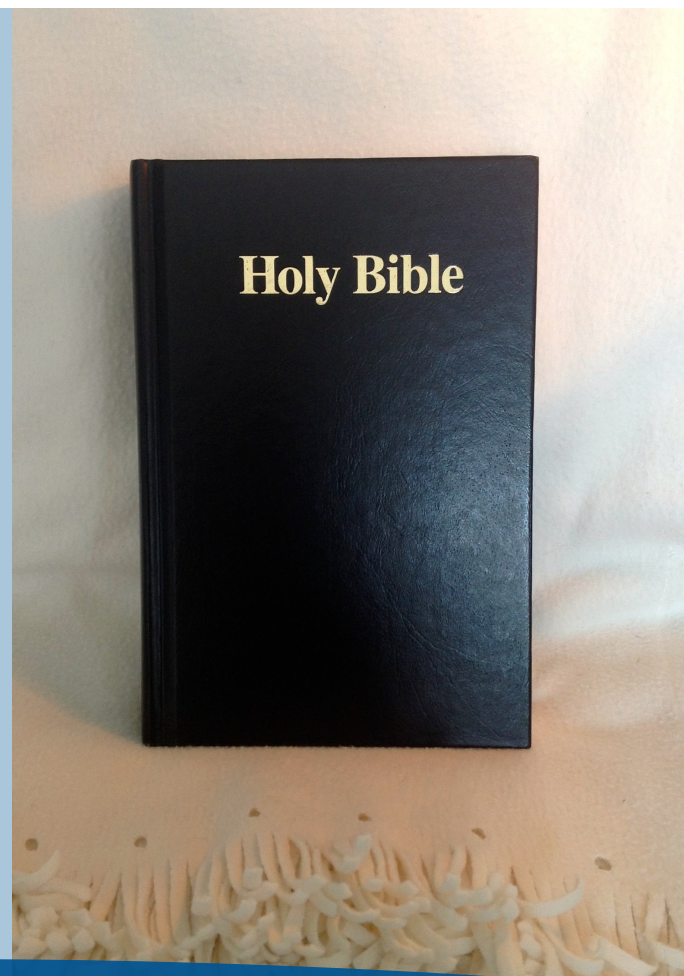


Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself

Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

HOW TO
SEARCH
THE
SCRIPTURES 1



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We considered a few of these methods today - firstly

SYSTEMS FOR READING THE BIBLE

READ THE SCRIPTURES DAILY FOLLOWING A REGULAR PLAN

Choose whatever method suites you

- START AT GENESIS AND READ ALL THE WAY THROUGH
or
- START WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT THEN READ THE OLD
or
- READ 4 x 5 MINUTE CHAPTERS EACH DAY FOR 6 DAYS
or
- USE A PLAN THAT FACILITATES READING FROM OT & NT

To Read the Bible effectively whatever method you choose, regular daily reading is the key.

Although the old fashioned language can be challenging sometimes we recommend using the King James version and then

COMPARING WITH OTHER TRANSLATIONS

- MORE RECENT TRANSLATIONS
Eg. New International, Net Bible.
- LITERAL WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATIONS
Eg. English Standard Version, Youngs Literal Translation.
- EXPANDED TRANSLATIONS
Eg. Amplified, Expanded .

All these versions can be purchased reasonably cheaply new from such as Amazon or second hand from such as ALBRIS.

All these versions and many others can be accessed for free online eg Bible Hub or Bible Gateway they have a free App for Mobiles and Tablets which includes these versions and many others. Today we are using KJV

John 5:39 **Search the scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

The "scriptures" referred to here are the Old Testament "scriptures".

This illustrates that the study of the Old Testament is as important as the study of the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament.

2Timothy 2:15 **Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Greek word Translated "**Study**" here is σπουδάζω [spoo·dad·zo] as we see when we consult a concordance lexicon.

USING A CONCORDANCE

Study

Greek σπουδάζω [spoudazo /spoo·dad·zo/]
"to exert one's self, endeavour, give diligence."

Studying the Bible does take effort but it is much easier than most people imagine.

Today, by

COMPARING SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE

We considered a doctrine which has been largely lost about the Person of God, as a result of the failure to study the Bible in any systematic way.

We could not consider all aspects of the person of God in the short time we had, but we considered the relationship between:

God's Glorious Form

Christ's Glorious Form

The Saints Glorious Form

The Angels Glories Form

The Formation of Man

Firstly Then

God's Glorious Form

Paul says that those who saw the glorified Son of God saw a close resemblance of “**the image of God**”:

2 Corinthians 4: 4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

But are we to take the word “image” here as literal or figurative? Well we find that Paul expands on this point in his letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his[Grk a]Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by [Grk. Dia- on account of] whom also he made the worlds; [Grk. Aions-Ages]

*3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the **express image** of his **person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”*

It generally follows that a son bears the image or resemblance of his father, and Christ, (we are told here) bears “*the express image of his [Father's] person*”.

The Expanded Bible renders this as: *“shows exactly what God is like”*;

then it lists the literal meanings of the original Greek, here, in this context as: *“is the exact representation/imprint/stamp of His being/essence/nature.”*

So Paul is using the words “image” and “person” in a literal physical sense.

The English word “person” chosen here by the KJV translators, only applies to beings in the form we bear. We do not apply the word ‘person’ to the animals etc.

The dictionary says the origin of the word is from the “Latin ‘persona’ ‘actors mask, character in a play’, later ‘human being’”, all connected with the physical form we bear.

If the Fathers glorious form is reflected in Christ’s glorious form, we need to consider this too:

Christ’s Glorious Form

We have an account of Christ’s glorious form after his resurrection in

Luke 24

:34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

:38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

:39 behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

:40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

:41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

:42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

:43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

Jesus showed the marks of his crucifixion in his hands and feet, to prove he was the same crucified Christ, but now resurrected and immortal. Paul preached that the “saints” (ie the believers) including himself, shall likewise receive bodily immortality at the resurrection day:

The Saints Glorious Form

Philippians 3:

11 *if by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead*

20 *For our conversation is in heaven; **from whence** also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

21 *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto **his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

The glorious form of the saints (believers), which they receive at Christ's return, is here shown to be "like unto" Christ's "glorious body" (v21) which, as we have seen, is in the "image of God"(as we have read in 2 Corinthians 4: 4) The lord Jesus says that this glorified physical state is identical to The angels form

Luke 20

:35 *But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:*

:36 *Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.*

The Angels Glorious Form

We know (from many instances in the bible) that the angels share the same form as we do, (ie the form of The Father), because when an angel withholds his glory he becomes indistinguishable in appearance form a mortal man, hence:-

Heb 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares

When Moses desired to see the glorious person of God, we read:

Exodus 33:

18 *And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.*

21 *And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:*

22 *And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:*

23 *And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.*

But that which was revealed to Moses was the “glory” of God as manifested through an angel, for Stephen by the Spirit speaks of this matter with Moses thus:-

Acts 7:38 *This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:*

The reason why an angel had to represent the form of God is because mortal man cannot look upon God and live, or as Paul says of God:-

1 Timothy 6:16 *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in light which **no man can approach unto**; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

So then we find, that when it says that God or The Lord appeared unto this one or that, it is an angel of the Lord, in whom God is manifest by His spirit power. So it was with the angel that was shrouded in the pillar of cloud that lead Israel through the wilderness:-

Exodus 13:21 *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:*

“the LORD went” with them, through the agency of His angel-as we see in the next chapter:

Exodus 14:19 *And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:*

It was this angel, who on God’s behalf often descended upon the Tabernacle to speak the words of God “mouth to mouth” with Moses

Numbers 12:8

*With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and **the similitude of the LORD shall he behold**: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?*

So we have seen that “the similitude of the LORD” is reflected in the physical form and glory of the angels and also of the risen Christ, and in the glorified believers (in the day of the resurrection). We find also that the physical form of God is reflected (less gloriously) in the form of man.

The prophet Elihu, in the book of Job speaks of the Angels involvement in our creation

Job 38

:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

*:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all **the sons of God** shouted for joy?*

The Formation of Man

The angels are called “sons of God” (for as we have seen, they reflect the image of the Father). The heavenly Father prepared this present creation through the agency of His angels; and he addresses them thus in

Gen 1:

*26 And God said, **Let us make man in our image** [Heb. ZELEM], after our likeness:[Heb.DEMUT] and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

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

From what we have read we have seen that man being in the image and likeness of God is referring literally to physical shape, the original words here DEMUT and ZELEM also bear this out

DEMUT

in the AV-translation it is rendered: likeness 19times, similitude 2, like 2, manner 1, fashion 1; 25

Meanings:-

likeness, similitude, adv 2) in the likeness of, like as

ZELEM

generally is translated “Image”

For example, we get these words again in Gen.5

Gen 5

:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness [Heb.DEMUT] of God made he him;....

:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, [Heb.DEMUT] after his image[Heb.ZELEM]; and called his name Seth:

So we see that just as Adam's son reflected the "likeness", [Heb.DEMUT] and "image" [Heb.ZELEM]; of his father Adam(v3), so Adam reflected "the likeness [Heb.DEMUT] of God" (v1) who was the only Father Adam had. Or as we read in the New Testament

Luke 3

:38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of **Adam, which was the son of God.**

Thus Adam was called "the son of God" in Luke 3:38 because God formed him in His own physical similitude. God also produced the animals, but they are not called sons, because they do not bear the Heavenly Father's image or form. Man was to be the head over all other created things, and so man alone was fitted to bear the image of the creator. Mankind in the days of Noah, was authorised to kill and eat the animals at will, but forbidden to do such with mankind, because it would be disrespectful do the image of God, as

Genesis 9

:6 *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: **for in the image of God made he man.**"*

But of the animals we read:

:2 *And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

:3 *Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*

That mankind are in the physical image of God, is stated clearly also in the New Testament:-

James 3:9 *Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

1 Corinthians 11:7 *For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.*

So when CONSIDERING THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF THE bodily PERSON OF GOD how does the Bible reconcile our findings with the Spiritual nature of God? This mystery is solved when we understand that, just as there is a natural physical body such as we have, there is also a spiritual physical body (as Christ manifested when resurrected Luke 24):-

1 Corinthians 15:

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

A spiritual body is physical “flesh and bones”(Luke 24:39) that is energised and sustained by the Spirit Power of God, or as Paul says also later on:

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have **put on** incorruption, and **this mortal** shall have **put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, *Death is swallowed up in victory.*

:49 *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

So in searching the Scriptures, by comparing scripture with scripture, we have discovered how God’s glorious form, Christ’s glorious form, The saints glorious form, The angels form, and the form of man, is essentially one and the same physical shape and likeness.

This knowledge is of the up most importance

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to
God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

John 17:3

And this is life eternal,
that they might
know thee the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

There is only One God and we must know & believe in him to be saved.

Ephesians 4:

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all,
who is above all, and through all, and in you all.