

A man was thinking and he wondered ...

why human beings look the way we do.

Is there a hidden message in our appearance?

Honor

By

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To The Big Entrepreneurs In The Sky

Introduction

My better friends and family have sometimes heard me refer to the Creator God as "The Big Entrepreneur In The Sky." Of course I sincerely mean it as a compliment - probably the greatest compliment my human mind can produce. The universe was created because a righteous and loving Entrepreneur decided to share the gift of life.

In the pages that follow I offer a take as to what is really happening and why. In particular, I would like to offer answers to the two questions: "Why do human beings look the way we do?" And, "Should our appearance motivate us in our decision-making and life story?"

The Big Entrepreneur In The Sky gave us a tremendous honor by making us after his image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). And, I believe the outward physical appearance was to be a motivator for us to cooperate with God in becoming like him on the inside. When we see our reflection, or look at others, I also believe God intended it to be a constant reminder to us of his bigger picture. In the pages that follow I share with you my reasons for so believing.

Some of the reasons are Biblical and some are based on logical reasoning and life experiences.

As a housekeeping point, the scriptural references, herein, are from the King James Version, KJV, or Modern King James Version MKJV, unless denoted otherwise. Any emphasis, in the scriptural quotations, is mine throughout this book.

As an additional important note, I have chosen to write the pages that follow mainly in a conversational style. Having said that, let's get started. I offer for your serious consideration and hopeful edification what I have learned below.

Company Brands

Large companies have spent tens of millions of dollars of capital in building both their product brands and their corporate image. And they are relentless in their pursuit of copycats and of anyone else who would damage the image of one of their brands. The reason for being so protective is obvious – the brands are the lifeblood of a company's marketing and cashflow and the brands also form an important part of the company's identity.

If you are an authorized user of a big company's brand trademark, you almost certainly had to sign a very long contract – a many, many pages long contract, which you will not likely have much input into. The company will specify exactly how you can use anything related to the brand in question, including logos, images, the size and location of the images, etc. The company will also probably have a many pages long style manual for you to comply with, including the exact pantone colors of any images, exactly how and where to place the trademark marking, etc. The big company's lawyers and marketing people are not fooling around and they, to be blunt, are quite particular in their specifications. In fact, "quite particular" probably does not go far enough to describe the situation. It is more along the lines of fastidious to the maximum.

One company's actual slogan is, "The quality goes in before the name goes on." I actually like that slogan and it basically summarizes how companies feel about their brands and image. "The quality goes in before the name goes on." It's a great slogan that gets the message across.

God's Honor To Human Beings

All of the above got me thinking. And what I realized was if a company cares that much about its brands and place such an emphasis on how they are used, is it not a very great honor for human beings to be made in the image of the Creator God? Obviously, it is. But, "obviously it is" does not adequately cover the magnitude of my realization. As human beings we tend to get very busy in our lives and the daily clutter sometimes obfuscates our stopping and thinking. What I am describing above is a **MAJOR STOP AND THINK MOMENT!** It was for me and it should be for you. The implications are profound.

First, the evidence, some of the most telling of which is in Genesis 1:26-28:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: 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. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be

fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”
Genesis 1:26-28, KJV

The Creator God did not make us look like a dog, or a cat, or an insect, or a cactus. He created us in his image, in his likeness, which also includes giving us a mind that can think, create, be artistic, and reason. All this is a major statement on the part of a supreme intellect. It is powerful and foretelling that he would make us in **HIS IMAGE**. And it is a great honor.

Some Of God’s Qualities

In the past I have studied on contrasting some of the qualities of Jesus Christ versus the counterpart qualities of the adversary, Satan. And I want to rehearse some of these qualities of Jesus Christ to bring them fresh into our minds. I am not sharing these observations in any particular ranking order. I am sharing them and calling them out so that we can focus on why it is an honor to be made in the Creator God’s image.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
Philippians 2:5-8, KJV

The first quality I want us to consider is that God the Father and Jesus Christ are **humble**, which is almost a paradox, isn't it? If you are that great, why would you need to be humble? But they are. Christ, in particular, was so humble that he left a higher estate to come down to earth in order to rescue humans. Note that Christ mentioned if you have seen him (Christ) you have seen the Father (John 13:9) and that the Father is greater than I (Christ) (John 14:28). Ergo I am also including God the Father in this listing of godly qualities because he obviously has them, too.

Christ was in the form of God, but made himself of no reputation and took the form of the likeness of men, which according to Genesis 1:26 is the same form, but obviously not the same glory, or composition. He was spirit and

eternal and now he was flesh and mortal. That is humility. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient until death, even the death of the cross. That God the Father and Jesus Christ have this much humility is amazing to me.

God also has a **vision**. Two verses in John 12 bear this out. The first is in John 12:27, which is when Christ was praying the night before he was crucified. It says:

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”
John 12:27, KJV

The second is five verses later in verse 32. It says:

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” John 12:32, KJV

Even though Christ was suffering mentally and emotionally because he knew he had to be crucified to save mankind, he went through his mocking, torture, and crucifixion anyway. It is difficult to comprehend what he felt at that moment. Suffice it to say that it takes great

vision to see beyond the darkness and to have the resolve to keep going anyway. Christ was not just living for today, he was thinking of a better tomorrow – a tomorrow that would not be possible unless he followed through, which he did. He was thinking of an eternity and that takes a lot of vision.

Before I go any further it is obvious that the entire Bible shows almost innumerable qualities which God the Father and Jesus Christ possess. I can't list them all because I am not smart enough to apprehend them all. And another reason I cannot list them all is because a human being cannot, thankfully, put "God in a box." I can only observe some of the good qualities that God has. My main point here is that by understanding the qualities of God we are able to apprehend, and then stopping and thinking, you come to the obvious conclusion that God is great, in fact the greatest – which is why it is such an honor to be made in his image. The great God should care about his image and name much more than some humanly devised corporation cares about its brands. And he does.

Christ also had **passion**. A lot of people saw the movie, *The Passion Of The Christ*, which was

very visually depictive. God has passion. Hebrews 2:9-18 shows that Christ had tremendous passion and other qualities, too. It says:

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on

him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a **merciful** and **faithful** high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” Hebrews 2:9-18, KJV

Notice that Christ did not take on the nature of angels. Instead he was made like us. And he is not ashamed to call us brethren. We are being honored here. And ultimately Christ was crowned with glory and honor. We will talk more about this later in this book.

Christ went through all the above because he had a purpose, to help us ultimately be resurrected and to destroy him, who had the power of death, that is the devil. It took courage, purpose, and a lot of **passion** to get through his suffering and death and to deliver those who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage. This passage of scripture also shows he is **merciful** and **faithful**, two more qualities to take note of.

Philippians 4:6-8 shows another quality of Christ. My main point here is that Jesus Christ is thankful. He is an **appreciator**. That is his mindset. He is not an expecter. Satan is obviously an expecter and rebelled when he did not get what he expected. Christ, however, did not expect everything to come to him on a silver platter. Christ came to deliver us and to suffer in the process. He came to demonstrate a way of life and a thankful, positive mindset.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Philippians 4:6-8, KJV

Christ did not expect to live in a mansion and eat caviar and peeled grapes and all of that. He came to do a job. And he did his difficult job with a thankful and positive mindset. He was

not an expecter, which is very different from how Satan thinks.

Christ also is a **hard worker**. John 5:17 says:

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” John 5:17, KJV

So Christ is a worker, like the Father. Christ did the Father’s work, and what that work is, is delineated in Ephesians 2:10-12, which says:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:”
Ephesians 2:10-12, KJV

The above gets back to why we are made in God’s image and likeness, because we are his

workmanship. When God the Father and Jesus Christ are working, they are working on us! **God's work is human beings, i.e., us.** Again, we are honored.

If we drop down to Verses 18-22 in that same chapter, it says:

"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."
Ephesians 2:18-22, KJV

So, we are his workmanship. He is building something, a household of God and a holy temple. He has a plan and that's one of the reasons why we are made in his image.

Even though Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23) he is not tyrannical like some of the people we have been exposed to either in

human governments, or in the business world, or perhaps even in organized religion.

He believes in service and the right use of power. He is a **servant**. In Matthew 20:28 it says:

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28, KJV

This is very different mindset from how many of the managers in this world govern, a very different mindset indeed.

Obviously Christ had **integrity**. It says in Hebrews 4:15:

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15, KJV

One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is found in Ephesians 3 because it shows that God the Father actually created all things through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:9 shows that Christ is the **Creator**.

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:”
Ephesians 3:9, KJV

To create a universe, galaxies, the solar system, the earth, and men made in his image and likeness is not a trivial undertaking. It requires **intellect** and **purpose** and follow-through. Jesus Christ actually has life-giving technology. This is in contrast to Satan who wishes he had it, but instead brings death and destruction wherever he goes (Hebrews 2:14). Satan thinks he has technology. God actually has technology. God has great **ability** and when you combine integrity with ability and passion then you have really good things start to happen. God is integrity. He is ability. And he is passion. There is no substitute for God.

Christ is also a **teacher** and a **miracle-worker**.

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God:

for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."
John 3:1, 2, KJV

To experience the death of the cross Christ exhibited great **courage**. He was very **brave**. Christ was a braveheart, as demonstrated in Luke 22:44, which is one of the most touching verses in the Bible. To set the context, Christ was praying the night before he would die and it says:

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."
Luke 22:44, KJV

This scripture really gets to me when I read it because it shows to what length a braveheart will go. What more can you say about Christ and his intent to save us? If you want an example of **follow-through**, here it is. Here is a guy that has not been captured yet, who knows he is going to be tortured and killed for us and what does he do? He waits to be captured and then goes through with it all being faithful unto death. He didn't have to do it, but he did.

God and Christ are also **patient** - thankfully so. In Romans 15:5 it says:

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:” Romans 15:5, KJV

If you have a vision and you are doing something great and grand you have to have some patience, because the success is not going to happen overnight. It just isn't. There are a lot of moving parts down here. God gave us free will and it is messy so he has to be patient.

If someone you are trying to have a relationship with does not have integrity, it is very hard, almost impossible to have that relationship. Fortunately for us, God the Father and Jesus Christ have integrity. They are good for their word and their word is **truth**.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6, KJV

This is all in sharp contrast to Satan, who was described by Christ, in John 8:44, as follows:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44, KJV

God is **love**, which I could have mentioned first because it shows his motive (amongst other things). And it is also probably his most commonly accepted defining characteristic. In 1 John 4:16-17 it says:

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”
1 John 4:16, 17, KJV

Please note the above underline, “because as he is, so are we in this world.” We are not just supposed to look like God outwardly. We are also to become like him inwardly. The above speaks to the process of character creation inside of us where God, through Christ, graciously forgives our sins and gives his Holy Spirit so that we can become like God inwardly!

God is **light**. In Matthew 4:16-17 it says:

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4:16, 17, KJV

Last and very importantly not least, God is gracious. He gives **grace** to us. This is unlike Satan, who accuses us constantly before God (Revelation 12:9-10). God justifies instead of accuses. In Romans 3:24, (and many other places), it says:

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"
Romans 3:24, KJV

Again, I could go on and on detailing the great qualities of God. And my list would be incomplete because I am only one human being with a limited perspective – a limited camera angle as it were. But I thought it important to detail out at least some of God's great qualities

because we are made in his image and likeness. And when you add them all up it is clear that we are talking about GREATNESS. We can see integrity. We can see ability. We can see passion. God the Father and Jesus Christ, The Big Entrepreneurs In The Sky, are working to build something of lasting value.

Then you have to stop and think, at least I did, and say to yourself, "You know, just being made in his image is a tremendous honor." It is a tremendous honor and it was not an accident. It was by the intentional choice and design of the supreme intellect in the universe! It shows intent on the part of the Creator God. Remember he had all the time he needed to think up his great plan. And when you've got the being with the most integrity, ability, passion, love, and all of these other great qualities saying he wants to help us become like him, it is quite a statement. This should be encouraging to us. And it should be motivating to us as well.

And so now we ourselves have a job to do, which is to work with God to become like him on the inside. And that is a lifetime project for each of us. Fortunately or not, the only human

being you can change, on the face of the entire earth, is you.

To summarize my listing, of just some of the great characteristics of God the Father and Jesus Christ, as highlighted above, they are as follows:

Humility
Vision
Passion
Merciful
Faithful
Thankful (appreciator)
Hard worker
Servant
Integrity
Creator with intellect and purpose
Ability
Follow-through
Patience
Honest (truth)
Love
Light
Graciousness (grace)

Jesus Christ, with his correct vision and his passion and all of his hard work is going to see a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21)

and he is going to see resurrected saints (1 Corinthians 15). Christ's work is going to bear much fruit. Christ is going to be able to spend eternity with righteous spirit beings in a beautiful new heavens and new earth. Christ is also going to destroy Satan's work (1 John 3:8) and quite possibly, Satan himself (Isaiah 27:1). Character matters.

Our Human Potential

If we cooperate with God we will be resurrected with an eternal spirit body, incorruptible. It says in I Corinthians 15:42-49:

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [Christ] was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also

that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

1 Corinthians 15:42-49, KJV

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:1-2, KJV

After the resurrection we will have the greatest honor of all. We shall be like him, obviously lesser, but we shall be like him. That is the ultimate great honor. For now, it is an honor to be made in his image – not trivial, to say the least. The ultimate honor, though, is to actually be resurrected and become an eternal being, incorruptible, with integrity, ability and passion and to be allowed to live in the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 21-22).

"God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. I have

said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High." Psalms 82:1, 6, KJV

Psalm 82:1 and 82:6 might make some uncomfortable, but Jesus Christ himself clarified the matter. In John 10:30-39 it says:

"I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, [referring to Psalm 82:6, quoted above], I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

Therefore they sought again to take him: but

he escaped out of their hand,"
John 10:30-39, KJV

Jesus Christ, in defending himself against the Jews, explained quite clearly what Psalm 82:6 actually meant, that human beings are considered by God to be future gods. What an honor for us to be made in God's image and to have this potential.

Loving Your Brother And Honor

Once we realize we have been honored, in the flesh, in that we were made in God's image, and we further realize we are to become like God eternally (though lesser) and to ultimately have a new spirit body and eternal life, the question becomes, "What should we do now?" I believe God intended our physical appearance to be a reminder of who we are. And I believe God further intended our appearance to be a motivating factor, inspiring us to cooperate with him in also becoming like him in terms of character and attitude. Using 1 John 3, verses 1 and 2 again, pay particular attention to what it also says in verse 3:

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called

the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**" 1 John 3:1-3, KJV

Ergo, our job is to then purify our self by learning to practice righteousness, which ends up being a job description for a lifetime of work. We cannot do it all by ourselves which is why God gives us the Holy Spirit whereby God the Father and Jesus Christ live inside of us. But we also have our part of the job to do which is to learn, with the Father and Christ in us, to practice righteousness.

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" Colossians 1:27, KJV

"We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him." Acts 5:32, NLT

"Little children, let no man deceive you:

he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he [Christ] is righteous. ... In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." 1 John 3:7, 10, KJV

When I was studying and thinking about this topic of "honor" it was very interesting to me that numerous times in the Bible honor was linked to loving your brother. And as I stopped and thought about it, it made logical sense to me. This is what 1 John 3:7 and 10, quoted above, are saying: you are not of God if you do not practice righteousness AND also if you do not love your brother. The logical reason for linking loving your brother and practicing righteousness is as follows:

You practice righteousness because it is not enough to look like God on the outside. We also need to resemble God on the inside – in terms of our character (righteousness) and in terms of our love and attitude. You love your brother because he, too, is made in the image and likeness of God, and has the same potential you do, even if he is not acting like it right now. Maybe God will intervene in his life, later, and he will then understand the need to change.

Until then we set the same example for our brother that God set for us, which is he loved us before we loved him.

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” 1 John 4:9, 10, NLT

God had vision and showed love when it came to calling us and we need to have the same vision and love when it comes to being patient with other people. One day, they may also resemble God on both the outside and inside. We need to think forward to a future time when they will have been forgiven for their sins and they will be a different person. God did not give up on us and we should not give up on them. One day Christ might be living in them and they will be our literal brothers and sisters. And, if so, we will be spending eternity with them.

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;” Romans 12:10, KJV

“But no one can tame the tongue, it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. By this we bless God, even the Father. And by this we curse men, who have come into being according to the image of God.” James 3:8, 9, MKJV

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” 1 Peter 2:17, KJV

Loving your brother, or future brother, and honor are quite logically linked – if you think about the big picture from God’s point of view.

What Does God Look Like?

Revelation 1:12-18 gives one of the Bible’s depictions of what God looks like. I am sure there is more to his description than he has shared and I am also sure each of us will read the verses below and then have a slightly different picture in our mind. And that is all right. At least God gave us something to go on.

“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His

head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:12-18, KJV

The Apostle Paul asked and answered the question (to some extent) of what we will look like after the resurrection. He did so in I Corinthians 15:35-49, which says:

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there

is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. **And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”** 1 Corinthians 15:35-49, KJV

It was important to quote the above scriptures regarding Christ's appearance and the

resurrection because they paint a picture of what we can look forward to.

The reference in verse 43 above, about being sown in dishonour, means comparably speaking to the spiritual body mentioned in verse 44. It is also part of the continuing agriculture analogy Paul used starting in verse 36. That analogy is about a seed being planted in the ground and the necessity of the seed dying before it can sprout upward. This is an interesting analogy because God places his Holy Spirit seed into us who have sinned and become corrupted. Which is why he says in verse 42, "It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption." And this continues on into verse 43 where he says, "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory." Because sin corrupted us, we are now corruption. And because we have been corrupted through sin, we have also dishonored God, our Creator. That does not take away from, or diminish, that God gave us a great honor by making us in his image and likeness. It just means that sin has infected us and corrupted us and that we have dishonored God, our Creator. Fortunately God, with his vision, love, purpose, and follow-through will yet ultimately fix the problem. In 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 it explains:

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 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. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 15:50-57, KJV

One further interesting point, concerning the agricultural analogy, please remember that we were made out of the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). So God putting his Holy Spirit seed into us (the dust of the ground) is very much like the agricultural analogy used by Paul

where he referenced sowing which, in essence, is putting a seed into the ground.

There is honor reserved in heaven for us, and the honor is to become like God. This is detailed in 1 Peter 1:3-9:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and **honour** and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”
1 Peter 1:3-9, KJV

Selected Honor Scriptures

The King James Version has 140 instances of the word "honour" being used. For our purposes, in this next segment of the book, I am going to quote and sometimes comment on a few selected scriptures that mention the word "honor" (modern spelling).

In 1 Samuel 2:30, it says, "... them that honour me I will honour."

"Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place."
1 Chronicles 16:27, KJV

"Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name." 1 Chronicles 29:12, 13, KJV

Let's turn to Psalm 8:4-5. This is the precursor scripture to the more familiar similar reference found in Hebrews 2:6-9. Psalms 8:4-5 says:

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” Psalms 8:4, 5, KJV

“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.” Psalms 91:14, 15, KJV

God thus shows his intent toward us: To be with us in trouble, to deliver us, and to honor us. It is all very encouraging!

Proverbs 18:12 says, “... before honor is humility,” which was Christ’s human experience and ours as well.

Proverbs 21:21 and 22:4 are basically formulas for success:

“He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.” Proverbs 21:21, KJV

“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.”
Proverbs 22:4, KJV

In Daniel 11:38 there is a mention of something kind of perverse - where it talks about the one who, in my opinion, becomes the Anti-Christ honoring the God of forces. So there is a false honor, too. You could be honoring the wrong thing.

“But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.”
Daniel 11:38, KJV

John 5:41-44 contains one of the most famous passages of scripture regarding honor. And it deals with the topic in a very straightforward way:

“I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the

honour that cometh from God only?"

John 5:41-44, KJV

We can all vote on "Who is great?" But the winner might or might not be actually worthy of honor. In this instant-communication media age, the media is continually putting forth some question such as, "Who is the greatest basketball player of all time?" But the answers, and the ensuing arguments, are coming from human beings. It is only human opinions - a lot of hot air. And all of it is a waste of time - pure vanity. But the honor that comes from God is going to last forever. And that should be where our focus is, the honor that comes from God.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." John 12:24-26, KJV

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one

that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

2 Timothy 2:19-21, KJV

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 2 Peter 1:16, 17, KJV

Jesus Christ did what God wanted, and he received honor and glory from God.

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which

at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying [in Psalms 8:4-6], What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified

are all of one: for which cause he is not
ashamed to call them brethren,
Hebrews 2:1-11, KJV

The Torah Story

Now that we know God honored human beings, via our physical appearance; and also by giving us minds that can think, create, and reason; and we have rehearsed at least some of God's great qualities; and have taken a glance at what God looks like; and know that we are to cooperate with God, purifying ourselves so that we can ultimately be resurrected to eternal life incorruptible; it is time to take a look at a bigger picture. And this bigger picture is God is a Master Novelist writing something that could be called, *The Torah Story*. However, unlike a human novelist, he is writing *The Torah Story* in real life and in real time and he has been so doing for eons.

The fact that God was writing *The Torah Story* first came to my attention, in the late 1970s, via a Bible scholar and linguist by the name of Dr. Charles V. Dorothy - who I had the privilege of studying under and also becoming friends with. Later, he (and others) also used the Latin phrase "magnalia Dei." When

translated from Latin into English this phrase essentially means "the mighty works of God," or "the mighty acts of God." It can also mean "the great things of God" and also, "the wonders of God." Google Translate's free online Latin to English translator translates "magnalia Dei" into "**wonderful works of God.**" In other words, "magnalia Dei" is, in essence, the Latin phrase that corresponds to the idea of *The Torah Story*. As Dr. Dorothy taught me, *The Torah Story* is the story of the great things that God has done and is doing for his people.

Acts 2:11 uses the very phrase "wonderful works of God" and this is from the actual fulfillment of the day of Pentecost. To get the full impact of Acts 2:11 we also need to read verses 1-12 as well:

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues **the wonderful works of God** [magnalia Dei]. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?" Acts 2:1-12, KJV

God wanted all those gathered to hear the magnalia Dei, *The Torah Story*, so he worked at least three very big miracles on that special fulfillment of Pentecost. First, he gave his Holy Spirit. That would be amazing enough, but then he worked two further miracles. The next miracle was having each person present hear

and understand in his native language. And the third miracle is what each man heard. He heard of "the wonderful works of God," i.e., the *magnalia Dei*, aka *The Torah Story*.

The Torah Story is many times referred to and recited as to how God intervened to establish the nation of Israel by destroying Egypt and taking the Israelites out through the Red Sea. And so there are many important reminders, in scripture, to remember "the mighty acts of God" – to remember *The Torah Story*. Numerous times God says he did something great with "his mighty hand" and "his outstretched arm."

It needs to be pointed out that God's mighty acts are not just about national deliverance for Israel. **His wonders, his mighty acts are also deeply personal**, such as: a miracle birth; a personal healing; the personal forgiveness of sins and the receipt of the Holy Spirit; finding a loving mate, etc. God's *The Torah Story* is meant to touch our lives on many levels. And if we let it, it does. And every time God exhibits one of his wonders for us, it is an ongoing addition to his writing of *The Torah Story*. The fact that *The Torah Story* is also sometimes

personal for us makes this great story all the more meaningful.

Moses spoke of *The Torah Story* to the children of Israel, as follows:

“Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway. And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm, And his miracles, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and unto all his land; And what he did unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he made the water of the Red sea to overflow them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD hath destroyed them unto this day; And what he did unto you in the wilderness, until ye came into this place; And what he did unto Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel: **But your**

eyes have seen all the great acts of the LORD which he did.”

Deuteronomy 11:1-7, KJV

The remembrance of *The Torah Story* was so important that **its recital was commanded**, in essence, upon the occurrence of certain events, e.g., the below offering of the firstfruits. We read about this in Deuteronomy 26:1-11:

“And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us. And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD thy God. **And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God**, A Syrian [a wandering Aramean in some translations] ready to perish was my father, and he went down into

Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.”
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, KJV

A global search of the King James Bible turned up 17 listings of the phrase “mighty hand” and you could also search for “outstretched arm”, “wonders”, etc., to get more listings, which are interspersed throughout the

Bible. For example, Psalm 106 is about *The Torah Story*.

The Torah Story is also mentioned in Psalm 145, verses 3-12, in particular:

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. **One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.** I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and **of thy wondrous works.** And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; **To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.”**

“He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.” Psalms 145:3-12, 19, KJV

Psalm 145 has some very interesting messages in it. First, *The Torah Story* is referenced quite explicitly throughout. Second, verse 4 says that the teaching about God, from one generation to another, is specifically to include *The Torah Story*. Third, when teaching non-believers about God, verses 11 and 12 instruct that *The Torah Story* and God’s coming kingdom are to be part of what is taught.

To further make my point about *The Torah Story* being used to explain to our children why we serve God and follow his instructions please see Deuteronomy 6:20-25, which says:

“And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you? **Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh’s bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: And he**

brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers. And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us." Deuteronomy 6:20-25, KJV

The late Dr. Dorothy also taught me that each of us was "a slave in Egypt" so to speak because we are all sinners and under the death penalty. So it is encouraging that *The Torah Story* continued in a big way when Jesus Christ came to the earth to become our Savior. While here, he continued his miracle-working ways, thus continuing to add to *The Torah Story*. Mathew 21:14-15 says:

"And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. And when the chief priests and scribes **saw the wonderful things that he did** [the wonders of God], and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased," [not everyone likes *The Torah Story*] Matthew 21:14, 15, KJV

In Acts 3 *The Torah Story* continued on when a man who was lame from birth was healed, which got Peter and John in trouble with the religious leaders of their day.

“And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they [the religious leaders] could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.” Acts 4:14-16, KJV

Continuing the story in verses 18-20:

“And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:18-20, KJV

Peter and John were going to do what Psalm 145:12 says to do, which is: “To make known

to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom." John, in particular, noted at the end of his gospel account that he personally witnessed so many wonders and mighty acts, i.e., additions to *The Torah Story*, that you could scarcely write them all down in books:

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." John 21:25, KJV

The Apostle Paul credentialed himself, as follows, in 2 Corinthians 12:12 (the mentioned wonders were obviously done by God):

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and **wonders, and mighty deeds.**"
2 Corinthians 12:12, KJV

Psalms 150:2, KJV says, "**Praise him for his mighty acts:** praise him according to his excellent greatness."

It is the author's prerogative to categorize and so there is an incomplete, but important,

listing below of some of the major events forming a core portion of *The Torah Story*. Further, on the individual level it is clear that God creating us, sustaining us, and ultimately delivering us is pivotal to each of us personally. Some of the major mighty acts I want to specifically reference, pertaining to the wonders of *The Torah Story*, are as follows:

Creation

Abel's life story

Enoch's life story

Noah's life story and the flood

The Tower of Babel and the thwarting of Nimrod

Abraham's life story

Isaac's life story

Jacob's life story

Saving Joseph in Egypt and his life story

Saving Moses in Egypt and his life story

The 10 Plagues and the destruction of Egypt
Delivering Israel through the Red Sea
Feeding Israel with manna
The giving of The Law at Mount Sinai
Joshua and the conquest of The Promised Land
The Judges and their stories
David and Goliath
David's life story
Elijah and the prophets of Baal
The life story of the other prophets
Esther's story and the deliverance from Haman
Daniel, his story, and his saving from the lions
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being saved
John the Baptist's life story
Jesus Christ coming in the flesh

Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection

The giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

The apostles and their life stories

The transformation of Saul to the Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul's amazing trials and life story

God's intervention in our lives to call us out

The promised future resurrection

The promised future New Heaven and New Earth

As a writer I could go on and on - which is basically what John was saying when he said you could not write enough books to describe it all. And so I will stop with the above listing.

There is no way any one human can apprehend it all, particularly since a big part of *The Torah Story* is the fact that it is also personal to every man and woman. And your humble writer friend can in no way even begin to understand all the wonders that God has done and is doing for you.

In Exodus 3:4, where God revealed his name to Moses, we learn something important that pertains to *The Torah Story*. The something important is that *The Torah Story* **is ongoing**. When God says his name is "I AM THAT I AM" it could also be translated as, "**I will be what I will be.**" This says to me that The Big Entrepreneur In The Sky is going to do what he wants to do when he wants to do it. And every time he does one of his mighty acts it adds to *The Torah Story*. It would be a big mistake to bet against The Big Entrepreneur In The Sky!

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Exodus 3:14, KJV

Summation

It truly is a great honor to be made in God's image. *The Torah Story* is the fantastic story of the wondrous deeds that God has done and is doing for his people.

Now it should be noted that to have a really great story, you need great characters. And so that is our next subject.