



A Spiritual Encouragement Message **July 28, 2020**

God Created Us In His Image **by Oscar Velazquez**

Back in ancient times when Moses wrote about the creation of the world, it was revealed to him by God the Creator and also passed on to him orally by previous generations of his family.

When you read Genesis chapters 5,10 and 11 you find that Adam knew Methuselah (Noah's grandpa who died the year of the Flood) and Lamech (Noah's father who died five years before the Flood). Then Noah knew Abraham for about 60 years, when you do the math correctly. God inspired Moses to write and the Patriarchs knew each other and passed their history and the oral teachings for generations to their kids.

Like I wrote before, the meaning of a story can only be unlocked by uncovering the culture behind it. When Moses wrote "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" (Genesis 1:26-27 KJV). It was clearly understood in their culture because Egypt's Pharaohs and Canaan's kings as well as all other rulers made their names and power known through the use of coins with their image, but also idols and statues in their likeness. Ancient people who lived a far distance from their rulers knew them only by their coins and statues and they also only knew their gods by their images and idols made by their hands (Acts 7:41).

I want to remind you of the occasion when the Pharisees sent their disciples with the Herodians to try to entangle Jesus in His talk by questioning Him. "Then went the Pharisees and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image

and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left him, and went their way."

(Matthew 22:15-22 KJV). With that answered, Jesus was telling them to render themselves to God! As they were made in God's image.

In Adam, we were all made by God's hands in His likeness and we are supposed to shine God's light and glory to the world as the moon shines the light of the sun (2 Corinthians 3:18). Sadly, we reflect back sin instead of His light, so God sent his own Son to earth to show His image, power and glory. "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature" (Colossians 1:15 KJV). "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;" (Hebrews 1:3 KJV).

God made it possible for all of us to obey and imitate Jesus so we can be transformed in His image once again, fulfilling our purpose to shine His light on earth (Colossians 3:5-11, Romans 8:29).