

Christian Students Association Bible Study

October 27, 2021

THE THOUGHT OF GOD BEING MAN'S LIFE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- I. God's creating of man in His image indicates that God wants man to have Him as life so that man can express Him. (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:8-9, 15-17; 3:1-6, 22-24; Psa. 36:8-9; 119:103; Jer. 15:16; Ezek. 3:3)
 - A. Man, as the highest created life made in God's image with His likeness, is a vessel so that God may put Himself into His creation in order to have a beautiful expression.
 - B. Thus, God created man to be a duplication of Himself that man may have the capacity to contain God and express Him.
 - C. All the other living things were created "according to their kind" (vv. 11-12, 21, 24-25), but man was created according to God's kind (cf. Acts 17:28-29a).
 - D. Since God and man are of the same kind, it is possible for man to be joined to God and to live together with Him in an organic union (John 15:5; Rom. 6:5; 11:17-24; 1 Cor. 6:17).

Genesis 1:26-27 says, "And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

John 15:5 says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."

1 Corinthians 6:17 says, "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit."

- II. God's putting man as His vessel before the tree of life indicates that God desires that man would take Him, signified by the tree of life, as man's life.
- A. God intends to impress us deeply that He, represented here as the tree of life, wants to be food to us.
 - B. The Bible is different from every other book in the world. Classical writings in the world use profound and mysterious expressions or doctrines that are difficult to comprehend. The Bible is different.
 - C. The Bible often presents the deep things of God with plain words.
 - D. The Bible at its beginning reveals the tree of life as food as the means for man to enjoy God. The fruit on the tree of life is food for us to eat.
 - E. In Genesis God presented Himself to man, not as a dignified or great person but as a tree of life. God's intention is to enter into man to be man's life supply; therefore, man must eat and drink Him.

Genesis 2:9 says, "And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden. . ."

John 6:51 says, "I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;"

John 6:57 says, "As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me."

John 7:37-38 says, "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."