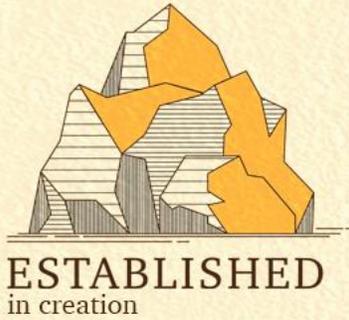


ESTABLISHED
in creation

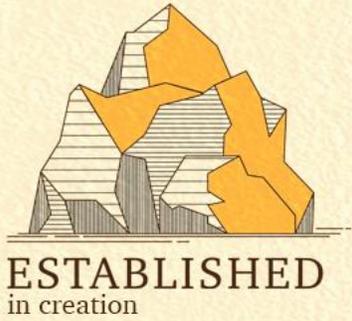
Made in His Image

Genesis 1:26-31



5 Distinct Worldviews

1. **Theism**: Belief in a personal God who created and sustains the universe.
2. **Pantheism**: The belief that everything is God, or the universe is God.
3. **Atheism**: The belief that no God exists, focusing on the physical universe.
4. **Humanism/Secularism**: Emphasizes human reason, ethics, and social justice over divine intervention.
5. **Postmodernism**: The belief that reality is socially constructed, and truth is relative.



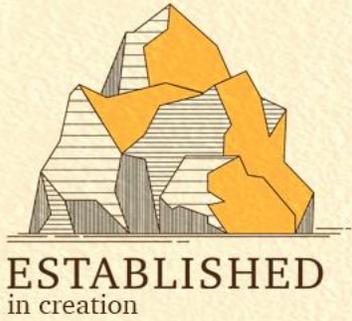
6 Miracles Atheists Must Believe

1. Something from nothing
2. Order from chaos
3. Life from non-life
4. Personal from non-personal
5. Reason from non-reason
6. Morality from matter

Our need for worth is so powerful that whatever we base our identity and value on, we essentially 'deify.'

We will look to it with all the passion and intensity of worship and devotion, even if we think ourselves as highly irreligious.

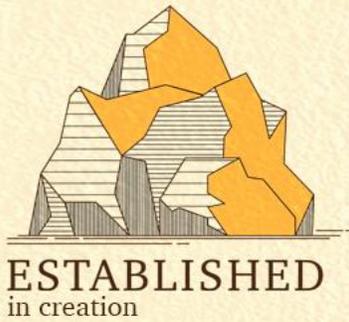
Timothy Keller
(1950-2023)



The Image of God - (*Imago Dei*)

Humanity alone bears God's image— we have unique dignity, purpose, and calling.

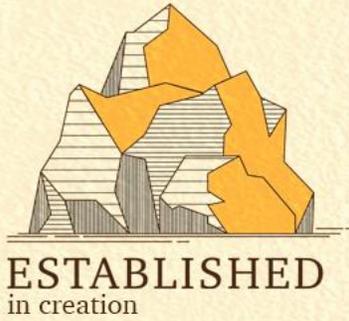
We are established as God's representatives, not accidents of evolution.



Reminder . . .

God did not create man out of boredom or need. Nor was he lonely, since he forever exists in perfect loving community within the Trinity.

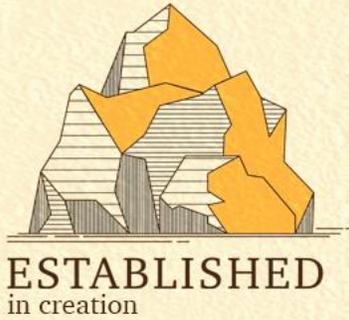
He created out of the overflow of his own goodness, love and joy, and the super-abundance of his generous self-giving fullness.



Genesis 1:26-31 (page 1)

Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

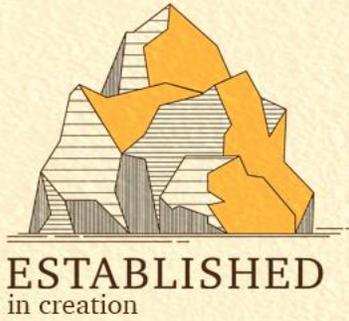
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.



Genesis 1:26-31 (page 1)

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

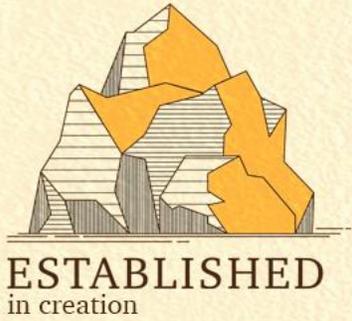
And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.



Genesis 1:26-31 (page 1)

And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



Genesis 1:5

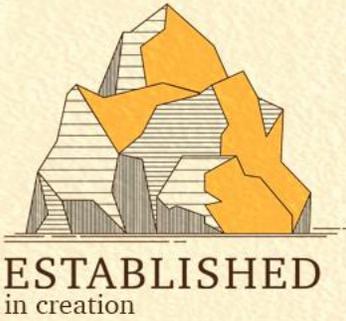
This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.



ESTABLISHED
in creation

Genesis 9:6

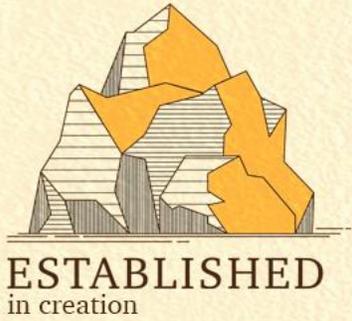
Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.



Psalm 8:3-8

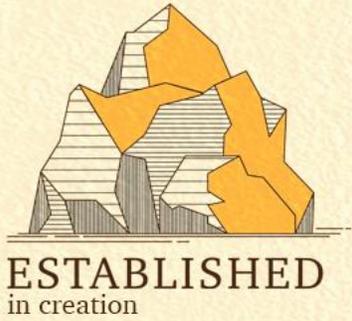
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, **what is man** that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with **glory and honor**. You have given him **dominion** over the works of your hands; you have put **all things under his feet**, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.



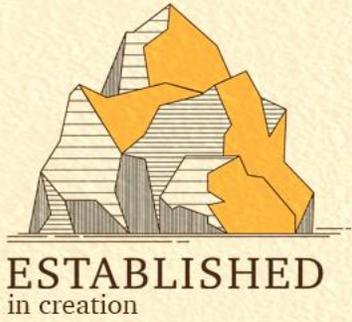
2 Peter 2:12-14

But these, **like irrational animals, creatures of instinct**, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.

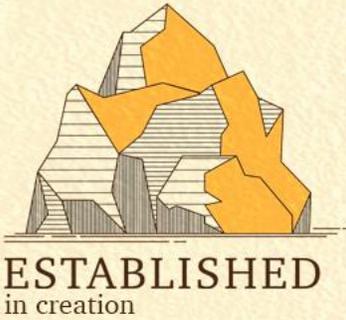


Romans 1:22-23

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.



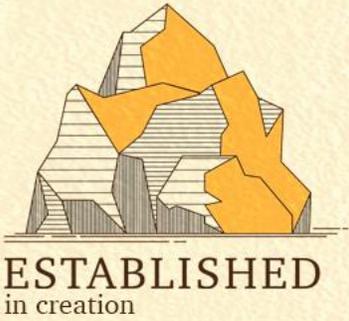
**Origin informs identity,
and identity informs behavior.**



Dr. David Closson

“As Christians, we believe that the deepest and most coherent explanation for **human dignity, moral obligation, and justice** comes from the biblical teaching that humanity is created in the image of God, and accountable to Him.

And one of the reasons these convictions are still so present in the United States is that **we are living on the fumes** of the biblical worldview that our forebearers truly believed in.”



(English) “image” = (OT Hebrew) *tzelem*

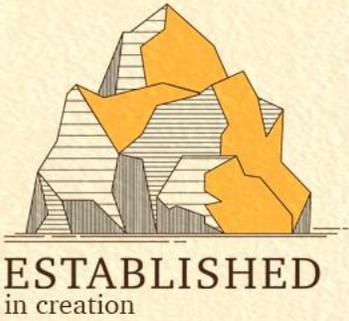
= a physical form that stands for
or represents something else

= (NT Greek) *eikon*

Biblical Characteristics of the Image of God

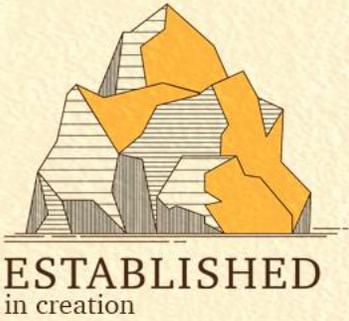
1. Both men and women
2. Equally possessed
3. Distinct from all other earthly creatures
4. Passed on generationally
5. Neither incremental nor partial

Michael Heiser
(1963-2023)



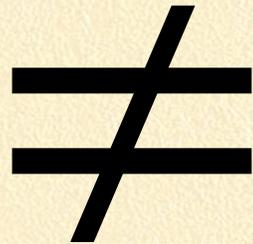
Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



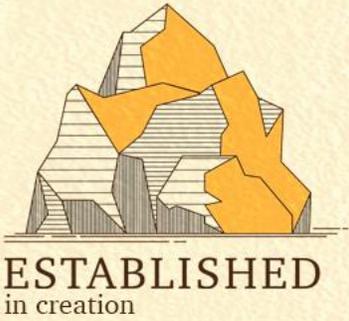
Being CREATED
in the image of
GOD
in Genesis 1

(Title/Status/Role)



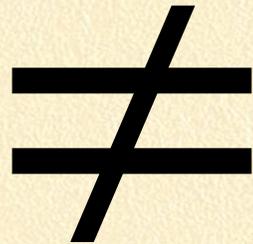
Being
CONFORMED to
the image of
CHRIST
in the NT

(Sanctification/Character)



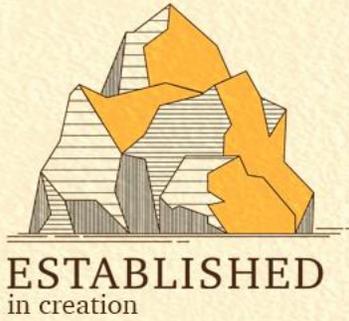
Being **CREATED**
in the image of
GOD
in Genesis 1

(Title/Status/Role)



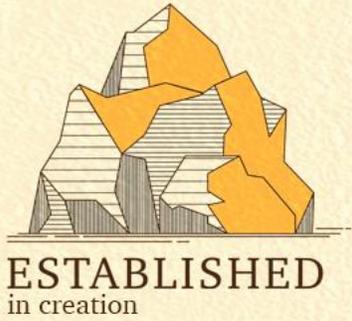
Certain
ATTRIBUTES or
ABILITIES that
humanity
possesses

(Quality/Attribute/Ability)



What Does It Mean To Be Created in God's Image?

- ✓ **Consciousness**
- ✓ **Self-awareness (sentience)**
- ✓ **Intelligence / rationality**
- ✓ **Emotions**
- ✓ **Soul or spirit**
- ✓ **Conscience / sense of morality**
- ✓ **Ability to pray / commune with God**



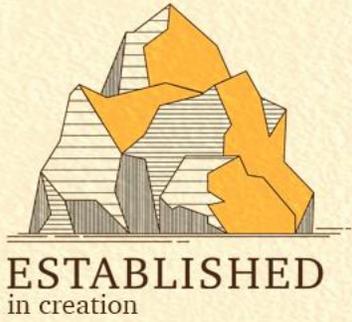
Genesis 1:26

“Let us make man in our own image.”

More accurately means:

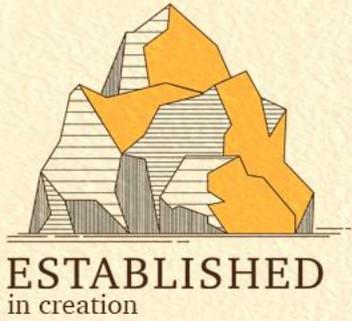
“Let us make man to be our image.”

Or, “Let us make man as our image.”



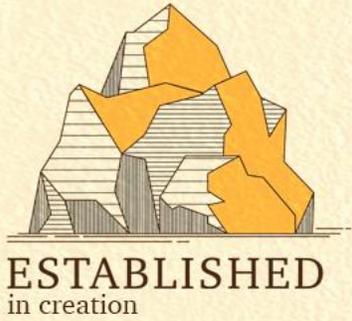
Different Meanings of “In”

“I put the dish in the sink.”



Different Meanings of “In”

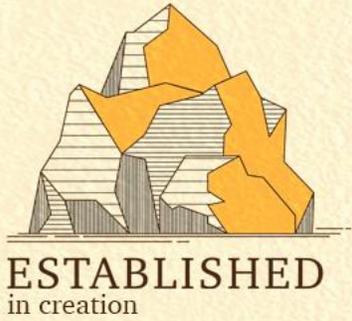
“I put the dish in the sink.” (Location)



Different Meanings of “In”

“I put the dish in the sink.” (Location)

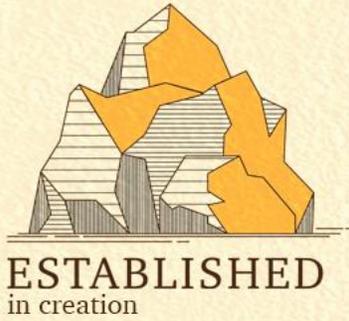
“I wrote the letter in pencil.”



Different Meanings of “In”

“I put the dish in the sink.” (Location)

“I wrote the letter in pencil.” (Instrument)

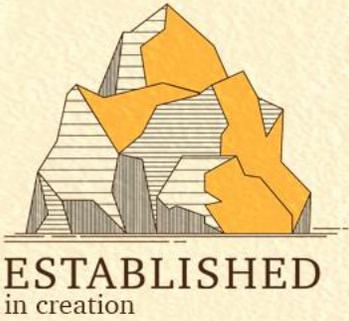


Different Meanings of “In”

“I put the dish in the sink.” (Location)

“I wrote the letter in pencil.” (Instrument)

“I broke the vase in pieces.”

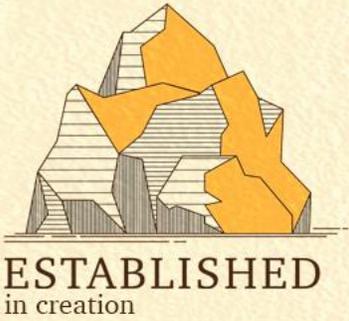


Different Meanings of “In”

“I put the dish in the sink.” (Location)

“I wrote the letter in pencil.” (Instrument)

“I broke the vase in pieces.” (Result)



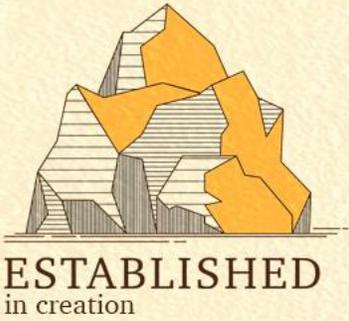
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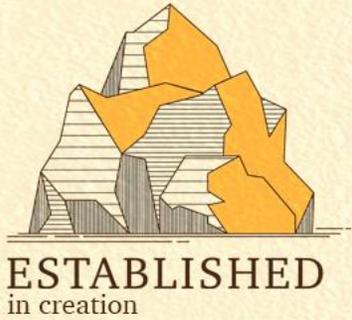
“I broke the vase in pieces.” (Result)

“I work in ministry.”



Different Meanings of “In”

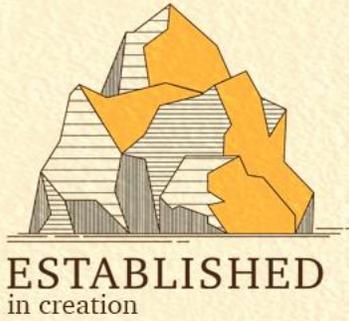
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| “I put the dish <u>in</u> the sink.” | (Location) |
| “I wrote the letter <u>in</u> pencil.” | (Instrument) |
| “I broke the vase <u>in</u> pieces.” | (Result) |
| “I work <u>in</u> ministry.” | (Vocation) |



Genesis 1:28

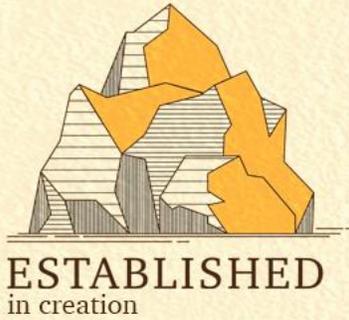
And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**God’s definition of image-bearing in context:
(fill... subdue... & exercise dominion)**



Genesis 1:28 does not mention these:

- ~~Consciousness~~
- ~~Self-awareness (sentience)~~
- ~~Intelligence / rationality~~
- ~~Emotions~~
- ~~Soul or spirit~~
- ~~Conscience / sense of morality~~
- ~~Ability to pray / commune with God~~



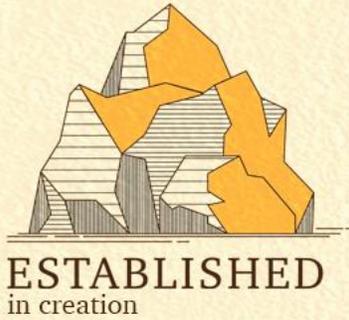
Old Testament vs. New Testament

OT

- Abraham was the father of a physical nation: Israel
- “Outward Jews”
- Physical redemption by Passover lamb
- Physical circumcision
- Physical wandering through the wilderness
- Earthy Jerusalem

NT

- Abraham is the spiritual father of all who believe
- “Inward Jews”
- Spiritual redemption by the the Lamb of God
- Circumcision of the heart
- Spiritual perseverance in present evil world
- Heavenly Jerusalem

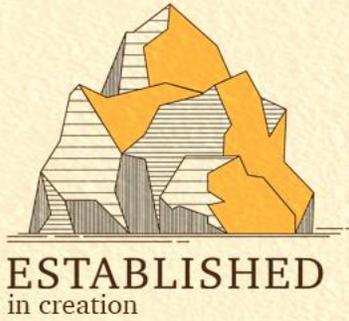


2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**.

Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



We will bear the image of God in every possible way:

- In our role as co-rulers and co-managers of a new heaven and earth
- In our life and character, having been perfected in the image of Christ
- In the relational perfection of being adopted into God's eternal family



ESTABLISHED
in creation

“They [the Trinity] had a dream that we would exist and be caught up in and share in their love and eternal life.”

Dr. Bruce Wauchope