

## *In His Image!*

Genesis 1:26-28 (NLV)

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man like Us and let him be head over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every thing that moves on the ground." 27 And God made man in His own likeness. In the likeness of God He made him. He made both male and female. 28 And God wanted good to come to them, saying, "Give birth to many. Grow in number. Fill the earth and rule over it. Rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

\* When we read this scripture and consider its truth and what the Lord is trying to communicate, we walk away with this:

1. Mankind was created in God's image and to be like Him!
2. We still bare His image but the likeness has been tarnished!
3. This is the reason for the redemption of the New Creation!
4. We are redeemed and empowered to walk in His likeness once again!

\* For today's context I want to concentrate on the fact that:

"He made both male and female in His likeness."

\* Yes, mother...dear sister...lady, or young lady...you are in His image!

I. God is infinite, omniscient, eternal, perfect and beyond wonderful!

A. He is so much of all of these characteristics that we constantly see a struggle in scripture and even life to describe Him!

1. We see this effort to describe an infinite God in something as common as what we call The Lord's Prayer.

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed (or holy) be your name.

2. The obvious next question is.....which name is holy?
3. Yahweh?
4. Jehovah?
5. God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
6. The God of Israel?

B. Did you know that God actually has many names?

1. Jehovah Jireh- God will provide. Gen. 22
2. “ “ Rapha- God my healer. Ex. 15
3. “ “ Nissi- God my victory. Ex. 17
4. “ “ Shalom- God my peace. Judges 6
5. “ “ Ra-ah- The Lord my Shepherd- Ps. 23
6. “ “ Tsidkenu- God our righteousness- Jer. 23
7. “ “ Shammah- The Lord who is present- Ez 48
8. El Shaddai- The Almighty!
9. Elohim- The Strong One!
10. Adoni- My Lord!!

C. Simply stated, our God cannot possibly be described simply but with multiple names and descriptions!! He is AWESOME

II. This is what we want to see as we spend today honoring and celebrating our Mothers!!! The women in our lives are truly made in the image and likeness of God! So much so that we see the writers of The Scriptures attaching feminine qualities and descriptions in an effort to explain The Lord to the people!!! YOU ARE TRULY LIKE HIM!

A. One example of God’s dealings is that of a mother!

Hosea 11:3-4 (NIV)

3 It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. 4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

B. We learned from our study of the Old Covenant that it was a covenant of God with the people for protection! We see it here!

Hosea 13:8 (NIV)

8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open; like a lion I will devour them—a wild animal will tear them apart.

C. God is described as the “one who gave birth to us.”

Deuteronomy 32:18 (NIV)

18 You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.

D. God is also described as a “comforting mother!”

Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)

13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

E. He is also compared to a mother during one of the most intimate times of “motherhood!”

Isaiah 49:15 (NIV)

15 “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!

F. Jesus uses the example of a “mother hen” to show His care!

Matthew 23:37 (NIV)

37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

III. As we study scripture, we see many many characteristics of God!

A. All of these examples, metaphors and descriptions are man’s attempt to grasp the awesomeness of an infinite God!

1. He, at times, can be seen as a warrior!
2. He can be described as a broken parent, disappointed in His children!
3. At times, He is seen as a proud parent in the accomplishments of their children!
4. He can be seen as a hopeful parent as He waits patiently for the correct response from His kids!
5. ...and of course, God is often described as a MOTHER!  
With patience, nurturing, and infinite love!

B. Mom’s...God has put all of that into you to varying degrees!

1. We are so grateful for you!
2. We see God in you!
3. We love and appreciate the gift of God you are!