

Supernatural by Michael Heiser

REVIEW of WEEK FOUR: VIDEO 2, Part 2 REVIEW

IMAGING EXAMPLE: JESUS

- ✓ Jesus is an example of being an imager, but Jesus is the PERFECT image of God. Jesus said **John 14:9b (ESV)** ⁹Jesus said to him... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.
- ✓ Christ-followers are to become more and more like Jesus. That and was God original intent. And now that is discipleship.
2 Corinthians 3:18a (ESV) ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.
- ✓ Christ followers will ultimately become like Jesus, "conformed to the image of His son" (Rom 8:29). We don't become like angels; we become like Christ. Don't trivialize it by thinking literally.

Why the Plurals in Gen 1:26? **Plurals** – co-representation is the main idea

- God is the lone creator of all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible (Col 1:15-16).
- Elohim image God, their creator – in the spiritual realm.
- We image God, our creator on earth - we serve in his stead on this planet as His agents in our world while the elohim do it in their world. "Elohim" is plural because God is in conversation with them.
Eden is where Heaven came to earth. God dwells among men. Creates human family to co-exist and co-partner with supernatural family that already exists. We are mirror images of each other – "on earth as it is in Heaven" – Unseen Realm. Both are fit for God's Presence; BELONG in God's Presence.
God's supernatural and human family both rebel. They turn their backs on God because they want autonomy, self-rule, control – so badly they are willing to throw away all they have to **think** they are in control of their own decisions – that's abnormal for God, what He doesn't want

WHAT ABOUT EVIL? God didn't get what he wanted (yet)

Of course God knew elohim and humanity would rebel. Then why did He make us? Related question is "why doesn't God get rid of evil?" God could wipe out all evil, but to do so He would have to get rid of all beings He has made who are imagers.

To accomplish God's assignment He shared His attributes with us – "**communicable attributes**" in theological terms – creativity, intelligence, rationality, emotions and FREE WILL. **Free will is essential to imaging.** God knew but God wants a family and knows that they are LIKE Him, but are not Him, which means they lack His perfect nature and at some point will abuse the good gifts He has given them

Key point: in God's mind, the terrible things that would result from His decision to make us was better than not having us at all. God makes that call whether we like it or not.

We are created as family, to help one another in suffering. When we see it that way, we will ACT. And people will notice b/c not the norm and get a glimpse of what life should be like in God's world

Foreknowledge and pre-destination.

- 1 Samuel 23

"Foreknowledge does not necessitate predestination"

Don't blame God for wanting evil – you can blame Him for giving you life and making you like Him with attribute of free will. ***You can only blame yourself for abusing the good gift of God.***

- There is no plan B

The set of circumstances of what God wants never changes. God never says, "Maybe I can fix this with some other plan."

The story of the Bible is God trying to return humanity to recover its identity, to bring people back in the family, and partner with Him to repeat the process

We are constantly thwarted by supernatural enemies and humans deceived by supernatural enemies and the effects that supernatural rebellion has on us to impede God getting His way