

# END-TIMES ISSUES



**#105** Commandment #7 – Background issues.

**AND BEYONDI**

**GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS. HE TELLS US TO BE READY.**

1

## BIBLE TRANSLATIONS: PROOF of God's **UNDERSERVED KINDNESS!**

Genesis 1:27 (Hebrew):	Genesis 1:27 (BSB):
וַיְבָרֵא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ: זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם:	So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- God has raised up people who can **translate the Bible** into our own language!
- This means he has given us **the opportunity to learn about him**, and to trust him for salvation.

**\* We don't deserve either of these; but God did it anyway. He chose to give us the opportunity to be saved!**

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—**not because of anything we have done** but **because of his own purpose and grace**.

2 Timothy 1:9a (NIV)

2

**Be aware: With great opportunity comes great responsibility.**

- People who throw away the opportunity to find out *what God himself has revealed* to us are in danger of a great (and horrible) judgment.

Truly I tell you, it will be **more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment** than for that town.

Matthew 10:15 (BSB)

- WHY?** Because we have been given a greater opportunity than others have.

From everyone who has been given much, **much will be required**; and from him who has been entrusted with much, **even more will be demanded**.

Luke 12:48b (BSB)

In Scripture, God has shown us who we are, how we are to live, and why. Genesis 1:27 (in our translation illustration) is one of the first passages that deals with this issue; and it fits with our topic today: **It is the foundation on which the Seventh Commandment is built.**

3

## GENESIS 1:27 THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HEBREW POETRY.

We can understand and benefit from Scripture *without* understanding the basics of Hebrew poetry. But *with* such knowledge, we can understand Scripture **better** and benefit from it **better**.

- Hebrew poetry is designed to communicate truth**, often in vivid ways. (About 1/3 of the Old Testament is in poetry form.) Even the prose (non-poetry) sections sometimes include certain poetic features.
- One of the key features** that concerns us here is called "**parallelism**."

The basic thought unit will typically consist of two or three short lines that relate to each other in some manner. Together, these lines may express the concept better than any one line by itself.

### THREE BASIC HEBREW POETRY TECHNIQUES:

**A = B** They may express a *same* or *similar* concept in different ways.

**A ≠ B** They may express *contrasting* or *opposite* concepts.

**A + B** The subsequent lines may in some way *build on* or *expand* the concept that is expressed in the first line.

4

## GENESIS 1:27 IS AN EXAMPLE OF HEBREW POETRY.

We can understand and benefit from Scripture *without* understanding the basics of Hebrew poetry. But *with* such knowledge, we can understand Scripture **better** and benefit from it **better**.

- Hebrew poetry is designed to communicate truth**, often in vivid ways. (About 1/3 of the Old Testament is in poetry form.) Even the prose (non-poetry) sections sometimes use certain poetic features.
- One of the key features** that concerns us here is called "**parallelism**."

The basic thought unit will typically consist of two or three short lines that relate to each other in some manner. Together, these lines may express the concept better than any one line by itself.

### THREE BASIC HEBREW POETRY TECHNIQUES:

- They may express a *same* or *similar* concept in different ways.
- They may express *contrasting* or *opposite* concepts.
- The subsequent lines may in some way *build on* or *expand* the concept that is expressed in the first line.

5

## HERE ARE THE PARALLEL CONCEPTS:

**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

Genesis 1:27 (BSB)

**Line 1** – The basic statement.

- God created **MAN**
- In his own **IMAGE**

**Line 2** – Repeats Line 1, but reverses the terms:

- In God's **IMAGE**
- He created **HIM**

**Line 3** – Repeats and expands Line 2:

- MALE** and **FEMALE**
- He created **THEM**

**(Described another way):**

- MAN** (Line 1)  
= **HIM** (Line 2)  
= **THEM** (Line 3)
- His **IMAGE** (Line 1)  
= God's **IMAGE** (Line 2)  
= **MALE** and **FEMALE** (Line 3)

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS**

6

**THE SIGNIFICANCE**

**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**  
Genesis 1:27 (BSB)

- \* Singular and plural concepts are **both** present.
  - God defines "man" ("mankind") as both "him" and "them."
  - God defines "image" as *one* individual (Line 2) and *two* individuals united together (Line 3).
- \* These features are also present in the description of God! (Compare v. 26 to v. 27.)

Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, after **Our** likeness, to rule over [all creation]."   
Genesis 1:26a (BSB)

- "Us" and "our" refer to God; yet the fulfillment of it (in v. 27) uses "his" and "he"! Singular and plural are *both* applied to God.
- "Us/Our" *cannot* refer to "God + something else (an angel?)."  
We are created in the image of God – not a *mixture* of entities.

**HOW DOES SCRIPTURE DESCRIBE OUR CREATOR?**

- **SINGULAR:** It was "God." This is the predominant focus in the Old Testament – although some passages suggest a *differentiation* that fits in the following section.

**The LORD** made the earth by His power ...  
Jeremiah 10:12a (BSB)

---

- **PLURAL:** It was the "Father," the "Son" (Jesus Christ), and the "Holy Spirit." This theme is more predominant in the New Testament – though when we compare statements in *both* Testaments, we can see that the two fit together seamlessly.

✓ The "Father."

... there is but **one God, the Father**, from whom all things came and for whom we exist.  
1 Corinthians 8:6a (BSB)

✓ The "Son" (Jesus Christ). The fact that Jesus Christ was present (and actively involved) at creation is strongly emphasized in the New Testament. Considering the fact that Jesus is identified as being the "Word" of God, some Old Testament passages seem to point to his presence (though the details are not *fully* revealed until the New Testament era).

And there is but one Lord, **Jesus Christ, through whom all things came** and through whom we exist.  
1 Corinthians 8:6b (BSB)

By **the word of the LORD** the heavens were made ...  
Ps 33:6 (BSB)

**Through Him all things were made**, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.  
... **the world was made through Him**, ...  
John 1:3, 10b (BSB)

[God's Son] ... **through whom He made the universe.**  
Hebrews 1:2b (BSB)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For **in Him all things were created**, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were **created through Him and for Him**.  
He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.  
Colossians 1:15-17 (BSB)

If a passage about creation does *not* specifically point to Father, Son or Holy Spirit, we don't have to choose one. Making a general reference to "God" would be the accurate way to refer to it. (Most, but not all, of the Old Testament passages are like this.)

✓ The "Holy Spirit." In some passages, the word "Spirit" can also be translated as "breath" – as in the "Breath of God." It seems that there is not as much focus on the Spirit being involved in *creation*, as there is on the fact that the Spirit is involved in *everything God does*. (Some passages do exist, mainly in the *Old Testament*.)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ... And **the Spirit of God was hovering** over the surface of the waters.  
Genesis 1:1, 2b (BSB)

By the word of the LORD the heavens were **made**, and all the stars **by the breath of His mouth**.  
Ps 33:6 (BSB)

**The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.**  
Job 33:4 (BSB)

ON AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL.

The Spirit normally works quietly in the background, without drawing attention to himself.

**BRINGING THIS ALL TOGETHER ...**

**These things reveal to us an aspect of what it means to be made "in the image of God."**

God reveals himself ...

- As "one" [God or LORD/Yahweh\*].
- As "plurality" [recognized as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the New Testament].

Because of this, humans "image" their Creator ...

- As "one" – each *individual*.
- As "plurality" – each *male + female unit*.

\* This fact is the basis for both Sixth and Seventh Commandments. \*

\* A reference to God's name, as revealed in the Old Testament. Some translations use the word "LORD" (often in capital letters), following the pattern of early Greek translations of the O.T. (which the early church used). Other translations use "Yahweh" (or something similar), based on the original Hebrew text. The original Hebrew text did not use vowels, so we do not know for certain *how* God's name was pronounced. ("Yahweh" is close.)

### "PLURALITY"?

We could also call it "plurality in unity" or "unity with a difference."  
Or even "perfectly blended unity and diversity."

- **Father, Son and Holy Spirit are "ONE."** This relationship is the foundation for certain characteristics that can exist *only* in a *relationship between individuals* – such as love, fellowship, and harmony. Those in this relationship may have *different functions*, but they all have *equal value*.
- **In the same way (but on the level of a created being), we also are to be "ONE" in the male-female unit.** This relationship reflects one aspect of God's nature. (It is also the *pattern* to teach us the general way humans should live – not isolated, but in relationships.)
- **Furthermore, just as this union in God is not to be divided or torn apart,** so also the union in humans (marriage) is not to be divided or torn apart.

13

### WE WERE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD FOR A PURPOSE.

- We were created to **reflect the nature and glory of God** in all ways possible, and to the greatest extent possible *for a created being*.
- We were made for the purpose of **ruling over creation in a way that would display God's glory**.

⇒ This involves *everything* we do, and is why we are told:

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
**do it all to the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 (BSB)

⇒ Any failure to do this is sin. And we ALL fail, so we ALL sin.

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

Romans 3:23 (BSB)

**"How much" of us was created for this purpose?**

ALL PARTS OF US – both physical or non-physical parts!

14

→ This includes our bodies.

So **glorify** God **in your body**.

1 Corinthians 6:20b (ESV)

- **God, as Creator, does not have a body.\*** Yet he designed our physical *bodies* to reveal his glory in a physical *world*.
  - ✓ He also uses the characteristics he built into our bodies, in order to communicate to us something about himself. *These things accurately communicate to us what God is like... but to a limited degree* (since nothing in creation can *fully* reveal the infinite God).
  - ✓ This is why God can use physical body parts to describe his actions and his relationship to us. **EXAMPLE:**

The **eyes** of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his **ears** are attentive to their cry;  
but the **face** of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
to blot out their name from the earth.

Psalms 34:15-16 (NIV)

\* (Jesus has taken on a human body/nature; but this is not what Jesus is, as God.)

15

→ This also includes the union of male and female.

- Since God is a unity-with-a-difference, he created male and female to be a unity-with-a-difference. And just as the unity of God is not to be torn apart, so also the male-female unity is not to be torn apart.

All aspects, not just physical union.

"Therefore **what God has joined together, let no one separate.**"

Matthew 19:6b (NIV)

**But there's even more to it!**

- God uses the husband-wife relationship to describe *the relationship between God and his people*.

For the **marriage** of the Lamb [= Jesus Christ] has come,  
and His **bride** [= the church] has made herself ready.

Revelation 19:7b (BSB)

- Scripture also describes the violation of this relationship as "adultery" (example: James 4:4).

16

### WE HAVE ALL VIOLATED ALL OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS and this includes the Seventh Commandment.

We need to remember that the commandments, as written, represent *categories*, often with the most "extreme" expression of that category mentioned in the commandment itself. There is a lot more to the Seventh Commandment than just the act of "adultery." When we consider *all* that it represents (to be examined in the future), we discover that **we have all violated this commandment in one way or another.**

**Commandment #1** – We have not had complete and total loyalty to God over all else in all areas of life... even though it is our *duty* to do so – as this passage reminds us:

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
**do it all to the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 (BSB)



17

**Commandment #2** – We have not fully accepted, without reservation, God's self-disclosure ("imaging") of himself, but have made him out to be a god of our own making – created by our own preferences.

**Commandment #3** – We have not limited our use of God's name to ways that honor and glorify him. We use it in ways that manipulate him for our own purposes. We even use his name in *meaningless* ways.

**Commandment #4** – We do not faithfully set aside time each week to refocus specifically on the God who is central to our existence. We tend to crowd him out with things that, to us, have *greater* value.

**Commandment #5** – We do not faithfully honor God's representatives, who are given to lead us in the ways of God [and who will be punished if they fail to do so]; and therefore we do not honor God. Furthermore, we have not taken whatever "spiritual heritage" we may have received (whether from parents, church, God's Word, etc.) and built upon it, in order to further reflect the glory of God as we live in this world.



18

**Commandment #6** – We do not recognize each life (ours and other's) as being sacred/holy (having been derived from God, and being a reflection of what he is like). We have failed to fulfil our obligation to nurture and develop this life in us and others (= to build each other up), and to *not* destroy or tear it down – whether by attitude, word or deed. We might not violate this commandment in the fullest sense possible (= actual murder), but we find it easy to violate it in ways that we think are "small," and perhaps even "inconsequential."

**Commandment #7** – When we understand the range of applications that this commandment has, we will realize that we have *all* violated it – though not all in the most extreme visible way. [We are just beginning to look at this issue.]

**Commandments #8 through C #10** – God willing, we will look at these in the future, and (therefore) will make the same discovery with them.

19

## THOUGH WE HAVE REBELLED AGAINST GOD, ... ... OUR OBLIGATION TO GLORIFY GOD REMAINS.

- **Sin has corrupted matters.** It is now our nature to attack God. But since God is not *physically* present, we attack his image-bearers.
- **Every time we sin, it is an act of rebellion against God.** We try to convince ourselves that it is "not that bad." Yet by *nature*, we use *all* of our abilities to express this rebellion, limited only by the restraints that impact our lives.
- We do this in *many* ways – in thoughts, values, and actions. Whatever we can't do directly against God himself, we do against those who bear his image.

**THANK GOD FOR RESTRAINT! NONE OF US LIVE UP TO OUR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL TO SIN.**

- (We also mistreat the rest of creation, because it *also* reveals God's glory.)

20

THAT'S NOT FAIR! I'VE ONLY  
COMMITTED LITTLE SINS!  
WHY SHOULD I BE PUNISHED  
LIKE THE REAL SINNERS?

### "Size" ISN'T THE ISSUE!

When we sin in "little" matters, we are demonstrating our willingness to sin. The fact that it is "little" and *could have been more-easily avoided* makes it all the worse.

This issue is expressed in the following principle:

Whoever is faithful with **very little** will also be faithful with **much**, and whoever is dishonest with **very little** will also be dishonest with **much**.

Luke 16:10 (BSB)

IT'S ONLY A  
LITTLE PIECE  
OF FRUIT!



[Genesis 3]

21

Our willingness to defend "little" sins only demonstrates how sinful we really are.

**When we defend SIN:** It becomes quite natural for us to condemn God.

It's just a piece of fruit! Why would God send someone to hell for just eating a little piece of fruit?

**When we defend HOLINESS:**

We begin to recognize sin for the evil that it really is.

When we show that we are willing to defy God in even the "smallest" matters, there remains nothing to stop us from defying God in even greater matters.

The following command applies even to *small* pieces of fruit.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all to the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 (BSB)

22

## OUR MISSION: To GLORIFY GOD

- ✓ We *all* sin. Yet our obligation *remains* this:

To reflect the glory of God in *all* aspects of life – both as single individuals, as well as (if applicable) in "plural units" of male/female in marriage.

- ✓ We live in a society that has *abandoned* what God has revealed to us about marriage. So the idea that marriage is a reflection of the *nature of God* may be new to some of us.

↳ But having learned this, we can begin to pursue a way of living that is patterned after the nature of God (since we are his image-bearers), rather than following the values of the world.

23

## Credits

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. ([www.biblica.com](http://www.biblica.com))
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ([www.gnpco.org](http://www.gnpco.org))
- Scriptures marked "BSB" - Taken from The Holy Bible, Berean Standard Bible, BSB, Public Domain (CC BY NC ND). <https://bereanbible.com/>
- Genesis 1:27 in Hebrew - From the Tanakh, public domain, Jewish Publication Society, 1917.

• An article about Hebrew poetry is currently available here: <https://journal33.org/titles/pdf/hebpoe.pdf> (as of 12/06/25).

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Brick wall - GDJ / CC0; via [openclipart.org](https://openclipart.org/detail/227630/brick-texture): <https://openclipart.org/detail/227630/brick-texture>
- Globe with lit fuse - GDJ / CC0; via [openclipart.org](https://openclipart.org/detail/219655/political-map-earth-globe-bomb): <https://openclipart.org/detail/219655/political-map-earth-globe-bomb>
- Temptation of Adam and Eve - Lucas Cranach the Elder, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lucas\\_Cranach\\_II\\_-\\_Adam\\_and\\_Eve\\_\(Museum\\_Sourabaya\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lucas_Cranach_II_-_Adam_and_Eve_(Museum_Sourabaya).jpg)

Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2025.

24