

THE HUMAN BEING AS AN IMAGE OF GOD

Genesis 1,27: And the Lord created the Human Being in God's Image, in the Image of God, God created them; man and woman, God Created Them.

Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 37A:

**Mishnah:** How were the witnesses made to feel awe-ful in capital punishment cases? They were brought in (and told)...Know that capital cases are not like monetary cases. In civil suits, a person can make monetary restitution and thereby make atonement; but in capital cases he (the witness) is held responsible for his (the executed person's) blood and the blood of his (potential) descendants until the end of time...for this reason one individual human being was created, to teach that anyone who destroys a single soul\*, Scripture considers him as though he has destroyed a whole world; and anyone who preserves a single soul\*, Scripture considers him as though he had preserved a whole world. And, (one human being was created) for the sake of peace among humanity, that one (human) might not say to his fellow, 'my ancestor was greater than yours.' And to proclaim the greatness of the Holy One the Blessed: For a man strikes many coins from one mold and they all resemble one another, but the Supreme King of Kings, the Holy One the Blessed, stamped every human in the stamp of the first human being and yet not one of them is like another. Therefore every person is obliged to say: the world was created for my sake.

\*Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin, Chapter 4, Halacha 9, has this text as is. Some Babylonian Talmud texts insert here: of Israel. Some Babylonian Talmud texts insert here: of human being.

[Leviticus, 19.17]

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Rabbi Akiva says: This is the [fundamental] great principle of the Torah. Ben Azzai says: "This is the book of the generations of the human...in the image of God the human was created" [Genesis, 5.1] is an even greater [more fundamental] principle.

משה ה  
 כיצד ימאיימין את העדים על עדי  
 נפשותו היו מכניסין אותן ומאיימין  
 עליהם, שמא תאמרו מאוקד,  
 ומשמעה, יעד קפי עד ומפי אדם  
 נאמן שמענו, או שמא אי אתם יודעין  
 ששופני לברוק אתכם בדרךשה  
 יוכתקרה, הו יודעין שלא כדני  
 קמונת דני נפשות, דיני קמונת  
 אדם טחן קמון ומתפטר לו, דיני  
 נפשות דמו נדם \* יודעין קלין  
 יבו עד סוף יקעולם, שכן מציינו  
 בקץ שרני את אחיו, ישאמר, דמי  
 אחי צועקים, אינו אמר דם אחיך  
 אלא דמי אחיך, דמו נדם יודעין  
 \* (דבר אחר דמי אחיך, שקה דמו  
 משלך על העצמים ועל האבנים).  
 לסיכך נברא אדם יודי ללמדך  
 שקל המאבד נפש אחת מבני אדם,  
 מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו איבד  
 עולם מלא, וכל המקיים נפש אחת  
 מבני אדם, מעלה עליו הכתוב  
 כאילו קיים עולם מלא. (ומפני  
 שלום ייבריות, שלא יאמר אדם  
 לתברו אבא גדול מאביך, ושלא  
 יהו מינן אומרים הרבה ירשויות  
 בשמים, ולהניד גדולתו של הקדוש  
 ברוך הוא שאדם טובע כמה  
 מסככות בחותם אחד וכולן דומין  
 זה לזה, ומלך מלכי המלכים  
 הקדוש ברוך הוא טבע כל-אדם  
 בחותמו של אדם הראשון ואין אחד  
 מהן דומה לתברו. לפיכך כל-  
 אחד ואחד חייב לומר בשבילי  
 וברא יקעולם).

פני משה רבי אהרן בן נתן חשע נרם דבן העיר

**הלכה ד' מתני'**

הוא שכל אדם חייב לומר בשבילי וברא יקעולם... (Text is heavily obscured and difficult to read due to image quality and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.)

**Messianic Age = World in Which Dignities of Human Being in the Image of God  
re: Infinite Value, Equality, Uniqueness – are realized, i.e. we overcome**

***Poverty and Hunger***

**Isaiah ch. 66, v. 12**

For thus said the LORD:  
I will extend to her  
Prosperity like a stream,  
The wealth of nations  
Like a wadi in flood;  
And you shall drink of it.  
You shall be carried on shoulders  
And dandled upon knees.

**Isaiah ch. 49, v. 8-10**

Thus said the Lord:  
In an hour of favor I answer you,  
And on a day of salvation I help you –  
I created you and appointed you a covenant people –  
Restoring the land,  
Allotting anew the desolate holdings,  
Saying to the prisoners, "Go free,"  
To those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves."  
They shall pasture along the roads,  
On every bare height shall be their pasture.  
They shall not hunger or thirst,  
Hot wind and sun shall not strike them;  
For He who loves them will lead them;  
He will guide them to springs of water.

**Ezekiel ch. 34, v. 25-29**

And I will grant them a covenant of friendship. I will banish vicious beasts from their land, and they shall live secure in the wasteland, they shall even sleep in the woodland. I will make these and the environs of My hill a blessing: I will send down the rain in its season, rains that bring blessing. The trees of the field shall yield their fruit and the land shall yield its produce. [My people] shall continue secure on its own soil. They shall know that I am the LORD when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from those who enslave them. They shall no longer be a spoil for the nations, and the beasts of the earth shall not devour them; they shall dwell secure and untroubled. I shall establish for them a planting of renown; they shall no more be carried off by famine, and they shall not have to bear again the taunts of the nations.

***Oppression***

**Isaiah ch. 11 v. 4**

Thus he shall judge the poor with equity  
And decide with justice for the lowly of the land.  
He shall strike down a land with the rod of his mouth  
And slay the wicked with the breath of his lips.

Isaiah ch. 11 v. 2

In all of My sacred mount  
Nothing evil or vile shall be done;  
For the land shall be filled with devotion to the LORD  
As waters cover the sea.

Ezekiel ch. 37, v. 24-27

My servant David shall be king over them; there shall be one shepherd for all of them. They shall follow My rules and faithfully obey My laws. Thus they shall remain in the land which I gave to My servant Jacob and in which your fathers dwelt; they and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, with My servant David as their prince for all time. I will make a covenant of friendship with them – it shall be an everlasting covenant with them – I will establish them and multiply them, and I will place My Sanctuary among them forever. My Presence shall rest over them; I will be their God and they shall be My people. And when My Sanctuary abides among them forever, the nations shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel.

*War*

Isaiah ch. 2, v. 3-4

And the many peoples shall go and say:  
"Come,  
Let us go up to the Mount of the LORD,  
To the House of the God of Jacob;  
That He may instruct us in His ways,  
And that we may walk in His paths."  
For instruction shall come forth from Zion,  
The word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
Thus He will judge among the nations  
And arbitrate for the many peoples,  
And they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks:  
Nation shall not take up  
Sword against nation;  
They shall never again know war.

Micah ch. 4, v. 2-4

And the many nations shall go and say:  
"Come,  
Let us go up to the Mount of the LORD,  
To the House of the God of Jacob;  
That He may instruct us in His ways,  
And that we may walk in His paths."  
For instruction shall come forth from Zion,  
The word of LORD from Jerusalem.  
Thus He will judge among the many peoples,  
And arbitrate for the multitude of nations,  
However distant,  
And they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not take up  
Sword against nation;  
They shall never again know war;  
But every man shall sit  
Under his grapevine or fig tree  
With no one to disturb him  
For it was the LORD of Hosts who spoke.

***Sickness and Death***

**Isaiah ch. 35, v. 5-6**

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.  
Then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
And the tongue of the dumb shall shout aloud;  
For waters shall burst forth in the desert,  
Streams in the wilderness.

**Isaiah ch. 25, v. 8 – swallow up death**

He will destroy death forever.  
My Lord GOD will wipe the tears away  
From all faces  
And will put an end to the reproach of His people  
Over all the earth –  
For it is the LORD who has spoken.

**Isaiah ch. 26, v. 19 – resurrection**

Oh, let Your dead revive!  
Let corpses arise!  
Awake and shout for joy,  
You who dwell in the dust! –  
For Your dew is like the dew on fresh growth;  
You make the land of shades come to life.

**Isaiah ch. 65, v. 20 – long life**

No more shall there be an infant or graybeard  
Who does not live out his days.  
He who dies at a hundred years  
Shall be reckoned a youth,  
And he who fails to reach a hundred  
Shall be reckoned accursed.

**Hosea ch. 13, v. 14 – redeem from death**

From Sheol itself I will save them,  
Redeem them from very Death.  
Where, O Death, are your plagues?  
Your pestilence where, O Sheol?  
Revenge shall be far from My thoughts.

*Everybody has their natural place, no homelessness*

Ezekiel ch. 37, v. 9-14

Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, O mortal! Say to the breath: Thus said the Lord GOD: Come, O breath, from the four winds, and breathe into these slain, that they may live again." I prophesied as He commanded me. The breath entered them, and they came to life and stood up on their feet, a vast multitude.

And He said to me, "O mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone; we are doomed.' Prophesy, therefore, and say to them: Thus said the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and lift you out of the graves, O My people, and bring you to the land of Israel. You shall know, O My people, that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and lifted you out of your graves. I will put my breath into you and you shall live again, and I will set you upon your own soil. Then you shall know that I the LORD have spoken and have acted" – declares the LORD.

Amos ch. 9, v. 15

And I will plant them upon their soil,  
Nevermore to be uprooted  
From the soil I have given them

Jeremiah ch. 30, v. 3

For days are coming – declares the LORD – when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah, said the LORD; and I will bring them back to the land that I gave their fathers, and they shall possess it.