

## Leviticus 26:1

***'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.'***

What do you think God looks like? If you asked 20 people to draw a picture of God, most would probably make Him an old man, with white hair, and a long white beard (Hmm, kind of sounds like Santa Claus), but regardless, you would have twenty different drawings, some possibly similar, but all different based upon the eyes of the artist.

What about in your house, is there a picture of Jesus hanging up somewhere.

*"Wait a minute Steve, that picture has gotten me through a lot over the years."* You may be thinking.

I'm sorry to hear that, because it just means you have relied on an idol, or false image to get you through the hard times, and not God, because if you think about it, how do you know what Jesus really looks like? The picture you have wasn't painted 2000 years ago when Jesus was around; best case would be a few hundred years ago.

Think of it this way, right now it's the beginning of 2023. So let's say in the year 2523, five hundred years in the future, based upon every single thing that others wrote about you over the years, on paper, social media, texts and emails, that in 500 years, that was all that people had to identify you, because all pictures of you have been destroyed, and everything written does not describe what you look like, maybe just your nationality.

So 500 years from now, based upon all the writings about you, if you ask 20 people to draw a picture of you; Now remember we are talking 500 years in the future, with clothes style, and even the way bodies are viewed will be totally different. In fact, a few hundreds years ago, it was sexy to be overweight, but not today. No, today you must be lean and toned to be that perfect person.

So what you would end up with, is 20 pictures of someone who looked nothing like you, other than two eyes, a nose and a mouth. Some with hair, some without, some with different color of hair, some with different skin color (Note those pictures are of a Caucasian Jesus, but Jesus was Jewish) etc... You get the idea, so why are you bowing to a picture of some guy who doesn't look like Jesus. Jesus was Jewish, and I don't know any Jewish men with straight brown hair and olive complexion. Most are dark with curly black hair.

*"Well, Jesus was perfect"* you may say, *"and I see that picture as a perfect man"*.

Ok, but in who's eyes, ours here in the USA where blond, and tan, and muscular or toned bodies are perfect? Oh, that's not your idea of perfect, then what is your idea of perfect? Just because it's your idea of perfect, does not mean that the rest of the world has to agree with your definition or image of perfection.

But here is what the bible says about Jesus' appearance.

✠ **Isaiah 53:2-3 (NLT)** *My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected--a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised, and we did not care.*

That doesn't sound like Mr. GQ to me, nor does it match the so called pictures of Jesus. So I believe God is saying to us today ***"You shall not make idols for yourselves to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God."*** Not someone's imagination of what they think God or Jesus looks like.

Here is one more thought, what if Jesus turns out to be black, or red, or yellow; would you still bow down to Him? He very well could be. So don't worship an image; rather worship the God of the bible. Look at that old, so called picture of Jesus with the long hair, now look at more updated version of the paintings or drawings of Jesus with curly hair. Which one is Jesus? Neither!

I think that one of the first things we will say to Jesus when we get to heaven is, *"Wow, you look nothing like your pictures"*.

Let's remember that we are made in God's image; therefore, stop trying to make God in man's image.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT2)** *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*

When we get to heaven, will you recognize Jesus, or will you be too busy looking for the guy in the picture hanging on your living room or bedroom wall?

✠ **Jeremiah 29:13** *And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

✠ **Romans 1:22-23** *Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*