

## Doctrine of Similitude

1. The word “similitude” is used eleven times in the Authorized Version.
2. The word “similitude” in the Hebrew is תְּמוּנָה temuwnah (tem-oo-naw'); or temunah (tem-oo-naw'); and refers to something portioned (i.e. fashioned) out, as a shape, i.e. (indefinitely) phantom, or (specifically) embodiment, or (figuratively) manifestation (of favor). It is translated in the KJV, image, likeness, similitude (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*).
3. The word “similitude” in the Greek is homoïoma (ὁμοίωμα) and denotes "that which is made like something, a resemblance,"
  - in the concrete sense, Revelation 9:7 "shapes" (RV, marg., "likenesses");
  - in the abstract sense, Romans 1:23, RV, "(for) the likeness (of an image)";
  - the KJV translates it as a verb, "(into an image) made like to";
  - the association here of the two words homoïoma and eikon serves to enhance the contrast between the idol and "the glory of the incorruptible God," and is expressive of contempt;
  - in Romans 5:14, "(the) likeness of Adam's transgression" (KJV, "similitude");
  - in Romans 6:5, "(the) likeness (of His death);
  - in Romans 8:3, "(the) likeness (of sinful flesh);
  - and in **Philippians 2:7**, "the likeness of men."

"The expression 'likeness of men' does not of itself imply, still less does it exclude or diminish, the reality of the nature which Christ assumed. That... is declared in the words 'form of a servant.' Paul justly says in the likeness of men, because, in fact, Christ, although certainly perfect Man Romans 5:15; 1 Corinthians 15:21; 1 Timothy 2:5, was, by reason of the Divine nature present in Him, not simply and merely man... but the Incarnate Son of God" (Gifford, quoting Meyer) (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*).
4. The Lord vowed to speak directly to Moses and appear to him in some similitude or form.
  - *Numbers 12:8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?*

***Special Note.***

Jesus taught that God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. *John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* When God is ascribed to have a form in Scripture that is anthropomorphism which is ascribing to God a human characteristic which He does not literally have but which is given to Him in order to understand some doctrinal truth being made.

5. The Exodus Generation had the privilege of hearing the voice of God but they did not see a similitude or likeness of Him.
  - *Deuteronomy 4:12 And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.*
  - *Deuteronomy 4:15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:*
6. The soul of a person and the culture of a society can become corrupted when images of God are made to be exalted above honor and revered.
  - *Deuteronomy 4:16 Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,*
7. Figures of oxen were part of the decorum of Solomon's Temple.
  - *2 Chronicles 4:3 And under it was the similitude of oxen, which did compass it round about: ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about. Two rows of oxen were cast, when it was cast.*
8. The glory of man is debased when identified with and changed into the similitude of an animal.
  - *Psalms 106:20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.*
9. The psalmist prayed that the children would grow to be strong, mature and majestic.
  - *Psalms 144:12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:*
10. Some of the angelic creatures have the similitude of men.
  - *Daniel 10:16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.*

11. The doctrine of original sin is an unpopular doctrine but part of the gospel truth as taught by the apostle Paul. It helps to explain the death of children.

- *Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

“In Adam’s we sinned all.”  
McGuffey’s Reader, c. 1836

***Special Note.***

Original sin. “It is ‘original’ in that it comes from Adam, and it is also original in that we have it from the beginning of our existence as persons, but it is still our sin, not Adam's sin, that is meant.” (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p.495).

12. Jesus was made a high priest, not after the line of Aaron, but after the similitude of Melchisedec who was both king and priest of Salem.

- *Hebrews 7:15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,*

13. No other facet of creation except that of man is said to be made after the similitude of God.

- *James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*