

Men walk around as images.

DECEMBER 31, 2024 / SHARKLY



Psalm 39:6a(NASB1995) *"Surely every man walks about as a phantom;*

Today I'd like to break down the first sentence of Psalm 39:6. What follows is my personal translation of the verse:

Psalm 39:6(Sharkly's translation) *Surely, every man goes about as an image. Surely, in vain do men clamor gathering things, while not perceiving who collects men.*

Psalm 39:6(Young's Literal Translation) *Only, in an image doth each walk habitually, Only, [in] vain, they are disquieted, He heapeth up and knoweth not who gathereth them.*

This verse was first brought to my attention while I was reading *"Letter LI. From Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis, in Cyprus, to John, Bishop of Jerusalem"*. Epiphanius' letter did not survive, but we have [Jerome's translated copy of it](#). And he recorded that Psalm 39 says: *"For all that every man walketh in the image."* And Epiphanius used that as one of his 7 Scriptural proofs that men maintained the image of God and had not lost the image of God at Adam's fall, as Origen had claimed.

Since I think the image of God is very key to the unique dignity of men, I wanted to examine that verse since I had not previously been aware that the passage spoke of men being images. Various translations translate that verse in different ways to seemingly avoid telling us that we men walk about as images. The English word "image" is only used in a few English translations, while most other translations use words like "shadow" or "phantom", and the KJV uses "in a vain shew".

However, as Epiphanius pointed out the Hebrew word used (צֶלֶם tselem) means image. It is [the same Hebrew word that is always translated as "image" all 16 times it appears elsewhere](#) in the KJV Bible. Strangely King James's translators chose to translate the word as "image" 16 out of 17 times, but they translated it as "in a vain shew" when it was clearly used in reference specifically to (יֵשׁ, ish) [men or husbands](#) in Psalm 39:6. It is the exact same word that was used five times in the phrase "image of God" in [Genesis 1:26-27, 5:3](#), and 9:6. I really do think that translating (צֶלֶם tselem) as something other than "image" in only this one context was a blatant

attempt to hide the inspired truth that God was once again indicating that only (~~is~~, ish) [men or husbands](#), not women or wives, were made to walk about as His likenesses, imaging God here on earth.

And in that regard, Psalm 39:6 agrees with what is stated elsewhere in Scripture:

1 Corinthians 11:6 *For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.*

James 3:8 *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

While it might seem spookier to imagine yourself as a phantom or a ghost, or it might seem cooler to imagine yourself as a shadow or an F-4 Phantom II, fully armed and using afterburner, the truth is that we men are fashioned to be images of God our Father. And [men inherited fatherly dominion](#) to exercise as earthly images of God.

Uncategorized

ANTI-FEMINISM , BIBLE APPLICATION ,

FEMALE INFERIORITY , IMAGE OF GOD ,

MALE SUPERIORITY , PSALM 39:6

2 thoughts on “Men walk around as images.”

Cill

DECEMBER 31, 2024 AT 4:32 PM

Interesting words. Interesting translation... I'm not religious. Not a church-goer, anyway. Their anti-male preach isn't sourced from the Bible. I've read it from cover to cover. The most astonishing book ever written.

senecagriggs

JANUARY 1, 2025 AT 7:17 AM

Truly a most thoughtful post.
