

Warning: this post rated PG (Parental Guidance); contains obscenity, incidents of violence, and humor which some may consider to be off color or in poor taste (cf. 1 Kings 18:27).

Subject: Do we REALLY believe in creation, not evolution?

I'm sure you're wondering why I'm wasting your PRECIOUS time with such a SELLY question --OF COURSE we all believe in divine creation, not evolution... or do we? Let me tell you why I ask.

Up our way police cruisers come equipped with a slogan lettered on their fenders -- "DEEDS SPEAK.11 Quite a profound thought, actually, to come from something as mundane as our local constabulary. And truly, our deeds or actions do speak quite clearly about our "invisible11 beliefs and convictions. Which brings me to the subject of this post... and a certain specific curious deed, almost a ritual, performed by some among us with all the regularity and predictability of the sun rising in the morning.

I refer to the practice of shaving off the beard.

Although The Torah account of creation is inexhaustibly rich with inspired detail concerning "the beginning," two salient points stand out:

- a) mankind was created by Elohim (God), and
- b) mankind was created in the image of Elohim (God).

In the seamless garment of inspired revelation, containing threads from the written Torah, the Prophets, the Psalms, and the Living Torah (the Word, or the Torah, made flesh — Yahuashuah the Messiah), these two creation truths are inextricably linked, and no where are we given a license to believe that "a) mankind was created by Elohim" is true, but that Mb) mankind was created in the image of Elohim" is untrue or superfluous. "What Yahuah hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Which returns us to the DEEDS that SPEAK. Listening carefully, we hear the following:

- "I am created by Elohim, in the image of Elohim. I am not my own, but I am bought with a price. I love my Messiah and therefore will keep His commandments, and will retain my Elohim-given beard in compliance with instruction by precept in the written Torah (Leviticus 19:27), and example in the Living Torah."
- "I arrived here via the BIG BANG as explained in evolutionary theory. Global warming of late has made facial hair unnecessary, so I remove this vestige of my evolutionary past in a daily routine referred to as shaving."

There is silence for a moment as we confirm within ourselves the reasonableness and internal consistency of these two comments. Upon reflection, however, we realize that something is missing; the large contingent of our clean-shaven "religious" brethren must not have weighed in yet with their testimony.

Suddenly, our meditation is interrupted as we hear more words uttered by DEEDS that SPEAK ("great words against the Most High, wearing out the saints of the Most High, and thinking to change times and laws (the commandments, statutes, and judgments of the Torah)" in the language of Daniel the Prophet: Daniel 7:25). Incredulously, we listen to the hue and cry coming from somewhere in the lower regions, straining to pick out the individual voices:

- "So what if we deface the image of our Creator: we're saved by grace, not the works of the law"
- "We believe we were created by Elohim in His image, but His image is spiritual... SPIRITUAL! GET IT?"
- "We believe we were created by Elohim, all right, but when He created man, he hadn't quite gotten His act together. By the time He created woman, He seemed to have pretty well debugged His program."
- "The law regulating the beard was nailed to the cross, brother, so we have no need to regulate our appearance by the statutes that regulated the Messiah's appearance. He's our substitute, not our example."

"ad nauseam"

Assuming for a moment, however, that the unreasonableness of our clean-shaven brethren is reasonable, and considering the implications of this third group's position, we realize their great need of an action agenda to rectify grievous inequity! Herewith, several suggestions to help them settle the score!

- * our modern Adventist clergy should offer their services as design consultants to the Heavenly Father (if He could afford them...) the next time He thinks of creating a world: they might save Him from the embarrassment occasioned by including features on His creatures that "common sense" would later indicate should be removed.
- * some of our clean-shaven "independent" ministry brethren should publish comprehensive "Declarations of Independence" clearly stating their intent to operate independently not only of the GC Corporate yoke, but also of Torah instruction regarding gender differentiation.
- * "Religious Shavers of the World Unite!" Launch a class-action malpractice lawsuit against the Creator seeking damages for the total value of a lifetime of razor blades, shavers, shaving cream, after-shave lotion, etc., as well as unspecified punitive damages for serious psychological harm occasioned by this Manufacturer's defect. If this is too activist/aggressive for your personality, you might...
- * tactfully petition the Creator for a Product Recall, to deal with this Manufacturer's defect. He might not have heard how responsible companies now recall defective products and repair them at no cost to the consumer. You might explain to Him how he could modify genetic coding so as to produce men with hairless faces. If the Almighty can't seem to quickly figure out how to do it, reassure Him that there must be a way, as half the human race already comes without hair on the face.
- * some of our clean-shaven SDA Reform brethren should candidly acknowledge their intent to reform the image of their Creator after the whims of their own imagination, rather than conforming their images to the image of their Creator as clearly detailed in the Holy Torah.

Although this action agenda could be greatly lengthened, I'm sure enough points have already been noted to clearly demonstrate that a genuine belief in divine creation is too big to fit inside a professed Torah believer's head that has been shorn of its beard, i.e. genuine belief in the divine creation of mankind, and shaving off the beard, are mutually exclusive.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Some might say the beard is merely external and superficial. External -- yes; but superficial — most certainly not! It serves as a visible indicator of the integrity of the invisible spiritual man. James put it this way: "Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself. Yes, a man will say, You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead." James 2:17,18,26.

- Before the Messiah's crucifixion, the jeering mob plucked out the hairs of His beard (Isaiah 50:6). During the Messiah's ministry, He declared that what we do to the least of His brethren, we do to Him. We, who are certainly among the least of His brethren, repeat in principle the act of the jeering mob as we literally de-face the Messiah's image in our own bodies by shaving off our beards. We "crucify Him afresh," making the commandment of Yahuah of none effect by our tradition.

- Scripture tells us that the Father in heaven sees every sparrow that falls, and that he numbers every hair on our heads! Question: does He number the hairs on our heads for the fun of it, or to hold us accountable for them, if we rebel against the Royal Law (His Holy Torah, or teaching) and de-face His image by destroying our beards, our outward Elohim-given badge of royalty? Answer: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of Yahuah, and that the Spirit of Yahuah dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of Yahuah, him shall Yahuah destroy; for the temple of Yahuah is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16 & 17 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of Yahuah, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify Yahuah in your body, and in your spirit, which are Yahuah's." 1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20.

- Please don't complain that you might make less money at your job if you stop destroying your beard. Our Messiah said "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahuah" and "Seek ye first the kingdom of Yahuah, and all these other things shall be added unto you." Listen to and obey this instruction — to you it will be spiritual and physical LIFE!

- "For Yahuah, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of Yahuah in the face of Yahuashuah the Messiah. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels/jars of clay, that the excellency of the power may be of Yahuah, and not of us." 2 Corinthians 4:6 & 7

What treasure? -- the mind, spirit and image of Elohim, as revealed in the FACE of Yahuashuah the Messiah! What earthen vessels/jars of clay? — our own bodies, created of clay (the dust of the earth) in the image of Elohim, and to reflect that image as long as our Creator gives us breath! "Fear Yahuah, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7. Woe on us if we elect to do otherwise, such as defacing the image of Yahuashuah in our FACES by shaving off our beards! Isaiah would like to comment: "Woe unto him that striveth with His Maker. Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to the Him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" Isaiah 45:9 Every morning shave is an argument with our Maker, the pot disputing with the Heavenly Potter! Isaiah would like to counsel us: "Thus saith Yahuah, The

heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath my hand made, and all those things have been, saith Yahuah: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and TREMBLETH AT MY WORD (MY TORAH, or MY TEACHING)" Isaiah 66:1 & 2. Our Messiah provides straight testimony: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law (the Torah), or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill (establish). For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled (established). Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least of these my commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19. "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:21.

- P.S. and please don't say she gave you the razor. Torah tells us that Adam had two problems, in this order: (1) he listened to His wife, and (2) he ate the forbidden fruit. Think about it! Better yet -- PRAY about it, and then get up off your knees and TAKE ACTION! Your eternal destiny depends on the principle at stake in this discussion.

Shalom! Ron Buhler - Bible Student (905-775-9172)

"Salvation is of the Jews (Yahudi).... we know what we worship." Yahuashuah ha Mashiach John 4:22