

THE SEVENTH DAY: CREATION OF A DAY FOR REST AND WORSHIP GENESIS 02:01–03

Introduction

Remember what the earth looked like when God first hung it in space. It was unshaped and unformed, undeveloped and unfinished. God's great plan of creation was to create the world in stages. There were to be seven great days of creation. Hanging there in space, the whole earth was covered with an ocean of water. Turbulent waves — surging, raging waters — covered primeval earth. There was also a heavy mist hanging over the whole earth: a ring of dense fog and thick clouds rising several thousand feet up encircled the earth. The sun — all light — was blocked off from reaching the earth. The earth was engulfed in a blanket of pitch black darkness.

But God had a great plan to remedy the situation, a plan that was going to create the earth in stages, in what is known as *The Seven Days of Creation*. We have already looked at the first six days.

=> On the first day: God created light (Gen 1:3-5).

=> On the second day: God created the firmament (the atmosphere and air space above earth) (Gen 1:6-8).

=> On the third day: God created the waters, dry land and vegetation (Gen 1:9-13).

=> On the fourth day: God distributed light upon the earth to regulate day and night and the seasons and years (Gen 1:14-19).

=> On the fifth day: God created water and air creatures (Gen 1:20-23).

=> On the sixth day, during the first half of the day: God created land animals (Gen 1:24-25).

=> On the sixth day, during the second half of the day: God created man, male and female (Gen 1:26-31).

Now, for a crucial question: why would God choose to create the world in stages, in seven days, instead of just creating everything all at once? The seventh day of creation tells us.

=> God intended man to measure time by days and weeks. And He intended man to take one day a week, the seventh day, for rest and worship.

Therefore God launched time, He began time, right along with His creative acts. All earthly activity was to be measured by days and weeks, and man was to take one of the seven days, the seventh day, to rest and worship. This is the reason God did not create the world in one moment of time; this is one of the reasons why God created the earth in stages, in seven days.

Now we come to the final day of creation: *The Seventh Day: Creation of a Day for Rest or Worship*.

THE FIRST PICTURE OF THE EARTH BEFORE MAN: PREHISTORIC TIMES

GENESIS 02:04–06

Introduction

Man has always wondered about prehistoric times. What was the earth like in the earliest days? What existed and what did not exist? How did vegetation and life upon earth get their start? What is the origin of plants and of life? These three verses give a picture of prehistoric earth. They are actually a brief review of the account of creation covered in the first chapter of Genesis. These three verses lay the groundwork for explaining what has happened to the earth and the heavens, to man and his world, since God created the universe. This is, *The First Picture of the Earth Before Man: Prehistoric Times*.

- I. The LORD God created the universe, the heavens and the earth (v. 4).
- II. The LORD God Himself created the universe (v. 4).
- III. The LORD God created the earth and the heavens in stages (vv. 5-6).

I. *Genesis 02:04 Creation of the Universe*

The LORD God created the heavens and the earth. This is the account of the heavens and of the earth “when they were created.” The Hebrew word account (toledoth) means generations, story, history, account. This is the true account of how the earth and heavens came into being. This is the true account — a brief review — of the origin of prehistoric earth. This is a brief review of chapter one of Genesis. Note the words “when they were created.” The stress is that *they were created*, the universe did not just come into being by itself. The heavens and the earth did not just happen...

- by chance
- by some random happening
- by something — some force or matter, some gas or energy — appearing *out of nothing*

For something to appear *out of nothing* is against all the laws of nature and science.

What is the truth about the origin of the universe, of the heavens and the earth? The truth is that the LORD God Himself created the universe, both the earth and the heavens. And in this declaration there is a stunning truth: the stunning truth is that God truly exists. Man’s denial and rejection of the truth cannot do away with God. God is — God *exists* — and God Himself created both the earth and the heavens.

Neh 9:5-6 “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

Psa 14:1 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.*

Psa 53:1-3 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good. God looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.*

Psa 83:17-18 *May they ever be ashamed and dismayed; may they perish in disgrace. Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD — that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.*

Acts 17:24-28 *“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’”*

II. Genesis 02:04 The Lord God, Jehovah is the Creator

The *LORD God* Himself made the universe. Note the name used for God in these verses: the *LORD God* (Jehovah Elohim). The name for God changes or rather is enlarged here in chapter two of Genesis. *God* (Elohim) is combined with *LORD* (Jehovah or Yahweh). In chapter one, where the creative power and might of God needed to be stressed, just the general name for God, *Elohim*, was used. *Elohim* is the name that stresses His power and might as the Creator and Sovereign Majesty of the universe. (See *God, Elohim*, Gen 1:1). Now, in recording the early history of man upon earth, *Jehovah or Yahweh* is combined with the creative name of God: it was the *LORD God* — *Jehovah* (Yahweh) *Elohim* — who created the universe. Why the combined names? Why combine *Jehovah or Yahweh* with *Elohim*? Why is it now necessary to say that it was the *Lord God* who stands behind creation? Because *Jehovah* is the *personal name* of God, the *revealing and redemptive* name of God. God is about ready...

- *to reveal Himself* to man
- *to establish a personal relationship* with man
- *to redeem* man from his fall into sin and death

This passage is laying the foundation for what is to follow: the early history of man upon earth. The early history explains the relationship between God and man:

=> what happened to man and his world

=> how man became alienated and cut off from God

=> how God went about redeeming man from his fall into sin and death.

It is time for God to be revealed as *Jehovah*, as the *Lord God* of the universe. The universe was created by a *personal God*, a God who created the world so that He might establish a personal relationship with His creation, in particular with man. Simply stated, the Lord God — Jehovah Elohim — is the name that describes what God is about to do upon earth: *establish a personal relationship* with man and *redeem man* from his terrible plunge into sin and death. (See note 1, pt. c, Gen 2:7.)

Thought 1. The very name of God describes His glorious character, exactly what He is like.

- 1) God is the LORD God — Jehovah Elohim — *the personal God*: the only living and true God, the only God who can establish a personal relationship with man. His very purpose for creating the earth was to establish a personal relationship with us — with every one of us. This is the declaration of Scripture from beginning to end.

Gen 3:9 *But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

Deu 4:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.*

Isa 1:18 *“Come now, let us reason together;” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”*

Isa 45:18 *For this is what the LORD says — he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited — he says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.”*

Isa 55:1 *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”*

Isa 55:6 *Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*

Jer 29:13 *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Mat 11:28 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Acts 17:24-28 *“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’”*

Rev 3:20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

Rev 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

- 2) God is the LORD God — Jehovah Elohim — *the revealing God*: the only living and true God, the only God who can reveal Himself and the truth about man and the world. The LORD God alone can reveal where man has come from, why man is here, and where man is going. The LORD God alone can tell man why there is evil, suffering and death upon earth. He alone can reveal how man can be delivered from evil and death.

Note: the LORD God reveals the truth in four ways.

- a) The LORD God has revealed the truth through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Deu 18:18 *I will raise up for them a prophet [the Lord Jesus Christ] like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.*

Isa 45:18-19 *For this is what the LORD says — he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited — he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other." I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.*

John 8:26 *"I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."*

John 14:9 *Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

- b) The LORD God reveals the truth through the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13 *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*

1 Cor 2:9-10 *However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

- c) The LORD God reveals the truth through His Word, the Holy Bible.

2 Tim 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

1 Th 2:13 *And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

2 Tim 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*

Psa 119:89 *Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.*

Mat 5:18 *“I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

2 Pet 1:21 *For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 20:32 *“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

d) The LORD God reveals the truth through nature.

Acts 14:17 *“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”*

Rom 1:20 *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

Heb 11:3 *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

Heb 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Psa 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Psa 97:6 *The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.*

3) God is the LORD God — Jehovah Elohim — *the redemptive God*: the only living and true God, the only God who can truly redeem and save man from sin, death and hell.

Psa 31:5 *Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.*

Psa 111:9 *He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever — holy and awesome is his name.*

Isa 43:1 *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”*

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Luke 1:68 *“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.”*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace*

Col 1:13-14 *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

1 Tim 2:3-6 *This is good, and pleases God our Saviour. Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

1 Pet 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

III. Genesis 02:05–06 Creation of the Heavens and Earth was in Stages

The LORD God created the heavens and the earth in stages (vv. 5-6). Note that the heavens and the earth were created:

=> before the field plants and shrubs

=> before rain

=> before man

The brief picture of prehistoric earth painted by verses five and six is this: the earth was encircled with a heavy mist of dense fog and thick clouds. It was this that watered the earth. Note this: apparently the light and heat from the sun and other heavenly bodies could not reach the earth at this time. When God created the earth, it was a barren planet hanging in space, and it was encircled by a thick, heavy layer of clouds, fog and mist. There was little light and heat and no growth, not at first, not when God first created the planet earth. The LORD God created the universe in stages and on successive days.

Now, note the emphasis laid upon the prehistoric earth:

=> The earth and the heavens — the universe — was created by the LORD God Himself.

=> The universe — the earth and the heavens — was created in stages by the LORD God.

The fact that God is — that God exists — that it was He Himself who created the universe, is the emphasis and stress of prehistoric earth, of these three verses.

Thought 1. God created the earth stage by stage. He had the power to take an unshaped and unformed earth and shape and form it. He had the power to take a lifeless and unpopulated earth and create life and populate it. Thereby God is the Sovereign Lord of the universe. As Sovereign Lord, God reveals two wonderful things to us.

1) God has the power to take a person and make a new creation out of him. And God has the power to take that new person, that new creation, and move him along stage by stage until he reaches the climactic moment of redemption at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Phil 1:6 Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

2 Tim 1:12 I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

1 Pet 1:5 Who [believers] through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 1:24-25 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen.

2) God has the power to quicken dead, lifeless matter and give it life. Therefore, God has the power to quicken the dead spirit of man. He has the power to “quicken the dead, and call those things which be not as though they were” (Rom 4:17).

Eph 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. ■

THE FIRST MAN: ADAM

GENESIS 02:07

Introduction

This is the summit of God's creation, the phenomenal creation of man. God took two things and made man: the dust of the ground and His own breath of life. He formed Adam out of the dust of the ground, and He breathed His own breath into the nostrils of Adam. Thus the believer knows a wonderful truth: he has been made by God Himself, by the Sovereign Lord and Majesty of the universe. As the Psalmist says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa 139:14). When we study and meditate upon the teachings of Scripture, we are able to say with Elihu, "There is a spirit in man...the spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life...I also am formed out of the clay" (Job 32:8; 33:4, 6). This is a great study on *The First Man: Adam*.

- I. The LORD God formed man (v. 7).
- II. Man was formed from the dust of the ground (v. 7).
- III. God breathed His own breath of life into man (v. 7).
- IV. Man became a living soul (v. 7).

I. *Genesis 02:07 The Lord God Formed Man*

The LORD God formed man. This is exactly what Scripture says: "And the Lord God formed man." Three significant facts are being stated in this declaration.

1. God and God alone formed man. Man was not formed by impersonal forces nor did he just appear *out of nothing*. Neither did man evolve from other creatures that had come *out of nothing*. Impersonal forces did not *form* man: not cells, not DNA, not atoms, not molecules, not hydrogen, not protons, not neutrons, not electrons. Whatever is discovered to be the basic substance and energy of human life, that substance did not form man. But note: all these substances *are* a part of man; they are what constitute and make up the body and physical life of man. However the basic substances are not what formed man. The energy and power that formed man is the Supreme Intelligence of the universe, the LORD God of the universe. The LORD God formed man. The LORD God created the substances and then He took the substances and used them to create man. Man was created and formed by God and by God alone.
 2. God *formed* (yatsar) man. The word "*formed*" means to mould, to shape, to form. It is the picture of a potter who has an image in his mind that he wants to create. Therefore, he takes some clay and moulds and forms the clay into the image of his mind. Note: the potter has the idea of what he wants to create, and he has both the intelligence and power to form his creation. So it was with God. God is the Master Craftsman who had the idea of man within His mind. God also had both the intelligence and power to create man, both the omniscience (all knowledge) and omnipotence (all power) to do what He wanted. God wanted to create man; therefore,
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God *formed* man. God moulded and shaped man just like a potter who forms the creation of his mind. Man is the creation of God, of God's mind, of God's intelligence and power, of God's omniscience and omnipotence.

Thought 1. This gives great dignity and honour to man. Man is the product of God's mind, of His thought and heart. Man's creation — man's very body, mind and spirit — came from the heart of God, from the intelligence and power of God Himself. We are the creation of God's very own heart, His very own mind and power. We have been created with all the dignity and honour possible — created by the very intelligence and power of God Himself. We are the creation of the Sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe.

Psa 8:3-6 *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.*

Psa 139:14-15 *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

Job 7:17-18 *“What is man that you make so much of him, that you give him so much attention, that you examine him every morning and test him every moment?”*

Heb 2:7 *You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour.*

3. It was the *LORD God* — Jehovah Elohim — who formed man. This is the *personal name* of God, the name that stresses...
- God's *personal relationship* to man
 - God's *revelation* to man
 - God's *redemption* of man

When this name — the LORD God — is used, God's *personal relationship* with man is being stressed. God's creation of man was very, very special. It was a matter that had the personal attention and care of God. God Himself was personally involved in the creation of man, involved in a far different way than when He created the rest of the world. In creating man, God was creating the creature...

- who was to be the summit of His creation upon earth
- who was to have the ability to freely choose to worship and serve God
- who was to oversee the universe for God throughout all of eternity

Therefore a very special relationship, a personal relationship, was bound to be established by the LORD God between Himself and man, between Himself and the

creature He was putting in charge of His world. God stood before man as God, as the great Creator and Sustainer of life. But God also stood before man as LORD, as the Supreme Master of man's life, as the Supreme Lord and Master...

- who loves and cares for man
- who watches over and looks after man
- who seeks after and saves man
- who is personally related to man as Lord and Master
- who reveals Himself, communicates and fellowships with man

This is why the name *LORD God* is used in the creation of man. The LORD God was establishing a personal relationship with the creature He was now creating: man was to be very, very special to God. There was to be a personal relationship, a close bond, between God and man forever. God — the LORD God — was to stand before man as man's Lord. Man was to be the subject of God forever and ever. (See note 2, Gen 2:4.)

Thought 1. God created man to know Him, to worship Him, and to serve Him.

1) God created man to know Him.

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Isa 43:7, 10 Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made... "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."

Jer 9:24 But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

2) God created man to worship Him.

Psa 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Psa 96:9 Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

Mat 04:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan: For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Rev 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

3) God created man to serve Him.

Gen 1:26-28 *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

Prov 16:4 *The LORD works out everything to its proper end — even the wicked for a day of disaster.*

Eph 1:4-6 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

Col 1:10 *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*

1 Pet 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

Rev 4:11 *“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”*

II. **Genesis 02:07** *Man — Formed from the Dust of the Ground*

Man was formed from the dust of the ground. The material used to *form* the body of man was lowly stuff — stuff that is both humble and base, of little worth and value. What was it? Dust, the dirt of the ground. Isaiah and Job say *clay* (Isa 64:8; Job 33:6). Martin Luther translates the Hebrew *lump of earth*. (H.C. Leupold. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, p. 115). The idea of Scripture seems to be that a mixture of water and dirt was used to form the body of man. Imagine! Our bodies are made of the same substance — of the same chemical elements — as the earth itself. Physically, we are nothing more than *lowly and base dirt*, nothing more than the grains of dirt and dust that lie upon the ground. No better description of the lowliness of man’s creation has ever been written than the statements made by Matthew Henry:

⇒ “The matter was despicable. He [man] was made of the dust of the ground, a very unlikely thing to make a man of.”

⇒ “[Man was made] next to nothing.”

⇒ “He [man] was made of the dust, the small dust, such as is upon the surface of the earth.”

=> “He [man] was not made of gold-dust, powder of pearl or diamond dust, but common dust, dust of the ground.”

=> “He [Adam] is said to be of the earth...dusty, 1 Cor 15:47. And we also are of the earth, for we are his offspring, and of the same mould.”

=> There is such an affinity between the earth and our earthly bodies that “our mother’s womb, out of which we were born, is called the earth.”

Psa 139:15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

=> Our bodies are called houses of clay and our foundations are said to be in the earth.

Job 4:19 How much more those who live in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust, who are crushed more readily than a moth!

=> “Our fabric [flesh, body] is earthly, and the fashioning of it like that of an earthen vessel.”

Job 10:9 Remember that you moulded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again?

=> “Our food is out of the earth.”

Job 28:5 The earth, from which food comes,

=> Our bodies decay and corrupt and are eaten by the worms of the earth.

Job 17:14 If I say to corruption, ‘You are my father,’ and to the worm, ‘My mother’ or ‘My sister,’

=> “Our fathers are in the earth, and our own final tendency [destiny] is to it; and what have we then to be proud of.” (*Mathew Henry’s Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 14).

Thought 1. Indeed! What do we have to be proud of? Nothing. Absolutely nothing, for we are made of nothing more than a handful of dust. From dust we have come, and to dust we shall return. Before we know it, our bodies will be nothing more than a small cup of dust lying someplace within the ground of the earth.

Thought 2. The point of Scripture is this: we come from the humblest of beginnings. Our origin is that of dust, lowly dirt and dust. Our bodies are fragile and frail. They are as nothing; therefore, we must depend upon God to look after us, and we must seek the glory and dignity that God alone can give. No matter how much glory and dignity we achieve upon earth, we shall soon be nothing more than a handful of dust. Our origin and beginning upon earth was humble. Therefore, we must walk humbly before God, depending upon God to make us eternal and glorious beings — beings who shall arise out of the dirt of the earth and live forever. We must depend upon God to give us a body that will never age or pass away, a body that will never die, but that will live forever.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 5:28-29 *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”*

1 Pet 1:23 *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

Thought 3. Every person is made of the same substance, of the dust of the ground. No person has any more value or worth than any other person — not on the basis of the stuff from which he is made. All come from dust and all shall return to dust. This is significant: it means...

- that no person is above another person
- that no person is worth more than any other person
- that no person has any right to put any other person down

There is no place for pride, prejudice, discrimination, jealousy, enslavement, partiality or favouritism among people. There is no place for any mistreatment of any person upon earth.

Prov 24:23 *These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good.*

Job 13:10 *“He would surely call you to account if you secretly showed partiality.”*

Mal 2:10 *Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?*

Mat 7:1 *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”*

Rom 13:10 *Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*

James 2:4 *Have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

Jas 4:12 *Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.*

III. Genesis 02:07 Man Has God’s Own Breath of Life

God breathed His own breath of life into man. Man is not just dust, not just physical substance. Man is far more than just a physical body. Man is a spirit. God has given man His very own breath.

The picture is this...

- the body of the first man, Adam, was lying upon the ground before God. It had just been formed by God from the dust of the earth. Adam was lifeless — just a human body lying there upon the ground — never having breathed. Then all of a

sudden — in descriptive terms — God leaned over and breathed His own breath into Adam's nostrils. Adam received the breath of God, and when he did, the result was astounding: he arose from the ground and became a living soul.

Now, what is the breath of God? What is there about God's breath that caused God to breathe His own breath into man? The breath of God is at least two things. (See *Image of God in Man*, Gen 1:26.)

1. The breath of God is *the Spirit of God*. This is seen in the Hebrew word for spirit, *ruach*. The word *ruach* means wind, breath, air, spirit. When God breathed into the nostrils of Adam, He was not just breathing air into Adam's lungs so that Adam could live. If this was all God was doing — giving life to Adam — He did not have to breathe His own breath into Adam. God could have simply spoken the word and caused Adam to become a living soul just like He did when He created the animals. What God was doing was symbolizing and picturing for all generations to come this one fact: God has given man His Spirit, the very Spirit of God Himself. God has actually breathed into man His very own Spirit. This means a most wonderful thing: God has connected Himself to man in the most intimate way possible. God has put within man His very own Spirit. Man is related to God, bound to God, connected to God. Both God and man have the same breath, the very same Spirit. Man has within his body the very breath and Spirit of God Himself.
2. The breath of God is the life of God. When God breathed into man, God gave His very own life to man. What is the life of God? It is life that lives on and on, the life of eternity, the power to live eternally. God's breath is not temporal; God's breath lives forever. God's breath never ceases to exist. Therefore, man was to breathe and live forever; man was to live eternally with God. Man was given the very breath of God Himself, the power of immortality, the power to live forever.

But note this about the Spirit of life — the Spirit of God — that has been given to man: man was created a spiritual being, but his spirit has been marred by his fall into sin (see *Image of God in Man*, latter part, Gen 1:26).

Thought 1. God made no other creature like He made man. God gave no other creature His breath, neither His Spirit nor His life of immortality. This makes man's creation distinctive, of the highest order and being, of the highest honour and glory, of the highest worth and value.

Job 33:4 *The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

Psa 8:5 *You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour.*

Thought 2. There is a sense in which man is a paradox. He was created with all the dignity and honour possible — created by the hand of God and given the very breath of God. Yet, he was also created out of the most base and lowly stuff of all: dirt. In

one sense man has every reason to glory; in another sense he has every reason to be humble. What is to be man's attitude? Man is to glory: there is nothing wrong with glorying. Man is to be humble: there is nothing wrong with being humble. It is the reason or object for glorying and for being humble that makes man right or wrong.

=> Man is to worship and glory in God — that God gave him life and the dignity and honour (privilege) of life.

=> Man is to walk humbly before God and before men, for God has made all men from the same material, from the dust of the earth itself. (Jer 9:24; see 1 Cor 1:31; 2 Cor 10:17; Rom 11:36; Gal 1:5; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 5:11).

Rom 12:1; 1 Cor 6:19 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship and as your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

Gen 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness....So God created man in his own image.*

Psa 139:14-15 *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

Rom 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.*

1 Cor 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

Thought 3. There is one thing man needs to know: he has been created in the image, in the very likeness, of God. He is an immortal creature: he shall exist forever and ever. Man must, therefore, make sure — absolutely sure — that he is going to live with God. The one thing he *must not do* is live apart from God. Man must not miss out on the glorious privilege of living forever with God.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:36 *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*

John 8:51 *"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."*

John 11:26 *"And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

1 John 5:11-12 *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

2 Cor 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Eccl 12:7 And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

IV. Genesis 02:07 Man, a Living Soul

Man became a living soul. Remember: *soul* (nephesh) means an *animated, breathing, conscious and living being*. It does not mean the spirit of man. God had just breathed His Spirit and life into man. Once God did this, man became a living soul — an animated, breathing, conscious and living creature. He was a living soul just like all the other creatures of earth (see note 3, *Soul*, Gen 1:20). However, there was one distinctive difference between the animals and man: man was given the very breath of God Himself, the very Spirit and life of God.

Note: man did not become a living soul until God breathed His Spirit and life into man. This is significant, very significant:

=> It means that man is the only living spirit upon earth. Man is both a spiritual and soulish or animate being.

=> It means that animals are only living souls or non-spiritual beings.

=> It means that vegetation is only an *inanimate being*.

Another way to say the same thing is this:

=> Vegetation (plant life) lives, but it is inanimate.

=> Animals live, but they are only animate or soulish creatures. They are not spiritual creatures; they do not have the breath or spirit of God within them; they do not worship God.

=> Man lives, but he is both an animate and a spiritual creature. Man is both soul and spirit. Man is an animal, a soulish creature, but he is also a spiritual creature, a creature who worships God. Man is made both of earth and heaven.

This is the distinctiveness of man. Man is the summit of God's creation: the creature who possesses both soul and spirit. He is the creature who has been given *the very breath of God, the very spirit and life of God Himself*.

=> Man is the creature who has been created both of earth and heaven.

=> Man is the creature who can choose to live either for the earth or for God.

Thought 1. Why has God given His own breath to man, given man His own Spirit and life? So that man can freely choose to love and worship God. God has given man (despite man's fall) enough of Himself to make man hunger and seek after God. Man has a sense, a consciousness, that he has lost God's Spirit and lost the power to live eternally with God; he has just enough awareness of God to seek after immortality with God, to seek after God and the privilege of living forever with God.

Deu 4:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.*

Psa 105:4 *Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.*

Isa 55:6 *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*

Amos 5:4 *This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live."*

Zep 2:3 *Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility: perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.*

Acts 17:27 *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

Thought 2. What a shame that man cleaves to this earth and its worldliness.

Prov 15:32 *Those who disregard discipline despise themselves.*

God breathed His Spirit into man. How often and how intensely that spirit within man should breathe after God.

Mat 5:6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ■*