

# On the Beginning

## 3. Where We Came From

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 2:1-7

One of the worst misconceptions in many minds today is the idea that mankind evolved over a long period of time from animals. The Bible utterly rejects that idea. There is no way a person could believe the Bible and also accept the theory of evolution! Genesis 2 tells us how man really came to exist. Let's notice four things about man's creation.

### 1. God's Rest.

The first three verses of Chapter 2 are about "*the seventh day*" when God "*rested*." The Hebrew word for rest in these verses is related to the word for the "*sabbath*" day (as in Exodus 16) and is usually used in connection with the Jewish observance of the seventh day of the week as a day of total rest (Exodus 31:12-17). The Book of Genesis was written by Moses in the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land. It was there that God commanded sabbath observance (Nehemiah 9:13-14), and here Moses is relating it to the day that followed the six days of creation. This word for rest emphasizes the idea of *ceasing*—stopping work. One thing Genesis 2:1-3 is saying is that the work of creation *ceased* after the six days. These were literal 24-hour days, as we are assured by the "*evening and the morning*" statements in Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31. God's work of *creation* was finished after those six days were done. Soon His new work of redemption would begin (in Genesis 3), and this work would end when God in the flesh cried, "*It is finished*," and rested on a sabbath day (John 19:30-42). God is not still creating things! Creation is not an on-going process, but rather an historic event of millennia ago. The Bible does not allow for evolution over millions of years.

### 2. Man's Importance.

Verses 4-6 emphasize man's role in the whole scheme of creation. See how it is presented. Genesis 2 is not recording the order of events in creation, but rather the relation of God's creation to man. Before Adam was made, "*there was not a man to till the ground*." The plants and herbs "*of the field*" mentioned in verse 5 are probably species that need man's cultivation. To make nature work, God's highest creation, man, must be at work!

### 3. Dust, Breath, and Soul.

Verse 7 tells us how the first man was made.

*"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

First, God "*formed*" his body out of "*the dust of the ground*." All of the elements in the human body are commonly found in dirt! The Hebrew word for "*man*" in this verse is actually *adam*. It is the word most commonly used for man in the early chapters of Genesis, and it has the idea of "ruddy" or "rose-colored" like the red earth. Actually the word for "earth" in Genesis 1:25, 4:11, 4:14, and 6:1 is *adamah*, which is based on the same root.

Then God "*breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*." This is how the body formed from the dust came to life. Adam was not born to a sub-human creature in the process of evolution. He was "*the*

*son of God*” (Luke 3:38), made directly by God. If you believe the Bible, you cannot believe in evolution.

When Adam came to life, he was “*a living soul*.” In Hebrew, this term is the same as “*living creature*” in Genesis 1:21 and 24. It does not mean the eternal soul that distinguishes us from animals. It means the life-principle that makes a creature self-conscious. The grass, herbs, and trees of Genesis 1:11-12 were alive, but they were not aware of themselves as animals are. When God breathed life into the man, he became a living self-conscious being. The Bible is clear about from where we came!

4. The LORD     **God**    .

In the first chapter of Genesis, one name is used for God, *Elohim* in Hebrew, or “God.” This name continues to be used in Genesis 2:1-3. Then, in verse 4, the Book of Genesis begins to call our Creator “*the LORD God*,” and continues to use the term exclusively through Chapter 3. “*The LORD*” (spelled in capitals) is a translation of the Hebrew “Jehovah” or “Yahweh,” which is explained early in the Book of Exodus. It is used in Genesis 2 because it is the covenant-name God uses in connection with His relationship to *man*! When Genesis says, “*the LORD God*,” it means God in His original relationship of fellowship with man.