



Study # 2

Genesis Chapter 2

Summary of the passage: This chapter declares the completion of creation (v1-3), and expands on the methods and results of God's creative work during the first week of creation. It doesn't record a separate work of creation. It gives a more detailed account above what is already recorded in Ch. 1. Special focus is given to man's creation from the dust of the ground, with unique faculties above the other creatures, along with a mandate to rule over them. God's covenant with Adam is outlined warning of the death penalty for disobedience. Man's creation as male and female is declared along with the institution and sanctity of marriage.

Key verse: "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." Verse 7.

The reference to man's creation from the dust of the ground clearly declares that man is the result of God's direct creation; not from a previous civilization. God's act of breathing into man's nostrils the breath of life reveals that man's nature is also spiritual and that he possesses an eternal soul. This expands on the fact stated in chapter 1:26, that man was created in God's likeness.

Observations – Lessons from this chapter.

- 1. Further confirmation is added to the record of Genesis ch. 1 that God finished the work of creation.** See the word "finished" in Ch. 2:1, and the word "generations" in verse 4. The term "generations" means a history of commencement, or birth. Note also that the work of creation is spoken of in the past tense in v4, "when they were created."
The processes of direct creation were over at the end of the sixth day. The things that are observable in the world by geologists today no longer reflect the miracle of God's creative power at work during the creation week. This doctrine of direct creation rules out any form of evolution either of the earth, the animals, plant life or human life. Uniformitarianism – the theory that present-day observable processes have been at work consistently throughout the ages is refuted in the Genesis record.
When we read v4 and v5 together we learn that no new species of plants are being added to those created by God during the first week of creation. Ever since the curse of the world through the fall, and since the flood that came upon the world in Noah's time, there has been a loss of species, not an increase.
- 2. Man's creation from the dust of the ground rules out any notion that man evolved from a prior civilization, or that God used genetic information from a prior species (v7).** Adam truly was the first man. His DNA was newly created from the earth, not borrowed from any form of previous life. The Genesis record gives a thorough and unique perspective on man's origin. It is opposed to the modern evolutionary view that man evolved from lower orders of life.
- 3. Man received his life directly from God v7b.** As eternally self-existent, God alone has life in Himself, therefore, all life comes from Him. This special act of God breathing into the nostrils of man did more than inflate his lungs. God imparted spiritual life to Adam. The result of that life-giving act is that man possesses an eternal soul. While animals have breath, the Bible makes no reference to God breathing into their nostrils, or of them becoming a living soul. They do not have spiritual life apart from bodily life.
"The high origin and the admirable serviceableness of the soul of man, takes its rise from the breath of

heaven, and is produced by it. It was not made of the earth, as the body was; it is a pity then that it should cleave to the earth, and mind earthly things. It came immediately from God; he gave it to be put into the body (Ecc 12:7)...When our Lord Jesus anointed the blind man's eyes with clay perhaps he intimated that it was he who at first formed man out of the clay; and when he *breathed on his disciples, saying, Receive you the Holy Ghost*, he intimated that it was he who at first breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life. He that made the soul is alone able to new-make it." Matthew Henry

- 4. The garden of Eden with its four rivers v 8 - 17 is no longer in existence.** Since God judged the world by a world-wide flood none of these rivers with their original topography remain. The source of these waters was not from rain. At that time the earth was watered by a mist Ch. 2:6.
- 5. God's covenant with Adam centred on God forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil v17.** This was a test of Adam's obedience. While the covenant is put in the negative, warning of death for disobedience, it necessarily included a promise of life for obedience. If Adam had obeyed, he would live. This covenant arrangement was made with Adam before Eve was created, so it was made with Adam, alone, as the head of a covenant. This was a test of Adam's love toward God. He was capable of obeying God's covenant, though a covenant of works, for he had perfect knowledge of God and was created upright. Yet, having freewill, he was also capable of disobeying. As a free moral agent, Adam was created to offer loyalty and love to his Creator freely, or it would be robotic.
- 6. The institution of marriage is based upon God's special work of creation.** Eve was created out of Adam's side. Being formed out of his nature they were one flesh. The word, "therefore," v24, shows that God instituted marriage upon this pattern. God's design for marriage, then, is the union of one man and one woman. While it is likely that the animal creation was directly created in large numbers, Adam and Eve were the only first pair, and all humanity descended from them. In further proof the Genesis record states that Eve was "the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20).

Application: – How does this apply to me? You are not only created by God, you are created with spiritual faculties that determine what is moral versus immoral. You have a never dying soul and you must give account to your Creator. The first and great commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. This is the basis of God's call to worship and to serve Him. Christians must defend the institution of Biblical marriage. Any sexual relationship outside of the union of one man and one woman in a covenant of marriage is contrary to God's law of creation and is deviant sinful behaviour (Romans 1:26-32).

Things to do in light of this study:

1. Memorize Ch. 2:7
2. Be alert to the rebellious world-view that promotes evolutionary theories. Remember that they are only man's theories. Only God was present during the week of creation and He has given us His record of events in the book of Genesis.
3. Study the solid evidence for direct creation, such as intelligent design that is visible all around us – from bacteria under the microscope to the human body, or the planets in the universe.
4. Read the gospels and look for Christ's teaching about direct creation? E.g. Mark 13:19.

Further questions and points to study:

What is based on creation is an unchangeable decree. What kinds of things does this apply to?

Was the covenant of works, which God made with Adam, fair and reasonable?

What was the world like without rain? See God's work on the second day of creation in Gen. 1:6-8. Describe what the climate was like. Were there seasons of the year prior to the fall?