

Further Details of the Creation Account

Genesis 2:1-7

Genesis 2:1-7 - *“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. ⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶ but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. ⁷ 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 being.”*

Background Notes

Beginning with verse 4, Genesis 2 sounds like a second account of creation, doesn't it? In fact, that is exactly what the critics of the Bible like to say. They claim that Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 are two different accounts of creation, that they came from two different sources, and that they were put together much later than the time of Moses. However, nothing could be further from the truth! Genesis 1 and 2 are not two different accounts of creation. Chapter 2 just reveals *further details* of the Genesis 1 creation account - it's as simple as that!

Genesis 2:1-6 describes the conditions of the earth before God brought forth the plants on the third day, and before He created Adam and Eve on the sixth day. They also describe the continuing conditions on the earth even after Creation Week. There was no one to till the ground until man began to populate the earth, and there was no rain to water the ground. A mist went up from the earth to water the ground (v6). In fact, rain is not mentioned until the time of the Great Flood. The mist of verse 6 may have been just condensed water vapor due to the temperature differences between day and night - or it may have come from the pressurized subterranean water reservoirs - the “fountains of the deep” that were broken open at the time of the Flood (Genesis 7).

In verse 3, God *“rested from all His work which God had created and made.”* “Created” and “made” here are two different Hebrew words, and both are used in the creation account. “Created” (*bara*) can mean “out of nothing,” whereas “made” (*asah*) means “using existing materials.” While there is some overlap and interchange in the use of these Hebrew words, Genesis 2:3 indicates that during Creation Week God used some direct acts of creation “out of nothing” - such as the creation of basic atomic matter, and certainly the creation of both soul and spirit. However, He also used the basic

materials (which He had already created out of nothing) to form and make other things - such as making the body of man out of the dust of the ground.

One more background note: Did you know that there is nothing in nature that corresponds to the seven-day week? What do I mean? Well, take a year for example: it's one revolution of the earth around the sun. A month is one lunar cycle. A day is one rotation of the earth. But - what about a week? Where does the seven-day week come from? It's practically universal to mankind, and it's not just from "Judeo-Christian tradition." We believe it goes all the way back to Creation Week! There's no other logical explanation for a seven-day week.

Doctrinal Points

1. God formed man on the sixth day of Creation Week.

Verse 7: "*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 being.*" Genesis 1:27 says that God created mankind - both male and female - *in His own image*. Here in Genesis 2:7 we get the details. God did not just say, "Presto!" and poof - there was a man! No, God took the dirt or dust of the ground and formed the body of man, and then by a direct act of creation brought this lifeless body to life. That's a significantly different from the way He formed fish, birds and animals. In the case of man, God did not say, "Let the ground bring forth man." No, God Himself personally molded the body of man, and then personally breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. So man, unlike the animals, has an immortal soul. Its source is the breath of God!

Now notice something else here. It's very hard to read "theistic evolution" into Genesis 2:7. Theistic evolution theorizes that God used the process of evolution to bring about the body of man, and then implanted the spirit of man into the evolved body. However, Genesis 2:7 says that God used *the dust of the ground* to form the body of man. It does **not** say that God used the body of an animal (such as an "advanced ape") to form man.

If God had used the body of an ape to form man, His inspired Word certainly would have said so. But God's Word specifically says that God formed man from the dust of the ground. The animals were already there - but God did **not** use an animal's body for the body of man. He used the dust of the ground.

Notice, too, that the Bible does not say that "a living being became man." No, it says that "*man became a living being.*" Did you ever notice that before? So despite what theistic evolution postulates, it's quite clear that God did not use "another living being" when He formed man.

Both Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day of Creation Week. They then lived through (and long after) the seventh day of Creation Week, because Adam died at 930 years of age (Genesis 5:5). Adam died 930 years after the

sixth day when he was created. His 930 years didn't start from the time of the Fall, because even before the Fall there was the passage of time. (Remember that the sun, moon, and stars were given for signs and seasons and days and years.)

Do you see the additional argument here for the days of Genesis 1 being literal 24-hour days of earth time? If Adam was created on the sixth day, then Days Six and Seven *can't* be equated to "geologic ages," because Adam's age of 930 years is in line with the stated ages of other pre-Flood people. He didn't die at 930 years, plus a geologic age for Day Seven and part of a geologic age for Day Six! No, he died at *930 years*. God formed man on the sixth day of Creation Week.

2. God rested on the seventh day of Creation Week.

The idea of God "resting" on the seventh day doesn't mean that He was exhausted - no way! He rested, or ceased to work, because the work of creation was finished and perfect. Nothing more was needed! Furthermore, there is no idea here that when God rested He abandoned his work once it was complete. Again, no way! God continues to control and sustain the universe that He created. As Hebrew 1:3 says, God "*upholds all things by the word of His power...*"

How long was the seventh day of Creation Week? It was 24 hours of earth time! Just because God continued his "rest" beyond Creation Week does not mean the seventh day was not 24 hours. It was a twenty-four hour day, like the rest of the days of Creation Week.

Concerning the continuing rest of God, we know that the Fall of Man brought a disruption. As a result, God began His work of redemption. Listen to the words of our Lord Jesus in John 5:17: "*My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*" He was not speaking of the work of creation – He was speaking of the work of **redemption**. How thankful we can be that God was willing to begin His work of redemption after the Fall of Man!

Genesis 2:3 says, "*Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.*" God set the seventh day apart for holy use. In Exodus 20, under the Mosaic Law, God set the Sabbath apart as a day of rest for man, based on the pattern He began in Creation Week.

As Christians we are free from the Sabbath laws of the Old Testament, which were given to the Jewish people. But the moral principle of a weekly day of rest remains! We should set aside time each week for rest. Not just a time of relaxation to have fun, or go to the beach or a ball game, but a time of rest that is set aside to worship the Lord. That's certainly an aspect of our second doctrinal point. God rested on the seventh day of Creation Week.

Practical Application

Remember that God made you from the dust of the ground!

Does that fact humble you - or comfort you? It should do both. It should humble us, because physically and chemically that's all we are! Dust. Chemically speaking, we're worth only a few dollars.

But what a comforting thought to know that this "dust" is of **great value in the sight of God!** Psalm 103:14 says, "*For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*" We find our worth in God alone, because God took common dust for His crowning act of creation, the creation of mankind.

So when you're feeling proud of yourself, and think you're something special in yourself, remember that you're only a speck of dust. But when you get discouraged, and you're feeling like a worthless speck of dust, remember that you're special in the sight of God! God made you and He loves you - and the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross to die for you.

How can anyone proudly think that they're something in themselves and they can make it to Heaven on their own merit? How can anyone not want to put their faith and trust in our loving Lord? Do you see how both sides of the coin are there, when you consider that God took dust and made us? It is both humbling and comforting at the same time. Remember - God made you from the dust of the ground!