



## TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

### Talk Genesis 2:1-7: The Seventh Day of Creation Week and the Creation of Man

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#### Lesson 6

In this first section of Genesis 2, we have God's rest on the seventh day of creation week and some details of how God created man. 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. 4 This 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 at Genesis 2:4, this chapter 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 say Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 are two different accounts of creation, and come from two different sources which were put together much later than the time of Moses. Nothing could be further from the truth! Genesis 1 and 2 are not two different accounts of creation. Chapter 2 gives *further details* of the creation account of chapter 1. It's as simple as that.

The first 6 verses of Genesis 2 not only describe 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, but these verses also describe the continuing conditions on the earth even after creation week. That is, there was no one to till the ground until man began to populate the earth, and there was no rain to water the ground, but rather a mist (v6) went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. In fact, we don't read of rain on the earth until the time of the Great Flood. The mist here may have been just condensed water vapor due to the temperature differences between day and night, or it may have been mist coming up from the pressurized subterranean water reservoirs, or fountains of the deep, that were broken up at the time of the Flood. Read Genesis 7 in this connection.

In verse 3 we read that 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 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 here. Did you know that there is nothing in nature that corresponds to the seven-day week? What do I mean by this? Well, you take a year for example; a year is one revolution of the earth around the sun. A month is one lunar cycle. A day is one rotation of the earth. Well, now what about a week? Where does the seven-day week come from? It's practically universal to mankind. It's not just from Judeo-Christian tradition. We believe that it goes all the way back to creation week. There is 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.*" In Genesis 1:27, we read that God created man in his own image, in the image of God, both male and female. Here in Genesis 2:7 we get the details. God did not just say, "Presto!" and poof -- there was 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. This was significantly different from the way in which He formed the fish, birds and animals. In the case of man, God did not say, "Let the ground bring forth man." No, God 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.

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 this evolved body. However, Genesis 2:7 says that God used *the dust of the ground* to form the body of man. He did *not* use the body of an animal, such as an "advanced ape." If He had used the body of an ape to form man, God certainly would have said so, rather than saying man was formed 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. God used the dust of the ground.

Notice, too, that the Bible does not say that a living being became man. No, it says, "*man became a living being.*" Did you ever notice that before? That was on the sixth day of creation week -- in fact, both Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day of creation week. They then lived through the seventh day of creation week, and according to Genesis 5:5, Adam died at 930 years of age. That is, Adam died 930 years after the sixth day when he was created. His 930 years doesn't start from the time of the Fall, because even before the Fall there was the passage of time. Remember 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 hours of earth time? If Adam was created on the sixth day, then Days Six and Seven *can't* be geologic ages, because Adam died at 930 years, in line with the 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. This is all part of our first doctrinal point. 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 is not the idea that He needed a rest because He was exhausted, or something like that. No way! The point is that He rested because the work of creation was finished and perfect. Nothing more needed to be done. Furthermore, there is no idea here that when God rested He abandoned his work once it was complete. Again, no way! God continued to control and sustain the universe which He had created. As Hebrew 1:3 says, God "*upholds all things by the word of His power...*"

Let me ask you a question: How long was the seventh day of creation week? Answer: Twenty-four hours of earth time! Just because God continued his "rest" beyond creation week, does not mean the seventh day of creation week was not twenty-four hours. The seventh day of creation week was a twenty-four hour day, just 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 in John 5:17. The Lord Jesus said there, "*My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*" This is not the work of creation; this is the work of redemption. How thankful we can be that God began His work of redemption after the Fall of Man!

Genesis 2:3 says, "*Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it,....*" That is, He set it apart for holy use. When we come to the Mosaic Law in Exodus 20, we see that God set the Sabbath apart as a day of rest for man, based on the pattern of creation week. As Christians we believe that we are free from the Sabbath Laws of the Mosaic Law, which was given to the Jewish people -- but the moral principle 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 (although you can do that too!), but a time of rest set aside to worship the Lord. This is 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.**

Now 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. Did you know that we are worth only a few dollars, chemically speaking? But what a comforting thought to know that this "dust" is valuable 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 get proud, and think you're something special in yourself, remember you are only a speck of dust. But when you get discouraged, and think you're a worthless speck of dust, remember that God made you, and the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross to die for you. You're special in the sight of God.

How can anyone here this morning not want to trust the Lord? How can anyone here proudly think that they're something in themselves and they can make it to heaven on their own merit? 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 that God made you from the dust of the ground.