



## ***“From Dust To Life ”***

**Gen. 2:4-7**

May 4, 2025

### **Gen 2:4-7**

**4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.**

5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

**4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.**

- This is not a different creation account. This is following the typical way Hebrew literature followed a literary form.
- You start with a broad statement and then recount it with specific details.
- Much the way an article in our newspaper is laid out.
- Liberal critics who want to discredit the Bible will say this proves inaccuracy, confusion , and errors. (Documentary Hypothesis – Bible was piecemealed together)
- **“account”** – תולדה **towledah** - historical record.
- Where did it come from? Moses received it from God. It was supernaturally revealed to him

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- “Lord God” - אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה - Yahweh Elohim.
- Elohim = The mighty God. The strong One. It was used in the first chapter.
- Yahweh = the personal intimate, covenant keeping God.
- This combination of names still keeps the idea of a mighty God but now it is in combination with God’s personal, intimate relationship with man.
- This is another distinction from the animals. God simply created them. But with man, God becomes One who is personal and can be known by man. (vs. 5,7)
- A man may be known by his name (Jim, Bob, Larry, John) but to his children he is known as daddy, dad, pops, father.

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- Now Moses takes us back to the third day – creation of vegetation.(1:11,12)
- At that time there was no shrub, no plant, no rain, and no man.
- **God will now solve each of those problems:**
  1. God caused shrubs and plants to instantly sprout. (1:12)
  2. Water from a river would irrigate the garden. (2:10)
  3. Man would be created and placed in the garden to cultivate it. (2:15)

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- “mist” - **אֶד** 'ed (ade) - a subterranean spring, a source of water that gushes out or flows. It comes from beneath the ground, wells up and waters the surface of the soil.
- God took care of that which He had created.

**7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

- God takes special, personal, intimate, care in creating man.
- “formed” - **יָצַר** 'yatsar - to mold into a form or shape, to fashion, as a potter would do with clay.

**Jer 1:5**

5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

**Rom 9:20,21**

20 . . .who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?

21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

- The Master Potter forms Adam exactly the way He wanted, with all of the details.
- God had both the omniscience (all-knowledge) and the omnipotence (all-power) to do exactly what He wanted.
- “man” - **אָדָם** 'adam - aw-dawm - human being, mankind.

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- “dust” - **אֶפְרָר** 'aphar - dirt, clay, earth, mud, dust, ground.
- God uses the most basic, available material to make man – dirt. Man is a walking lump of dirt!
- Man is of the earth, like worms, vultures, donkeys, and grasshoppers.
- **Note:** Everything in our material world comes from dirt.
- Dirt isn't what makes man special, but the way it is organized,
- “ground” - **אֲדָמָה** 'adamah - ground, land, earth.
- Note the play on words between “man” (adam) and “ground” (adamah).
- Man is not that far from dirt, even in his original name.
- But what separates man from the rest of creation, is what God does next with man.
- He breathes into his nostrils. He doesn't do that with any of the other animals.
- Why does He do that? To remind man that it is from God that he gets his breath.
- Man comes both from the earth and from God's breath.
- The first thing Adam saw was God!

**7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

- Contained in the breath is not just oxygen but **LIFE**.
- The God who made the stars stooped down to breathe life into a human being.
- From that, man became a living being with a soul/spirit, created in the image of God.
- **“living being”** - נֶפֶשׁ **nephesh** (neh'-fesh) - a real breathing, conscious, rational, living being. A being capable of thinking, reasoning, feeling, dreaming, loving, reproducing, and living forever.
- This is what makes man unique among all living things upon the earth.
- Man is capable of having a relationship with God and that gives him dignity.
- When God ceases to breathe life into us, we cease to exist.

**Ps 104:29**

9 You hide Your face, they are dismayed;  
You take away their spirit, they expire  
And return to their dust.

**Ps 150:6**

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

## Application

1. You are a special creature, created by God for His glory.
2. In the word “dust” is contained a constant reminder of our humble origin, our frailty, and our weakness.
3. “Don’t waste your breath”

“We can use our breath to speak words of comfort, to sing songs of praise, and to run to help the sick and oppressed. When we use our breath to honor our Creator with our unique combination of talents, abilities, and opportunities, we will never be wasting it.”