

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

"Out of What?" Genesis 2:5-7

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INTRO.: What happens when you start with the wrong ingredients in a recipe? Has anybody here ever mistakenly used baking powder instead of baking soda? Now, before I go any further, I want to let you know that you can put all I know about baking into a thimble and have room left over. Apparently, you can actually use baking powder instead of baking soda, but you'll have to use 3 times as much and still may end up with a bitter taste. If you start with the wrong ingredients the results will not be what you hoped for. With this in mind I now hold up this book. Can you please tell me what this book is? In one word what/who is this book about? It is first and foremost a book about God! It is only as I know the truth about God that I can truly understand the truth about me. As Dan Jones preached last Sunday, we need to have the *Right Sight*. Some start with the premise that this is a book primarily about man. You and I will never have the right view of ourselves until we have a right view of God. How does the book of Genesis begin? "*In the beginning God...*" I just finished reading a book entitled, *The Crossing*, by Dane Egli, who grew up in this church. I highly recommend that you read it. It is a book about the exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in particular, the Red Sea Crossing. This exodus miracle has 272 mentions in Scripture. What does this tell you about its importance? God had sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites, God's people go and worship Yahweh, the only true God. Pharaoh stubbornly refused and so God sent 10 different plagues, culminating in the death of the first born, including the first born of the animals. Pharaoh relents and lets the Israelites go but then changes his mind and Pharaoh and his army chases them down eventually catching up to them at the Red Sea. Israel is now trapped, the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh and his army behind them. The Israelites react in a panic (so would you and I).

Exodus 14:10–14 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. **11** They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" **13** Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. **14** The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

God parted the Red Sea, the Israelites went across on dry ground, with a wall of water on their left and on their right. When Pharaoh and his army attempted the same God threw the Egyptian army into confusion, jamming the wheels of the chariots, and caused the water to return. The whole army perished. Why did God send the plagues and why did God part the Red Sea? Was it just about the Israelites? God instructs Moses to say this to Pharaoh.

Exodus 9:13–16 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, **14** or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. **15** For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. **16** But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.'

What about the parting of the Red Sea?

Psalms 106:7–10 When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. **8** Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known. **9** He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. **10** He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.

As we look at these next verses, I want us to be reminded that our lives are not about us, they are about God! We are going to look at 3 things about God's creation of Adam from Genesis 2 and how this should affect our relationship with God and how we live our lives. Let's read Genesis 2:4-7 together as we begin.

Genesis 2:4-7 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens— and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground— the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

INTRODUCTION: Genesis 2:4-6 are an introduction of the creation of man. Chapter 2 is not another creation story but provides greater detail of the account of creation from Genesis 1, particularly the sixth day of creation. The technical term for this when it occurs in Scripture, is the law of recurrence as described by Arnold Fruchtenbaum.

He says, "This law observes that often in Scripture there are two blocks of Scripture side by side. The first block of Scripture gives an account of an event or a person from start to finish in chronological order. This is followed by a second block of Scripture that goes back to an earlier time within the first block in order to give more details as to how certain things or events happened."

"*this is the account of the heavens and earth when they were created:*" this includes all created objects.

"*when the Lord God:*" Jehovah Elohim, a double name for God. In chapter 1 Moses uses just the word, *Elohim*. This is a plural form which gives indication of the trinity being involved in creation, which we see as it is furthered revealed in the Bible. Jehovah is the personal name for God which is very appropriate since chapter 2 describes the creation of man and woman in further detail (James Montgomery Boice). Elohim is the generic name for God while Jehovah is specific, the Covenant God of Israel, the I AM (Jamieson, Fausset, Brown).

The use of these two names connects chapter 1 and chapter 2. The Creator God (Elohim) in Genesis 1 is the same personal God described in chapter 2.

Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, "The use of these divine names was not accidental, it was done deliberately, to serve an important purpose, and that purpose was to intimate the identity between the Lord who was the object of Israel's worship and the God who was the Creator of all things."

Verses 5-6 point out that rain had not occurred yet and the vegetation was watered by the mist that came up from the ground.

All of this sets the backdrop for the creation of Adam. We are going to look at 3 phrases in Genesis 2:7 and how they make a difference in my life today.

THE LORD GOD FORMED

v. 7a

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God **formed** the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

"*formed:*" (*yatzar*) this is a different word than what was used in Genesis 1:26-27. The word used in Genesis 1:26-27 was *bara*, which emphasizes that the creation of man was something only God can do. *Yatzar* was used to show that God didn't create Adam out of nothing, but from the *dust of the ground*. Although man was created out of something, it still was something that only God could do (Arnold Fruchtenbaum).

The use of the word, "*formed.*" It is used of a workman who carves statues in wood and metal, or of a potter who moulds clay. It is an appropriate term, as expressive of the artistic skill which is so strikingly displayed in the organic mechanism of the human frame (Jamieson, Fausset, Brown).

Isaiah 29:16 You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?

It is used of things that God fashions:

Psalms 33:15 he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

Psalms 94:9 Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?

Psalms 119:73 Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.

You and I were created, formed by God, for His purpose and His glory. This is the source of self-worth. No human being is an accident, you have been made by Almighty God. Since this is true, you and I are called to worship and obey the One who created us!

Ephesians 2:8–10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This also reminds me that this is not my life. I was created by God and through Jesus Christ I have been bought with a price. God owns me as my Creator and as the One who provided salvation for me.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

God formed Adam...

OUT OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND

v. 7b

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

“*dust of the ground:*” two Hebrew words: *dust* (aphar); ground (adamah)

The Hebrew word for man is *adam* while the word for ground is *adamah*. This is a Hebrew word play since they come from the same root. This emphasizes the humble origins of man (Fruchtenbaum).

Genesis 18:27 Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,

1 Kings 16:2 “I lifted you up from the dust and made you leader of my people Israel, but you walked in the ways of Jeroboam and caused my people Israel to sin and to provoke me to anger by their sins. (in reference to Baasha, king of Israel, who did evil in the eyes of the Lord)

Psalms 103:14–16 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. **15** As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; **16** the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

Apart from God you and I are but dust and clay. I believe that this is also a foreshadowing of the fall of mankind as recorded in Genesis 3. Dust in that chapter was part of God’s judgment. What was one of the consequences of Adam & Eve’s sin?

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Think about this: God did what only God can do: created Adam out of the dust of the ground. Took that which was inanimate and made life. Mankind, through his sin, took life, and brought death, bringing mankind back to dust.

Dust was also part of God’s judgment on the serpent who tempted Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

This should be a reminder of the frailty of life, and that you and I are one step from eternity. You and I are nothing without God, He who formed us and has given us meaning and purpose.

Matthew Henry, “Man was not made of gold-dust, powder of pearl, or diamond dust, but common dust, dust of the ground.”

The basic chemical elements of earth are also the basic physical elements of the human body: nitrogen, oxygen, calcium, chlorine, phosphorus, fluorine, magnesium, silicium, aluminum, potassium, sodium, iron, hydrogen, titanium (Jamieson, Fausset, Brown).

James Montgomery Boice, "In describing man as being formed from the dust Moses undoubtedly wished to stress man's humble origin and show that he can aspire to glory only by the grace of God, who made him."

It reminds me of the first sin of Satan: pride; and the first sin of mankind: believing they knew better than God; pride. It all comes back to pride and mankind thinking they're all that. EVERYTHING you and I have is a gift from God! This morning, as we took communion, we were reminded of this in regard to our salvation. We have no standing with God apart from what Jesus Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection for our sins!

God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground...

THE LORD GOD BREATHED

v. 7c

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.

"breath of God:" (neshamah) This word is used 25 times in the Old Testament. Here, God's breath brings animation, causing man to become a living soul (Fruchtenbaum).

Henry Morris, "Man's body had been completely formed, equipped with nostrils, lungs, and the entire breathing apparatus, as well as bones and organs and other appurtenances, but was lifeless. It must be energized. The breathing mechanism must be activated, the heart must start to pump and circulate the blood, and all the metabolic functions must begin their operations."

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and **the man became a living being**.

"the man became a living being:" without God we have no life, neither physical or spiritual life.

Job 32:8 But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.

Isaiah 2:22 Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils. Of what account is he?

1 Corinthians 15:45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

God breathed into Adam the breath of life. Prior to that it was just a lifeless body. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, we have no spiritual life.

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Praise God that He is still making spiritually dead people, alive! You and I get no credit for our physical life and our spiritual life. All glory to God!

SO WHAT??

I go back to my opening illustration, from Dane Egli's book, *The Crossing*. Why did God send the plagues and why did God part the Red Sea?

Dane Egli, "God's demonstration of power in Egypt through the ten plagues and victory over Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea reflect God's purpose: to reveal His mighty name so He would be known, acknowledged, worshiped, and glorified by Egypt, and ultimately all nations."

Is this any different in your life and mine? Is that not the purposes God has in our lives; that His mighty name would be known, acknowledged, worshiped, and glorified.

Where do I find this? It's in the Bible

*God formed Adam and He has formed me. I am His special creation. My life is to be lived for His honor and glory.

*Out of the dust of the ground. Every moment is a gift from God to be lived with that in mind. I have no standing with God apart from what Jesus Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection for our sins! In and through Jesus great things can be accomplished!

*God breathed life into me, both physically and spiritually: have I given my life to God in salvation and consecration? All credit goes to God for my physical and spiritual life. Without God I have no life! Have I given my life to God and am I living, by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit, to His glory?

