**Genesis and the Doctrine of Man (Part 1)**

**Genesis 1:26 – 2:25**

**1. Scriptural Harmony**

**A. Discrepancy between Chapters 1 and 2?**

**1. The Argument**

**2. The Explanation**

**a. General Environment vs. Specific Environment (Eden)**

**b. Grammar Lesson (Hebrew Use of “*Yatsar” or “formed”)***

**2. Creation of an Environment (Genesis 1:1-25)**

**A. The environment for Man (Genesis 1:28-30, 2:8-15)**

**B. Man from the environment (Genesis 2:7, 3:19)**

**3.** **Generation of Man**

**A. Made in His Image (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7)**

**1. Body (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:7, Colossians 1:15, John 1:14, Acts 1:9-11)**

**2. Spirit = Breath (Genesis 2:7, John 4:24)**

**3. Soul (Genesis 2:7, 1 Corinthians 15:45, Hebrews 10:22, 13:18, Mark 12:30) “We have a body and a spirit, but we are a soul.”**

**B. The Process is Finished on Day 6 (Genesis 2:1-4, Hebrews 4:3-4, 10) – No Evolution**

**C. Kinds**

**1. The Concept of Kinds (10 times in Genesis 1:11-24)**

**2. Man/Nature Distinction (Genesis 1:26-30)**

**3. Man/Woman Distinction (Genesis 1:27, 2:18, 21-23)**

**D. Application**

**1.** **Value human life. (James 1:27, Isaiah 1:17)**

**2. Respond to God. (Micah 6:8, Mark 12:30)**

**3. Defend His word. (1 Peter 3:15, Jude 1:3)**

**Introduction – Scriptural Harmony**

Today we continue on with the Genesis series. We have covered the Creator-Creature Distinction aspect of who exactly God is in relation to His creation, which led to a look at several aspects of His nature. We then examined the connection between Jesus and Genesis, and last week we went over the connection between Jesus’ resurrection and the book of origins. Today we will cover another important doctrine, or teaching, that comes from the first couple of chapters in Genesis – the doctrine of Man, which is a fancy way of saying we’re going to see what Genesis has to teach us about who we are.

So to begin with we will look at a problematic difference between chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis, then we will cover the creation of mankind. I will talk about the environment that was made for man, the process God used to create us, how we were made in His image and likeness, and how we are absolutely NOT a product of evolution. At the end, we will see how we can apply these things we have studied.

Regarding that last point, as I worked on this sermon, I started to ask, “Why is this important for me and the rest of our church to know?” “How will this apply to our walk as Christians?” I prayed about it, and I realized that I needed to look at from another point of view. How does it affect our Christian “walk” or experience when we don’t know what the Bible has to say us about us. And I’m not just referring to what a bunch of degenerate, fallen, evil people we are. That reminds me. When our daughter Amanda was a little girl, we caught her singing a variation of Amazing Grace. She would sing, “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like YOU!” It was hilarious, and to this day, I have a hard time singing the song correctly.

Anyway, this view of mankind we will gain from Genesis is a higher one than you and I tend to hold of ourselves. Remember, we, meaning mankind, weren’t always degenerate, and we will one day be fully regenerate. God made us in His image and proclaimed us as “GOOD.” It is good to have a correct view of ourselves as originally created, especially within the context of nature. This has gone wrong in our society, and we see the ramifications. I’ll explain that later.

Before we get to all that, let me clear something up. It’s sort of an elephant in the room, so to speak. Those who either try to destroy the Genesis account or at least to cast doubt on it will always point to the idea that there are two separate creation accounts that are opposed to one another, one in Chapter 1, and another in Chapter 2. If you simply read through, it will appear as though the order of creation is not the same between chapters one and two. Here’s the deal.

**SLIDE 1**

Chapter one is a literal account of the order of creation, day by day, in chronological order. First this, then this, etc. Chapter two appears to reset the order and to do away with the day-by-day account. The thing about chapter two is that it is an expanded, detailed account of the garden that God made specifically for Adam and Eve, and of the actual creation of Adam and Eve. It amounts to a detailed account of day 6 of creation. That’s all.

Verses 1-4 of Chapter 2 clearly close the discussion of the creative order and move on from there. Remember that the original Hebrew text had no chapter and verse breaks. Those have been added much later, and sometimes cause a little confusion. For instance, some translations include a heading break between verses 3 and 4, which were obviously meant to flow continuously. Verse 5 transitions to what the earth was like before Adam (and later Eve) were created and then goes into how God made the Garden of Eden for them.

Verse 5 could be confusing if not for the word “field.” It is saying that there were no plants for cultivation before there was someone to cultivate them. The plant life referred to in verses 11 and 12 of chapter 1 grew wild and uncultivated. The word “field” that appears twice in verse 5 of chapter 2 relates to the garden that god made for Adam on day 6. No problem. We just have to be diligent and read more carefully.

Verse 9 is talking about the trees of the garden, as opposed to the trees covering the rest of the earth. So again, we see here that this account in chapter 2 is complementary and simply goes into greater detail on the sixth day of creation. But wait, there’s one more hiccup in verse 19.

Verse 19 of Chapter 2 is easily explained within the garden of Eden context and with a little grammatical insight. The word “formed” here is the Hebrew, *Yatsar.* The usage of this word in chapter one is in the perfect tense, and in verse 19 is in the pluperfect (in other words, an action previously completed) tense, which renders it, “had formed.” So this becomes **“Out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air…”**

So to argue that we are talking about a different order of creation here amounts to nothing more than intellectual laziness, if not outright deception.

**SLIDE 2**

Now, getting back to the doctrine of man. Please turn to Genesis 1. Chapter 1, verses 1-25 of Genesis is the chronicle of God’s establishing an environment. An environment for what? What is He doing? Let’s look closer at the order of creation. He is making a place. A place for life to exist. Let’s think for a second. What does verse one say? What did God make first? The heavens. What do we call that? Space. God made space for things. Before He made things, He made a space to put them in. Then what? He made the earth. The earth was formless and watery. Next He made the earth into something we would now recognize. Then what? He created light. God-as-light is a mind-blowing rabbit trail that we will leave alone for today’s purposes. But, it turns out that God is light. We always think Genesis got it backwards. We believe light comes from the sun. But where does the sun get its light? What is the impetus? Oh, and by the way, when He divided His light from the darkness, why did He do that? He first established physical space, and then linear time. I’ll bet you never thought about how Genesis tells us that the God of science established a space-time continuum. Holy Moses! See what I did there?

Anyway, God continues on. He makes the earth habitable. Keep in mind the order in all this. After day three, God makes not light, but LIGHTS. Why? Now we get our first clue as to the importance of humanity. Let’s read this. Starting in verse 14, **“Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. 16Then God made two great [**[**d**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-16d)**]lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also. 17God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good. 19So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”**

So why did God make the lights, the planets, moons and stars? For us. You see, what God has done, beginning with making a physical, tangible space when there was none, is made a place for us! For you and me! Have you ever wrestled with feelings of unworthiness? What if I told you that God stretched out the stars and created the earth for YOU? Maybe now you can see where I’m going with all this. God made all this, everything we can observe, experience, and perceive, FOR US! Why? Because He loves us! He wants us to enjoy it and appreciate it! Have you ever done something for your children or someone else that you love, and you want so badly to show it to them, and tell them how you made it, and you want them to see how much you love them by what you’ve done?

If we look at verses 26-30 here in chapter one, we see that God made not just the heavens, but the earth itself for us.

**“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

**29And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; and it was so.”**

This is excellent, but God takes it one step further for Adam. Verses 8-15 of chapter 2 tell of a special place God made for him.

**“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

**10Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11The name of the first *is* Pishon; it *is* the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where *there is* gold. 12And the gold of that land *is* good. Bdellium and the onyx stone *are* there. 13The name of the second river *is* Gihon; it *is* the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14The name of the third river *is* Hiddekel;[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-45b)**] it *is* the one which goes toward the east of [**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-45c)**]Assyria. The fourth river *is* the Euphrates.**

**15Then the Lord God took [**[**d**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-46d)**]the man and put him in the garden of Eden to [**[**e**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-46e)**]tend and keep it.”**

God made everything for us. Take a second and wrap your head around that. It’s all for us!

As an aside, I will mention God’s spiritual creation. God made spiritual beings at some point, most likely directly after creating the heavens which is a space in which they could exist. This would have consisted of angels. You might be wondering, “Why are they not mentioned in the creation account?” I have a thought about this. Now, please understand. Where scripture is silent we must be very careful. I believe that the reason the angelic creation is not mentioned is a purposeful one. God knows us intimately, and He knows our tendency toward preoccupation with these types of things. I believe we are not to spend too much time on that subject. Having said this, It is worth noting here that Hebrews 1:14 tells us that angels are **“…ministering spirits send forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation”**

How cool is that? Even the angels were made for us!

So God has made us this amazing environment, and in Genesis 1:1-30 and 2:8-15 He tells us how and why He did it. Once this environment is created, the general one described in 1:1-25 and the special garden described in 2:8-15, along with everything needed to thrive within it, God paints His masterpiece. He truly saved the best for last. God made His highest, most important creation from the most basic elements. Let’s read Genesis 2:7 together. Once we’ve read it, keep your finger there, since we will refer to this verse quite a bit from here on out.

**“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.”**

As with so much of God’s Word, there is an awful lot packed into this sentence. From the environment that God made for man, He made man. We came from dirt. This body, this house, was made from the dust, and to dust it will return. Scientifically speaking, this statement is correct, of course. We are made from the chemical elements found in a handful of dirt. Why do you suppose made us from the same elements that He made everything else out of? God took what could be considered ordinary and made it remarkable by breathing His spirit into it. That is to say that there is no room for pride here. We were made from dirt. It is God’s spirit that makes us special.

In case you are wanting to say, “Gotcha, Tony! See we are just animals, made from the same stuff as them!” Let me steer your attention back to chapter 1, verses 20-25. How is the creation of the other living creatures different than that of man? God created them, but in a more general sense. See the phrases “Let the waters abound…and Let birds fly” in verse 20, and “Let the earth bring forth?” in verse 24? In verse 25, all creatures are kind of lumped in, according to their kinds, but then God has a consultation within His Triune Nature, and says, “Okay, now everything is ready, let’s make something that reflects our glory!”

**SLIDE 3**

Genesis 1:26-27 says,

**“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”**

From Genesis 2:7 and 3:19 we know that mankind was made from the earthly elements, from the dust of the ground. This is not to say, however, that we are simply a part of everything, like the pagans and modern science would have us believe. We know from the verse we just read that we were made in the very image and likeness of God. That is to say that the human being is God’s crowning creative achievement. He made us in HIS image. In HIS likeness. Not only in spirit, but in body. I know. “Wait a minute, Tony. God is a spirit.” That’s correct, but consider also that Jesus inhabited the body of a man. Not of anything else. Consider that Satan inhabited the body of an animal when he deceived Eve. Only man and woman were made in God’s image.

What this tells us is that the form of man is the highest ideal or example of God’s immense creativity and ability. Having said this, think about how incredible the prototypes, Adam and Eve, must have been! I, in my present state, can not possibly be a good representation of what God originally made. If the prototype of a dog was a huge, powerful wolf-like animal, and we now have Poodles as a representative of the dog kind, I have to think I am a poodle relative to Adam’s being the ideal man. For one thing, I am fallen, and probably most of the best traits have been bred out of me at this point. Oh, Well. That’s okay. No room for pride here.

Back to our having been made in the image and likeness of God. Let’s not take this statement lightly. While we are fallen versions of the originals, we are still the pinnacle of God’s creation. For some reason, this is controversial these days. In this day and age, it is popular to denigrate humanity and elevate the rest of creation above ourselves. We’ll talk about this in a bit, but it’s worth noting now as we discuss our likeness to God. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. This verse speaks of the man Jesus Christ, who in terms of his physical appearance was nothing special. Isaiah 53:2 speaks prophetically of Jesus’ appearance in saying, **“He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.”**

So it’s not that Jesus was some incredible version of manhood, it’s that He was a man. Just a simple, ordinary man. He was relatable. He had to be in order to be the perfect sacrifice for all of us. Jesus is who we were made in the likeness of. Jesus was not made in our image. Don’t get that wrong.

For the purposes of this sermon, if you can’t accept that we carry the image and likeness of God physically, that’s okay, but you can be certain that human beings in form and function are exactly as God intended, and that He made nothing else in His image, only us.

I think it’s a lot easier for all of us to acknowledge that we were made in the likeness of God on a spiritual level. Again, we are NOT God, but we are somewhat like Him. We share in several aspects of His nature. We are able to love, forgive, think, create, empathize, etc. The point I want to make here goes back to Genesis 2:7, however. Let’s read it again. “**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.”**

I know you caught what is being said here about how man is special. Nowhere else in the creation account is there such a personal connection between God and His creation. God formed other beings from the ground and even gave them life, but of man He says that He **“Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.”** At that point,man became a living being.

Think of this. Man has been created. Adam’s lifeless body is lying on the ground, and God quickens it with His very spirit. Breathing His spirit into the very body of Adam. It is really an intimate image in scripture. At this point, all of Adam’s fully developed systems power up. His respiratory system, circulatory system, metabolic system, all of it start to life and are fully operational instantaneously. What an incredible moment! All Systems Go!

You see, in Hebrew, the word spirit, or “*ruach*” is the same as breath. The two are synonymous. So God breathes into Adam His spirit, imparting life to Adam. As Dr, Henry Morris (one of my heroes in the faith) says so profoundly, “…life can come only from life, and the living God is the only self-existent Being, so it must ultimately come from Him.”

Huh. You mean life can only come from God? At this point we “ignorant” Christians have left the scientific community in the dust. They cannot figure out where life starts or where it goes when it’s gone. They cannot make something live that was not alive. Meanwhile, they are desperately denying the existence of God. What a futile exercise! They’ll never get where they are trying to go!

It was only into man that God breathed life. When the Hebrews spoke of “living” creatures, they meant those who had the “breath of life” within them. We see in Genesis chapter 1 that many creatures received the breath of life, but always indirectly.

The last part of Genesis 2:7 is fascinating. At the instant that God breathed life into Adam, a living soul was created. So now we have flesh, life, and consciousness. Body, spirit, soul. It has been said that we HAVE a body and a spirit, but we ARE a soul. That’s one to sit and contemplate for a while. Some New Testament translations make this a little confusing, since the terms soul and spirit are occasionally interchanged, but make no mistake. Genesis 2:7 makes it clear how this all works. 1 Corinthians 15:45 lends authority to this in saying, **“The first man Adam became a living being.”**

Don’t be thrown off here by the word “being.” In the Greek, the word translated as “being” is ”*psyche.*” (psoo-kay), which also means *soul.* Interestingly, remember that Genesis 1:26 says that God said, “Let Us make man in Our own image.” God is a Trinity, a Triune, or three-part being. So are we. Body, Spirit, and Soul. Pretty Cool.

Before moving on, I want to address the question, “What does it mean that we have a soul?” It’s important to note that animals have souls, too, but theirs are not the same as ours. Genesis 1:24 for example mentions “Living creatures” which simply means that they too have the breath of God in them. They are capable of emotions and have consciousness on some level. However, a major distinction is that they do not have God-consciousness. They are unable to conceive of God or to have a relationship with their Maker.

Another extremely important aspect of Mankind as a special creation has to do with just that, we are a special creation. We are not evolved. We did not emerge or come forth from anything else. This should be evident from all that we have read and talked about so far, but let’s look into this a little more.

**SLIDE 4**

To begin with, the Genesis account is a flat refutation of evolution on many levels. One easy point to make is written in chapter 2 verses 1-4. It says, **“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.4These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.”**

This passage isn’t simply setting up our Sundays. I mean, God didn’t put it there so I could justify watching some football and kicking back after church. He is saying that the creative process is finished. Nothing new to be made. The second law of thermodynamics attests to these verses. That law says essentially that nothing improves over time, everything only degrades, or gets worse. Information and energy are never gained, only lost. This being true, evolution would be impossible, just as the Bible says it is. God made everything and called it GOOD. Good as in “Perfect.” The second law of thermodynamics is a function or result of the fall, and now Science must admit that information and energy cannot be gained, only lost, and they have no idea where that information and energy came from to begin with, or matter, for that matter.

God is done. Scripture attests to this. Hebrews 4:4 says, **“For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”**

Later in verse 10 the writer of Hebrews says, **“For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.”** This reference has to do with our resting once we are dead on earth and present with the Lord. We have finished, just as God did.

What does all this mean? We are not the result of an ages long process of random trial and error, whereby we eventually emerged first as a result of a huge explosion, then from some primordial goo along with everything else. What a hopeless, sad belief system that must be!

One more proof of our status as specially created beings as opposed to evolved accidents comes from an examination of the concept of “Kinds” in Genesis. 10 times in the Genesis creation account of chapter 1 the word “kind” is used. Ever wonder why? Don’t worry, me neither. But now that we notice this, do you think God saw the evolutionary movement coming? Of course He did! The Genesis account is written in such a way as to head those goofy evolutionists off at the pass.

“Each according to its kind.” To this day, you can try to mingle the kinds, to breed a cat and a dog for instance, but it ain’t gonna work, and it never will.

Oh. You say the evidence exists in the fossil record? Well, not really. There is not one good, clear example of a transitional fossil form in the “fossil record.” Not one. There should be millions, right? Nope.

We have already seen how man is special and separate from the rest of creation, and this separation is reinforced by the concept of Kinds. God made different kinds, different classifications, and those lines cannot be crossed.

Along with this distinction between kinds comes a hierarchy of dominion. Not surprisingly, Man is placed at the top. This is not suggested, but commanded. Let’s read Genesis 1:26-28 one more time, this time keeping in mind the idea of kinds and of our status as special creations of God.

**“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over [**[**g**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26g)**]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

So we are to have dominion, which equals responsibility, over all creatures of the earth. All kinds. The whole earth. By the way, there’s another distinction between kinds that is made here. Did you catch it? “Male and female He created them.” When you fool yourself into believing you can blur or erase the lines between kinds, you come up with what we now refer to as the transgender movement. It starts with the individual believing that they are not subject to certain immutable laws that God has put in place. Male and Female He created them. God did not say this about any other kinds, even though it is so. Apparently He knew humans would be foolish enough to challenge this simple truth. We will get heavily into the male female distinction in a couple weeks, so we’ll just leave it here for now.

So what have we accomplished today? We have explained why chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis are written the way they are, and that there is harmony between them. W e have seen how God created an amazing environment for us and how we are created in His image and likeness with a body, spirit, and soul. As His crowning creation, we have been placed in dominion over His creation. We have also seen how God defeated the failed concept of evolution by ending creation on the appointed day and ensuring that there are inviolable kinds. I’d call that a pretty good day. Now let’s see how we can apply all of this.

1. Value human life. (James 1:27, Isaiah 1:17)

2. Respond to God. (Micah 6:8, Mark 12:30)

3. Defend His word. (1 Peter 3:15, Jude 1:3)