

## January 2-Genesis 2

In Genesis 2 we move from the very broad picture of God's creative work in all things to the intimately personal description of God's creation of mankind. Putting chapters 1 and 2 together yield a stunningly glorious glimpse of our God as we see He is both absolutely powerful and sovereign while simultaneously personal and close. We learn in Genesis 2, among other things, two truths about God's relationship to mankind, His chief creation.

First, we see that God carefully crafts man. Genesis 1 repeats a familiar refrain each time God produces another aspect of His creation. Eight times in Genesis 1 the phrase "And God said" is repeated and each time the result of His Word was a new aspect of creation. As we stated yesterday, the entire created world is a product of God's Word. He merely spoke and whatever He commanded to exist supernaturally appeared! While Genesis 1 shares with us that man was created by the Word of God, Genesis 2 takes the time to share in more intimate detail exactly how mankind began. Genesis 2:7 informs us that God "formed the man of dust from the ground." What we have here is the first piece of evidence in the Scriptures that suggests that mankind is somehow different from the rest of creation. While God created all we see, Genesis 2 shares with us that He carefully created man in a unique way.

The picture of God "forming" man is one of a craftsman who carefully carves and shapes his work. God personally and physically created and gave life to man. Adam, our first forefather, was the masterpiece of our great God. Not only that, but the Scriptures share with us that mankind is still molded and created by God in a similar fashion. For instance, Job 33:4 testifies "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." God spoke to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5 saying "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." Also, David testifies about God in Psalm 139:13 "For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb." Our God has intimate knowledge of who we are because He personally and carefully crafted each and every one of us. So, while it is true that God is infinitely powerful and totally incomprehensible to the human mind as we saw in Genesis 1, it is equally true that He is wonderfully personal and totally responsible for your individual life as we are all a direct result of His craftsmanship.

Second, we see that God is the giver of life. Genesis 2:7 shares with us that God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." The very life we enjoy today is given to us by God and God alone. In Acts 17:25b Paul states that God "gives to all mankind life and breath and everything." You and I are here today because God has given us life. Without God there is no life. However, God in His great mercy has not just given us physical life through Adam, He has also made a way for us to have eternal life through the "second Adam" Jesus Christ.

In speaking about Jesus Christ in reference to this verse, Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:47-49 "The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven." Each person who has ever lived on this planet is a descendent of Adam. While their life stories might be radically different, the life that they lived is inextricably linked. All of us are born into the "image" of Adam. We were created out of dust and we will return to dust once we die (Ecclesiastes 3:20). Adam could only impart to us, by God's grace, the life that He was given. However, while Adam's life and all human life is a miracle of God, it is merely temporal. Our association with Adam ensures that we will be born in his likeness. We will live, we will work, and we will die. However Christ, "the man of heaven" in this text, has made it possible for us to be born in His image. Being born in the image of Christ means that we now share with Christ in His eternal life, just like Adam died and so all men will die physically, Christ was resurrected and will live forevermore and so will those who are born in His image as well!