

# **And Man Became a Living Soul**

**Genesis 2:7**

This article has been written for the Faithchasers' Network

And Man became a Living Soul!

*Genesis 2:7      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 soul.*

I would be interested in how many commentaries have been written on the subject of this Verse. Even a short excursion down a literature search reveals comments from Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Pindar, Rohde, Avicenna, al-Nafis, Descartes, Kant and the list just goes on down to today's scholars, and at the end of doing this, a person could be excused for not being any wiser about just what exactly the soul of a man is. There are many comments that rationalise that a man's soul is different to that of animals but all of these fail to secure a line of separation between one and the other.

Indeed we can even turn to the Neurosciences and extract some valid comments about the functionality of the mind however at the end of the day the underlying accepted explanation is that science cannot see, feel, touch or communicate with this enigmatic part of the human makeup that is clearly not flesh and blood.

This leaves us in a quandary with how to answer questions about Genesis 2:7 and how to explain that the lineage of Adamic Man was so contrastingly different to Hominin man who had been present on the Earth some 500,000 years before Adam and Eve appeared. We can say that even though Hominin man had been on the planet for those thousands of years prior he had not been able to escape from the bonds of primitivism for that entire period, and so Adam and Eve came into a world that was populated with Stone Age hunter-gatherer species Neanderthal Man, Cro-Magnon Man and Denisovan Man.

There are no secrets in the bible, but there are passages that have difficult phrasing as in the employment of metaphoric and parable forms. When these forms of literature occur and correspondingly interpreters struggle to convey the authorial intent inevitably somewhere in the cascading pyramid of readership confusion will follow. However if we wish to discuss material from the Book of Genesis, apart from the issues just mentioned, it is necessary (note I said "necessary") that the etymology of the Hebrew language be respected. Let me explain.

There are still many scholars today who hold fast to the Book of Genesis being authored by Moses and his scribes, and there would be few who would argue differently apart from questioning the very authenticity of the Bible. But this has proven to be a myopic view of Genesis generally but also of Creation in particular. When Adam and Eve appeared on the Earth they came into a world

that was populated by Stone Age Neanderthal (and likely also Cro-Magnon and Denisovan) man. This early form of mankind (Genesis 1:26-27) did not have a high skill factor, did not have articulate speech, did not have all of the physical attributes of Adamic man and was low IQ with limited brain function. Hence, in part this is why he was literally unable to escape his primitivism over the 500,000 years of his occupancy.

Contrast this with Adam who had articulate speech with high IQ and a high functioning brain. We see all of these attributes in the scripture, ie nomenclature, discourse with God, and inter-functionality with Eve. We also recognise that within a very short time frame after Adam and Eve were released out into the wide world that we see the onset of the Metal Minerals Age, ie copper and tin, followed by the Bronze Age and subsequently the two Iron Ages. We also see civic and civil development, metallurgy, the fine arts and husbandry, and for this article the introduction of a system of information retention that was to be carried down thousands of years and many generations. So I make the point, all of this occurred within hundreds of years of Adam's appearance whereas with hominin man who was not able to rise above his self-serving needs of hand-to-mouth existence in the course of half a million years.

It was a watershed moment to understand that in fact Adam and Eve were taught (or given) articulate speech and as mentioned we see evidence of this in the Genesis account, so for simplicity I have called this God-given language Hebrew. Even Paleo-Hebrew if you will. But this language was only in the oral modality. Adam and Eve did not have language communication in the written modality.

It was an important finding by Jewish scholars that the early Genesis scripts, as they found them in the writings attributed to Moses and his scribes were in the form of poetry and prose, and further work on these led to an amazing understanding that the Genesis account is a compendium of ancient song lines. Putting these two significant pieces of information together brings us to the discovery that these song lines were passed down the generations, as song-lines are in all indigenous communities, from Adam to the time of Moses. And whilst Moses was charged with introducing the written modality of communication into the Hebrew nation, he carried the oral language, as did all of the Hebrew community that was carried down the thousands of years. We therefore should give credit to Adam and Eve for their sculpturing of the early oral language, and then to Moses' credit he did not interfere with the oral construction of those song-lines when he struck them in the written modality. So when we read the early Genesis account we are reading the ancient oral song-lines constructed by Adam.

You may ask how the successive communities carried the song-lines so accurately down the thousands of years. Once again we go back to the rich Jewish/Hebrew culture and find that their oral traditions of communication were particularly strong. Information was put into prose and poetry and remembered through a memory system of rote learning. In fact this is so common place in society today that we often don't recognise its importance.

The significance of having identified an ancient oral system from the time of Adam and Eve is that, (contrary to the popular thought that Moses convened with God to learn the history of our Creation and the development of the fledgling Hebrew nation), it was Adam who spoke with God directly and it could only have been God that conveyed the order and substance of the Creation period to Adam. It is not conjecture that Adam put this detail into song-lines because we do in fact have them with us today. *Ipsa facto*.

Now why I have been so detailed in coming to this point is that all of this information is necessary before we approach the Genesis script for interpretation. Unlike the literary works of the early Hebrew period that have undergone examination and determination of meaning through the rules of hermeneutics, rhetorical works do not follow the same construction patterns and do not conform to literary concepts. In fact we see evidence of rhetorical devices throughout these early pieces and in many of these areas there is much debate as to the interpretational outcomes.

Oral forms of information retention and retrieval have their own rules, even their own forms of sentence construction that have been so carefully pared back to be extremely succinct and straight forward. Often vital information is missed because we over-read the song-line in its text form and it is this one factor that attributes to a large loss of understanding of the Genesis events. *For further information about song line interpretation please refer to the article "Genesis Revisited Through Ancient Song Lines" that is available on this website for viewing or download.*

Returning to our theme, we need to re-visit Genesis 2:7.

*Genesis 2:7      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 soul.*

The verse is very succinct and it can cover enormous periods of time in the space of a comma. A classic example of this is recognising the continuity of the Creation story from Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 1:2. Science has proffered (with evidences) that the time span between the universe coming into being and the

forming of the planet Earth is circa 10 billion years and the link to this vast time gap is the single word rendered in the English language “was” in Genesis Chapter One Verse 2. So we need to pay attention to every word in these scripts.

*Genesis 2:7 (1) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground*

We could have a lengthy discussion on this first sector of the verse. We could talk about man being “formed” not “created”, ie the two words are completely different, and if confused will alter the outcomes of the whole Creation event. Also the “dust” that Adam was formed from is not the same as the “ground” within the Garden of Eden and this is significant. But we can accept that God formed Adam from the dust of the ground.

*Genesis 2:7 (2) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;*

The word “breathed” means to “blow” or “puff” it is the straight forward verb in past tense meaning to breathe. It is not a word indicating the passing of the holy spirit into the Adamic body but simply that God “susitated” (ancient meaning) Adam’s body and he became living. Let’s move on.

*Genesis 2:7 (3) and man became a living soul.*

How easy is it to over-read this last phrase? For reasons that are explained above, we should not assume that phrase (3) is connected directly to the first actions of God. In the first action, God forms man from dust, the second action is that God breathed life into the man and the third is that Man became a living soul. The key we are looking for here is locked up in the rhetorical construction of the song-line. Phrase (3) is not directly connected in cause and effect to giving man a soul. The first two phrases are subset in direct action and re-action, ie God forms man and brings him to life. What has been missed is that God had formed man complete with the accommodation of a soul. This was done before God breathed the life into him so immediately Adam breathed, he had a functioning soul.

But wait, there’s more (as they say). Notice that it is not “just” a soul. As our scientific experts would tell us, animals have a form of soul. Neanderthal man would have had a form of a soul. Pretty well all animal life forms have a soul. But Adam had a “living” soul. And this is what makes Adam and Eve so completely different to not only Hominin man that was still remnant on the planet at that time but also animals. And the reason science cannot differentiate between Hominin man and Adamic Man is that they cannot identify, see, feel or

touch any sort of soul whether it is an instinctive (ie unenlivened) soul or a living soul.

A question is also raised about modern man and when a newly born “gets” a soul. The answer is along the same lines as we have discussed with Adam. When a baby takes on life and beathes, the little life comes with built-in living soul.

The difference between an unenlivened soul that operates from an instinctive base and that of a human living soul is interesting and only really becomes apparent when we look over all of the scriptures, Hebrew and Greek, at how the word Soul is used and what human function interacts with it. It is commonly thought that the soul is a form of moderator in the outward functionality of human behaviour. For instance in a Christian context it is thought to be a conduit between the body and the spirit and is an intrinsic functional component in the relationship between man and God.

Certainly the soul of a man is immortal beyond our physical death and it is this “component” of man that the Great War between Satan and God has been raging since the Garden of Eden. But why is man’s soul so valuable to either God or Satan? Well firstly if we look at why God put man on a planet in this physical dimension it will direct our view to what God is going to ultimately achieve – and what Satan is trying to stop. The Book of Revelation speaks of a New Jerusalem coming out of the heavens and therein at the very end of days God will bring all of the faithful souls to abide there with him for eternity.

The part we don’t often think about is that there are a finite number of souls that will transition through this physical domain, and in part the objective of Satan is to spoil the outcome of having 100% of these souls being rewarded in the New Jerusalem. The scriptures are not abundantly clear about Satan’s relationship with God even though we are told that Satan will be put into eternal torment at his eventual end, but along the way he troubles and tempts every man to test if they are obeying God or rebelling against him, just as Eve and Adam were subject to in the Garden of Eden.

Every man woman and child carries within them a living soul. And every person will make a decision before they pass on if they are to go with God to eternal life in the form of their immortal soul or if they are to be cast aside. Our physical bodies die and return to the dust of the ground but it is the rest that we should be concerned about.

It takes a very short walk through scripture using a concordance to clearly see that Body, Soul and Spirit are independent in their idiosyncratic functions of our

consciousness; and as we have already discussed, when we read that Adam became a living soul in the song line Genesis 2:7, we understood this to only mean that Adam simply took on life. We did not read into this ancient song-line that his soul independently took on a life of its own and would influence behaviour and thought processes of a new human race arising from new genes introduced into the gene pool of mankind by this new Adamic Homo Sapien Sapien.

Whereas Hominin Man had a soul it was unenlivened, ie instinctive and perhaps could be likened to that of a new born child or even an animal, Adamic Modern Man had what I am reluctant to refer to as an inner man, but in simplistic terms it best describes this strange behaviour of self-awareness, conscience and psychological inner conflict to name a few.

Often you will see diagrammatic representations of the human make-up represented by three circles and named the Body, the Soul and the Spirit. This conforms to the common model but falls short to explain the whole story of the relationship between the three. One could endeavour to list the traits of each entity and how they can be individually identified however having tried to do this, it is an inadequate method to convey any detail succinctly in writing. Remember this is a complex issue that science and Neuro-research have not been able to understand, none-the-less it is worthy to convey some detail of these inward parts and I think that a scenario based exercise will be of greater help – but they are simplistic so your patience is sought.

The characters (who are real) are: Mind, Heart , Body, Soul and Spirit. Scripture often refers to the Flesh as an entity within our consciousness, and again, a short walk into the concordance is most illuminating . Flesh is a term that embodies (no pun intended) those components of ourselves that are destined for death, ie our physical body, and those parts that are either pre-regenerate before they are born again or, cannot be regenerated. These are Heart, Mind, natural Soul, natural spirit.

Of course when a person becomes born again through their turn around in life after seeing their rebellion against God as sin, and in believing there is a God (the Adamic revelation) and accepting the fact that Jesus Christ our Saviour has taken the punishment for their transgressions, then the pre-regenerate components move to being regenerate. These are Soul and Spirit. However a believing Christian will always have his Flesh and his Mind until it is removed and becomes dust.

I have endeavoured to better explain the interactions within our consciousness with two examples in the form of scenarios depicting an everyday life experience of a Christian believer.

### **Scenario (1)**

It is a wet and cold Saturday afternoon and we have just finished clearing up after lunch.

Body is just wandering around and looks at Heart.

Heart says , “How about we have a play on the piano .”

Body thinks, “Well I have no objection, there is nothing to do outside, it’s cold and wet.”

Mind stirs himself and canvasses this and other options, consults with Soul, who is neither here nor there about it all and says, “Okay, we will go and have a play of the piano.”

Body is directed by Mind to go to the piano and to sit down. But no sooner had he done this when Heart starts to jump about.

“Let’s play some boogie woogie. It’s fun, its fast and loud and it makes me feel good.” says Heart.

Mind has a think about this, looks at Soul who is starting to shuffle backwards.

Mind says, “No! we are going to play some gospel music to start with and then try the more difficult songs from that Christian musical, The Witness.”

Heart says, “But you always play that. I want to play boogie woogie.”

Mind says, “No!” gospel music it is.” As he watches Soul step forward again and lift himself up in stature.

Mind continues, “Well off you go Body, start playing out of that Gospel Book over there.”

Body does as he is instructed and commences to play. As this continues Soul becomes quite animated and he noticed Spirit, who had been slumbering in the corner, doing a little dance. Before we knew it Mind is singing along with Soul, Body is doing a little rhythmic sway to the beat and Spirit and Soul are dancing. Heart, now resigned to the fact boogie woogie was not going to happen, settles back and relaxes to the melodious harmony flowing through them all.



### **Scenario (2)**

It’s a glorious day outside, sun is shining, the temperature is pleasant with only a whisp of breeze blowing through the Wisteria dangling down the side of the kitchen window.

Having seen outside, Heart announces in a loud voice, “Let’s go fishing.” But Mind has been mulling over a conversation he had last Sunday with Mrs Roberts who had asked if he could come and clear the leaves that were blocking

the gutters and spouts from around the house. She had told Mind that since her hubby had passed away that this was one job she couldn't do. Mind thought about this and it troubled him, and now that Heart had decided that he only wanted to fish, Mind was struggling with what they should do to keep the peace.

Body was a bit excited about going fishing, recalling the thrill of reeling in a catch and sitting in the sun getting a good tan. So Body said to Mind, "Oh come on. We never go fishing."

But Soul, sensing that there was an issue here sent a secret message to Mind through his Conscience Message Alert app (CMA) saying, "It's going to rain in the next day or so and Mrs Roberts really needs help. We all need to look after the widows in the church."

Mind reads this message and is swayed into thinking that the fishing trip will have to wait and was just about to say this when Heart and Body front up to Mind and remind him how long it was since they have all enjoyed an outing to go fishing. Heart was so determined to have his way that he pushed Mind and stood over him with Body beside him.

"We haven't done this for such a long time and we never have fun anymore," whined Heart with Body nodding in agreement. "Just this once, come on, remember how much fun we used to have. It won't hurt to do it this one time, and besides we can tell Mrs Roberts we had some important business to take care of and we're sorry, but we can do her job next weekend."

Mind looked over at Soul. Soul had this sad look about him as he went and sat in the corner. Mind noted that no one had seen Spirit for quite a while either.

"What are we to do?" Mind thought. "Sure, we could clean Mrs Roberts gutters next week and really - going fishing would be nice."

"Okay Okay Okay!" announced Mind. "We are going fishing."

On hearing this, Soul moaned quietly and longed for Spirit to return. Soul said nothing for all that day and the next day as well and everyone commented that he didn't look very well. But then this wasn't unusual for Soul who often didn't want to have fun.



Returning back to our theme, the Soul, with the inspiration and motivation from the Holy Spirit within, must be nurtured and encouraged. It must be fed with spiritual food and exercised frequently. It must be fit and healthy and switched on to what is continuously going on about the person. The Christian message is clear about what needs to be done to nurture that part of us that will go on to immortality. We should strive to build our Soul up into that part of us that will go forward to eternal life. Otherwise we will have a very nervous time at the Judgement Seat of God's Great White Throne. The real truth of this matter is,

and it's a gemstone of the purest quality, is that our soul is the real us. Think about that!

Scripture gives us instructions for how we should nurture our souls, God gives us his Holy Spirit when we turn our lives around and stop the anti-God rebellion and it is the Holy Spirit within that feeds our soul. Importantly, it is the Holy Spirit that badges our soul to show that it belongs to God. Hence it will be raised from death.

The best analogy I can give is that we develop after regeneration what some might call a split personality. We have our old ways, ie an alliance of body/heart/mind making decisions and wanting to do all worldly things, and we have our regenerate souls also with life that will war against our carnality for a dominance to lead us to walk in Salvation. For a Christian, our soul will always be directing our activities and thoughts to God and when these are conflicted with pressure from our Flesh it is the strength of the Spirit that raises our Soul up to be dominant in what we, the person, actually does. Of course if our soul is not nurtured and our spirit weak then our person will tend to do mostly worldly activities and have worldly thoughts.

So if a person never goes for God, they are all lost to death. If our souls are not nurtured and not allowed to grow, they are emaciated and are in great jeopardy of losing their identity. The sad part of this is that when our life's race crosses the finish line, our natural soul (devoid of God's Spirit) is not recognised and is not caught up and rescued.

There is a lot more that could be said on this matter. As many books that there are currently written about the human psyche, the number could be infinitely increased if we properly recognised the real purpose and componentry of transitioning unregenerate man in this physical terrestrial dimension through to regenerate man with a renewed consciousness of an independent soul and spirit. And I strongly suggest that it was only God's wisdom that gave us the Bible with the information and instruction to understand what this means knowing that science could not comprehend what a living soul was in the first place, let alone a living soul that was regenerate with the Holy Spirit within.

Very clearly, science is not able to step into the spiritual dimension, and this is perhaps a blessing in itself given their anti-God stance on everything else. But the Hebrew/Christian community can still benefit from Science's research into aspects of the Cosmos and our planet to fill in the gaps between the song lines pertaining to Genesis. One day when Science sees the ancient song lines for the rare and invaluable resource that they are and use these as a framework to direct

their research then all of humankind will reap the benefits of seeing what Adam's revelation to the world was: there is a God!

Geoffrey Rooke