

Genesis 2:1-7 – God gave man the Sabbath, Sustenance, and a Soul

Delitzsch, TSK, HebrewLexicon, GreekLexicon, Gill, Poole, Geneva, JFB, Henry, Trapp, Clarke, Calvin, Handfuls, Armstrong, Sailhamer, INT

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

In Genesis 1 you saw that **God created the world and it was good.**

Then **God created man and he was very good.**

Then **God gave man a command to have dominion over the world.**

In chapter 2, you will see **the details of how God would sustain man so he could have dominion.**

Our headings are:

Man has a Sabbath

Man has Sustenance

Man has a Soul

Our goals are: That you will be **more motivated, having been made and re-made in Jesus Christ, the 2nd Adam, to bring the world under the dominion of Christ.** (And why? For his glory!)

Man has a Sabbath

1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the **host** of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

1. After God finished his mighty works of creation (and he calls them “armies” of heaven and earth – who do his bidding) he rested on the 7th day.

Man’s first day after his creation was the Sabbath Day, and the 1st day of man’s week as the Sabbath is promptly restored when man was re-created in Jesus Christ.

2. Did God really need a day off to rest, however?

“No, he didn’t.” Why then does the Bible say God rested?

When the Bible says God rested it meant God **ceased from his regular creating work.**

God’s work of sustaining his creation continues forever.

But no new things would be created after creation. Donkeys are always donkeys. Fish are always fish.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, **The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.** His understanding is unsearchable.

God is never exhausted...a concept difficult to imagine for those with 60-hour work-weeks.

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." 18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

If God withheld his hand from creation, all creation would cease to exist. God's sustenance is fundamental to existence.

Proverbs 15:3 The **eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.**

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it **He rested from all His work** which God had created and made.

3. Then God blessed the Sabbath Day.

This means the Sabbath is special in God's sight. And since man was made in God's image, man had to treat it as special too.

4. The Sabbath was instituted from the beginning of the world (Hebrews 4:3), and was simply reiterated by Moses in the 10 commands.

Moses wrote: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

The Sabbath was kept before the law was given. Exodus 16.

God mentions 3X he did not work on the Sabbath-hinting that neither the Father, nor the Son, nor the Holy Spirit worked.

Was this for God's benefit? No. It was for man's instruction and example!

5. Lessons:

a. If God said something he made was good, acknowledge it as good and treat it with the appropriate respect.

If God says his Sabbath is special, it should be special to you! The Sabbath makes you rich. (If every day were like Christmas, would that be good? No! That would not be special!) Neither is the Sabbath every day, but one in seven.

b. All mankind must now worship Jehovah each Sabbath.

Use it to look back at the work God has done for you and what he will do for you in the future.

Use it to reflect on the glories of his creation and the wonders of your re-creation in Jesus Christ.

Use it to think of your eternal rest in heaven.

c. If you are blind to the glories of God's creation and his grace of re-creation in Jesus, your Sabbath becomes sickly— not a blessed day.

This will make you poor.

You will have little reason to worship.

But if you use the Sabbath to see the glories of your creation and his grace of your re-creation, you will use the Sabbath as a day to truly glorify God.

Man Has Sustenance

4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had **not caused it to rain** on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

1. God gave man a world that was growing and thriving to meet man's needs; man did not have to start from scratch.

He simply formed plants on the 3rd day of creation, by his words, causing them to come out of the earth.

He used no seeds nor did any planting. No photosynthesis took place—for the sun was not yet made.

2. God sent a mist from the oceans and watered the whole face of the earth.

Literally, the mist gave the land a drink.

He took care of the plants before man was made, teaching that man was not essential! God gave...God sent!!!

3. Lessons:

a. God was the source of Adam's sustenance. Whatever Adam needed God gave him.

There was no snow or rain to bother him.

There were no dangerous animals.

Man was able to be free.

The temperature was perfect. 21.5C. Just my guess.

b. God is still the source of your sustenance, even in a fallen world.

He controls even where the snow falls (Halifax, not Toronto!)

Yes, God provides everything you need to do the work he has called you to do.

c. You are not that special by yourself; you don't have intrinsic self-worth!

Everything you have, you have received. God made you special...and for his glory.

Man has a soul

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 being**.

1. God made man out of the dust of the ground and fashioned him according to his will and pleasure.

God did not start with dry dust, but some kind of mixture of clay and water.

Job 33:6 Truly I *am* as your spokesman before God; **I also have been formed out of clay.**

This clay mix was then shaped like a potter shapes his clay pots.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You *are* our Father; We *are* the clay, and **You our potter**; And all we *are* the work of Your hand.

Science confirms man is but dust...similar to the earth...You see man is dust when he dies.

2. God then breathed in man and he became a living being or a living soul!

Notice soul is used here in the generic sense, meaning it referred to his “body and soul.”

The lump of clay received physical life and a soul.

This meant man was not only capable of performing the functions of animal life like eating, drinking, walking, but also of thinking, reasoning, and talking as a rational creature.

He knew good from bad. But there is more: **Man needed a soul** to do the great work and God gave him one.

3. As soon as God established a relationship with man, he identified himself as Yahweh – covenant God.

Man has a lot in common with animals physically, but not spiritually. No animal has communion with God.

All of creation was “created” but man was “formed” showing the supremacy of man in creation.

And then God breathed life into him.

Man needed a relationship with God to do the great work God set before him.
So man needed a soul.

4. Lessons:

a. The fact God made you out of the dust should cause you to remain humble before the Lord... humble enough to worship him daily.

After all, how could man glory in the excellency of his nature?

Men are “of the earth, earthy, dust, and ashes, is dust, and to dust you shall one day return.” Gill.

Job calls the earth “the mother’s womb.”

b. Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah’s Witnesses are in error when they argue human life and the soul are one and the same.

They argue, when you die and your life leaves your body, your soul dies and it ceases to exist.

The Bible teaches **you have human life and a soul which are tied together**, but **that human life can pass away while the soul never dies**.

The soul will spend eternity in heaven or hell. But human life passes like animal life passes. (Genesis 7:22)

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

What confuses the SDA's and the JW's is that the word "soul" is used in various ways in the Bible.

Sometimes "soul" means **body and soul**, sometimes, **body**, and sometimes, **purely the soul**.

Soul can sometimes even be **used for emotion**. Even

God is described as having a soul.

Only context will tell you which meaning of soul is being used!

Look at when "soul" refers to the spiritual part of your being!

Deuteronomy 4:29 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you **seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul**.

Look at when "soul" refers to the body. Only the body enjoys water and food.

Proverbs 25:25 As **cold water to a weary soul**, So is good news from a far country.

Ecclesiastes 2:24 Nothing is better for a man than that **he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor...**

Look at when "soul" refers to body and soul...like when we say "SOS...like on plane in distress."

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, **all souls are mine**; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it shall die.

In our text, “living being” meant the complete person: a physical body, physical life, and a soul as well.

c. Man lost that ability to worship and work of God and it had to be restored through the 2nd Adam, Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 15: 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." **The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.** 46 However, **the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.** 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.**

d. Praise God for the creation of your soul and the re-creation of your soul. Then pray and work for the spread of Christ’s kingdom over the whole world.

e. No soul...then no covenant...then no grace.

Conclusion:

God gave man a **Sabbath rest** to reflect on the past blessing of God and to be prepared in body and spirit for his future work and blessings.

God assisted man by providing **mist for watering the earth.**

God **formed man out of the dust,** breathed in him, and made him a living being with a soul.

This would make man realize he was special to God, and yet he had to be humble, remembering his humble origins, as he worked for dominion.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus:

1. Since your purpose in this world is to have dominion and bring glory to Christ, and since you have been renewed with this ability to do so through Jesus Christ, do it.

2. In order to do it, take advantage of the gifts.

Use the Sabbath.

Use your sustenance.

Use your soul.

Don’t focus on your own pleasure and profit.

3. The world doesn't even know how much it needs to come into Christ's kingdom.

They are blind.

Your eyes have been opened by the Lord.

Lead the blind to the Lord.

Finally, if you refuse to recognize Christ is Creator and Re-Creator, you will neither enter nor enjoy that eternal Sabbath rest in heaven where man will have peace with God forever.

But if you want that peace, you need to see your sinfulness, repent of it, and accept by faith the work of Jesus Christ.