

*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. Introduction

### A. God's viewpoint

1. God's name is above all names
2. Man has a created soul that will live forever
3. God invites man to look beyond their earthly existence

*Luke 12:19-20* <sup>19</sup> *And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.* <sup>20</sup> *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

*Mark 8:36-37* <sup>36</sup> *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?* <sup>37</sup> *Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

### B. Four unique characteristics of created soul

## II. Useless Dust

### A. Fragile entrance – man's beginnings made out of dust

1. Remember where humans came from

*Genesis 18:27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:*

2. God remembers that humans are made out of dirt

*Psalms 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

3. Dust defined as fine particles of dirt of no economic value

### B. Fleeting existence – temporary earthly life

1. Earthly life is very temporary

*1 Chronicles 29:15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.*

2. Human earthly life only appears for a short season of time

*1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*

C. Future exit – earthly death in the end

1. All humans die on earth

*Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

2. Spirit of man returns to God

*Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

III. Unique Design – God’s designs

A. Remarkable labor – unusual work of creation

1. God spoke physical universe into existence (“Let there be” or “Let the”) – Genesis 1:1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24
2. But God made or formed (shaped) humans specifically from the dust of the ground

*Genesis 5:1-2 <sup>1</sup> This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; <sup>2</sup> Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*

3. David sings of the wonder of the created human body

*Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

4. All life is created in web of delicate & intricate systems

B. Reflecting likeness – image of God

1. Human life is sacred because it is made in image of God

*Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

2. God reminds all that humans are still in God’s image, even after sin

*Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

3. Humans protect & preserve life because human life reflects image of God

4. God reveals Himself inside humans that He is greater than themselves

*Romans 1:19-20* <sup>19</sup> *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.* <sup>20</sup> *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

5. Even physical universe shows God's hand of creation

*Psalms 19:1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.)* *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

#### IV. Uncommon Deposit – unusual gift from God

##### A. Emitted breath – God given breath of life

1. In the beginning man became a living soul
2. Contrast other portions of creation
  - a. Stars, planets, moons, rocks, & water are not living and do not have soul
  - b. Animals have life with personalities & behaviors similar to humans, but not in image of God

3. Man is both soul and spirit

*Zechariah 12:1* *The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:23* *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- a. Only humans ask questions of beginning & end
  - i. "Where did I come from?" – mystery of life
  - ii. "Where will I go when I die?" – question of afterlife
- b. Only humans interested in thread of history or time
  - i. Writing to preserve human history – memory of themselves after death
  - ii. Art & sculpture to preserve likeness of themselves & their world
  - iii. Storytelling – preserving stories of ancestors & current practices
  - iv. Attempts to understand origins
  - v. Longing to predict the future

4. But God predicts end of physical world & all its things

*2 Peter 3:7, 10<sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ...<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

5. And physical death of man does not end human existence

## B. Eternal being – who is eternal?

1. God is eternal being without beginning or end

*Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

*Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

2. Nothing more important than human soul

3. Each human soul created, but will live somewhere forever

- a. Each human has appointment with physical death

*Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

- b. Each human must decide their final destination

- i. Anyone can call upon God to save them

*Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

- ii. Message of the gospel

*1 Corinthian 15:3-4<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

- iii. Human decision to believe God or not to believe God

*John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

## V. Unmistakable Desire – God’s desire with humans

### A. Proper reverence

1. God is worthy to receive worship

*Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

2. Kneel down before God the Creator

*Psalm 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.*

3. God does not share worship with any other gods that humans make

*Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

### B. Perpetual relationship – God desires each human for His family

1. Each human responsible for their own future

*Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

*Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

2. Eternal God wants humans to live with Him forever

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

3. Be doers of God’s Word

*Jams 1:21-22* <sup>21</sup> Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

4. Christian is either at home in their physical body or home with the Lord

*2 Corinthians 5:6, 8* <sup>6</sup> Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ... <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

## VI. Conclusion

- A. God created man out of the dirt of the ground

- B. Man made in the image of God
- C. Human soul is created but will live forever
- D. God created man to have family relation with Him