

Who am I?

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Introduction



How did we come into existence? Who are we?
Why are we here? What is to become of us?



Today, we will talk about man, mankind in general,
and you and me in particular.



What is man, or better yet, who are we?

Since the propagation of the Theory of Evolution by Charles Darwin, many believe that man is a product of random evolution over billions of years.



According to a Pew Research Center survey done a few years ago, 51% of the respondents from the Science community believe in some form of deity; of which, 33% say they believe in God, while 18% say they believe in a divine being. The other half do not believe in a higher power.

We would have thought that more scientists believe in God. We believe the observable world proclaims the glory of God.



Romans 1:19-20

19 Since what may be **known about God is plain** to them, because God has made it plain to them.

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being **understood from what has been made**, so that people are without excuse.



We see God through His creation.
The best proof of God's existence, is our existence.



The law on biogenesis states that “Life can only come from life.” Therefore, all life can only come from a ‘pre-existing’ Lifegiver.

The Scripture says Jesus is the author of life.



Acts 3:15

You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.



Today we will talk about the nature of man. We will talk about man, not from a scientific perspective but from a Scriptural perspective.



In the course of this discussion, we will cover four (4) subjects, they are:

1. What is man?
2. What is man made from?
3. What is the nature of man?
4. What is the ultimate destiny of man?



These are questions that have confounded philosophers, scientists and even theologians alike for millennia. Yet, the answer is plainly revealed in the Bible.



The Man



The nature of man should not be a mystery. God, our Creator has made it plain to us. Man is the crowning glory of God's creation. God has revealed His plan and purpose for the creation of mankind in the pages of the Bible - from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation.



“What is man?”

Man was created on the sixth (6th) day of the creation week. Of all God’s creation, man alone is special. God prepared man’s habitat for 5 days before creating Adam on the sixth day. The entire creation and fashioning of earth is for man. The atmosphere, vegetation and animal life are part of the ecology that sustains human life. The centerpiece, pride and joy of God’s creation is man – you, me in particular.



Genesis 1

11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, **according to their various kinds.**” And it was so.

12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed **according to their kinds** and trees bearing fruit with seed in it **according to their kinds**. And God saw that it was good.

13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.



On the third day, God created the plant kingdom in its vast array after their various kinds. On the fifth and part of the sixth day, God created the sea life and the animal kingdom.



Genesis 1

20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”

21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, **according to their kinds**, and every winged bird **according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good.



Genesis 1

22 God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.



Genesis 1

24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures **according to their kinds**: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, **each according to its kind.**” And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals **according to their kinds**, the livestock **according to their kinds**, and all the creatures that move along the ground **according to their kinds**. And God saw that it was good.



After creating the perfect habitat and ecology of earth, God was ready to create man to live and rule over the creation. Man is the purpose and reason for the entire creation.



Genesis 1

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”



Genesis 1

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”



So, what is man?

Man is fashioned in the image and likeness of the Creator. Man is made according to the God-kind. This is a shocking and awesome statement when you truly contemplate upon it. It's the truth – right out of the pages of the Bible. This is how precious mankind is to God. We are made according to the God-kind!



If we are made in the God-kind,
why are we still mortal?



What Is Man Made From?



The Hebrew word for man is 'Adam,' which means "ruddy or redness." It refers to "Red Earth" or simply called "Red Clay." Man is literally made from the dust of the earth –clay to be more specific.



Genesis 3:19

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were **taken; for dust** you are and to **dust you will return.**”



Man is composed of physical materials from the ground. Almost 99% of the mass of the human body is made up of six elements: oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus. Only about 0.85% is composed of another five elements: potassium, sulfur, sodium, chlorine, and magnesium. All of the elements needed for life are common in the earth's crust – the clay.

Therefore, we are made from dust and at death, we return to dust.



Yet, of all the creation that God had made, it is only man whom God breathed into the nostrils of. God made man unique. He endowed man with intellect, reason, logic, feeling, emotion and creativity coupled with a high functioning capability and more importantly, consciousness.



Therefore to be alive, self-aware, conscious, active, functioning and sustaining is to be God-like. What we are experiencing today – this physical mortal life, this awareness, consciousness – is a preview of what God is like. This is the gift that God has endowed mankind. Man created in God's image and likeness is not only with reference to shape, form or functioning mental capacity, but with a greater potential. Hence, God gave mankind rulership and dominion over the whole earth.



The Composition of Man



What is the nature of man?
What is the composition of a mortal being?



Genesis 2:7

“Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a **living soul** (KJV) - **living being** (NIV).”



The Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology describes the word "soul" as:

"The Old Testament Hebrew word so rendered is nepes . It appears 755 times in the Old Testament. The King James Version uses 42 different English terms to translate it. The two most common renderings are "soul" (428 times) and "life" (117 times)..."



The Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology describes the word "soul" as:

Nepes in the Old Testament is never the "immortal soul" but simply the life principle or living being. Such is observable in Genesis 1:20, 21, 24, where the qualified (living) *nepes* refer to animals and is rendered "living creatures."



Genesis 1 (KJV)

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the **moving creature** (nephesh) that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every **living creature** (nephesh) that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth **the living creature** (nephesh) after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.



The Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology describes the word "soul" as:

The same Hebrew term is then applied to the creation of humankind in Genesis 2:7, where dust is vitalized by the breath of God and becomes a "living being." Thus, human being shares soul with the animals. It is the breath of God that makes the lifeless dust a "living being" person."



Thus, NIV has the better translation in this case as it reads: the man became a living being.

The Bible does not teach about the immortality of the soul. Nowhere in the Scripture can we find a teaching about an immortal soul. The Bible plainly teaches that the Old English word soul refers to a living being – a man.



When a man sins he shall die, and that is written in
Ezekiel 18:4

“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As
well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins
shall die.” (NKJV)



The principle of this fundamental truth can be found
in Romans 6:23.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is
eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



The penalty of sin is death, not souls being tormented for eternity in hell fire. The Scripture is clear that everlasting life is a gift from God. Eternal life is a gift to the faithful, it is not something anyone possesses inherently at birth.



If man had an immortal component that will continue to live after the physical death, then mankind would already possess the power of immortality within himself and would not need to be saved by Christ.



But, Jesus said in John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes** in him **shall not perish but have eternal life.**”



Jesus said that only those who believe in Him will have everlasting life – because eternal life or immortality is a gift! Immortality is not something man inherently possesses. Eternal life is a gift that is pre-conditioned upon accepting Christ as our personal savior. Man does not have an immortal soul.



Body and Soul



Before we proceed further, lets us turn to

Matthew 10:28.

“be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”



Does the verse suggest the possibility of an immortal soul? What did Jesus want to convey?



To simplify the explanation of the nature of man, we will reduce it to an understandable set of equations. And you will be pleasantly surprised by how simple the nature of man is.



What is man made of?

The Bible says God formed man, Adam – meaning red earth, from the dust of the ground. When Adam was first formed, he was just a lifeless body.



Therefore, man's material body is made from the dust of the earth. It is physical, composed of matter – dust of the earth.

The creation process of man is recorded in Genesis 2:7 “Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground...”

The body that was formed from the dust of the ground was inanimate and lifeless.



Adam = Body



When God breathed the breath of life into man's nostril, God brought man to life. The body was animated. The man became living being.



Breath, *nshamah* in Hebrew means puff or wind.
When it entered into Adam it gave life – vitality,
intellect and consciousness. Then Adam became a
living being (nephesh).



The spirit in Hebrew is “Ruach” and “pneuma” in Greek meaning wind or breath in English. Therefore, the spirit is the life-giving agent in man.



Job 32:8

“But it is the spirit in a person, the **breath of the Almighty**, that **gives them understanding.**”



Breath = Spirit in Man



Yes, God put the life in man.

Job 33:4. “The Spirit of God has made me; the **breath of the Almighty** gives me **life.**”

The breath of life is the spirit in man – the life-giving agent.



Zechariah 12:1

“The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who **forms the human spirit within a person.**”



The spirit in man is the life source and seat of mental capacity, consciousness and all the things that make man human; endowed with emotions, creativity, rationality, awareness, etc.



Again, GENESIS 2:7

“And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (NIV)



Living soul = Living being



#1 Equation of Man

Let:

1: Adam = Body

2: Breath = Spirit in Man

3: Soul = Living Being

Therefore:

Equation 1: Adam + Breath (of God) = Living soul

Equation 1: Body + Spirit in man = Living being



In its simplest and strictest sense, 'soul' (*nephesh*) is the composition of the body and spirit in man – a living being.

Body + Spirit in man = Living being



What is Death?



Death is the cessation of life.



Job 34:13-15

13 Who gave him a charge over the earth? Or who has laid the whole world?

14 If he set his heart upon himself, **if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;**

15 All flesh shall perish together, And **man shall turn again unto dust.**”



John 6:63

“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.”



When the spirit ceases, the physical body dies. The Scripture describes this as breathing his last.



Psalm 104:29

“When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you **take away their breath, they die** and
return to the dust.”



The Bible says that once the body is dead,
consciousness stops.



Ecclesiastes 9:5

“For the living know that they will die,
but the **dead know nothing.**”



Daniel 12:2

“Multitudes who **sleep** in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”



God gives life and He takes it away. When God takes away the breath in man, the spirit – the life source – returns to him and the body returns to the ground where it came from.



Ecclesiastes 12:7

“the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”



Apart from the body, the spirit does not have its own consciousness. The spirit returns to God who gave it. The spirit is in safe keeping with God until God gives it back at the resurrection. The Bible describes the state of dead as sleep.



#2 Equation for Death

Living Being – Spirit in man = Dead body

(Body returns to dust. Spirit in man returns to God)



Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God as distinguished
from the spirit in man.



1 Corinthians 2:11-12

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their **own spirit within them**? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the **Spirit of God**.

12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.



Our human spirit can be infused with God's Holy Spirit through the process of the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. This fusion of the Holy Spirit happens at baptism and the laying on of hands as we enter into a covenant relationship with our Heavenly Father.



Acts 2:38

“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”



John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **advocate** to help you and be with you forever—

17 the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you**.



Romans 8:9

“You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God lives in you**. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”



#3 Equation for Christian

The formula for someone with the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit is:

Body + (Spirit in man + Holy Spirit) =
True Christians



Condemnation of the Wicked



Now, with all of these equations, let us try to understand what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28

“be afraid of the One who can **destroy both soul and body** in hell.”



The destruction of the soul simply means the destruction of the body and the spirit in Man. That is the second death. This is condemnation – the destruction of both the body and the spirit in man in hell fire – the final death.



#4 Equation Second Death

Living soul – Body - Spirit in man
=
Second Death



What is Man's Ultimate Destiny?



The Scripture says we are the children of God, we are to share and participate in the divine glory.



2 Peter 1:3-4

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



2 Timothy 2:10

“Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with **eternal glory.**”



The ultimate goal and destiny of man – the reason for the entire creation – is the bringing forth of the Children of God. This is the gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom composed of God like beings.



Hebrews 2:10-11

10 In **bringing many sons and daughters to glory**, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the **same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.



This glorification happens at the resurrection. The change happens at the resurrection of the righteous.



1 Corinthians 15

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is **raised imperishable**;

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is **raised in glory**; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;



1 Corinthians 15

44 it is sown a natural body, it is **raised a spiritual body**. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being” ; the last Adam, a **life-giving spirit**.



1 Corinthians 15

46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and **after that the spiritual**.

47 The **first man was of the dust** of the earth; the **second man is of heaven**.



1 Corinthians 15

48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.

49 And just as we have borne the **image of the earthly man**, so shall we bear the **image of the heavenly man**.



Romans 8 (NKJV)

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the **children of God**.

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”



Romans 8 (NKJV)

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the **children of God**:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also **glorified** together.



Romans 8 (NKJV)

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory which shall be revealed in us.**

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the **sons of God.**



#5 Equation for sons of God

(Spirit in man + Holy Spirit) + Spiritual Body =
Glorified sons of God



Summation



What is the nature of man?

The basic composition of man as revealed in Genesis is #1 equation :

Body + Spirit in man = Living (Soul) Being

Any other assumption or interpretation that does not agree with this equation is not biblical and is wrong.



What is exciting and inspiring is that when our spirit is joined with the Holy Spirit and we are eventually given a spiritual body, then our hope would come true.



We would have become spiritual children of God,
born into the Kingdom our Heavenly Father has
prepared for us before the foundation of the world.



Recap Equations

Let:

1. Adam = Body
2. Breath = Spirit in Man
3. Living Soul = Living Being



Recap Equations

1. Body + Spirit in Man = Living Being
2. Living Being – Spirit in Man = Dead Body
3. Body + (Spirit in man + Holy Spirit) = True Christians
4. Living Being – spirit in man – body = Second Death
5. (Spirit in Man + Holy Spirit) + Spiritual Body = Glorified Sons of God



Finally, we have this encouragement and assurance
from Apostle Paul.



Philippians 3:20-21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will **transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be like **his glorious body**.



May God speed that day!



END

