

shall learn of its location and its end. In the meanwhile, we are urged, not to fix mournful and longing eyes upon paradise lost, but rather to look forward to a better Paradise, one regained for us by Christ and prepared for those who love Him.

EVENT #12 (recorded in Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:7) -- God's Ex Nihilo Creation of Man's Soul, and His immediate Creation of Man's Body.

The Scriptures tell us that God created man in His own image and likeness. This likeness is stamped upon man's soul. As God is a Spirit (i.e., a Person), so man is a spirit (i.e., a person). As God's nature has the attributes of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth, so man's nature, as created in God's image, had the attributes of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. However, whereas God possesses these attributes in an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable way, unfallen man possessed them in a finite, temporal, and changeable way. Thus there is both likeness and unlikeness in God's creation of man in His own image: likeness, because God created man in His image; unlikeness, because God created man in His image.

The creation of man's body, as recorded in Genesis 2:7, is an immediate creation by God, using pre-existing substance (in this instance, "dust from the ground"), but not secondary causality. The substance from which Adam was formed was not living substance before God communicated life to it at this point.

In connection with this assertion, the translation in the Authorized Version is unfortunate, since it obscures a very important truth, and also makes the verse teach something that simply is not there. Genesis 2:7 should be translated, "And the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils breath of life, and man became a living being (or "living creature"). The Hebrew simply says that man became *nephesh chaya'* (אִיָּא נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה).

Looking back to Genesis 1:20-21, we notice that God created aquatic life. This life is called אִיָּא נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה. In Genesis 1:24-25, God created terrestrial life. This life is also called אִיָּא נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה. And then in Genesis 2:7, as a result of the divine inbreathing of life into the body which God had created for him, Adam became a אִיָּא נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה. The facts are clear: Adam was not a living creature before Genesis 2:7; the animals were living creatures before the time of Genesis 2:7; therefore Adam could not have descended from the animals, since in that case Adam would have been a living creature before he became a living creature, which is plainly absurd. And further, since Genesis 2:7 is speaking of the creation of Adam's body and of the bringing of that body to life, neither Adam as a whole nor Adam's body descended from animals.

EVENT #13 (recorded in Genesis 1:27 and 2:19-23) -- God's Ex Nihilo Creation of Woman's Soul, and His immediate Creation of Woman's Body.

It should be emphasized that God also created woman in His own image and likeness. Again, this likeness, as in man, refers to woman's soul. As to her body, however, she was created from Adam's flesh and bone,