

# Journey Through the Bible

## A New Heart and a New Spirit

### Message 2: A NEW SPIRIT (1):

#### Knowing the Human Spirit and Its Importance in the Fulfillment of God's Purpose

##### Outline:

- I. **The first step of God's procedure in fulfilling His purpose was to create man as a vessel to contain Himself as life—Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:21.**
- II. **Genesis 2:7 says, "Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul":**
  - A. Man's body, formed from the dust of the ground, is man's outward form and an organ for him to contact the material realm.
  - B. Man's soul, which is his person, his very self, was not formed from a certain element but was produced by the combining of the human spirit and the human body; the soul, composed of man's mind, emotion, and will, has the psychological consciousness to contact the psychological realm.
  - C. Man's spirit, the breath of life, is his inward organ for him to contact God, receive God, contain God, and assimilate God into his entire being as his life and his everything:
    1. The word breath in Genesis 2:7 (Hebrew, neshamah) is translated spirit in Proverbs 20:27, indicating that the breath of life breathed into man's body became the spirit of man, the human spirit—cf. Job 32:8.
    2. The breath of life breathed into man's nostrils was not the eternal life of God nor the Spirit of God.
    3. Man did not receive the Spirit of God until the Lord breathed the Holy Spirit into His disciples on the day of His resurrection—John 20:22.
    4. Nevertheless, because the human spirit came out of God's breath of life, it is very close to the Spirit of God.
    5. Thus, there can be a transmission between God the Spirit and man's spirit, and the human spirit is able to contact God and be one with God—Rom. 8:16 and footnote 2; 1 Cor. 6:17 and footnote 2.
- III. **Man's spirit was specifically formed by God and is ranked in importance with the heavens and the earth in God's holy Word—Zech. 12:1:**
  - A. In His creation God made three crucial, equally important items—the heavens, the earth, and the spirit of man.
  - B. The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man was created by God with a spirit that he may contact God, receive God, worship God, live God, fulfill God's purpose for God, and be one with God.
- IV. **Within man's spirit there are three functions—the conscience, the fellowship, and the intuition:**
  - A. The conscience enables us to know what God justifies and what He condemns—Rom. 9:1, footnote 2.
  - B. The fellowship enables us to contact God, worship God, and commune with God—John 4:24; Eph. 6:18a; Rom. 1:9.
  - C. The intuition gives us a direct sense of God and a direct knowledge from God—Mark 2:8; 1 Cor. 2:11.
- V. **The spirit of man is for man to worship God (John 4:24), to be regenerated by God (John 3:6b), and to be joined to God (1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22) that man may walk and live in an organic union with God (Rom. 8:4b) to fulfill God's purpose.**

**Focus:** We need to see the importance of our spirit in God's creation, and we need to see that God created our spirit in order that we might contact Him, receive Him, worship Him, live Him, fulfill His purpose, and be one with Him.

### **READING EXCERPT**

If we are going to see the human spirit, we have to see its source, its creation.

Genesis 1:1 says that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In this verse the title for God is Elohim. It is not until chapter 2 that Jehovah is used as a title for God. Genesis 2:7 says that Jehovah God breathed the breath of life into man. God as Elohim was mainly related to the creation of the universe. But God in His title of Jehovah is mainly related to His relationship with man. Jehovah is a title for God in His contact with man. In Genesis 2 this title is used especially when it mentions that God created a spirit in man by breathing the breath of life into man.

Job 33:4 says, "The Spirit of God has made me, / And the breath of the Almighty has enlivened me." The breath of life here is called the breath of the Almighty. We cannot say, however, that this breath is the life of God or the Spirit of God. The most we can say according to the Bible is that it is the breath of life, the breath of the Almighty. Thus, it is very close to God's life and very close to God's Spirit.

The creation of man's spirit was not like the creation of his body. Man's body was formed from the dust of the ground, having nothing to do with God's life or with God's Spirit. It was formed of physical, material dust. But the material for the creation of man's spirit, the breath of life, was very close to the life of God and to the Spirit of God. This indicates strongly that this organ of the human being is not for material things or for psychological things. This organ is for the divine life and the divine Spirit.

The human life with the human spirit is very similar to God's life and God's Spirit because two lives must be very similar for them to be grafted into one. When man's body was formed from the dust, there was no life in man. When the breath of life was breathed into that form of dust, man became a living soul. Man became something with life, and that life came from God's breath of life. Job 33:4 says that the breath of the Almighty enlivened man. This is similar to Genesis 2:7. This shows us that man was created by God with a life and a spirit, which are very close to the divine life and the divine Spirit. Man is similar to God in this way so that he can be grafted into God in the divine life.

Proverbs 20:27 says, "The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah." Generally speaking, the word in Hebrew for spirit is ruach, but the Hebrew word for spirit here is neshamah. Neshamah is the same word used in Genesis 2:7 for breath. In Proverbs 20:27 it is translated spirit. By this we can see that the breath of life breathed into man by God at man's creation was the spirit of man. The spirit of man is something within us that is very close to God's life and God's Spirit. This indicates that the spirit of man was created for the purpose of receiving and containing the life of God and the Spirit of God. Eventually, 1 Corinthians 6:17 says, "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit." Our spirit can become one spirit with the Lord because it was created with the breath of life, which is very close to God's life and God's Spirit.

Zechariah 12:1 says that Jehovah stretches forth the heavens, lays the foundations of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him. No one can deny that these three items—the heavens,

the earth, and the spirit of man—are crucial in God’s creation to fulfill His purpose. The heavens were created for the earth, the earth was created for man, and man was created for God.

Zechariah does not refer to “man,” but to “the spirit of man.” This is because the spirit of man is the very organ that can take in God to enjoy God’s life and God’s Spirit and be one with God’s Spirit. This is why man’s spirit has become so crucial and important, even to the extent that it is ranked with the heavens and the earth. The philosophy of man does not rank anything of man with the heavens and the earth, but Zechariah ranks man’s spirit with them. This shows how important the human spirit is.

The human spirit was created for a purpose. God created this organ of man so that man could be one spirit with the Lord. First Corinthians 6:17 says, “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.” This may be the most important verse in the whole Bible. Romans 8:16 says that the divine Spirit witnesses with our human spirit. Now these two spirits are one.

**Questions:**

1. What are the three parts of man? Give a supporting verse that shows this.
2. What is the purpose of man’s spirit?

## **Scripture Reading:**

Zech. 12:1 The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

Gen. 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Prov. 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, / Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1 Thes. 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psa. 139:14 I will praise You, for I am awesomely and wonderfully made; / Your works are wonderful, / And my soul knows it well.