



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday, March 8, 2021**

**Scripture: Genesis 2:4-7**

**TITLE: Intimately Created**

How did we get here? Have you ever wondered that? Where did mankind come from? If you talk to many teachers and professors, they'll say we are the results of time, plus matter, plus chance. Some think it was crystals and ooze. It's popular to believe that our cousins are apes. I don't know about you, but I think these theories seem pretty hard to believe.

So is there a better explanation? There is, and it's found in Genesis 2:4a-7 (NLT):

“When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup> neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. <sup>6</sup> Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.”

If you've read the Creation account, God spoke, and Boom! It was done. But then that changed when He created mankind. Adam is here. Instead of speaking mankind into existence, God came down to the Earth and put his hands into the dirt. God formed man, like a potter makes a pot, or a sculptor makes a masterpiece. But He doesn't stop by shaping and molding. No. It says, God “breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils”. Now, it's not like God was six feet away, flowing life into man. No, this is deeply intimate, like a kiss. God is hovering over man's nostrils and intimately releases life into the first man.

Think about the skill and care of creating mankind versus the rest of Creation. It's true that animals are soulish creatures. Theologian and Philosopher JP Moreland suggests lesser souls, but still living creatures. But God puts special care and relationship into mankind. Just a few short verses later, He creates the first woman, Eve. And then God observed Creation and said it was very good.

But if you're like me, you look around and say, “But it's not so good now.” People are a mess. We're messy and sinful. We possess the capacity for amazing good, but fail so often. What happened? Well, just one chapter later in Genesis 3, Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, and by their own pride, they wanted to become like God. They doubted God and sinned. The world and mankind have never been the same.

Thanks a lot, Adam and Eve. You were very good, and you made it all very bad. But in Genesis 3, God says, He'll fix this in the end. And He did, through His Son Jesus Christ.

Now that you know how we got here, you're wondering: "So what? What difference does this make?"

Well, here's my challenge for you:

When you see people around you, remember that God formed mankind and made us special. We are not an accident. We are not a monkey's uncle. We are a soul with a body that God treasures.

So treat each other like it. We may all be fallen. Some may be redeemed, but we are all worthy of respect and compassion, because of this creation by God.

So find one way to show one person their intrinsic value. Let them know, regardless of what they've done to you or anyone else, they are special and worthy of a relationship with God.

Share your story below, and let's go win the day together.