

1. Where Did We Come From?

Have you ever wondered where you and everything in the world came from? The Bible gives us the answer to that big question. The very first words in the Bible tell us, **“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).** God made our world and everything in it.

It’s fun to make things. Maybe you’ve made a little bird house, or helped bake cookies. But could you make sweet-smelling flowers, tall trees, or birds that sing and fly? No!



Only God the Creator has power to make things that live. He is the one who **“gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25).**

The Bible tells us that **“God formed man of the dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7).** God carefully shaped the first man from dirt. He made each part perfectly. He made a brain to think, eyes to see, ears to hear, a mouth to taste, lungs to breathe, and a heart to beat. All the parts were ready for the man to use, but none were working until God came very close and breathed His own powerful breath into him. Instantly the man became alive, and every part started working!

God named the first man, Adam. Then He made a woman named Eve to be Adam’s wife. He gave them beautiful clothes of light to wear.

The Bible says that God formed man and woman **“in His own image” (Genesis 1:27).** This means that God



wanted them to be as much like Himself as possible. God made them able to think, talk, and sing. God wanted them to love others and be kind and unselfish like He is.



If you breathed into a baby doll’s mouth, would it become a living baby? No. Only God, the Almighty Creator, can

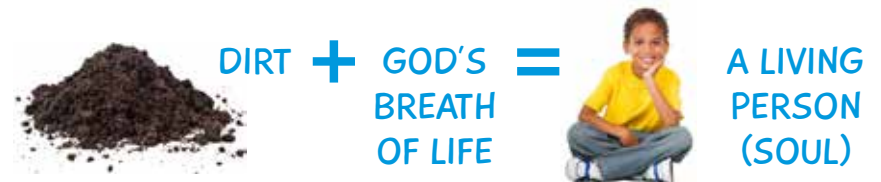
make anything become alive. What a powerful God we have!



Boards and nails put together can make a dog house. If you take the nails and boards apart, it is not a dog house anymore.



In the same way, dirt and God’s breath of life make a living person or soul. (To see what happens when someone dies, turn to page 18.)



“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 being.”
Genesis 2:7

15. The First Resurrection

Do you know what happens when Jesus blows His silver trumpet and shouts? A huge earthquake will shake the ground and open up the graves where dead people are buried. Jesus will call loudly to the dead people who have loved Him, “Awake, awake, awake, you that sleep in the dust, and arise!” **See Isaiah 26:19.**

Jesus’ friends will hear His voice calling them, and right away each person who died trusting and obeying Jesus will be resurrected. From all over the world, millions of men, women, and children will come out of their graves. When they wake up, the terrible results of sin will be completely gone. Those who were sick will be healthy. Those who were blind will see. *Everyone* will have beautiful, new bodies.

Little children who have died will wake up, too; and angels will carry them to their parents. Their mommies and daddies will be so happy to see them again! Grandmas and grandpas will hear Jesus’ shout and will come out of their graves young and strong and healthy again.

What about those who are living when Jesus comes? Jesus will give them brand new bodies, too. Paul says that when Jesus comes, **“We shall all be changed—in a moment.... This mortal must put on immortality”**

(1 Corinthians 15:51–53). Mortal bodies are ones that can get old or sick and die.

The new bodies Jesus will give us will be immortal like His. That means we will never die. **Luke 20:36.** We will live forever with God. *Forever.* What a wonderful gift!

No one will be blind, deaf, sick, or crippled anymore. We will throw away all our glasses, crutches, braces, and wheel chairs. Everyone will be strong and healthy.



The Bible says, **“Your God ... will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing” (Isaiah 35:4–6).**

What a joyful day that will be!

Millions of lovely angels will gather Jesus’ friends from every part of the earth. **Matthew 24:31.** They will not forget even one person who loves Jesus. Then together we will all go up into the clouds **“to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).**

How long and eagerly Jesus has waited for this moment! How much He has wanted us to be with Him! **John 17:24.**

Do you want to be ready to see Jesus’ lovely face and go to heaven with everyone who loves Him?

Those who are raised at Jesus’ second coming are part of the *first* resurrection. Not everyone comes to life then—only the righteous dead and some of Jesus’ worst enemies, including those who killed Him. Later, we will learn about a second resurrection of the wicked.



Jesus will take us on a great trip through space, all the way to the home He has prepared for us in heaven.