

## 創世記 2 章 7 節に関する一考察

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**ABSTRACT** Yoshiyuki MUCHIKI, “An Exegetical Note on Genesis 2:7.” Genesis 2:7 gives an account in which the origin of man’s life is due to God’s breathing into man’s nostrils the breath of life. Therefore man became a living creature. An exegetical study of this verse leads us to conclude that the divine activity described by נָפַח “breathe into” simply denotes the strong expiration by God to bring forth a living creature. In other words, Genesis 2:7 states that man’s life is a direct result of strong, direct, divine activity, but does not mention the origin of the spiritual aspect of the human being.

The expression נְשֵׁמַת חַיִּים “the breath of life”, unlike רוּחַ חַיִּים, occurs only this once in the Old Testament, where it denotes the human breath given by God. Furthermore although the word נְשֵׁמָה is attested 24 times in the Old Testament, its use is restricted to the breath of man or God, and is never used for an animal’s breath. When God breathed in order to make the man of dust a living creature, God gave man the divine breath called “the breath of the Almighty” נְשֵׁמַת שָׁדַי (Job 32:8) or “the spirit of God” רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים (Job 27:3). It means that although man’s body was created by God from dust, man also has something uncreated in him in connection with his life.

This account of man’s origin in Genesis 2:7 could be comparable with the description in 2 Timothy 3:16 of the origin of all Scripture, which is also breathed out by God, namely God’s strong expiration.