

What was the Color of the Soil when God Formed Man?

Byron A. Ellis – June 9, 2023



According to Genesis 2:7 (KJV), "...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 soul." The verse does not mention the color of the soil. However, the colors of soils are red, brown, yellow, yellowish-red, grayish-brown, and pale red. Scientists use the [Munsell System](#) to compare soils anywhere in the world.

[The Soil Science Society of America](#) (SSSA) noted that soil is a mixture of minerals, dead and living organisms (organic materials), air, and water. These four ingredients react with one another in amazing ways, making soil one of our planet's most dynamic and important natural resources. SSSA indicated that soils high in iron are deep orange-brown to yellowish-brown and those with lots of organic material are dark brown or black, organic matter masks all other coloring agents.

Color can also tell us how soil behaves. The soil that drains well is brightly colored. One that is often wet and soggy has an uneven (mottled) pattern of grays, reds, and yellows.

Therefore, from reading the biblical text, we can only conclude that the man that God formed from the dust was a colored man. Furthermore, Genesis 1:27 tells us "So God created man in his own image, in the image (or tselem) of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Wesley Mohammad (2013) noted in the [Final Call](#) that the Hebrew term tselem has a dual significance, it can mean both "statue" as well as "black" for, as the prominent Torah scholar Dr. Avivah Zornberg informs us, the concept of blackness is "at the root" of the word tselem.

Adam as tselem is, therefore, God's black body (statue) on Earth. Thus, we can conclude that God's image was like the soil from which he formed man.

Mohammad also noted that the Qur'an 15:28 confirms the reading of the Bible by presenting Adam as a Black man, it says "And when your Lord said to the angels, 'See I am creating a man of dry ringing clay, of black mud wrought into shape.'"

[Dr. Georgia Purdom](#) (2010) noted "Although Adam and Eve are often shown to be fair-skinned and blond, this was unlikely. To derive all the different skin shades from one couple, Adam and Eve likely were middle-brown in color." Of course, it is not possible to derive different skin colors from white skin color.

The interpretation of the meaning of the name Adam as red clay because of the Hebrew term *'ādāmā* is a stretch. When God created Adam, the Hebrew language did not exist. Moreover, we do not know the location of the soil where God created Adam. What we

know is that the soil is not white and that the oldest human fossil is about 3.2 million years old, an Australopithecus afarensis specimen nicknamed “Lucy,” was discovered in Hadar, Ethiopia ([National Geography](#)), which is in Africa.

Thus, based on the biblical description of creation and the oldest fossil finding, we can with a high level of certainty that God’s first creation was a Black man.

Copyright of TJP is the property of The Jethro Project Consulting Group, and readers may not copy its contents or email to multiple sites or post to a list server without the copyright holder's express written permission. Readers, however, may print, download, or email articles for individual use.