A 21st Century View of Genesis 2

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My Assumptions
Laying the cards on the table…

1. “God wrote 2 books: The Bible and the book of nature.” -Augustine
2. A correct interpretation considers both & sweeps nothing under the rug
3. Science and nature absolutely should have a strong vote in how we interpret Genesis
4. Tradition is to be respected but it does NOT enjoy the full perspective we have today
Laying my cards on the table...  

5. We’re in a better position to extract the full meaning of Genesis today than any generation that came before us.  
6. When we formulate a “new” interpretation of Genesis 1 we’ll find we’re far from the first to read it that way.  
7. A correct interpretation should be simple & elegant.
Is it OK rely on life experience to interpret scripture?

Luke 21

27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

32 "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

[b] or race
Might Genesis 1-2 be compatible with Common Descent and Evolution?

My “Meta Framework” for Interpretation:

• Genesis 1 is chronological narrative
• Genesis 2 is spiritual *metanarrative*
• Genesis 1 is physical. It’s about the “hardware.”
• Genesis 2 is spiritual. It’s about the “software.”
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Created: *bara 'eth*

‘eth is not translatable into English, but essentially means *with consummate Alpha-Omega impartation*
In the beginning God created with consummate Alpha-Omega impartation the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:4

God saw with consummate Alpha-Omega impartation that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.
Genesis 4:1

Adam with consummate Alpha-Omega impartation lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth with consummate Alpha-Omega impartation to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."
Genesis 5:22
And after he became the father of Methuselah with Alpha-Omega 
impartation, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.
Genesis 37:23

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him *with Alpha-Omega impartation* of his robe
Genesis 47

20 So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's,

21 and Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other.

23 Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have with Alpha-Omega impartation bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground."
Genesis 1 Quick Summary

If we assume:

1. “Day” is a period of time
2. Story is told from terrestrial point of view
3. “Animals” = livestock

…then Genesis 1 matches geology, cosmology & fossil record tit for tat
11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.
Evolution in Genesis 1?

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
The Flavor of Genesis 2

- Sweeping, poetic
- Expresses substance and essence, not surface details
- Earthy words with strong spiritual overtones
- We interpret through wisdom and experience
- Sets the stage for the remainder of the Bible
- Describes the age before flesh and spirit were in conflict
- We must infer the full meaning
Genesis 2:7

The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils. "Visage"
Genesis 2:7

... the breath of life
Strong's 5397 nĕshamah
Usage:
breath 17, blast 3, spirit 2, inspiration 1, souls 1
Genesis 2:7

and the man became a living being.

nephesh - Strong’s 5315

soul 475, life 117, person 29, mind 15, heart 15, creature 9, body 8, himself 8, yourselves 6, dead 5, will 4, desire 4, man 3, themselves 3, any 3, appetite 2, misc 47
In other words:

God transformed an animal-like creature from the “dust of the ground” into a willful heart, mind and spirit being by giving him a soul.

- If Jesus could be the one and only son of God and yet have a human mother, then why couldn’t Adam likewise be the first man, having come from an “animal” mother?
Genesis 2:21

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs

tsela` - Strong's 6763

side 19, chamber 11, boards 2, corners 2, rib 2, another [door / chamber] 1, beams 1, halting 1, leaves 1, planks 1
Genesis 2:21

and closed up the place with flesh.  

*basar* - Strong’s 1320

*flesh* 256, body 2, fatfleshed + 01277 2,  
leanfleshed + 01851 2,  *kin* 2, leanfleshed +  
07534 1, mankind + 0376 1, myself 1,  
nakedness 1, *skin* 1; Euphemism for penis.

*basara* (feminine derivative) means “goodness”
Genesis 2:22

Then the LORD God made a woman from the inner chambers he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.
Genesis 2:23

The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones
`etsem - Strong’s 6106
bone 104, selfsame 11, same 5, body 2, very 2, life 1, strength 1
Definition: 1) bone, essence, substance

“substance of my substance”"
Genesis 2:23

“and flesh of my flesh”

_Basar_ - Strong’s 1320

“and living essence of my living essence,” ie “this is my soul mate!”
Genesis 2:24

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Which makes more sense? rib, skin, genitals, side, man, animals?

Or “Living essence”
The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his visage the spirit of life and the man became a living soul.

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep trance; and while he was sleeping, He took a certain part of the man's inner chambers and closed up the place with flesh.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the inner parts he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, “This is my soul mate, because she is substance of my substance and essence of my very essence.”

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and they will become one being.