

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #13

Genesis 2:18-25

We live in a society that is rapidly losing a total grasp of the roles that men, women and marriage were designed by God to play.

THE LORD GOD ORIGINALLY MADE WOMAN TO HELP MAN AND GOD ORDAINED THAT THE MAN AND WOMAN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER IN A WAY THAT BRINGS HIS BLESSINGS AND NOT HIS CURSINGS.

A woman is no coincidence; she is a carefully constructed human being who was brought into existence by the LORD God. She has a wonderful uniqueness and a purpose. When both men and women recognize these truths, they can live and function together in an Eden type existence and marriage will be delightful and pleasurable.

PART #1 - The work of the LORD God in creating woman. **2:18-22**

(Work #1) - The LORD God foresaw man's need of a woman. **2:18**

Verse 18 clearly tells us that the LORD God does not view isolationism as something good. This is the first time in the creation account that something is said to be "not good." The Hebrew word "alone" is one that means it was not good for man to be separated by himself. What God decided to do was to "make" (literally plan, prepare and produce) a special person who would be a helper to him and suitable for him.

The word "helper" indicates this person would aid and help Adam. The word "suitable" means this person would be an opposite who was created like Adam and for Adam. In other words, the person God would design who would fill the void of Adam's loneliness would be one like Adam yet different from Adam. A woman was created who had similarities and differences which were both designed to be help to Adam. The areas of "help" would include emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual.

(Work #2) - The LORD God fostered man's need of a woman. **2:19-20**

The major contextual reason why the LORD God had man name the animals at this specific point in time was because this activity would reveal to man his need for a mate.

The Hebrew word "name" means God brought these animals to Adam to mark them with a verbal sign. The fact that Adam could do this means that Adam could think, he could discriminate, he could make decisions, he could make judgments and he could speak, things animals could not do. God designed man with a creative ability, after all he was made in God's image.

The fact that God was viewing Adam's work, tells us that not only did God approve of the names, but He was also observing the impact this was having on Adam. Adam must have sensed through the naming process that all other forms of life had a 'help suitable to them' but he didn't have a help suitable to him. God had man name these animals so He could foster the need that man had for a woman.

(Work #3) - The LORD God fulfills man's need for a woman. **2:21-22**

The idea of putting someone to sleep while surgery is performed is not an idea that originated from the medical world, but one that came from the LORD God. It is said that Dr. James Simpson, who was the inventor of the use of chloroform as an anesthesia in 1847 in Edinburgh, got his impacting idea from this very text of Scripture (S. L. Johnson, *Genesis*, Study #7, p. 3).

God put Adam into a "deep sleep" in order to remove one of his ribs. The text implies that God, Himself, opened up man and after the surgery was completed, He closed him up again. From this rib, God "fashioned" (God built or constructed) the woman.

The Hebrew word "brought" is one that means that God brought the woman to man in the sense of bringing him a gift (*Gesenius*, Hebrew Lexicon, p. 7). This must have been a very special moment when the LORD God presented this wonderful gift to Adam.

PART #2 - The response of Adam toward woman. **2:23**

The phrase "this is now" indicates that the naming of the other animals did have something to do with Adam recognizing his need for his own mate.

Adam called her "woman" because she was taken out of man. The Hebrew word for man is "ish" and for woman is "isha." The emphasis of the name "woman" is not that of being taken out of man, but that of being closely related to man. In fact, in English the name is closely related - "man" "wo man", "male" or "fe male."

PART #3 - The relationship of man with a woman. **2:24-25**

Many marital problems could be resolved if these two verses were understood and applied.

(Fact #1) - Marriage is a union that is totally separated from other relationships. **2:24a**
The word "leave" means loosen the bonds and leave. Get rid of parental apron strings.

(Fact #2) - Marriage is a union that is totally united to its own relationship. **2:24b**
The word "cleave" literally means be glued to each other.

(Fact #3) - Marriage is a union that is sexually united in its relationship. **2:24c**
The idea of "one flesh" is sexual intimacy- this was a gift of God to man and woman.

(Fact #4) - Marriage is a union that is completely shameless in its relationship. **2:24d**
The concept of being naked and not ashamed is only in the context of marriage.

The man and woman who lives life with the perspective of these verses will be blessed by God.