

THE FOCUS OF CREATION: Part 2 | GENESIS 2:18-25 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 4/16/2023

I. *God's Masterpiece...Mankind* (4-7) | II. *God's Marvel...Eden* (8-15) | III. *God's Mandate... was Necessary* (16-17) | IV. *God's Mate...Eve* (18-25)

INTRO: As we continue on with the **Focus of Creation**, I want to remind you that we already learned of God's [recall header above]. In this study, we will discover what God's established for the completion on mankind's fruitful existence on earth. **IV. GOD'S MATE FOR ADAM: EVE (Woman)** – Remember...the context of this section is the design and handiwork of God; in all that He determined to be **Good for Mankind**. – Within our text today I see three important origins: Man's Work, Man's Woman, and Man's Wedding.

I. MAN'S WORK (19-20a) – You may recall that in (v.15) God *"Put Adam in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it."* What I didn't catch until now, was that this is when God gave His MANDATE – As we go about our everyday lives, temptation will come our way, but we need to heed God's commands!

A. His Dominion was Expanded – First mentioned in (Gen 1:28), God now grants Adam the authority to name every living creature!

1. He **FORMED** them... out of the ground (19a, 1:20-25)
2. He **BROUGHT** them... to Adam (19b)
3. He **ALLOWED** Adam... to name them all (19c) – Knowing that God made a variety of creatures on the Earth, I would conclude that Adam was an extremely intelligent and creative man.
 - As God did when He created and named Light, the Firmament, Land, the Seas, the Sun, the Moon, the Stars, etc., God brought every creature to Adam for His **examination and determination of a unique name** (*most likely based on some quality of distinction of the creature*)
 - **Mark Twain had a joke where he described Adam coming home to Eve after naming all the animals. Eve looked at an elephant and said, "What did you name that big animal?" Adam replied, "I called it an elephant." Eve asked, "Why did you call it an elephant?" Adam answered, "Because it looked like an elephant!"**
4. **What did God ACCOMPLISH by granting Adam this dominative task?**
 - I first see this as an **ACT of LOVE**, where a Father gives ownership and responsibility to His son: much like when we bring home a pet for our kids to love and care for.
 - Secondly, it reveals that **No Animal was suitable for man!** – Adam saw right away that the animals were paired off and that he was single. God utilized the purposeful naming of the animals by Adam to prepare Adam to receive the gift of woman.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Subjectively, this can be applied to all of us: God designed our birthplaces and times into specific circumstances, of which **we too have the responsibility to exercise the dominion as granted to us by His grace**.

More specifically, the order given in this section is **important for young men seeking to mature in life**: i.e., Get a job, Work hard, Save your money, Establish yourself with the Dominion God provides, and be prepared for the most important relationship in your life...

II. MAN'S WOMAN (18,20b-22a) – SO FAR, throughout the ENTIRE creation process we see God Creating and Making all Nature and Life in this world... **and everything was good!** But *here we see God's AWARENESS of something that was NOT GOOD... “It is NOT good that man should be ALONE.”*

A. Adam was INCOMPLETE without WOMAN (18,20b) – And all the women say...AMEN (*Ha!*) The word **Helper** = {*Heb. Ezer*}, denotes one who gives AID or assistance. {*expound, Eli-Ezer*}

1. Man needed a counterpart, a companion, a helper, an equal in fulfilling the order of multiplying and taking dominion over the earth prescribed by God (1:28). – He also needed a woman who was “*suitable for him*,” i.e., {*Heb. Ke-nego*} lit. “*facing him*,” as looking in a mirror, being all that man is, yet in feminine form, having equal value before God almighty.

- In (Gen 3:12) Adam refers to the **woman as a gift from God**. But God also gave **the man responsibility and accountability** to be the leader in the home and gives to **the woman** the responsibility and the accountability to help him.

- Beginning with creation God intends man and woman to have **distinct but harmonizing roles** in serving Him. (*God's perfect design vs. God permissive design!*)

2. When we think the way the rest of the world does (*i.e., selfish ambitions; we come up with things like the battle of the sexes*), we only perceive "helping" as an inferior position. Service roles are the most essential in God's kingdom. (Matt 20:25-28), *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your SERVANT. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* (*When we serve one another as God's desires we achieve a perfect harmony*)

B. A SPECIAL WORK of God was REQUIRED (21-22a) – Therefore, our gracious **God went Right to work!** Here we have several divine acts...

1. **A Deep Sleep (21a) Divine Anesthesia** – Mention of a *deep sleep* causes me to think that this was **the best sleep of Adam's life**, neither seeing nor feeling anything (*no grogginess*)

2. **God Took a Rib and Closed up his Flesh (21b) Divine Surgery** – God used Adam's own body to create woman. We know **there was a perfect incision** because his flesh had to be closed up afterward (*Presumably without a scar*).

- The fact that **God pulled a rib** out of Adam and not some other piece of his body shows God's wisdom, planning, and foresight. **Ribs Regrow!** All bones in the human body are **able to mend themselves**, but rib bone is unique in that it can regenerate. When a surgeon performs a **costectomy** (*the removal of part or all of a rib*), he or she will be careful to leave the **perichondrium** (*the membrane surrounding the rib*). The rib taken can be used for bone grafts elsewhere in the body, and **in the spot of the missing rib will grow a new rib usually within one or two months**. (*See: Clinically Oriented Anatomy, 7th ed., Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2013, p. 83*)

3. God Used the Rib to Form Woman (22a) Divine Reconstruction – Which means they were of the same substance and were Connected physically, yet uniquely different! **Male and Female**, the way God created them from the beginning.

- **The fact that God created Eve from Adam's rib** is also significant because it offers a neutral symbol which cannot be used to **Exalt** or even **Devalue females** when compared to males. (*Equals...by no means are they lesser creatures*) – Even more meaningful is that fact that God formed Woman from Adam's rib, which was closest to Adam's heart!
- In **(1 Cor 11:7)** Paul wrote that *"woman is the glory of man."* And God made the man to be the head **(1 Cor 11:1-16; Eph 5:22-33)**, then woman is the crown that honors the head!

CLOSING THOUGHT: A final thought about **the creation of woman**. If Adam was formed out of dirt and God breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and he became a living being, then **much is to be said about Eve**, who was quite different: She was Twice Refined! – More Delicate, Sensitive and Emotional in existence, and just as Intelligent, even though some may dispute that! (*Ha*) – *A man went to a hospital in the 21st century and **asked for a new brain**. The brain surgeon said that he could have a woman's brain for \$5,000 or a man's brain for \$25,000. The man asked, **why are the women's brains so cheap?** The surgeon replies, *"Its because the women's brains have been used."* – **It is important to know Adam needed Eve!***

III.MAN'S WEDDING (22b-25) – Once again, I would like to point out that the context of this study is **the Focus of God's Creation**. Before God could bless and benefit human beings, Marriage was conceived in God's heart of love. The pattern for marriage was not even devised by Adam, it was God's plan from the beginning, that one man and one woman should be one flesh for a lifetime. In **(Mark 10:9)** Jesus declared, *"Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate."*

A. Ordained By God (22b) – Notice the phrase... *"He brought her to the man."* Much is to be said about waiting on the Lord for your life partner. Do we trust in God's **Divine Selection** or react in our own **Desperate State**. Know that if the desire for marriage is there, God has put that within your heart. **You should then wait for Him to bring your partner**. In the meantime... **Seek Him!** **(Psalm 37:4)** *Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

B. Overjoyed with Delight (23) – When Adam saw Eve, he made a poetic declaration about the new delight of his heart. *Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh...she should be called woman!* – When he saw his bride, he was blown away and broke out in praise!

C. Overview of Marriage (24-25) – God design for the marriage relationship was the **first human institution**. (*Leaving/Cleaving*) *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* Marriage is an inauguration of a new and primary responsibility to one another. **Three essential actions are listed here:**

- 1. Man shall LEAVE his Father and Mother (24a)** – When God brings a wife, our primary relationship loyalty switches to our spouse. **All matters are first to be sought, shared, and discussed amongst the union, before seeking counsel from others!**

2. Man shall be JOINED to his Wife (24b) – This refers to the intentional and unbreakable commitment between the two. But specifically, **a covenant relationship** for man to adhere to, before his God, in faithfulness to his wife. Clinging to each other!

3. Man and Wife shall BECOME ONE Flesh (24c) – Reference to **sexual union in marriage**, in which **a husband and wife** can express the exclusive unity with each other. Furthermore, it is the uniting of two people who share everything in life to become like one person. God designed this special union **for the two to enjoy Love and Oneness**, of which godly would naturally occur.

4. Man and Wife are Not Ashamed (25) – Two very important truths are given here:

- Marriage permits **Uncondemned Sexual Relations**, between a husband and a wife. No shame is involved because God created us to procreate! In fact **(Heb 13:4 ESV)** sheds light on what is acceptable: *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous (Heb 13:4 ESV)*
- **Man and Wife were Naked...without shame!** This is because God created them simply perfect and innocent. **SIN had not been introduced at this point!**

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

- The Focus of God's Creation was Mankind. God's design was for Man **NOT TO BE ALONE!**
- Woman was to be the **PERFECT COUNTERPART** for man (*thus completing him, as they become one*)
- This passage is serves as the **ORIGIN** for marriage between a man and a woman.

CCV MARRIAGE STATEMENT: *We believe God, not man, created marriage. We believe marriage was the first institution designed by God. We believe the Bible teaches that the covenant of marriage is sacred and lifelong. The Bible makes it clear that marriage is a legally binding public declaration of commitment and a private consummation between one man and one woman, never between the same sex. Therefore, we believe God gives a wife to a husband and a husband to a wife, and they care to receive one another as God's unique and personal provision to help meet their mutual needs.*

- **One day soon, Christ will come for His bride and present her in purity and glory in heaven (Jude 24; Rev 19:1-9)**