

Genesis 2:18-25- Man's Best Earthly Gift: A Wife

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Pulpit, Henry, Delitzsch, Geneva, INT, Poole, Trapp, Gill, Puritan, Calvin, Armstrong, Gaebelein, Sailhamer Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: God gave man **food** – tasty and nourishing food, **water** – fresh, unpolluted water, **precious materials** for beauty and usefulness, and **work** – non-stressful, non-tiring work- **gifts to do the work of having dominion** for the glory of Christ. **Man also had communion with the Lord in the evening for instruction and encouragement.** But that was not enough to do the work God called men to do. **For true glory to God to come, man needed one more gift** and you will hear about this gift today.

Our headings are:

The Need for a Wife

The Nature of the Wife

The Nuptials with the Wife

Our goals are: That you will **see the need for godly marriage as a means of fulfilling your obligations to the Lord who entered into covenant relations with you.**

The Need for a Wife

18 And the LORD God said, "**It is not good that man should be alone**; I will make him **a helper comparable to him.**" 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

1. First, Adam was alone and it was not a good thing!

Adam could not glorify God to the fullest. Something was missing. Adam was lonely. **Aloneness was not for man's greatest good.** Adam needed **a companion.**

Proverbs 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.*

2. Second, Adam's bride, Eve, was also given to be his helper because the task was too much for him.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.*

3. Third, Adam had to work with his wife to have and raise children to help in the dominion mandate.

4. God, in his love, decided he would make a helper that was "comparable" to him.

The word translated "comparable" is explaining the intention of God. It is **not a translation of the original language.**

The original language states that **Eve was to succor or help Adam.** Eve therefore completed - complemented Adam. Eve had to be "opposite" to Adam. Even biology teaches that.

5. There were perfect creatures of God that roamed the earth, but none could fulfill man's needs...none that would bring the great glory to God that he demanded.

6. So God made Eve...Eve was the workmanship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not time, chance, and matter.

Adam had a need but he couldn't fulfill that need of his own wisdom and strength. A wife is God's gift.

Proverbs 19:14 *Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

7. Lessons:

a. It is always best to enjoy good things with others, especially with a spouse. If you forget this, you will be depressed or worse. That is why there was such a rise in depression and suicides during the Covid lockdowns. People couldn't see each other. (There's a 64% increase in depression since 2020 in the US.) It is always better to be married and to have friends.

b. This is why it hurts so much when a spouse ignores the other one! If your pharmacist moves, you don't have a future with him. It doesn't matter. No one gets a broken heart when you cat ignores you. Husbands and wives complete and complement each other.

c. If you are a wife and you don't see yourself as a helper, you have broken covenant with man and God. Ask yourself this question: **Is my husband better off because of me?** Am I giving him advice? Am I praying for him? Am I listening to him...**Notice God is showing that women are more than baby machines and house cleaners!**

d. There are times in God's providence one does not find a suitable spouse and one must be contented with that. But be clear: Don't view the single life as superior. You aren't weak if you are married. The Bible is *anti-deliberate-celibacy.*

e. A man with a wife can better do the work of God! But that is the point, isn't it? You are to go into marriage with the view of doing God's work for God's glory. Don't go into marriage with selfish goals! God's glory is the primary goal.

The Nature of the Wife

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

1. God made Adam go into a deep sleep...not just any regular sleep.

Why a deep sleep? God caused a deep sleep to come on Adam to avoid pain and also to remind Adam that of himself he had no ability to make a wife. And God took one of Adam's rib and closed that place back with flesh and formed Eve. (Evolution says 2 distinctly different beings arose from primordial slime into perfect people, and then they decided to come together, change their nature, and using a completely different method, create people exactly like themselves!)

2. Then God brought the wife that he had made from Adam to Adam.

God was showing Adam he was the source of his bride. (Every good gift comes from the Lord.)

Then Adam had someone to whom he would give love, enjoy her fellowship, and enjoy together all the blessing that God had provided, as they worked for the glory of God.

3. Lessons:

a. Why did God use a rib and what happened to the missing rib? God wanted to take a bone from Adam's side, not from Adam's head...which would otherwise picture woman's rulership. Notice too that the bone was not taken from Adam's feet... which would picture his trampling over her. The bone was taken from Adam's side to show partnership and Eve's closeness to Adam's heart. Is man still missing a rib today? No. God might have caused a rib to grow back...as sometimes body parts can grow back. But even if he had 11 on one side, it doesn't mean that his children would have an unequal number of ribs. A man who loses his legs in an accident still has children with two legs.

b. A woman must see herself as made to work alongside man for the glory of God! If you miss that you will be distracted by the sins and weaknesses of a man and stop working together.

c. Even in this method of creating woman, Yahweh was prefiguring the way life would come to his church – for it was through the death (of which sleep is a picture) of his Son, Jesus, life would come to his Bride. Christ's Bride was bought with his own blood. And it was through this new life many children would come into Christ's kingdom. Romans 5.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed. He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death. And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 54:1 "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman." says the LORD.

The Nuptials with the Wife

23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

1. Adam then pronounced his marriage vows to Eve in the presence of Jesus Christ.

a. He received Eve and recognized she was from God, but he also knew she was from himself. He did not refuse her. He said: "This one is now my wife." And Adam named her "woman." Woman means "man-ness." Or female "man." (Man is "ish" and woman is "isha.")

b. Adam acknowledge (by his words) his need to care for his own – for she was from him.

c. Adam acknowledged (by her name) that Eve was his subordinate – for she was created for him.

d. Marriage would then require a man and woman leave the authority of their parents and become one flesh. This why there is the symbolism of a father "giving" his daughter to her husband in marriage!

2. Something that is curious here is the woman was brought to the man AFTER everything was prepared for her.

You get this picture of provision from Psalm 45. This is what Christ does for his church.

Psalm 45:10 Listen, O daughter, Consider and incline your ear; Forget your own people also, and your father's house; 11 So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him. 12 And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich

among the people will seek your favor. 13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. 14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You. 15 With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; They shall enter the King's palace.

And you see a further similarity between Christ's Bride in recreation.

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

3. And when they were married, they felt no shame at their nakedness, for there is no shame between husband and wife.

4. Lessons:

a. Marriage is from God. He regulates it, not Justin Trudeau. He determines who should marry, whom you should marry, and whom you should not marry.

b. Marriage was intended to be for life. Really? Yes. Even after it is impossible to have children, man and wife must stay together.

c. Marriage means the children are no longer under their parent's authority. Yes, they must honor their parents, but they don't have to obey anymore. There's nothing worse in marriage than a Momma's Boy.

d. A man must make preparation for his wife. He must not get married and make her suffer. A woman should not marry a man who does not prove his ability to provide food, love, and spiritual oversight. A woman should not marry a man who is filthy and doesn't take care of his house or his body. If your house stinks, your body stinks, or your bank account stinks, you aren't ready for marriage. Fix it quickly. You need a wife to do great things for Jesus.

e. Adam's acceptance of his bride prefigured what Christ would do for his Bride: He would never cast out any of his own.

John 6:37 - "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

Conclusion:

What an amazing display of love God showed man...God gave man a wife. He gave him all the glories of the garden and the wonders of the world, and when the time was right, **and everything was prepared, God gave Adam a wife.** Eve was a person of incredible abilities to **help her husband to rule the world for God's glory.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Understand the value of a woman and a wife. The world doesn't. Muslims don't. They would allow a man to have many wives, but not the other way around. Hindus don't understand the value of a wife. Women were killed when their husbands died. Girls today are routinely murdered at birth. Buddhists don't. Their husbands could leave them to be a monk, and are praised. Western society doesn't. It degrades women and encourages frivolous divorces. Women are not being treasured!

2. Understand the value of a woman by understanding the way God intended the family to be run. So how can man begin to treat a woman the way God intended...to care and love her...as she works alongside man for building the kingdom of God? **The only way this is possible is by re-creation!** Because of original sin, the family was corrupted, but when man's heart is freed from sin, he is able to love again. So only marry a Christian.

Finally, if you are not a Christian you ought to know that you cannot fulfill your duties to your wife, husband, or God unless your heart has been changed. **Your heart can be changed when you know and acknowledge in your head and your heart Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sin.** I urge you, by the mercies of God, that you would ask God to change you today.