

The Formation of Eve and the First Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25

Genesis 2:18 - *“And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make a helper comparable to him’¹⁹Out 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.²⁰So 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.*

²¹And 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.²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³And 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’²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵And they were both naked, and were not ashamed.”

Background Notes

Critics of the Bible like to claim that there are three problems with this section of Scripture:

1. The critics say there is a contradiction between Genesis 1 and this part of Genesis 2. Genesis 1 says that God created animals before man, but here in Genesis 2, they say it sounds like man was created before the animals (v19). The simple solution to this problem is that verse 19 could be translated as follows: *“Out of the ground the Lord God **had** formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them.”* Genesis 2 does not say that man was created before the animals.

2. The critics claim that Adam would not have had enough time to name all the animals. If Adam and Eve were both created on Day Six (Genesis 1), and if Day Six was only 24 hours long, and Adam named all the animals between his creation and Eve’s creation, then there would not have been enough time for Adam to name all the animals. Sounds like a good argument at first, but it doesn’t carry weight when a few simple facts are considered. Let me briefly list four:

- The Bible doesn’t say that Adam had to name all the fish and all the insects, but only “cattle, beasts of the field and birds of the air.” And remember, in the beginning there were only “kinds,” not all the varieties that we have today, that have come about through natural selection.

- Adam didn't have to run all over creation to find the animals and catch the birds. God brought them to Adam (v19).

- How long do you think it would take Adam to name these various kinds of animals and birds? Today we can walk through a zoo in just a few hours, and in that short period of time we can view perhaps an even wider variety of animals than Adam was asked to name!

- Remember that Adam was in his unfallen state. Think of the mental ability and acuity that Adam had. His mind was unaffected by any genetic disorder or genetic deterioration!

3. Some naïve critics of the Bible like to mention is that men and women still have the same number of ribs, so how could God have used one of Adam's ribs to form Eve? Well, if a man has a rib removed, does that mean his male descendants will be born with one less rib than women? Of course not. (By the way, the Hebrew word translated "rib" here doesn't necessarily mean rib, but rather "side," or "from his side.")

Finally, people who think that you can harmonize the theory of evolution with the Bible have a very hard time with the account of the formation of Eve. If Adam was only an "advanced male ape" into which God put a spirit, there certainly would have been an "advanced female ape" around for God to make into Eve. But verse 20 says, "*But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*" (More we could say!)

Doctrinal / Teaching Points

1. Adam and Eve are a picture of Christ and the Church.

Why did God form Eve in this unique way, rather than the same way He formed Adam? One reason was because of what Adam said in verse 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."*

Because Eve was formed from Adam, Adam realized that Eve was a part of him, so he understood well what God said about marriage: "*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh***"(v24). Because of the way God formed Eve, Adam appreciated that his counterpart was *part of him*.

In addition, God wanted to convey a spiritual of Christ and the Church. God has placed a number of these spiritual pictures (or "types") in the book of Genesis - and in the rest of the Old Testament as well. Here's the spiritual picture: As Adam, the first man, was put to sleep, so Christ, the second Man from heaven (1 Corinthians 15:47) was put to death. As Eve, the bride of Adam, was formed because Adam was put to sleep, so the Church, the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5),

was formed because Christ was put to death. As Eve was thus united with and one with Adam, so the Church is united to Christ and one with Him.

Ephesians 5:30-32 says: *“For we are members of His body of His flesh and of His bones.”*³¹ *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*³² *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”* Adam and Eve are a picture of Christ and the church.

2. Adam and Eve are a model for husbands and wives.

Verses 24-25, *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”*

These verses say a lot about marriage.

- Marriage is to be monogamous. What does it say? *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.”* Not **wives – wife!** In addition, we see that marriage is to be heterosexual.

- Marriage is to be the complete union between a man and a woman. It is more than a brother and sister relationship. They should become one flesh. This oneness certainly includes sexual oneness. In fact, verse 25 indicates that in an ideal marriage, as God intended it, a husband and wife can be naked before one another and not be ashamed. In addition, “nakedness” should involve more than just physical nakedness. Husbands and wives should not wear masks, or conceal things from one another.

So more is involved in the “oneness” between husbands and wives than just physical oneness. Husbands and wives should function a team. They are to complement or complete one another. Eve was formed from Adam’s side -- not from his head, or from his foot, but from his side. This emphasizes that Eve was Adam’s equal, a helper suitable for him. The word “helper,” by the way, does **not** imply an inferior position or inferior person – in fact, the same word translated “helper” is used to describe **God** in the Bible! What a beautiful thing it is to see a husband and wife who function as a team!

- Marriage begins a new social unit: *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”* This does not mean that a new couple has to move to a different town or go to a different church than their parents, but it does mean that “in-laws” should not make the decisions and call the shots for the new couple! The new couple should make their own decisions. They can ask advice from their parents and from others, but the “chain of command” has ended between parents and children. The chain of *counsel* remains, but not the chain of *command*. Marriage begins a new family unit.

- As God designed it from the beginning, marriage is to be permanent. A man is to “cleave” or cling closely to his wife. He is joined to her and united with her. When the Pharisees asked the Lord Jesus about divorce, He quoted this passage: *“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Mark 10:6-9).

We have seen a number of truths about marriage that are taught in these last two verses of Genesis 2. Marriage is not something that man dreamed up. No, God instituted marriage for mankind, and it is good in God’s sight. Verse 18, *“It is not good that man should be alone...”* Adam and Eve are a model for husbands and wives.

Practical Application

Let God bring the right person to you.

Do you think Adam and Eve were compatible? Of course they were - in every way - because God designed them for one another and brought them together. Do you think Adam was pleased with what he saw when he woke up from his surgery, and first saw Eve? You better believe that he was pleased! (What did he say when he woke up? - “Whoa-man!”) Seriously speaking, do you think that God can do the same for you? Can He bring the right person to you? Of course He can! If God has chosen marriage for you, He can bring the right person to you.

To married folks: God has brought the right person to you. You might think you made some mistakes on your part in the decision-making process, but God can make something beautiful out of your marriage. And now that you’re married, the proper biblical way to think is that God has brought the “right” person to you.

To single people: Don’t be anxious about marriage. Regardless of your age, if God wants you to be married, He can and will work it out. Let *God* bring the right person to you.