

Genesis 2:18-25 – The Covenant of Marriage is Instituted

I. The Creation of Woman (18-23)

A. God Pronounces Something “Not Good” For the First Time (18)

1. It is not good for man to be alone
 - a. Man was created in the image of God
 - b. God in His nature is a relational being, in eternal communion with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - c. Man cannot thrive without community
 - i. Man is not designed to live in isolation
 - ii. As the image of God man is designed as a relational being.
 - d. Notice that God realizes man’s need before he does
2. God chooses to make a helper corresponding to Him

- a. The phrase “help meet (or fit) for him” **עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ** – (pronounced ay-zer canegdo) means corresponding to, or complementing. (literally “like what is in front of him,” or “like what is opposite him.”)
 - i. God knows Adam needs a partner that will complement and complete him.
 - She will be equal but different
 - She will complete and help him
 - ii. God’s purpose for marriage and sexuality is between man and woman. A man and a man cannot complement one another, they are a mirror image
- b. The term “helper” is not a derogatory designation of the female.
 - i. The same term is used for God himself throughout the Old Testament as He helps his people
 - ii. Exodus 18:4 - “The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh”
 - iii. Hosea 13:9 - It is your destruction, O Israel, That you are against Me, against your help.
 - iv. Psalm 115:9 - O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

B. No One Is Found Corresponding To Adam (19-20)

1. God Allows Man to Name the Animals (19)

- a. The animals are brought to man for naming which shows man’s dominion over the creation
- b. Notice that the animals are like the man in that they are created from the ground and they are called “living creatures” (nephesh) just as Adam is

2. Man Has No Suitable Companion

- a. By naming the animals, Adam becomes aware that there is no mate corresponding to him
- b. God has brought Adam to the point that he recognizes his need – and will appreciate greatly the woman God will provide

C. A Helpmate is Made For Man (21-23)

1. God Creates The Woman (21-22)

- a. God Causes Adam to Sleep (21a)
 - i. God takes the initiative to solve Adam's dilemma
 - ii. I take these verses literally. God really put Adam to sleep and really formed the woman from his side
- b. God Forms Woman From Adam's Rib (21b-22)
 - i. The word "rib" צִלְעַ (pronounced tsay-la) is used almost 20 times in Exodus during the forming of the tabernacle to mean its side
 - Woman is the first creature that is not formed out of the ground. She is formed from another living being.
 - She is taken from man's side to "correspond" and "complement" him
 - ii. Many theories abound as to why God chose the side (or rib). Be careful not to read too much into it. However, it could be that woman is neither beneath nor above man in value.

2. Adam Names Her "Woman" (23)

- a. Adam's First Recorded Words
 - i. "This is now" – has the sense of "finally" or "at last"
 - ii. Adam is overjoyed that at last he has one of his own kind
- b. Bone of My Bone – Flesh of My Flesh
 - i. This speaks of the source of the woman but it says much more
 - ii. This is a Covenant Commitment Adam makes to His Wife
 - Adam expresses his covenant union with the woman – the first marriage covenant
 - The expression bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh – is a covenant formula expressing unity
 - 2 Samuel 5:1 - Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron

and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh.

- 2 Samuel 19:12-13 - Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king? And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

II. The Pronouncement Of The First Marriage Union (24)

A. God officiates the First Marriage

1. In Matt. 19:4-6, Jesus references the first marriage and explicitly says that God joined them together - *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*
2. Notice that this is the narrator's statement (probably Moses)
 - a. Yet in Matt. 19:4-6, notice that Jesus applies this speech to God Himself
 - b. This shows that in Jesus' view, all of Scripture is God speaking, whether through Moses or another writer.

B. The Three Aspects of Biblical Marriage

1. Leaving
 - a. Notice who the man leaves – "Father and Mother"
 - b. He does not leave "Father and Father" or "Mother and Mother"
2. Cleaving
 - a. This entails clinging to one's new spouse as a new priority of relationship
 - b. The marriage produces new loyalties and commitments which supersede all others
3. Becoming One Flesh
 - a. The couple is no longer independent of each other
 - b. They are joined covenantally in perfect union
 - c. They are permanently joined together
 - d. The woman was taken from man so in marriage, man and woman are reunited completing one another
 - e. They are joined financially, emotionally, and personally
4. Notice that God ordained marriage between a single man and a single woman

- a. Later, beginning with Lamech in Genesis 4:19, man would start taking multiple wives
 - b. However, this was never intended or ordained by God. Jesus makes that clear by quoting this passage in Matthew 19.
 - C. Genesis 2 presents a Universal Definition of Marriage
 - 1. This covenant defining of marriage takes place before all cultures and all written laws
 - 2. This definition is applicable for every culture at every time
- III. Mankind's State of Innocence (25)
- A. This statement would have been amazing to the Hebrews
 - 1. Nakedness of shameful in Hebrew culture
 - 2. Nakedness was also associated with guilt
 - B. Adam and Eve were innocent in mind and body