

# Then the LORD God Made a Woman from the Rib He had Taken Out of the Man

2: 18-25

**DIG:** What is significant about God creating woman last? Male and female jointly express God's image. What does that mean? What does it imply that the woman is a suitable helper for man? ADONAI Himself is often described as a Helper (Hosea 13:9; Psalm 115:9-11). What help does that give you in answering this question? How would you characterize the relationship between Adam and this woman? Between God and man? What makes this kind of relationship possible?

**REFLECT:** Is this kind of a relationship only theoretical? Or can it really work? What are the things that would get in the way of it working the way Elohim designed it? Even though men and women are equal in their relationship with each other, whom does ADONAI hold responsible when things go wrong (see Bf - Your Desire Will Be For Your Husband, and He Will Rule Over You)?

God had a purpose in putting Adam in the garden alone for a period of time. It was to show him that he had a need for companionship that the animals could not fulfill. Therefore, this section describes the creation of the first woman, Eve, and the institution of marriage. In addition, a minor theme in this section shows that man did not evolve from the animals, but is superior to them. Sorry PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).

If there were any remaining questions as to whether the Bible teaches that man is simply an animal, related by common ancestry and evolution to all the other animals, the rest of this chapter will lay such an idea to rest. The first man and woman were unique and special creations of God, not to be compared with animals at all, but rather to be contrasted with them. The widespread belief that people evolved from apes is not only refuted by Scripture but also by all the facts of science. The *missing links* of Darwin's day are still missing today. There have been many fossils of true human beings excavated by anthropologists and many fossils of true apes. To date, however, neither any living animals nor any fossil remains have ever been found to link animals with humans.<sup>49</sup> More details will be given on this in the discussion of the Flood.

ADONAI, God, created us to be social beings, and Adam needed someone of equal status for fellowship, friendship, and intimacy. These are the basic needs of every human being, planted there by God Himself. Therefore, it is not surprising that the LORD would say: It is

not good for the man to be alone (2:18a). This is the first mention of something that was not good. At the end of the sixth day of creation, **Elohim saw everything that He had made and it was very good (1:31)**. The Hebrew word **good** describes *that which is appropriate within the purpose of God*. So even though everything else in creation was good, **Adam** was alone and that was not good. Although both the animals and **man** came from the ground (2:7 and 2:19), the animals could never provide **man** with the kind of companionship he really needed. In 2:18b **God** said: **I will make him a helper** (*ezer*, pronounced *azer* with a long sounding *a*, as in *razor*). The word **helper** is not demeaning because the term is used of **God Himself** as Israel's **helper** in times of trouble (**Exodus 18:4; Deuteronomy 33:7, 22, 26; First Samuel 7:12; Psalm 20:2, 33:30, 70:5, 115:9-11, 124:8 and 146:5**).

Moreover, **she** would be a **helper suitable for him** (*kenegdo*), and literally it means a *helper in front of him*. So a **helper suitable for him** means a *helper like him*, or an *ezer fitted to him*, or a *helper corresponding to him*. In other words, **she** completed **him**. Whatever **Adam** lacked **she** supplied, and whatever **Eve** lacked **Adam** supplied. **Man** was created in such a way that **he** needed the help of a partner - a female partner, an *ezer*.

**Eve** and all **her** daughters are *ezers* - strong warriors who stand beside their brothers in the battle for **God's** kingdom. If the call to rule and subdue the whole earth means anything, **ADONAI** calls the *ezer* to join **the man** in every sphere of life. Whenever the battle rages for **God's** kingdom, whenever someone needs a friend, **Elohim** summons the *ezer* into action. Therefore, before the Fall they were equals in every sense of the word, physically, socially, and spiritually. But instead of proceeding to the creation of **the woman**, **God** had **Adam** name all the animals.

So before **God** would create this **helper**, **He** brought all the animals to **Adam** to see what he would name them. This had two purposes. First, **Adam** demonstrated his rule over them, that **he** was their master. When you rename someone, you have authority over them (**Second Kings 23:34, 24:17**). **He** named each of **the animals of the field and the birds of the air**.

Secondly, this pointed out to **him** that although **he** could rule over them, **he** could not fellowship with them. The animals had been created both male and female (6:10), and were commanded by **God** to be fruitful and increase in number (1:22 and 24). As the animals passed by, **Adam** gave each one a quick review and an appropriate Hebrew name. (We know that Hebrew was the original language because all the names - Adam, Eve, Cain, Able, Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth - have Hebrew meanings before the Tower of Babel. You only begin to see Gentile names after the Tower of Babel. In addition, there are word plays before the Tower of Babel that only make sense in Hebrew). **He** was a **man** of high intelligence and quick

judgment. There were no second thoughts, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field (2:19b-20). However, as the animals passed before Adam, it only emphasized his loneliness. Each animal had its mate, but for Adam no suitable helper was found. There was none like him. It was clear that he had not evolved from them. Of all the creatures, he was painfully alone.

Because none of the animals provided a suitable helper for the man, God proceeded to make one for him. One like him, and yet different, perfectly complementing him and completing Elohim's work. This account of the creation and formation of Eve drives evolutionists crazy. Even if they can bring themselves to believe that Adam evolved from the animals, there doesn't seem to be any way that Eve was a part of the evolution process (see <http://creation/how-old-is-the-earth>). The only way to get around it is to deny Scripture, because it is very clear that all other men have been born of woman, but the first woman was made from man. For Adam was formed first, then Eve (First Timothy 2:13). For man did not come from woman, but woman from man (First Corinthians 11:8).<sup>50</sup>

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep (2:21a). The rabbis teach that this was done to teach the man that he should not constantly argue with his wife. If she does something displeasing, he should ignore it or sleep on it. They love to debate and argue about such nonsense.

And while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh (2:21b). The word here really doesn't mean ribs. The NIV is a thought for thought translation. The Hebrew word is *tzeila*, and actually refers to Adam's side. In Exodus 25:12 and 14 and 37:3 and 5 this word refers to the side of the ark of the Covenant. So He took both bone and flesh from the side of Adam to create Eve. She came into existence out of the very life of the man. Life begets life. As many commentators have noted, the woman was not made from one of the bones in the man's head in order for her to lord over him, nor was she made from one of the bones in his foot in order to enable him to trample and crush her. On the contrary, she was made from one of the bones in his side, so that they might share life together in mutual protection, concern, love, and care. As we shall see, it was sin that changed the original divine intention of this relationship (3:16).<sup>51</sup> Then the Lord God made (*banah*) a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man (2:22). The Hebrew word *banah* means *to build*. God actually built a woman out of Adam's side. Eve did not evolve, she was created with the appearance of age as was all creation. Eve was God's gift to Adam, the helper made for him.

At the dawning of creation, when **the ADONAI, God**, had a big job to do, the team **He** put together was a **man** and a **woman**. This was **His** first string of all-stars to fulfill **His** bold mandate. As a result, the history of men and women working together is longer than men working with men or women working with women. This has repercussions far beyond marriage that cover every relationship between men and women in the congregations of **God**, the workplace and in the world in general. The clear message from the Scriptures is that **ADONAI** intended **men** and **women** to work together.

**Then the man said: This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh (2:23a).** This verse is poetic and is **Adam's** immediate response and the first recorded words of **man**. The phrase: **bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh** is a statement of commitment in **Second Samuel 5:1**, where the ten tribes pledged loyalty to King David. So this is a statement of commitment from **Adam** to **Eve**. **He** realizes that **she** is his complement. How perfect **their** original relationship was. Then **Adam** named **her**: **she shall be called woman for she was taken out of man (2:23b)**. Here is one of the word plays that only makes sense in Hebrew. The Hebrew word for **woman** is *isha*, and the Hebrew word for **man** is *ish*. The word play is this: the *isha* comes from the *ish*. This only makes sense in Hebrew, once again showing it was the first language. Therefore, the **woman** was made *from man*, *for man*, **she** was given *to man*, and then named *by man*.

**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother (2:24a).** It is important that the first human institution recognized by **Elohim** was that of marriage. The leaving of **the man** is a mental and emotional departure where **he** and **his wife** find **their** emotional fulfillment in **themselves** and not their parents. This seems to be more and more of a problem today. It has to do with releasing adult children; **mothers** releasing **their** sons to another **woman**, and **fathers** releasing **their** daughters to another **man**. When the parent demands that the child continue to put him or her first, even after marriage, they make it extremely difficult to **leave** emotionally. This does not mean that we cease to have a relationship with our parents, but without placing the attention on our own mate, the spouse always seems to feel like second best, which leads to problems in the marriage. Parents need to learn how to release, and children need to understand that they need to **leave** their **fathers** and their **mothers** emotionally. To do this gracefully is one of the great challenges in our society today.

**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife.** There is a definite order here . . . **leaving, then being united**. Not the other way around. The Hebrew word for **be united** means *to stick like glue*. This word is often used to signify the maintaining of a covenant and is used that way several times in the book of **Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 4:4, 10:20, 11:22, 13:4, 30:20)**. This is now the new loyalty; they must

*stick like glue* to each other. Their destiny is now tied to each other and not with their parents. It is plain that **God's** intention from the very beginning was a permanent, life-long monogamous relationship for the **man and his wife (First Corinthians 6:12-20)**. Because of the entrance of sin into the world after the Fall, **Elohim** has not always rigidly enforced this ideal. **He** has even seemed to sanction (or at least allow) polygamy at times, as in the case of Abraham, Jacob, and David, and to bless the work of some who practiced it. Similarly, the Torah allowed divorce, and in some cases, **the LORD** even commanded it (**Ezra 10:11**).<sup>52</sup> But that was not **His** perfect will for us. **Yeshua** based **His** own teaching on marriage on this passage (**Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12**), and **He** chose this relationship to show the picture and pattern of the relation of **Christ** to **His Church (Ephesians 5:22-33)**.

**And they will become one flesh (2:24b)**. Today, young people seem to think that they are the Columbus that discovered sex (see my commentary on **Exodus Dq - You Shall Not Commit Adultery**). But if you get this order of **leaving** and then being **united** mixed up, your life will be much more difficult. **God's** perfect plan is that **one man would be united to one woman, and [then] they would become one flesh forever**.

**The man and his wife were both naked (arumim), and they felt no shame (2:25)**. This is the Dispensation of Innocence or Freedom (see **Ap - The Dispensations of God**). They **were naked** before **God**, and they **were naked** before each other, and they **felt no shame** because they had done nothing wrong. This would change shortly.