

International Sunday School Lesson Study Notes

Lesson Text: Genesis 2:18-25

Lesson Title: Created Male and Female

Introduction

To study a lesson entitled "Created Male and Female" may seem like a waste of time. After all, doesn't everyone know that God created man from the dust of the ground and then He created woman from the side of man? The answer to that question is obviously no. Some have never heard the truth of man's origin and others willfully reject it. In fact, some men and governments are dedicated and determined to rewrite the history of man's origin and redefine the role of male and female. In so doing they have chipped away at the foundation of society and thus we see the decay and failure of humanity and the home. When men and governments endorse the theory of evolution, view males and females alike, and promote sexual permissive behavior and alternative lifestyles; the results are devastating personally and nationally.

It was not long ago that the majority of people in western culture believed without question that God created men and women and that marriage was between a male and a female. Today, marriage is being re-defined to suit the desires of sinful man. Although the majority of people in western culture repeatedly vote in favor of biblical marriage, Satan and those who follow him in the judicial, political, educational and religious circles continue to fight against biblical truth. And rest assured, this is a fight against biblical truth.

While the world continues to muddy the water concerning the origin of man, marriage, and human sexuality, God's people must sound forth with clarity the truth of scripture. God created man from the dust of the ground. God created woman from the side of man. God united man and woman together in marriage. The first marriage was between a male and a female and was permanent until death separated them. That is biblical truth for any people in any culture in any time.

"Some Old Testament scholars have claimed that this section of Genesis 2 is a second account of Creation written by a different author whose message conflicts with what's found in chapter 1. That theory isn't widely promoted today; for in these verses, Moses tells the same Creation story but adds details that we need to know in order to understand events that happen later." *Bible Exposition*

Our lesson text today deals with God's creative activity on the sixth day of creation. According to Genesis 1:24-31, this is the day God created land, animals, and Adam and Eve. As we approach our lesson text which focuses on God's creation of Eve to be Adam's helpmeet, God has already placed Adam in the Garden of Eden "...to dress it and to keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

The Maker of Man and Woman (Genesis 2:18-22)

Verse 18

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

"And the LORD God said" is God speaking on the sixth day of creation and Adam is in the Garden of Eden. After all of God's creative work the one thing that is "not good" is "that the man should be alone." This is the first time the words "not good" are found in the Bible and in the Creation story. The fact that this "is not good" doesn't mean that there was something evil or something bad because that is not what God meant. It means that something was not yet complete. There was something missing and that something was "an help meet."

God saw that Adam had a need. Adam would have never known he need a woman had not God declared it to be so. Knowing that Adam needed something to be complete God said, "I will make him an help meet for him." "Meet" means "appropriate," and "a perfect fit." When God made woman to be "an help meet" for Adam, it meant Adam now had the capability to reproduce and rule as God intended. At this point in God's creative work, all reproducing creation was both male and female. Only man alone did not yet have that compliment (1 Corinthians 11:8-11).

Verse 19-20

"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."

The words "out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field" reflects what has already occurred on the sixth day of creation (see Genesis 1:24, 25). While the waters are said to have brought forth the various sea creatures and birds on the fifth day (Genesis 1:20), all creatures are made from the ground or dust as noted in Psalm 104:29 (see last week's lesson). Man himself also has been formed "of the dust of the ground" by the Lord God (Genesis 2:7). *Standard Lesson Commentary 2013-2014 (KJV)*. It is also impossible to believe in evolution if you believe the words, "out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air." "Formed" means "fashioned with a pre-determined plan." No frogs turning to monkeys here!

The name "Adam" appears for the first time in the Bible here in this verse. God "brought" all the animals He had created before Adam to be named by Adam. "Adam" was far more intelligent than any of us can imagine. Keep in mind that Adam had not yet experienced the mental results that would come from sin. He had the mental ability to look at all of these animals and give them a name. Some suggest that there would not have been enough time left on the sixth day to name each of them individually if the days were twenty-four hour days. It is possible that Adam might have just named the different animals by categories. It is also possible that he named them all individually. If he had the mental ability to name them all time wasn't a factor! Either way, "Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field..." Can you?

This entire scene where Adam is naming all the animals raises a question. Why? Why did God want Adam to name the animals? Couldn't God have named them? God named Adam. "Adam" means "from the ground." God's purpose in bringing each animal by Adam as he stood in the beautiful Garden of Eden was to show him that each of them came from the ground as he did. Yet, none of the animals is quiet like Adam. He is special, different. That's one of the many aspects of the theory of evolution that is so dishonoring to God. Man and woman are not evolved animals. Also, God showed him that all the animals, fowls of the air, and beasts of the fields were in pairs. Each of them had a mate. Based on these and other reasons, we can safely conclude that God was giving Adam a powerful object lesson.

"But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him" means more than just the absence of a woman. It means that as Adam looked at all of God's creation there was nothing suitable for him at this point. If Adam had evolved from a monkey surely he would have seen at least one good looking female chimp that would have caught his eye! Remember, "there was not found." And the reason "there was not found" is because God had not yet made her.

You can only find satisfaction and fulfillment in what God creates. The governments and judicial systems of our land is making it possible for men to legally marry men and women to legally marry women. But in those relationships "there will not be found" what God designed in biblical marriage.

Verse 21-22

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

God created "a woman" from the side of Adam as a special, final act in the creative process. Doctor John Phillips said, *"Eve was in the mind of God, before she was in the arms of Adam." One moment there was no woman. The next moment she stood before Adam: fresh from the hand of her Maker.*

Illustration for the men: Someone suggested that the reason God created man first and the woman second is because God didn't need any advice on how to create!

Illustration for the women: Someone suggested that the reason God created woman last was that if He had created her first there wouldn't have been a need to create a man!

The first surgeon in the Bible is God. The first anesthesiologist (those who put you to sleep) in the Bible is God. While God "took one of his (Adam's) ribs," Adam slept in a "deep sleep" that came upon him by the "cause" of God. This sleep "settled in on Adam" while God operated. God "took one of his ribs" which means God removed some flesh and bone from Adam's side. It is more important here to think of "rib" in terms of flesh and bone rather than just a single bone. And in case you're wondering, man does not have one less "rib" than women. The point is that woman was made with material from the man. When He was finished removing the "rib," God "closed up the flesh."

Woman was taken from man's side. Matthew Henry writes, "She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved."

Just like man, woman was created *"in the image of God"* (Genesis 1:27). Woman is not lacking in anything in regard to man in relation to the image of God. The only difference is that God "made" man out of dirt and He made woman out of Adam.

"Made" is from a Hebrew word that means "build." It is used throughout the Old Testament in relation to a builder who takes materials such as wood or stone and builds a beautiful building. That's exactly what God did here. He took some materials out of Adam and "made" a woman.

"And brought her unto the man" is powerful! Previous, God had brought all the animals, the fowls, and the beasts of the field one by one before Adam. But now, God brings "her." One preacher said, *"Before there was a marriage vow there must have been a marriage WOW!"* When Adam opened his eyes from the first successful surgery in history he gazed upon the woman God had created especially for him.

The Marriage of Man and Woman (Genesis 2:23-25)

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."

As soon as Adam awakes from the sleep he says, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." He seems to be saying, "This is what I've been missing." He acknowledges by the use of the words "bone of my bones" and "flesh of my flesh" that the woman has been created for him. Those words also reveal that he is aware of what has happened to him. He knows God has taken something out of him to make someone for him. He clearly sees and individual before him and senses a genuine kinship.

Adam had previously named the animals but now he names God's newest creation, "Woman." He names her "woman" because she was "taken out of Man." The word "Woman" in Hebrew comes from a root word meaning "soft." The name "Woman" carries that meaning. Liberals and feminist hate that but then they usually hate everything God does! Oh what a different world it would be if men would be men and women would be women as God designed.

Verse 24

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Who is speaking in this verse? Obviously, Adam can't "leave his father and mother" because he doesn't have one. The Holy Spirit could have inspired Adam to

say the words of verse 24 or Moses, the human author of the book of Genesis could have spoken. The best interpretation is that God is the speaker here and although He is speaking about the first union between a man and woman He is also speaking about every union between a man and a woman.

Biblical marriage is between a man (male) and a woman (female). This is the biblical basis for what the Bible calls "leaving" and "cleaving." "Leave" means "to depart." "Cleave" means "to stick, join, follow." Jesus repeated the same words in relation to biblical marriage in Matthew 19:5. When a man and a woman are united together in biblical marriage "they shall be one flesh." This establishes the foundation for marriage. It also establishes the foundation for sexual behavior. There's only one acceptable sexual behavior that God recognizes in the human realm. And that is the sexual behavior between a man and a woman who have left father and mother and cleaving to each other and have become "one flesh." That is the only context in which God has ordained and recognized sexual conduct. Heterosexual conduct and activity outside of biblical marriage is fornication and adultery. Homosexual activity is an abomination and sin (Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:1-6; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

Verse 25

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

The subject of "nakedness" is introduced at the end of this beautiful story. Adam and Eve were "both naked" and they "were not ashamed." That statement speaks volumes of the virtue and purity of marriage. God has always demanded purity in the relationships between male and females. It is only within the bonds of biblical marriage that sexual desires can be fulfilled without shame.

Adam and Eve knew no "shame" because they were without sin and evil. At this point they didn't know that sexual desire could be used for wicked and evil purposes. They didn't have a twisted and perverted view of sex. "Shame" is produced from the guilt of sin. Once sin enters the picture their "nakedness" will be evident (Genesis 3:7). It is sad today that because of sin there is so much shame and wickedness in regard to the sexual relationship. Sex sells. It sells everything from a cheap pleasure in a dark alley to the morning news. Sex is used to sell automobiles, medicine, and tickets to athletic events. God never designed it to be that way.

The Christian man and woman who are united in biblical marriage may enjoy the beautiful and fulfilling relationship of being "one flesh" (Hebrews 13:4). God gave

Adam and Eve a shameless joy and love and He will give that to those who follow the truth of biblical marriage.

Conclusion

God created male and female. He created them different by design. And He created them to complete and complement each other. He created both in His own image.

God's people must not surrender to the anti-biblical culture of today. No matter how many nations around the world or individuals accept same sex marriage or people living together and having sexual relations outside of biblical marriage, the Bible is still the truth. Men do not set terms of marriage. God determines that. And those who oppose it will face His wrath and judgment.

The best way Christians can influence this godless culture is to have biblical marriages that glorify and honor Christ. When we do so we are not only honoring our Creator, but we are also honoring the head of the church, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5).

Amen.