

TUTORIAL
1.13

God created a wife for Adam

See Tutorial 1.6 notes for overall instructions.

The portions of Scripture referred to in this tutorial are: **Genesis 2:18-25**.

Last time

We saw in the Narrative that, having completed His work of creation exactly as He wanted it to be, God simply stopped, or “rested”. We noted that, in contrast to humans, He never leaves things half done or poorly done. He gets it completely right the first time. Also how God, “the Lord”, using a more personal, relational name, described where He put the man, Adam – a perfect context in which he could flourish, fulfill his responsibilities and relate to God as Father and Guide. And about the two trees, and the life or death choice that they represented for Adam, and, therefore the human race.

God notes Adam’s need

In the Narrative, the Three-in-One God already mentioned that He/They made a male and female version of human beings. But then, in the chronology of events, Adam is created – formed from the soil as we know, coming to life when God breathes His life into him.

God places Adam into this wonderful place – this garden – and then clearly instructs him about the two trees.

At this point, Adam is the only human being...we haven’t yet heard the account of how the previously mentioned female is made. The Story (2:18) picks this up now and describes God, the personal, relating Lord God, observing that the man shouldn’t be alone as a human.

He needs a companion, a helper.

God knows Adam completely. Knows his needs. He should, right? He planned, then made him after creating a world for him to live in. Significantly, He doesn’t consult with Adam on this point. How could Adam know in what way he was lacking, to even begin to imagine a solution, much less set about supplying it? But God does know, He cares deeply, and He sets about providing what Adam really needs... God also knew what was needed for the accomplishment of His

purposes - the thing which He'd put Adam here for, and tasked him with. Again, even though he'd been told the general scope of the task, he couldn't possibly know how to set about it or what was needed for its completion. But God knew that a female companion helper for Adam was essential if the planet was to be inhabited by a human caretaking race, bearing the image of God and relating to Him as their Guide and Father. A principle and pattern is being established which we'll see repeated numerous times in God's Story of Him relating to us as humans.

Naming the animals

We come to this fascinating part of the sequence of events - recorded in 2:19,20 – in which God brings the animals to Adam for him to name. Imagine the scene, as the appointed caretaker of the earth is introduced to its non-human inhabitants and gives each animal a name. This is not a cute Sunday school pantomime but a significant event whose full import we can only glimpse or speculate about.

The connections perhaps to God's creative speaking "and God said" and now, the man, made in His image, naming each animal. Or how the essence of things, of identity, is somehow tied up in their linguistic labels. And also the symbolic aspects of Adam taking a supervising ownership for what he has now seen and named himself. But we must let the Narrative, God's Story, provide its own balance. There is a healthy speculation and wonder, and there is an unhealthy and dangerous going beyond, and an inappropriate *reading into* what He has revealed.

God provides the perfect companion/helper

Despite observing closely and coming up with a linguistic description - a name - for each different animal. And no doubt marveling at God's creativity in the vast variety of the animal kingdom... It's apparent that in all that variety none of them is anything like Adam in the most basic essence of who he was. None of them could begin to fill his need for human companionship. None of them could possibly share in the life-essence of one created in the image of God...the animals were clearly something other, lesser than that. This seemingly simple account of events and the sparse commentary is profound in its implications.

There are no sophisticated arguments here about ethics or theories on macro-biology, but in God's true version of how things are, lay the foundations for complete and satisfying answers to all the troubling questions of mankind. Even as those who know Him now, we too are faced with the simple choice of whether to accept His version as the solid place from which questions are answered, OR to forever grope about in the sludge of our own self-perpetuating doubts.

Marriage an important part of God's Story

So the Narrative (2:21-22) completes the details of how God miraculously brings into existence the perfect companion helper for Adam. Taken from his body, his "flesh and bone".

And she is all that God intends. All that Adam needed. All that, as humans, they need for each other. They are equal - it was made clear earlier - in being made in the image of God with all that means. Adam, understandably, is delighted with this woman. "At last" he says...this is who he'd been looking for even if he didn't know it. The completion, as it were, of himself as a person.

And that, of course, is what marriage is. Not a human invention. Not an outmoded Christian convention or tradition. This is part of God's Story itself. An integral part of what He was and is about. Bringing two individuals together, leaving their former identity and primary loyalties within their birth family, and creating a new entity, a new family - a unit within which God's purposes (for them and the wider Creation) were to be fulfilled. And this picture, a marriage as God says it should be, will feature a number of times in His Story, a powerful picture, in fact an actual description, of Him relating to His people...but that's for later.

So without any evil in their hearts, without any sin to confuse or impinge on their delight together, it says (2:25) that their nakedness wasn't an issue. They were innocent in the most innocent of ways. Not foolishly naïve like innocence is often depicted, but innocent because they did not think, had no reason to think, about things in any other way. The relationship of the man, Adam, and the woman, Eve, and their companionship together and before God their Maker, was pure, was just as He intended it to be.



DISCUSSION POINTS

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1. As you think about the account of God bringing the first man and woman together as companions in this new world, what aspects of His character stand out to you
2. Consider the true freedom from guilt and fear that Adam and Eve enjoyed in the beginning. With that still in mind,

comment on the rejection of personal accountability to God that is a hallmark of our society today.

3. In what ways (if any) do you feel the Genesis account of Adam and Eve's creation is at odds with society's current view of marriage, gender and sexuality?



ACTIVITIES

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1. Do some research on current trends in marriage, divorce and the family. In approximately half a page, describe the picture you get of marriage and what our society's view is on marriage and the family (provide statistics if necessary but mainly write in your own words). If you have time, note any contrasts you come across between the predominant western view and for example, Asian, Latin American or African perspectives.