

THE FIRST WOMAN: MAN'S COMPANION, EVE GENESIS 02:18–25

Introduction

This is a precious passage of Scripture. There is within its words...

- the experience of need and desire (on Adam's part)
- the experience of caring and love (on God's part)
- the experience of promise and provision (by God)
- the experience of anticipation and excitement (by Adam)
- the experience of warmth and tenderness (by both Adam and Eve). (See notes, Eph 5:22-33.)

This is a great study on *The First Woman: Man's Companion, Eve*, Genesis 2:18-25

- I. God's plan to create woman (v. 18).
- II. Man's need for woman (vv. 19-20).
- III. Woman's creation by God (vv. 21-22).
- IV. Man and woman were brought together by God: the facts governing the union (vv. 22-24).
- V. Man and woman were created perfect, innocent and without shame (v. 25).

I. *Genesis 02:18 God's Plan to Create Woman*

God planned woman. Woman was as much the creation of God as was man.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Note that the creation of woman is discussed in great detail in the present passage. Why? The primary reason seems to be this: to establish and set the relationship between man and woman forever.

- => Man and woman are related to each other — intimately so. They are bound together and they are totally dependent upon each other. One cannot exist without the other. Man and woman need each other, desperately need each other. God needed to reveal this fact for all generations.
- => Man and woman are different persons — distinct individuals. Each has a distinctive role upon earth; each was created for a different purpose. Each must fulfil his or her role in order to survive and to have a full and complete life. God also needed to reveal this fact for all generations.

Again, why does the Bible discuss the creation of woman in detail? To show that man and woman are related to each other — intimately so — but at the same time, to show that they

are different from one another. Each is distinctive and unique with a distinctive role and purpose upon earth.

Note this: God planned woman's creation (v. 18). It is God Himself who is planning and speaking in this event. The plan for woman's creation...

- was not just an afterthought
- was not an inferior plan
- was not of less importance
- was not given less attention and thought than the creation of man

On the contrary, the very opposite was true. This passage shows that great attention and thought were given to the creation of woman. The plan for woman's creation was worked out in great detail.

Note why God created woman. His purpose is clearly stated.

1. Woman was created because it was not good for man to be alone. The phrase "not good" means incomplete, unfinished, unfulfilled, deficient. Standing by himself — standing alone — man is...

- incomplete
- unfinished
- unfulfilled
- deficient
- lonely

Therefore, it was not good for man to be alone. Without woman, man would have no suitable companion for love and comfort. Neither would he be able to reproduce, nor to work and subdue the earth as God had instructed (see Gen 1:28). Without woman, man would have no person with whom to share life, not someone of his own nature. And since the corruption of the earth by sin, man would soon die out and be an extinct species.

The point is this: man was only half of God's plan for human life. Woman was the other half. God's plan was not complete until woman was created. Woman was as much a part of God's plan for human life as man was. Therefore, it was not good that man should be alone. Man was incomplete and deficient without woman. Man needed woman, desperately needed her. God knew this when He first began to plan for human life upon earth. Consequently, God planned the creation of woman, planned to create her right along with man.

Thought 1. The same problems afflict and plague man today:

- => loneliness
- => emptiness
- => deficiency
- => incompleteness
- => unfulfilment

God did not create man and woman to suffer such afflictions. But too many of us do, all because of sin. Is there an answer — deliverance — to these problems? Is there such a thing as a complete and fulfilled life — a life of purpose, meaning and significance? Yes! Scripture declares there is. Scripture declares that Jesus Christ

came to earth for this very purpose: to give us life, both abundant and eternal life. All we have to do is this: turn to Christ and follow Him. It is when we turn to Christ and follow Him that He gives us the life for which we long.

John 1:4 *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

John 5:24 *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 10:10 *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

Mat 11:28 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

1 Pet 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

John. 15:11 *“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*

2. God planned woman because man needed a helper, a companion — a *suitable* helper and companion. The Hebrew word *meet* or *suitable* (keneghdo) means fit, corresponding to, adapted to, agreeing with, counterpart, opposite, equal to. It means that the woman...
 - was created as a suitable helper for man
 - was created as a fit helper for man
 - was adapted to the nature of man
 - corresponded to the nature of man
 - agreed with the nature of man
 - was like the nature of man
 - was an opposite and equal being for man

Another way to say the same thing is this: God planned woman...

- to be the counterpart to man
- to be of the very same nature as man
- to be of the very same rank as man
- to be suited to man mentally, physically and morally

Note three significant points in this fact.

- a. God's plan included the creation of woman just as His plan had included the creation of man. God created woman to be a true helper and companion for man. Man, of course, was to provide the same help and companionship for her. There is nothing in the plan of God about superiority and inferiority, nothing about a superior or inferior rank for woman nor for man. The idea that woman is inferior to man — a lesser being — has not come from God nor from His Word, the Holy Bible. It has come from depraved, sinful humanity and society.

- b. The primary reason God planned the creation of woman was “for him” — for man (v. 18). Man was incomplete — incomplete in an absolute sense — without woman. He was totally deficient. Creation was not finished with just man upon earth. Man needed woman, desperately needed her. Therefore, woman was created first and foremost *for man*. Woman was created to be the helper, the companion, the partner of man. Companionship — being the partner of man — is woman's primary function upon earth. This function exceeds all other purposes.
- c. God created the first two humans to be the *parents of the human race*. They were to be companions, to live and work together as partners, helping each other every way they could. *As the parents of the human race*, they were to picture just what God wants the race to be: one family. This is one of the major points or revelations God is making in this passage. Man and woman are to be companions to each other, true companions, living and working together as one family, as God's family. The human race is to live together in peace — in the love, joy and peace of a family.

Thought 1. It is God's plan for man and woman to help each other. This requires two things:

- (1) The willingness to help.
- (2) The willingness to receive and accept the offered help.

Rom 15:7 *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

Gal 6:2 *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*

Eccl 4:9-10 *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*

Thought 2. There is no record of Adam complaining about his loneliness. He fellowshiped with God. God was all he knew, all he had. He made it enough. When and if we are forced to be alone, God will make His presence enough.

Mat 28:20 *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Heb 13:5 *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

Exo 33:14 *The Lord replied, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

Isa 43:1-2 *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”*

Thought 3. Several thoughts are applicable at this point.

- (1) A home should have rivers of communication and sharing running through its rooms. Yet, so many homes are like dried up deserts.

- (2) A person can be in the midst of a crowd or in the centre of a family and still be all alone.

Thought 4. Note the picture painted of God in verse 18: God sees and cares. He saw Adam's need, and He sees our need. The picture is that of a fatherly care. If we walk with God as Adam walked, God will meet our need.

1 Pet 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

Phil 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

II. **Genesis 02:19–20** *Man's Need for Woman*

Man's need for woman, for companionship. Note what the Bible now does: it switches from God's decision to create woman to God's creation of animals and to His instructing man to name the animals. Why? Why inject the creation and naming of animals right in the middle of God's creation of woman? There are at least three reasons.

1. God needed to re-emphasize a critical fact: He is the Creator of all man's companions, of all living creatures. Man needed to learn this, to have it driven into his mind. If man was to have a special companion — a companion with his very own nature — God was the One who had to create her. Man had to depend upon God to give him the companion who would be a perfectly suitable partner.

Thought 1. This is still God's emphasis, even today: every man and woman should depend upon God to give them the very companion they need.

Thought 2. Note: some critics of the Bible say this is a second account — an entirely different account — of creation. Nothing could be further from the truth. The critics use the tense of "*God formed*" and say that it is a plain past tense. But many Biblical scholars point out that the Hebrew tense can be just as accurately, if not more accurately, translated "*God had formed*" (the pluperfect tense). Note what the great old commentary of Keil and Delitzsch says:

Our modern style of expressing the same thought would be simply this: "God brought to Adam the beasts which he had [already] formed." (Keil and Delitzsch. Commentary on the Old Testament, Vol. 1. p. 87.)

2. God shows man that he is superior to the animals. This is true in three significant areas.
 - a. Man has *superior authority over animals*. His authority is seen in the fact that God brought the animals to Adam to be named. The animals did not name man; man named the animals. God had given man dominion over the earth. God now turned over the animal world for man to begin exercising that authority. The animal world was thereafter under man's authority and keeping. (See note 4, Gen 1:28.)

Note: Scripture says that God brought the animals to Adam. Two logical questions need to be asked.

First, how did God bring the animals? By having angels escort the animals to Adam? By some movement upon their hearts to go to Adam? Scripture does not say, but it is more natural to say that God moved upon the animals' hearts — gave them an intuitive sense — to go to Adam.

Second, did all the animals of the earth go to Adam? Many Bible scholars say no, that only the animals in the Garden of Eden were named. However, note the Scripture: the indication seems to be that God created *every animal* and man named *every animal*. But note this: water animals such as fish are not mentioned.

Thought 1. Man's authority over the world is seen from the beginning of known history. History reveals two significant things about man's authority:

- (1) Man has used his authority for good in that he has made some progress in building up his world through medicine and technology.
 - (2) Man has also used his authority for depraved purposes: for the destruction of human life, nature, the environment and the air and water we breathe and drink.
- b. Man has *superior intelligence over animals*. The Hebrew words for *calling and naming* the animals have the idea of study and concentrated thought — study and thought that tries to match the names to the nature of an animal. Man's superior intelligence is seen in the following facts:
- Man was able to control the animals so that he could name them. He held authority over them because of his superior intelligence.
 - Man was able to study, reason and concentrate much longer than animals — long enough to give names to the animals, names that matched the animals' nature.
 - Man was able to research the nature of each animal. Then he demonstrated creativity by formulating names to match their nature.
 - Man was able to speak, to attach words to his thoughts, to vocalize his ideas.

Thought 1. Down through the centuries, man has used his intelligence in both responsible and irresponsible ways, both for good and bad.

- (1) Responsibly, man has sought to better his welfare upon earth both materially and mentally.
 - => Materially he has sought to make himself more comfortable and healthy.
 - => Mentally he has sought to learn more and more in order to better the life of all men and to control more and more of the natural world.
 - (2) Irresponsibly, man has turned much of his advancement in science and technology toward selfish ends, toward indulgence, extravagance, power and authority over others — the selfishness that deprives others, that enslaves and destroys them.
- c. Man has a *superior being and person* over animals. Man is a spiritual being. Apparently, as Adam began to associate with the animals, a fact began to dawn upon

him; he realized something. There was not a suitable helper or companion for him. All the animals had mates, for God had created them with companions and with the capacity to reproduce. But not Adam. There was no companion for Adam. As he studied the nature of the animals and named them, a longing for companionship with a superior being must have arisen within his heart. Thus, Adam came to realize his need for a spiritual companion just like himself.

Thought 1. There is a close association between man and animal, but there is also a vast difference between the two. Man and animal can to some degree communicate, play together, and enjoy each other. But in every case — without exception — man has to lower himself and meet the animal on its level. Never can the animal raise itself and meet man on his level. This is what Adam saw and sensed ever so deeply. There was no creature capable of being a companion to him. Adam needed woman, a being equal in person and nature with him.

(Please note: all the *Thoughts* under point two above deal with man's supremacy over the world, not with the creation of woman. A person can take this point and teach a separate lesson on the *Supremacy of Man Over the Earth*. When dealing with the creation of woman, remember what God is doing in point 2 [vv. 19-20]: showing man his great need for woman, for a companion just like himself. Despite man's great authority over the animal world, he still had no companion like himself, no companion with his superior nature.)

3. God's purpose was to show man his great need for woman, for a companion just like himself. Picture Adam studying and observing the animals. As he researches their nature, at some point it dawns upon him that every living animal has a companion just like itself — except him. He realizes that creation is incomplete, that another act of creation is needed, a very special act of creation: God needs to create a companion for him. Note two significant points.
 - a. This method of showing Adam his need for woman was bound to have a tremendous impact upon Adam. It was bound to make Adam love and appreciate his dear wife far more than if God had created her at the same time he was created. When God created Eve, Adam was longing for her — longing with an intense desire. He knew how desperately he needed a companion who was just like himself, a companion with his very own nature.
 - b. This method of showing Adam his need for woman was God's way of showing man a fact that was to always be remembered: man and woman were created as equal beings, as two beings who were to be equal companions to one another, the counterpart to each other. Man was the stronger person *physically*. Therefore, God knew (as history has proven) that in many, if not all, societies man would tend to dominate the woman. Therefore, God needed to show man that woman is equal — equal by the very nature of her creation.

- => Woman was to be created by God as a unique individual just as man was.
- => Woman was to be taken from the body of man himself; therefore, she was to be made out of the same stuff as man (v. 22).
- => Man was to hold the woman ever so dear to his heart — loving and respecting her ever so deeply — for she came both from God's hand and from man's very own body. She was of the very *same spiritual being* as Adam and of the very *same physical being* as Adam. She was both of God and of man.

The point is this: man and woman are equal in person and being. They differ only in that they have different roles and purposes upon earth (see notes, Gen 2:18; Eph 5:22-33).

Thought 1. Man has used his spiritual being in both good and bad ways. He has looked at the world in all its vastness, beauty and design; and he has studied and researched its origin, wondering where everything has come from. He has asked: "Is there a Creator, a Supreme Intelligence and Force, a Personal God who has made the world and created man and woman?" Man has often seen the power and intelligence of God revealed in nature; he has seen that God does indeed exist. But man has too often become vain in his imagination and professed himself to be *too wise* to believe in a God beyond himself. As a result man has changed the image of the incorruptible God into the image of corruptible man. Man has too often claimed to be his own god (humanism and secularism).

Rom 1:21-23 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

Acts 28:27 *For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.*

2 Cor 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Eph 4:18 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

Gen 6:5 *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.*

Psa 10:4 *In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*

Psa 82:5 *They know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

Psa 94:11 *The LORD knows the thoughts of man; he knows that they are futile.*

Thought 2. The world and the things of the world can never satisfy the soul of man. Nothing can satisfy the spiritual hunger of man except God. Man's soul will always be incomplete, unfulfilled, dissatisfied and restless until it comes to know God — know Him personally.

Mat 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

John 10:10 “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Isa 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

Isa 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”

Rev 22:7 “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

Thought 3. Some persons give more attention and affection to animals than to their own spouses or children. They substitute animals for those who are supposed to be their loved ones. How unlike God!

Thought 4. Note an extremely important point: the reason for man's superior authority is his superior intelligence, and the reason for his superior intelligence is his superior being, his spirit. It is his spirit, the image and likeness of God, that gives man superior intelligence and authority. All man's investigation and research into the world of nature should begin from this basis. Man is a spiritual being, a being made in the image and likeness of God.

III. *Genesis 02:21–22 Woman's Creation by God*

Woman's creation by God. Woman's creation is a picture of the closeness — the great companionship — that God wants between husband and wife as they live and work together upon earth. The closeness and intimacy — the bond between man and woman — is immediately seen in the facts given.

1. God put Adam to sleep and took a rib from him. God did not create woman like He did man and the animal kingdom, independent of each other. Just like a surgeon, God carefully put Adam to sleep and Adam slept. The Hebrew word *slept* (*tardemah*) means a *deep, deep sleep*. God tenderly and meticulously operated upon Adam and removed a rib from his body.
2. God created the woman from the rib of Adam. God created woman out of the very body and being of man. Simply stated, God performed surgery upon man, took one of his ribs, and made woman out of that rib. Fantastic! Unbelievable! Unimaginable! No, not really — not when we look at the beautiful and meaningful reasons why God created woman this way. This is not a fable about the origin of the female species of

humanity, not a myth as to how woman appeared upon earth and began her journey down through the centuries. The Biblical account is a simple explanation of exactly what happened. It is an accurate account. But why? Why would God not just form woman out of the dust of the ground as He did with man?

A careful study of this passage shows why. It shows that God had several beautiful and meaningful reasons for creating woman in this manner:

- => Woman came *out of man's need*. Therefore, she was to come "*out of man's*" being (vv. 18, 21-23).
- => Woman was to be the object of man's *cleaving*. Therefore, woman was made out of man's being in order to cause a *natural clinging*, a reaching out for one another's own being, one another's own flesh (vv. 23-24).
- => Woman was to be *one flesh* with man. Therefore, she was made out of the very flesh of man so that man and woman would have *identical natures* and stand as the *counterpart* to one another (vv. 22-23).
- => Woman came *out of man's flesh* so that both would cherish and nurture the other. No person hates his own flesh. The very opposite is true: he cherishes, protects and cares for it.

Eph 5:28-29 *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church.*

- => Woman is the *glory and crown of creation*, the being who brings more refinement to the world than any other creature.

1 Cor 11:7 *The woman is the glory of man.*

Woman is the glory and crown of both man and nature. Note this: the animals had just been created by God (Gen 1:20-25). *After* their creation, man was created out of the dust of the ground. He who was created *after* was more excellent and of more glory than the animals. But woman was made *after* man, and she was not taken out of the dust, but out of man himself. Woman's creation may, therefore, be said...

- to be more excellent and more glorious than man's, for she was twice removed from the dust of the earth
- to bring more refinement, beauty and glory to the earth
- to be the summit, the crowning glory of creation

Woman was created from the rib taken from the very chest of man, that which protects his heart. Woman is that which gives so much meaning to man, that which brings warmth, tenderness and encouragement to man. She is either a protective or destructive force in his life.

IV. *Genesis 02:22–24 Marriage: Man and Woman Brought Together by God*

Man and woman were brought together by God. This passage is both dramatic — and informative. The New Testament bases most of its teachings on the relationship between man and woman upon the experience recorded here (see 1 Cor 11:2, 7-9, 11-12; 1 Tim 2:12-15). Remember: before this, Adam had no companion, no human being with whom to share his life. It was while he was researching and studying the animals that his great need for companionship struck him. The animals had mates and companions of their own kind, but not Adam. Adam was all alone: there was no creature who had his flesh and nature, no one with whom he could share life.

But now, there stood Eve. Just imagine the scene. The first two human beings standing there face to face with each other for the very first time in human history. Imagine the experience, the first sight and touch of each other! The emotions, the excitement! The moment must have been one of the most dramatic and exciting moments of human experience.

As stated, the passage lays the basis for the relationship between man and woman upon earth. Note these facts.

1. The union and relationship between man and woman was wrought by God.
=> God created both man and woman: man first, then woman (vv. 7, 22).
=> God brought man and woman together (v. 22b).
=> God established the law of marriage (v. 24).
2. Woman was equal to man in being and person. She was made of the same flesh and blood, the very same material as Adam. She was “*like Adam*” in every respect: in the physical, mental and spiritual being. She was “taken out of man” — out of the very same stuff or substance as man was (v. 23. See note, pt. b, Gen 2:18; also see *Creation of Man, Image of God*, Gen 1:26; 1:27; 2:21-22.)
3. Man was created and formed first, sometime before woman (v. 23; see 18; see 1 Tim 2:13; see 1 Cor 11:8-9). This does not mean superiority and inferiority, but *order and priority*. Neither man nor woman is superior or inferior to the other, not in being or person. As persons, man and woman are equal in God's eyes, and they are to be equal in each other's eyes.

What Scripture is saying is this: God created in an orderly fashion. He structured order within the family and within society. He arranged for man to be first in the order of the family and society, then the woman, and then the child. If there is to be order within any structure or organization, someone has to be first — someone has to be the head or leader of the structure or organization.

However, the Bible is clear in its instructions to the head: true order and priority are not found in domination, but in voluntary submissiveness and love. (See notes, 1 Cor 11:3; 11:7-10; Eph 5:22-24; 1 Tim 2:12-14.)

Thought 1. The order and relationship between man and woman are clearly shown in this Scripture: woman...

- was created for man
- was created out of man
- was presented *to* man

But again: the point of this passage is not to declare some supposed superiority of man over woman. The point is to declare that God created a *partner for man*, a partner who was desperately needed in order to carry out the will of God for the earth. The partnership is between two *equal persons and beings*, but their *functions and purposes* upon earth differ.

1 Tim 3:12 *A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.*

Eph 5:22 *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.*

Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

1 Pet 3:1 *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives.*

Thought 2. Note that *man* (ish) names woman after himself because she had been taken out of his body. He names her *woman* or *womb-man* (isha or ishshah).

4. Marriage is established as the first institution upon earth, the first institution established for society. Note three laws or rules of the marriage bond.
 - a. There is to be a *leaving of parents*, a permanent separation from parents by the man and woman. The union between husband and wife is to be the primary and strongest relationship between persons. It is to be so strong that the man and woman will leave their parents, be married and build a family of their own. (See *Unite, Cleave*, Mat 19:5.)
 - b. There is to be a *cleaving to each other*. The union is to be intimate and permanent — as lasting as *one flesh*. The marriage bond is to endure as long as the flesh lives. (See note 7, Mat 19:5.)
 - c. There is to be *one flesh*. Man and woman — husband and wife — are to become one flesh. He is to be hers and she is to be his — so much so that they are as one flesh, as one person. Simply stated, there is to be a physical intimacy and a spiritual union so binding that they become as “one flesh” — as one person in body, mind and spirit. (See note 6, Mat 19:5.)

Thought 1. God brought the woman to the man. God provided for the need of Adam. Note two lessons.

- (1) We must depend upon God to meet our need for a wife or for godly companionship.
- (2) God wants a voice in choosing our companion and spouse.

Mark 10:9 *“Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”*

Eph 5:28 *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

Heb 13:4 *Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

Prov 5:18 *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.*

Prov 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favour from the LORD.*

V. Genesis 02:25 Man and Woman Were Created Perfect and Innocent

Man and woman were created perfect, innocent and without shame. This verse is laying the groundwork for what is to follow in the next passage: the fall of man.

Note that man and woman were naked, yet they were not embarrassed or ashamed. Why? Because they had nothing about which to be ashamed. They were perfect beings, completely innocent. They had done nothing wrong. They sensed no guilt or shame whatsoever. They belonged to one another: their bodies belonged to the other, and together they belonged to God. They stood before God and before each other in perfection — perfectly innocent and free of any sense of shame, guilt, wrong or failure. They were perfect beings in a perfect world, being everything they should be to each other and to God. There was no sin, guilt or shame — nothing whatsoever to hide from each other nor from God.

Mat 5:8 *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”*

Phil 2:15 *That you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

1 Th 3:12-13 *May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

1 Th 5:23 *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Tim 1:5 *The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

2 Pet 3:14 *So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

Jude 1:24-25 *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen.*

Thought 1. Note two significant things about the family as an institution.

- (1) God established the family as the first institution of society. He will later establish the worship centre (tabernacle, temple and church) and the government.
- (2) All institutions of society find their roots in the family. The home gave rise...
 - to government: when rules and laws were needed between families and tribes
 - to worship: when the need for fellowship with God and for instruction of children arose
 - to education: when the need to instruct and teach children arose
 - to health care: when the physical care of the family members arose ■