



This Week in the Word

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Ps 119:89.



God Create the Family **Study Scripture: Genesis 2:18-24; 4:1-2** **Lesson 4, September 22nd, 2018.**

Key Verse

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

Genesis 2:24

INTRODUCTION

Our Study Scripture examines the formation by God of the second divine institution, namely, marriage. The first of course was the instituting of the Sabbath, the Day of Rest. Both institutions created at the dawn of man's history have been under relentless attack but both have survived though in a less than perfectly followed form.

One we known Dictionary informs us that "the family is the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of 2 parents rearing their children". It also states that the family is the divine building block of society.

But we know that there are now several different kinds of families such as:

- Childless families with married adults with for one or other reason no children
- Nuclear families, two parents and two children
- Extended families with related persons scattered and dispersed
- Reconstituted families
- Single parent families.

The Textbooks tell us that the family unit functions for

- Physical maintenance and care of a group member
- Socialization of children
- Social control of members

- Production, consumption, distribution of goods and services, and
- Effective nurturance, that is, love in its several forms.

The Study Text makes plain the family is the basic structure formed by a man and a woman. Given that this is a divine institution with its blueprint laid down by its Founder, marriage as the Text stresses evidently was designed to tremendously improve the life of modern man. We should not therefore be surprised that the enemy of God and as well of man would seek to damage and destroy this divine institution. The wise and witty of this world have therefore much to say in derogatory terms such as:

- marriage is an evil, but a necessary evil
- a system could not well have been devised more studiously hostile to human happiness than marriage, and the rhyme
- “Needles and pins, Needles and pins, when a man marries, his troubles begin”

But though humorous that is not the truth. The fact is that the world is on a different page from God. History has shown that being in a family that follows the principles of God is the best way to produce children and parents with the best emotional health.

One writer comments:

“One of the reasons that marriage is under attack is because marriage, when it does take place, is carried out with the divine principles forgotten, and marriage being a divine institution, cannot possibly prosper if it is not prosecuted according to the divine principles. If marriage were prosecuted according to the divine principles then we would see the beauty and the efficacy of this institution that God has ordained.....

A little investigation into the past history reveals several marriages, but marriages not carried out according to the divine institution. The difficulty is not with marriage. The difficulty is with the principles by which marriage is undertaken”.

Note that this Genesis Text we study is the foundation of all the teachings on marriage and the relationship between the sexes in both the Old and the New Testament. Jesus for example referred to this Text in Matthew 19. The Apostles used this Genesis Text also in their expositions.

Our Study Text is so structured that it tells us why it was necessary for the creation of woman and the particular technical reasons and the implications for that process. The male is not made to be alone.

It also gives information on the amazing intellectual ability of Adam and his partner and so we should not think of the founding parents as cavemen with a low level of ability and intellect. Note that we are looking at persons created in the image and likeness of God possessing incredible insights into creation and having daily fellowship with the Lord God as they grew up and matured in the knowledge of things which made them capable to be kings of creation and ruling over it.

The narrative develops much information about the correspondence between man and woman, and the dignity of the woman as she corresponded to and was suitable to the man.

Logically, as the Study looks at the start of the marriage institution and the relationship between man and woman the matters concerning this relationship and the question of leadership comes into play. The Study then looks briefly at the introduction of children now brought into being in a new world where sin predominated with its corrosive effect on the family.

The effects of unbelief of the word of God and the fruits of rebellion, and inadequate understanding of how God would have to act to correct our parents' gross mistakes will now be introduced. Sin in parents not only affect them but will ruin their offspring as they carry out the command of God to be fruitful and multiply.

THE TEXT

Verse 8-17. Moses begins describing the creation of woman with an act which shows him that though he was king of the animal world and had the responsibilities which went along with him being the ruler of the created world, he was not like the animals in key respects. He like the animals was created from the dust of the earth but there was something he had that they did not have and this made him very different from the animal world.

He as well as the animals had been blessed, and told to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. But he had been told to subdue the earth and to rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moved on the earth.

God had taken Adam, the first man and put him in a specially planted garden called Eden to look after it and preserve it in good order.

Adam had been told he could eat from every tree in the Garden of Eden and enjoy its delectable fruits. But he was warned that he should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for if he did eat of that tree on that day he ate he would die.

Verse 18. God had declared all His creation as good. But now He declared that Adam was not complete and so it was not good that he be alone. Adam needed a helper comparable to him.

Verse 19. Now that he was in Eden where he would have to till and keep that Garden, Adam had to be reminded he was sovereign over the animals and so the LORD GOD brought the animals to Adam for him to name and thus show his responsibility.

The major reason for this naming was clearly connected to the creation of the woman according to the context for in the 18th verse the Lord speak of Adam's need, for he was incomplete without his helper. This helper would be suitable for him and thus would have a special dignity and equality with him.

In this requirement to name the animals it must be understood that in Scripture to give a name to someone or something this naming involved understanding the essential nature of that being. So when Adam gave that name Scripture is telling us he understood the nature and character of those

animals and this showed his extraordinary perception and intelligence. That level of activity showed a massively powerful intellect and perception that cannot be matched by human beings today. He was extraordinary and certainly outside of the Lord Jesus Christ the most intelligent person who has ever lived.

Verse 20. Adam gave names to all the animals who obviously had come to him in pairs but he saw there was no helper or partner suitable for him. He might have watched these animals interact and cavort in love play with each other and this might have stirred up the desire in him to also have a mate.

Note that clearly the theory of evolution is not true for if it was and Adam was only a slightly different and probably a more refined and better endowed animal there would be one of them with which he might be able to have some relationship. But there was none like him and so he needed someone special and unique to provide fellowship and companionship. He and the animals had come from the dust but he was distinct from the animals for God had given him a quality directly that the animals did not have, and had thus breathed the breath of life in him making him in the image and likeness of God. The Text suggests that evolution cannot be true for all we see in man is devolution, a coming down from this high state. There is no upward development as evolutionists would like people to believe. Life cannot come from inorganic, then upward to organic, then upward to an amoeba, then upward by amazing, incredible and impossible twists and turns and strokes of luck to produce human beings, even if this process takes a few or many, many billion years.

Verse 21. There is no way for evolution to account for the appearance of this original of all living beings. But God put Adam in a deep sleep and performed an amazing surgery taking out a rib from Adam and some flesh, fashioned and built a woman, a helper suitable for Adam from that which was extracted from Adam

Note that it was essential that Eve be of the human race and it is essential that she be out of Adam for the whole story of the Bible is the headship of Adam and the headship of the last Adam the Lord Jesus Christ so that when Adam sinned and the sin of Adam was imputed to the whole race of men, the Lord Jesus could bear the sin of the entire unified human race, including Eve and her children, for Eve was taken out of Adam and her and her children's sins could be imputed to the Lord Jesus.

One often repeated and quite famous statement was made to show the dignity of woman by one of the early church fathers Chrysostom as follow.

“Let us remember that God did not take the Woman from man's feet to be trampled upon and enslaved, nor from the head that she should dominate him, but from his side to be his companion, from beneath his arm to receive his protection, and from near his heart to have his love and affection”.

So the way in which she was created and the place from which she was taken symbolized the relationship that woman had to Adam, and the responsibilities he had to her. She was indeed a help suitable for him.

This relationship of God creating a family is directly related to the relationship of Jesus to the true church. This impacts directly this argument of submission and equality. Jesus is sovereign and the Head. The sins of man and woman have been imputed to Him. They are all in Him if they have life. He is the Head, the boss if you choose to use that term, but He is a different kind of boss for He is a loving sovereign and a loving Head and He cares for the body. He was God but lived in submission as a man in obedience while He wrought our salvation. He was never unequal to God.

The relationship between the Woman and the Man Adam pictured the highest form of relationship. That is what the family is for. One writer reminds us of this in speaking of family and relationships in the body or the family of Christ:

“The relationship of the Lord Jesus to the true church, and the relationship of the woman to the man is the relationship that the church bears to Jesus Christ, submission. A submission that arises out of a love for Him and His relationship to her is the relationship of sovereignty, but the sovereignty of one who has not only cared for His bride, but is willing to do what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for His bride in measure. He is willing even to be crucified for her if necessary. That’s the kind of relationship the bible sets forth. It is not the boss relationship that we think of when we think of our boss in the business with which we are associated.

The Scriptures say that God took the rib and he fashioned the rib into a woman. Literally he built the rib into a woman...The picture that is given is the picture of God as a craftsman, and of course the greatest of all craftsmen, and in the building of the woman, we have a picture of God’s own special work, the making of, and I think all the men in this room will agree the comeliest of all his creation”.

Verse 22. Adam’s response was typical of the male. Some said he said “Wow” when God brought the woman He had fashioned to Adam.

Verse 23. There is certainly energy and excitement in Adam and he went right away into poetic speech. Scholars tell us that the force of his words in Hebrew was “at last”. He had seen all the animals and he was bored. But now he would shout out

**“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.
She shall be called *issa* because she was taken out of *is*”.**

One writer explains:

“The kinship of the being that he sees in this being who is before him is expressed by the kinship in sound of *issa* and *is*”.

No wonder when Eve ate the forbidden fruit and brought it to him, he fully realized what she had done, but could not turn his back on her and did not want to present the problem to God for he did not know what God would do to her. And sadly for us all he ate and sinned. Scripture states that Adam’s act brought sin into the world and the curse affected him, Eve, and all their posterity.

Verse 24. Moses evidently comments on the relationship for Adam could not have said these words for Adam and Eve did not yet know fatherhood and motherhood and it is very unlikely Adam would be thinking of a man leaving father and mother and cleaving to his wife. One therefore should leave and then cleave and not the other way around.

But Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:34 that these were words spoken by God and so Moses would only be repeating what God said in relation to marriage and divorce.

Note in Verse 25 that there was as yet no fall into sin and so there was no corruption in the body or in the use of the sexual organs. There was therefore no shame. Both were naked and their bodies were open and plain as were the rest of God's creation.

The question is often asked whether there was enough genetic information in Adam's rib to make a woman and the answer is yes and to this modern science concurs. One scientist states: **"Adam's ribs contained many copies of the genetic information required to make a woman. However, it is interesting to note that if the first human were a woman, her rib would not contain enough information to make a man. This is because women do not have the y-chromosome. So if the Bible stated that the woman was created first and man was created from her rib, the Bible would be in error. This all seems elementary to us now, but remember that the scriptures were given to us long before any discoveries of the working of genetics and DNA. It follows from both a Biblical and genetic perspective, that Eve was Adam's feminine identical twin. When Adam said that Eve was *"bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh"* he was confirming this point"**.

They were really close.

GENESIS 4:1-2

In a real sense the history of the world begins with this chapter. It first tells us of the coming of a family, the building block of society. The full functions of the family as stated above would now come into play.

In Genesis 3 the Devil intervened, and man listened to him as he denied the truth of the warnings God had given to the couple Adam and Eve. As a result we see in this chapter the cycle God had warned our parents about coming to fruition;

All sin arises from disbelief. That then leads to rebellion against God. Then come immorality and all the multiple kinds of things we call sin, and then finally comes murder and death. But first and foremost is unbelief of the Word of God. That is original sin which leads to all other missing of the mark.,

Adam and Eve were not rude savages but people of high intellectual and technological abilities. They knew from chapter 3 of the promise of the Saviour.

But they also knew as chapter 4 begins that they had left the beautiful and healthy world of Eden, and they could not return to it as a cherub stood at the entrance into Eden making this a time of no return.

Eve had been told that her real pain would begin when she had her children for she would see in them all she did not want. Adam would face an earth and soil that was his enemy and to earn his bread he would face frustration and toil he would not want. Then both he and his beloved would die. Then their offspring would face the troubles they had experienced and then would die.

With that in mind there was conception for Adam had intimate relationships with his wife or in other words "knew her" and she conceived and bore Cain who sadly was not the promised seed of the woman to redeem man but instead was the seed of Satan.

So there was sexual union between man and woman and when she had given birth she stated that she had gotten or acquired a man child with the help of the LORD.

The word Cain means "to acquire" or "to make or to create" so the name apparently related to how they had come together to make this child.

The expression with the help of the Lord is interesting for some translate this to state that this man-child Cain might be the promised deliverer as said in Genesis 3:15. So they say it should be "I have gotten a man-child, the Lord" This means Eve thought this child Cain would be a divine child, the seed of the woman.

But while some translators admit that the language might give some slight support what the majority opinion states is that Eve simply stated she had gotten a man-child with the help of the Lord. She could not therefore be credited with understanding that the Lord Jesus Christ would come as the seed of the woman to redeem the curse from the earth.

But whatever she might have meant, we must at least credit her with a cry of faith for she believed that a child would be born, the seed of the woman as a Saviour. She can therefore be considered despite her gross disobedience, the original women of faith. She recognized as Adam said that she was the mother of all living.

Then she conceived and had a son named Abel who kept sheep while Cain tilled the ground as a farmer. Scholars tell us the name 'Abel' means something like breath, vapour, or vanity. Some suggest she was now disillusioned with the fact that Genesis 3:15 would not be fulfilled by Cain. She might have seen by this time that something was drastically wrong with humanity.

But like it or not this was now the first family.

Note that in those early societies and in Bible reckoning, the birth of female children were not specifically recognized except under certain circumstances. The overwhelming desire for the promised man-child might have led to that attitude. The Scriptures only record the birth of women

who are in the line of the coming Redeemer or who are critically important in the redemption drama. So we know Adam and Eve had female children.

Note carefully that with the same parents, the same heredity, the same household, the same privileges, the same towering intellect one was eventually rejected while one was accepted. But both in this family knew and experienced the mercies of God and could talk to Him and even in death Abel's blood could cry out to God.

Family therefore is very important. Cain knew despite what he did he could ask God for mercy. Faithful Abel had the respect of God and as the writer of Hebrews tell us "***He being dead yet speaketh***".

One writer explains what is meant by Abel the first prophet, speaking:

"Why, he says simply this: the righteousness of God is the possession of those who have come to him by the sacrifice in faith. The only way we can find acceptance with God is through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ the lamb of God".

Adam and Eve had taught all their children about God. It is felt by some that the altar to which they brought their sacrifices was at the gate of Eden, closed to them forever.

CONCLUSION

But such is the family living in a world damaged by sin. The function of the family then was to bring all in the family to Christ, the then promised seed of the woman. The aim of the family is under the Holy Spirit to direct us to eternal life.

May we understand what family is meant to be. It is a place for worship, sacrifice, and commitment to God the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth;

The primary place for the family is in marriage. But sometimes that is not possible. But whatever the family structure one must remember that it can only be a family if it is set up under the principles that God has established for it as a divine institution.

God knows what will happen in the lives of all His people. We might be in a childless family, a nuclear family with only a small amount of children, an extended family, a single parent family or a family reconstituted by war, disasters, famine, drought, and the fleeing from tyranny. But in every case listen to the voice of God for He knows we live in an imperfect and dangerous world. He created the family. He will direct you in the way of everlasting life. He is that kind of loving, merciful, understanding God.