

This section deals with the issue of gender which is a big issue in our culture today.

Topics we have seen in chapter 2 include:

Essence - chapter 2 creation explanation

1. Day 7 Sabbath rest
2. Expansion of Day 6
3. Pre-fall world (still the 'very good' creation). We see more in today's lesson.
4. Creation of man - ruler
5. Creation mandate
6. Command: to care for the garden along with a choice to obey or not
7. Creation of woman

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| I. The Primeval History | 1:1-11:26 |
| A. The History of the Creation | 1:1-2:3 |
| B. The Early History of Mankind | 2:4-3:24 |
| 1. The Creation of Mankind -in innocence | 2:4-25 |
| a. The Creation of the Man | 2:4-7 |
| b. The Environment for Man | 2:8-14 |
| c. The Responsibilities of Mankind | 2:15-17 |

d. The Provision for Man -suitable helper 2:18-25

1) The **Deficiency** of Creation **2:18-20**

a) The **Determination** to Create **2:18**

In terms of our culture: it is obviously diametrically in the opposite direction from what is here in the Bible. This passage answers a lot of the confusion about gender. In fact, *every single cell of the man is male and of the woman is female*. Regardless of hormone blockers, etc, *we cannot change the cellular make-up of man or woman*. We need to accept the way God has made us. Everybody has some little thing he/she would like different, but anything beyond that is against God's will.

2.18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Another 'vav' consecutive indicates a historical narrative again. Here consistently through chapter 2: LORD God, Jahweh Elohim.

2.18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

In this verse for the first time something is 'not good' which I see as 'incompleteness', not something bad. A crucial element of creation is not yet created.

2.18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

This begins a discussion about the female. It is not the word for 'slave or servant', but a 'helper'. We can say that the woman is God's instrument to aid man.

Terms - 2.18-22

1. *ezer* - helper, a help, one who helps. Mainly it is used for God as helper. Every usage in Moses except this one is God as helper:
Deut 33.29 "*Blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, Who is the shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! So your enemies will cringe before you, And you will tread upon their high places.*"
Psalm 115.9-11 *O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.*
33.20 *Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.*
70.5 *But I am afflicted and needy; Hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.*
121.1 *I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.*

Role of the Woman

1] Meets Deep Need

Her Role

1. Meets deep need. God has created man and woman with a need for the other. Good for counseling singles.

2.18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Terms - 2.18-22

2. *keneged* - counterpart
 - literal - according to what is in front of him
 - BDB (Hebrew lexicon) - corresponding to him in sense of being equal and adequate
 - APR Allen P Ross (commentary)- according to his opposite - correspond physically, socially, spiritually
 - Something that fits perfectly together.

2] Adequate Helper

Her Role

1. Meets deep need. God has created man and woman with a need for the other. Good for counseling singles.
2. Adequate Helper

Equal Nature

1. Symmetry (counterpart)

d. The Provision for Man -suitable helper 2:18-25

- 1) The **Deficiency** of Creation **2:18-20**
 - a) The **Determination** to Create **2:18**
 - b) The **Demonstration** of **Deficiency** **2:19**

2.19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

A looking back, reminding (no emphasis on the order or timing). Note that God brought them to the man....

Terms - 2.18-22

1. *ezer* - helper,
2. *keneged* - counterpart
3. *yatsar* - to form

d. The Provision for Man -suitable helper 2:18-25

- 1) The **Deficiency** of Creation **2:18-20**
 - a) The **Determination** to Create **2:18**
 - b) The **Demonstration** of **Deficiency** **2:19**
 - c) The **Discernment** of Man **2:20**

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2.19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

...to see what he would call them. Adam was a very intelligent person.

2.19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

He not only had authority, but gave a name. The naming motif gave their characteristics. But the main point is that the creation was deficient, did not have an adequate counterpart.

2.20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

Still before the fall, so could manage it in a 'day'. Adam had full intellect from the beginning. (No evolution; there was degeneration at times resulting in 'simpler' beings.)

Naming (not a conservative, but this is acceptable) man's first responsibility:

“Among primitive peoples [we do not see ‘primitive’ as of lesser development as the theory of evolution does; we do refer to the people earlier in time, ie, long ago], and throughout the ancient East, the name denotes the essence of a thing: to name it is to know it, and consequently, to have power over it. [So when we pray in God's name we are referring to His essence.] In the earthly paradise, when God allowed man to name the animals, it was a sign that he was putting them under man's power.” —Roland de Vaux

Naming

1. Omniscience & ultimate authority - light/darkness (1.5), heaven (1.8), earth/seas (1.10)
2. Biologist & ruling - animals
 - Categories to distinguish animals. Adam was the first biologist.

2.20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

The primary purpose of the naming: Adam, as biologist, naming and creating categories—shows the intelligence of Adam

A secondary purpose: give man his first opportunity to exercise role as ruler over creation as per the creation mandate

But he still needed a helper.

Equal nature

1. Symmetry (counterpart)
2. Superior to Animals: the woman is on the same level as Adam himself, far superior to the animals.

d. The Provision for Man -suitable helper 2:18-25

- 1) The **Deficiency** of Creation **2:18-20**
- 2) The Creation of **Woman** **2:21-23**
 - a) The Course of Lord God **2:21**

2.21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

The first anesthesia: to perform an operation.

2.21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

Out of parts of mankind God fashions the woman. Ribs re-grow so are sometimes used when a piece of bone is needed. A man does not have fewer ribs than woman because the body parts have the same DNA which is passed on.

d. The Provision for Man -suitable helper 2:18-25

- 1) The **Deficiency** of Creation **2:18-20**
- 2) The Creation of **Woman** **2:21-23**
 - a) The Course of Lord God **2:21**
 - b) The Careful Fashioning of the Woman **2:22**

2.22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

Again repetition: God's work. There are several creative words: bara, asah (sometimes 'make'), *yatsar*, but 'fashion' is an architectural word.

Terms - 2.18-22

1. *ezer* - helper,
2. *keneged* - counterpart
3. *yatsar* - to form
4. *banah* - to fashion, building an important structure

2.22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

She was made of the same 'stuff'.

Equal in nature: distinction in roles

3. Specially built
4. Same material

Her Role

1. Meets deep need. God has created man and woman with a need for the other. Good for counseling singles.
2. Adequate Helper
3. For man (Genesis 2.22)
A distinction in role and function, man created first
4. After man (1Timothy 2.11-13)
5. From Man (1Corinthians 11.8-12)

3J For Man

3. For man:

2.22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

The woman was made especially for the man.

4J After Man

4. **After man:** *1Tim 2.11-13 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.*

Goes back to the original creation; bases his point on the creation order—>distinction in function within the church. And uses the trinity as an example but there is a distinction in their function: Christ is submissive to the Father

5j From Man

5. **From man:** 1Cor 11.8-12 *For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. 10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.*
The covering is recognizing the authority over her.

Divine action, but also setting patterns.

Another counsel: seek Him, let Him bring the right spouse to them.

Men & women look at their weaknesses and find someone that fills that need.

God created woman equal to man but with a distinct role!!

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- 2) The Creation of **Woman** **2:21-23**
 - a) The Course of Lord God **2:21**
 - b) The Careful Fashioning of the Woman **2:22**
 - c) The Celebration of the Man **2:23**

2.23 The man 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."

6j Under Authority

- 3) The Foundation for Marriage 2:24-25