

Lesson 9 Genesis 2:15-20

Genesis for Families

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. 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. 19 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. 20 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.

Let us clear up what appears to be an inconsistency before we study what God has revealed to us in this passage. In Genesis 1:24-25 on the sixth day God created animals. In Genesis 1:20-21 God creates animals that live in water and birds. It appears here that God created man first and then created the rest of the living creatures of the earth to present to Adam to name. Remember from the first lesson on chapter two it was pointed out this chapter is not intended to be in time sequence but to furnish further detail of the whole creation. A lot of the text in Chapter two is like a replay of Genesis one as God sets the stage for the creation of man. Genesis one simply says God created them male and female. Here we see the very special care God used in creating man and that God also gave to man a living soul that was not given to any other creature. Likewise we will see the care God uses in creating the perfect companion for man, woman. Do not let detractors get under your skin with foolish questions. The accounts are the same and the sequence is held in place when we understand the purpose of Genesis two.

We speak of God making a Covenant of Works with Adam. Here are the details of that covenant. *16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.* Some argue this is not a covenant since that word is not used and there is only a command with a threat and no promise. Such persons fail to see the offer of eternal life in the Tree of Life present in the garden and of which Adam could freely eat. All of the elements of a covenant are in place then. The Tree of Life is a promise of eternal life. The command is do not eat of the Tree of Good and Evil. The sanction for breaking the covenant is listed, death. God never deals with mankind outside the covenant whereby all mankind is either a covenant keeper or a covenant breaker. We will study the covenants of God in more detail in the chapters dealing with Abraham.

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. Part of God's creation of man in His own image was that man like God was intended for community. All three persons of the Godhead, the Trinity has always existed. We have no indication whatsoever that God ever existed alone. Man being in the image of God was intended for community. The words help meet can best be translated into contemporary

English as one who helps. God will then bring forth all of the created things that have life and set them before Adam not because God expected to find a helper for Adam but to show Adam that he was different and there was no such helper in all of creation. Some point to the great knowledge of Adam in naming all the animals. This is not the point at all. The lesson was as here presented; see Adam in the entire world there is none like you. It is interesting that the names that Adam gave to the animals in the Hebrew language indicate characteristics of the animal. Some believe that Hebrew was the original language of Adam and thus mankind.

God had a purpose when He created woman. In creation there is no subordination of ability but of God's purpose in creation. Woman was created to be the perfect helper for man whom God charged with taking care of God's creation and assuming dominion over all living things. Eve was not present when God charged man with tilling the garden and forbade man from eating from the tree of good and evil. The natural order gave headship to man. Man was not given dominion over woman as such but she was presented to man as his perfect helper. We shall see after the fall why the bias is present today between the sexes and why it is outside God's natural order of things as explained by Paul in the New Testament. Here we simply learn the facts from God's word about the how and why of creation and that creation did have an order to it that will point to the subordination of purpose in all of creation.

Application:

From creation we can learn God's purpose for all mankind and the reason for a gender difference other than creating more humans to populate the world. God gave man and woman to each other for mutual relationship in harmony and love even as it has always been in the Trinity. This will help us to understand more about how our families should function and why God gives to us some of the commands concerning marriage and family later in the Bible as God progressively reveals Himself and His will for us. When we understand why God created all things and especially man we begin to understand who we are, where we came from, and what our destiny is. This understanding will bring peace to us in all things and allow us to live life to the fullest. Since we are created in the image of God it is impossible to understand self until we examine our relationship to God and understand what God has revealed of Himself. From this perspective we gain perspective for our personal lives.

Questions:

- Why did God bring the animals to Adam for Adam to name them?
- Why would anyone think Hebrew was the language of Adam? Is this fact or theory?
- What does helpmeet really mean?
- Is there really a natural order that places man as head of household?
- Where was Eve when God made the covenant with Adam?
- Where can we find an example of persons living in perfect harmony?