

# THE FIRST COUPLE

## GENESIS 2:7-9, 15-25

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB materials.)

1. Will someone share a story about how you met your spouse?
  2. We talked a little about this last week but what is man's purpose for existence? (God created us for a purpose: to have fellowship with Him and worship Him forever—for His glory.)
- But within that greater purpose God gave us a reason to get up each day—to tend to the world He created for us to live in, and to share Jesus with others.

Today we are going to look at how God brought the very first couple together in the Garden of Eden! Last week we looked at creation through a telescope—the big picture, an overview of creation, if you will. In chapter 2 Moses gives us a more in-depth look, more like through a microscope at the creation of man. We'll also discover that the sequence of events is not necessarily in chronological order.

### **PLACED! Read Genesis 2:7-9**

1. Who was doing all the action here? (God!)

Over and over we see: "the LORD God" did this and that. When we see "LORD" in all caps in the Old Testament, which means that in Hebrew this is not the typical Hebrew for "Lord," (Adonai) but rather the personal name of God, "YHWH", Yahweh, or Jehovah. This is the name that God would later give Moses when he asked Him what he should tell Israel His name was. "God" here is the typical Hebrew word for God, "Elohim."

It is saying THIS PARTICULAR GOD did this; not just "any" god, not Baal or Asherah, or Molech, or any other god; YAHWEH God, "Yahweh Elohim" did all this! The God of Israel; the God who would reveal Himself as Father of the Lord Jesus Christ did all of this. THIS God performed all the action of creation that we see here in Genesis 1&2.

2. Verse 7 says "YHWH" Elohim formed man out of dust from the ground." Why do you think God did that; what was the significance of it"? (Man had a very humble origin. He was DUST—UNTIL God breathed into him the breath of life. It tells us that we are nothing without God; it reminds us of how much we need Him.)

Then the word "man" here is interesting: it is the Hebrew word "adam," which is the same word for the name of man, "Adam." Often when you see the word "man" in Genesis 2, it is almost always "ha adam," "the man." AND "adam" or "man" is very close to the Hebrew word for "ground," "adamah"—just reminding us of where we came from!

"As sure as God's divine hands formed Adam from the dust of the earth, so has He formed you in your mother's womb. He sculpted you with depth and insight. He created your personhood—that part that makes you, you. He has placed within you very carefully chosen traits and characteristics that are unique to you alone. That person you can't stand to look at is the perfectly clad bride of the divine Bridegroom. Exalt Him for who you are: His precious child, formed by His divine hands."—Lisa Arnold.

3. What was the purpose for the trees in the garden God planted? (They were pleasing to the sight and good for food.)

God provided trees that were beautiful to look at and good for food.

4. What is your favorite food from a tree? (Apples, bananas, cherries, oranges, pecans, etc.)
  5. Does God care about how things look? (Yes! He provided things that are pleasant in our surrounding.)
- What God created needs tending, that's where we come in. Adam was given work before they sinned. Work is good!

In the second part of verse 9, the Bible tells us two SPECIFIC trees God put in the Garden: "the tree of life" and "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

These two are significant, and will come to play a major role in the next verses.

## **EMPLOYED! Read Genesis 2:15-17**

1. God prepared a special place for Adam to call home, but what responsibility did Adam have? (Tend the garden and watch over it, harvest, and plant. Part of humanity's reason for existence is to care for what God has made. Good stewardship of earth's resources is one way we fulfill our purpose for being here.)
2. How is being productive an extension of the wise stewardship of God's creation? (We fulfill God's purpose for putting us here.)
3. What prohibition did God make in these verses? (Do not eat from the "Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.")
4. What would be the consequences of disobedience? (Death.)
5. What could Adam eat? (Any other tree!)
6. This was the first negative command in the Bible and was intended to protect Adam.)
7. Why did God place that tree in the garden if it would cause Adam to die if he ate from it? (Love and obedience are only genuine if there is a choice to make.)

Having a choice gave Adam the opportunity to demonstrate his devotion, trust and obedience to God. He could choose to obey the Lord and enjoy the benefits of God's wonderful provision, or he could disobey and suffer the consequences.

God was saying to mankind, "If you want to kill our relationship, if you want to turn your back on Me, I must provide this opportunity. All you have to do, Adam, to end our relationship is to eat from that tree."—Jon Courson.

8. In what specific way was God asking Adam to trust Him? (Just don't eat from this one tree; you can have all the rest.)

As Creator of every aspect of human life and of the world we live in, God knows what's best for us. His sovereignty, power, and love work together perfectly. He is worthy of our trust.

9. What reasons did Adam have to trust God? (God created Him, prepared a place for him to live, and provided food for him.)

10. Ultimately God's question to each of us is, "Do you trust Me?" In what way is a warning a demonstration of love by the one giving it? (It is there to protect us from danger.)

Every relationship has parameters—dos and don'ts. Freedom has never meant a complete lack of boundaries, responsibility, or self-control. When we accept this popular cultural definition of freedom, we believe a lie! The freest we can ever be is in obedience to God's commands. If everyone believed and lived out the Ten Commandments as we should, there would be no need for any other laws to be issued by man.

## **ALONE! Read Genesis 2:18-20**

1. What was the significance of God allowing the man to name the animals? (He ruled over or had authority over them. He was the crown of God's creation.)
2. Adam had a place to live, food to eat and work to keep him occupied and fulfilled. What else did God observe that Adam needed? (Companionship!)
3. Was creating a female companion for Adam an afterthought for God? (No. This way God placed emphasis on the need for a mate.)
4. What is the woman's role or purpose? (She would help by working with Adam in the garden, providing companionship, and obeying God's command to be fruitful and multiply. Both are made in God's image, both are equal partners, created distinctly different, yet complimentary.)
5. Whose idea was marriage in the first place? (This is God's plan, and we need to follow it, and make sure we don't try to alter it. And it's not something that MAN just "invented;" it's GOD's plan!)

God had provided so much for Adam, but He had one more incredible gift in store for the first man! God provided food, resources, and work, next God would provide a mate for Adam.

## **UNITED! Read Genesis 2:21-25**

Not only is marriage God's plan, but His plan is for a WOMAN and a MAN to be united in marriage. This goes back to what we saw in creation in Genesis 1:27, "Male and female He created them. God designed us as male and female, and for us to reject our gender is to reject God's design for us. And here we see that when God established marriage, He designed it for a relationship between a MAN and a WOMAN.

This idea is being challenged today, by those who would teach that two women, or two men, or two "non-binary" people can be united in marriage. And this is becoming more and more acceptable in our society today. But the principles of God's word do not change with the changing winds of popular opinion. God's word teaches that marriage is for one man and one woman.

This is one of the clearest teachings in the Word of God: See Genesis 1&2; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; and 1 Timothy 1:10.

There is no question what the Bible teaches about this.

1. What marriage principles were established in the uniting of the first man and woman? (It is between one man and one woman.)
2. What happens when society adheres to these principles? (They experience God's blessings.)
3. What happens when a society fails to follow these principles? (They experience God's judgment.)

"The Lord created us as sexual beings and gave us the gift of physical intimacy as a means for expressing love between husband and wife. In the biblical account of the Garden of Eden, we are told that 'a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.' The Bible says that before sin entered the picture, the first husband and wife were unashamed of their nakedness.

As designed by God, sexual desire in marriage is more than an afterthought or a means to guarantee procreation. That's why we can wholeheartedly say, "Let's make love the way our God intended!"—James C. Dobson and Shirley Dobson.

## **CHALLENGE!**

1. How should God's provision for us impact our relationship to Him? ... To others?
2. What particular work has God tasked you with to benefit His creation?
3. How should you think about and approach your work?
4. How does obedience to God impact your relationship with your spouse?