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"Who Are We Supposed to Be?"

Pt. 3 "In the Beginning"
{The Original Home}

❖ The original environment: Genesis 2:4-14

Gen 2:4 This is the history of the heavens and of the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens--

Gen 2:5 When no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not [*yet*] caused it to rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the ground,

Gen 2:6 But there went up a mist (fog, vapor) from the land and watered the whole surface of the ground--

Gen 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being. [*I Cor. 15:45-49.*]

Gen 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden [*delight*]; and there He put the man whom He had formed (framed, constituted).

❖ **CONSTITUTED**, *participle passive* Set; fixed; established; made; elected; appointed.

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight or to be desired--good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the tree of life also in the center of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of [*the difference between*] good and evil and blessing and calamity. [*Rev. 2:7; 22:14, 19.*]

Gen 2:10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four [*river*] heads.

Gen 2:11 The first is named Pishon; it is the one flowing around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

Gen 2:12 The gold of that land is of high quality; bdellium (pearl?) and onyx stone are there.

Gen 2:13 The second river is named Gihon; it is the one flowing around the whole land of Cush.

Gen 2:14 The third river is named Hiddekel [*the Tigris*]; it is the one flowing east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

- *Eden* means Pleasure, delight.
- *Pishon* means: To shake or dispersive
- *Gihon* means Gusher. To burst forth.

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- *Hiddekel (Tigris)* means: Rapid
- *Euphrates* means: Fruitfulness

The home that YHWH had prepared for Adam was a place where there was no lack. It was a place of "delight"...

❖ **There are three main things that I also want to point out in these verses.**

1. Adam had a job. (We will see this again in this same chapter.)

"the Lord God had not [yet] caused it to rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the ground "

2. The physical needs are met.

"Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight or to be desired--good (suitable, pleasant) for food..." v.9

3. Here you see the first place that alludes to "choice" or you might say "free will"—

"...the tree of life also in the center of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of [the difference between] good and evil and blessing and calamity." v.9

If you are wondering about this point. Ask yourself this question. If YHWH never intended for mankind to be able to freely make choices, then why did he plant two different trees? We will explore this later in this chapter.

❖ **Let's continue and look at verses 15-25**

Gen 2:15 And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and keep it.

Gen 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Gen 2:18 Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.

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Gen 2:19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every [wild] beast and living creature of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name.

Gen 2:20 And Adam gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the air and to every [wild] beast of the field; but for Adam, there was not found a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.

Gen 2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs or a part of his side and closed up the [place with] flesh.

Gen 2:22 And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Gen 2:23 Then Adam said, This [creature] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of a man.

Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [Matt. 19:5; I Cor. 6:16; Eph. 5:31-33.]

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not embarrassed or ashamed in each other's presence.

❖ The man had a job and duties at the very beginning. v.15

"And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and keep it."

What was his job?

"to guard and keep it." – Let's explore some other translations of this.

Youngs Literal Translation says, *"to serve it, and to keep it."*

Complete Jewish Bible says *"to cultivate and care for it."*

Contemporary English Version says, *"to take care of it and to look after it."*

Even within the other translations, the aspect of guarding is alluded to.

If you are like me... I get the part to tend, to cultivate, and to take care of it. But what had intrigued me was the part that said to guard it, to keep it, or even to look after it. If this is the garden that was placed in Eden, translated delight, and there were no other people there. What was the need for guarding or looking after it?

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I want you to hold on to that thought... We are going to look more into this later in this series.

❖ A Command/Instruction is given. v.16,17

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Did you notice that YHWH only pointed out one tree Adam was not to eat from? Adam could eat from all of the trees, including the Tree of Life. Yet it was only the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity that he was instructed not to eat from.

Why do you think that YHWH did that?

❖ The First Marriage. v.18-25

"It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him."

Notice that it was YHWH that said this and not Adam. And then, YHWH did something interesting after making this statement. He forms the animals... But also notice what He says when he does this.

" And out of the ground the Lord God formed every [wild] beast and living creature of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name." v.19

Here is another instance that shows that Adam had the wisdom and the ability to use it and that he had free will. God said that it was not good for him to be alone, but He presented creatures to him for him to determine if one of them would be *"suitable, adapted, complementary for him."* But out of all the creatures that were presented that Adam gave names to, *"there was not found a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him."*

❖ YHWH formed someone that is "suitable, adapted, complementary for him. v.21-24

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs or a part of his side and closed up the [place with] flesh. And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. Then Adam said, This [creature] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of a man. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." [Matt. 19:5; I Cor. 6:16; Eph. 5:31-33.]

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Notice that after YHWH formed the woman, he did not breathe into her for her to become a living soul as He did with Adam. That is because there was no need to do so. After all, everything that was needed for her to be "suitable, adapted, complementary" for Adam was already within her, including life.

It is at this moment when the woman is presented that Adam says, *"This [creature] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman (Isha) because she was taken out of a man (Ish)"* and giving her the name, that he did does something special.

In the Complete Jewish Bible translation, when Adam sees her, he says, "At last!" and in Young's Literal Translation, it says, "This is the proper step!". In either translation, Adam recognizes her and creates a connection that ties them together by giving her a name that is directly connected to him. Which also creates responsibility for her. He did not do this for any of the other creatures that YHWH had earlier presented to him and given dominion over. Only with her...

"Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." V.24

❖ There was no shame and nothing hidden—

"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not embarrassed or ashamed in each other's presence."

What do these two underlined sections say to you?

In the next class, we will revisit why Adam had to "guard and keep" the garden.