

## The Lord God Provides

Genesis 2:10 – 25

**Proposition:** God’s plan for humanity is to provide a meaningful and joyful life centered around a place to live, a work to perform and a person to marry.

**Application:** Join a LG community. Celebrate the differences between husband and wife. Know the presence of the Lord in your life.

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At a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankee second baseman, offered a prayer that is a classic in terseness and eloquence: “*Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen.*” God’s will for humanity is to provide a meaningful and joyful life. His provision for such a life centres around a place to live, a work to perform and a person to marry.

### I. A World to Live in (2:10 – 14)

*A World Fully Supplied* (2:10 – 14): At the time, there was no rain. Four rivers supplied water for the garden. We cannot know for sure the exact region of these four rivers. The global flood in Noah’s day shifted the surface of the earth likely wiping out the region of these four rivers. Gold, onyx and the resin bdellium, highlight how the land God prepared for Adam was rich in precious gems. Such gems are also mentioned in the fall of satan (Ezek 28:13).

Of the four rivers, *Euphrates* is the most famous. It serves as a boundary for the land of Israel. The *Tigris* and *Euphrates* still exist today in Southern Iraq. As a result, many believe the Garden of Eden was somewhere in Southern Iraq. Yet, rivers of the pre-flood era may not be the same rivers as the post-flood era. Perhaps those living after the flood named major rivers after the ones they heard about before the flood.

What can be said about the world Adam lived in was that God supplied a wealth of resources for him and his offspring to enjoy. From the start humans were designed to work. Before sin entered the world, work was pleasant and easy. Rather than pleasant and easy work is now filled with grief, toil, and fatigue. Work is not a curse, but it does suffer from the curse.

### II. A Work to Do (2:15 – 17, 19 – 20a)

*Work Ordained by God* (2:15): The Lord took Adam from where He made him and brought him to the garden to work it. This suggests the Lord leads us into a line of work He has for us. He guides us into a career suited for us. The phrase *put him* suggests Adam was put in a place of rest and riches; he was put in a place of peace and prosperity (Ps 95:11). Eden was a place of

contentment and communion with God. There Adam was given the task to be a gardener and a guardian.

*Warning Against Evil* (2:16, 17): Notice the command to eat follows the duty to work (2 Thess 3:10b). Adam was to freely enjoy any kind of fruit he wished. It was as if God said to him, *eat to your heart's content*. We are to enjoy all good pleasures the Lord freely gives to us. When the Lord blesses you with plenty, do not feel guilty. Thank Him for it and go share the blessing with others. But with divine permission comes a divine prohibition. The Lord prohibits only that which is sinful and harmful. One tree in the great garden of life was outlawed. Adam was to convey this single warning to his soon to be wife.

At least three things are meant by the phrase *knowledge of good and evil*. First, the mention of *the knowledge of evil* suggests evil was present by day six. Satan had already fallen from heaven. Second, *knowledge of good and evil* means to know evil by experience. Just as Adam knew his wife, Adam would know evil in his inner being. He would know evil without the power to conquer evil. For those in Christ Jesus one day we will receive glorified bodies, and never again know evil. Lastly, the *knowledge of good and evil* means we define for ourselves what is good and evil. When we define what is good and evil the outcome of such a choice is the worse possible fate.

When the Lord fashioned Adam, He did not make him a robot. He created Adam as a sinless being with free will. Adam had freedom to make sinful choices. His sinless state had to be tested. Will Adam be like Satan and oppose God's rule? We know how the test played out. On the day he ate the fruit Adam clearly did not die. What does it mean *in the day you eat from it you will surely die*? In Scripture death means separation. On the day Adam ate from the tree right away he died spiritually. At that moment he was separated from God (3:8 – 10). Adam died spiritually, and he began to die physically. Because of sin, we are dead spiritually; we shall one day die physically and if we do not get right with the Lord Jesus we will die eternally. But *death will vanish* for those in Christ Jesus (Isa 25:8).

Not only did Adam have the job of gardening and guarding the Garden, he also was given the role of naming living things.

*Whatever Adam Called Them* (2:19, 20a): Naming animals highlights at least two things. First, Adam was given the ability to speak. Second, Adam was given authority over living things. Naming shows authority over the thing named. For instance, children are named by their parents not by their siblings. This is because parents have authority over their children.

God gave us a world to live in and a work to do and a wife to love. In *Paradise Lost*, John Milton wrote: *Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named not good*. In naming the

beasts of the field, Adam may have become aware of his loneliness. Because animals are not our equal, they do not fully meet our social needs. Yet he could do nothing to solve his problem.

### **III. A Wife to Love (2:18, 21 – 25)**

*Will of God for Adam's Loneliness (2:18):* For the first time God declared something not good. This was before sin entered the world. Even though Adam knew the Lord he was still lacking. He was not yet complete. God designed us to be social beings. Being in the image of the triune God we are designed to be in relationship with others. A 2015 article in Psychology Today stated that *loneliness is as destructive to one's health as 15 cigarettes per day*. The Lord saw Adam's problem and the Lord solved his problem.

Why did God not just create a woman at the same time he made Adam? Some commentators suggest it was God's will that for a brief time Adam should live life as a single man so that her arrival would be precious to him.

The term *helper* does not mean someone of lesser status. *A helper* is one who supplies what is lacking. God Himself is called a Helper. He supplies what is lacking (Ps 54:4). The Holy Spirit is also called a Helper. He too supplies what is lacking (John 16:7). As a helper a woman does what a man cannot do on his own. For instance, a man cannot bring forth children without the help of a woman. The Lord also made *a suitable helper* for Adam. *Suitable* means the woman is equal to the man. There was no equal partner for Adam among animals. Some animals may help a man plow his field, but they are not equal to the man. *Suitable* also suggests *corresponding*. A woman is a man's opposite. They share the same image of God yet are distinct. God knows how to solve the loneliness problem. We can trust Him to arrange for us a marriage partner is most suited for us.

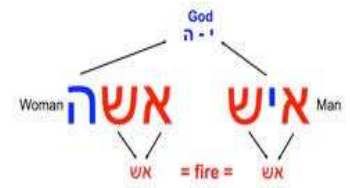
God provides a world to live in, a work to perform and a woman to love.

*Woman Taken Out of Man (2:21 – 23):* The creation of Adam took one verse; the creation of Eve took six. The man was created from dead dust, but the woman was created from a living being. The word *rib* is better translated as the man's side. From Adam's side, God took flesh and bone and fashioned a woman. The fact that she was made from Adam's side proves she is his equal. While the Lord worked to meet Adam's need, Adam was sleeping. The Lord is the best Matchmaker. When we least expect it, He brings our life partner to us.

Here we find the very first words expressed by the man. It is a statement of praise. At last Adam found what he was looking for. Together as distinct people they stand equal before God. The term woman reminds us that a woman had her origin in a man. A fact our current culture disdains. This is the only time a woman came from a man. From now on a man will come from a woman. One more fact our current culture disdains is the headship of the husband in the home.

The fact that the man named the woman, attests to his authority over her. Male headship was present before the fall. The woman was made from the man. She was made for the man. She was named by the man. And she was given to the man.

The Hebrew word for *man* is *ish*. and for woman it is *isha*. When *ish* and *isha* are joined the combined name contains God's name (e.g. *Yah* as in *hallelujah*). God's name is in every marriage between a man and a woman. When *ish* and *ish* are joined or when *isha* and *isha* are combined the name of God is removed. The word *esh* which means fire describes the bond (Rom 1:26, 27).



God sanctions all marriages between a man and a woman. That does not mean He is present in every male/female marriage. But it does mean that heterosexual marriage is aligned with His will.

*Wedded to Each Other* (2:24, 25): God's will for every marriage is monogamous and heterosexual. His will for the couple is to *leave* and *cleave*. We leave the strong bond with our parents and cleave with a stronger bond to our spouse. The husband-wife bond takes priority over the child-parent bond. The word *cleave* means to stick like glue – to adhere to each other as one. A child is the fruit of the one flesh between husband and wife. The marriage bond is still complete even without children. Whom we cling to in marriage has a huge impact on our life whether for good or for evil. Before you cling to someone in marriage, cling to the Lord so that He might provide for you the best soulmate to marry (Josh 23:8).

This is the only place in Scripture where nakedness is viewed in a positive light. The man and woman stood before each other as innocent as infants. Infants are not aware nor are they ashamed of their nudity. The man and woman had no sin nature, so their thoughts were not corrupt, nor did they have a reason to feel ashamed. Only after they sinned did nakedness arouse evil, lustful thoughts followed by a sense of shame.

Even a Christian who is close to the Lord still needs others. This is why PBC promotes Life Groups. In Life Groups we commune with the Lord and with each other. I encourage you to join a LG in the Fall.

Husbands and wives enjoy the differences between you. Do not attempt to make your spouse become like you. Instead help them become the man or woman God has designed them to be.

God's presence is what makes life worth living; it is what makes work meaningful; it is what makes our marriages thrive. Admit your sin, believe that Jesus died for you sin and rose again on the third day and call on Him and you will know the Lord and His presence.

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