

*Adam's Puzzle - Lessons from the First Marriage*  
*(A Marriage Made in Heaven)*  
Genesis 2:18-25  
Reading: Genesis 1:26-31

February 18, 2018  
(Celebrating Marriage @ BBC)

We are celebrating *biblical marriage* this month! That's why your *wedding pictures* are the *featured exhibits* in our "*marriage wall of fame*" in the *foyer*! Not only that, **four** of our *church families* will be *blessed* by weddings in the next **six** months! God designed marriage to be one of the *biggest blessings* this life offers!

...pray...

***"I am my beloved's & my beloved is mine..."***

We read these *lovely & romantic* words in the **OT** *Song of Solomon*.

Although throughout the years many have searched this *ancient love song* for hidden meanings (*spiritualized*), the lesson God wants to teach us from this *lover's-pledge* is simple, & right on the *surface*!

- *Marriage is about companionship.*
- And *marriage & companionship & love & romance* were **God's** idea, from the very **beginning**!

→

"*Marriage in the beginning*" ... beckons us back to the **first groom**, the **first bride**, and the **first wedding**.

Let's return there (*the beginning*) for a *few minutes* this morning!

**Read Genesis 2:18-25.** There are a lot of "*firsts*" in this account!

The **first lonely heart**. The **first fruitless "love-search."** The **first match making**. The **first wedding song**. → The **first marriage made in heaven**...!

To begin with, Adam's life was *incomplete*. Something was *missing*...

**God completes Adam's puzzle.**

- 1.) **Adam's search.** (vv.18-20)
- 2.) **Adam's side.** (vv.21-22)
- 3.) **Adam's song.** (vv.23-25)

**The *funny thing* is, about Adam's *search*, at first he didn't even know something was *missing* – something *vital*. (Read vv.18-20)**

1. Things had been *good* (1:31)! Now something *wasn't good*!

a. **Huh?** I *mean* - think about where we *are*...! *Garden! No sin. Fellowship* with God. Fruitful *labor*. But God identified a *problem*. Something was *missing*.

b. God intended to provide man with a *companion*. The idea (18) is of a *suitable* or a *fitting* helper.

1. That's what that *interesting term* in the KJV means. → "*helpmeet*" ?

a. The Old English term "*meet*" here doesn't refer to *something in your sandwich*; to be "*meet*" simply meant *fitting, suitable*.

b. So God said Adam needed a *suitable companion*).

c. I've heard it explained like a *puzzle*.

1. That *puzzle* might have **1000** pieces, but there is only *one way* to complete the picture & you *have to have every piece*.

2. God planned the exact, essential, unique *piece* that would complete Adam's *picture*!

2. And so the *search* for the *missing puzzle piece* (Adam's *companion*) was **on**!
  - a. At first, God brought *animals* to the man. The man *named* them, but none of them were *suitable* to *complete* him. (Not even *Rover*, man's *best friend*!)
  - b. **Why** this little *love story detour*? Why didn't we just *skip* from v.**18** (Adam's *need*) to v.**21** (God's *solution*)?
    1. Sometimes *loneliness* or *fear* or *sin* urge us to search for a *companion* **our** way instead of according to *God's standards*. Now, sometimes by the *grace of God* that turns out *okay* – but many times, *not so much*!
    2. So maybe this little *detour* convinced the *man* that only God can provide someone *uniquely prepared* to *complement* him.
3. Let's stop & propose a “*marriage principle*” from the *Adam's search*!
  - a. → “**God made marriage!**” *Marriage* was *God's plan* (*design*), from the *beginning*!
  - b. And the Bible (**OT/NT**) teach us that God's *purpose* in marriage is *multi-faceted*:
    1. **Gen 1:28** – *multiplying*; to **populate** the planet  
→
    2. **(1:28)** – **tame** the planet
    3. **1:28 & 29** – to **rule over** the planet & *enjoy its fruit*
      - a. *taming* + *ruling* + *enjoying* are understood as being **under** God's direction & ...
      - b. ...therefore we are God's *stewards* of God's *creation*. Marriage promotes our *mission*.

4. **Prov 5 (OT/NT)** – marriage provides *physical intimacy for pleasure*, to *super-glue the bonds of matrimony*, and as a *safeguard against sexual sin*.
5. The **NT** unveils an *additional purpose* for marriage (Eph 5), to *illustrate* Jesus' love for His *Bride, the church*.
  - a. When you *turned* to Jesus & *trusted* God's promise that His **death** paid for all your sins & His **resurrection** from the grave proved that it's true, then you were **born again**, and you became a part of Christ's *Bride*, His *church*.
  - b. Ladies, your *love & submission* to your husband *picture* the Church's relationship to the *Lord*.
  - c. Men, your *love & sacrificial* treatment of your *wife* *picture* Jesus' love for His *Bride*.
  - d. All of which requires that we be *born again & Spirit-filled*.
6. But *back to Genesis!* The *purpose* for marriage here, pictured in such *lovely detail*, is this: **companionship ... life-long companionship**.
  - a. God *invented* marriage to provide *blessed compassion* for man & woman.
  - b. Solomon *nailed* it: "*I am my beloved's & my beloved is mine!*"

***But in the meantime...something(one) is still missing! Man needs help!***

Which brings us to some interesting *stuff*...the *stuff* from Adam's *side*.

1. **Read vv. 21-22.** Now that the man can *clearly see* that he needs a *uniquely created companion*... God provides the *solution*!
  - a. The man was **very** *involved* in the *search* in **vv. 19&20**, but he was only **passively** *involved* in what happened *next*!
  - b. Henry Morris, *Genesis Record*, offers that the term we usually translate as "**rib**" (21) is actually **more** than just *Adam's rib*.
  - c. The *predominate* idea here is Adam's **side**. God took *more* from the man than just *bone*; He took (from Adam's *side*) *bone & flesh & blood* → i.e. **stuff**!
2. God *fashioned* (lit. "*built*") the man's *companion* from the man's *side* and then *brought* her to him.
  - a. Now think about *this* w/ me: God could have made the woman *exactly the same way* He fashioned the man, but instead He did it a **different** way – look back w/ me: **read 2:7**.
    - i. The point here is **not** to showcase God's *multi-faceted ability* in *creating*. (That's just a *wonderful given*, everywhere you *look* ...)
    - ii. But using *Adam's side* emphasizes the intended **one** *flesh-ness* of the *woman & man*! God created her directly *from* him! They are of *one flesh*...

b. **OBTW** - This text is *very hard* on ***theistic*** evolutionists! ☺

- i. “***Theistic*** evolution” is the attempt to explain the Creation accounts in Genesis 1& 2 through the lens of *modern evolutionary thought*. → that God set in motion the *evolving* of species, over a *long* period of time, through generally *natural* means.
- ii. But according to **Genesis 2**, woman was made *after* man and derived *from* man, but fashioned *differently than* man and formed *directly* by God, all in a *short sequence* of time ...
- iii. That’s an order of *events* & set of *claims* that are difficult to *square* with *evolutionary thought*!

c. And don’t miss ***this***: the **NT** consistently accepts the *historicity* of the Genesis **2** *marriage account* (e.g. *Jesus* in Matt 19; *Paul* in 1 Cor 11:8 & 1 Tim 2:13).

3. Now let’s stop & define a **second** *marriage principles*, taken from Adam’s *side* & Adam’s *stuff*.

a. “***God cares about who you marry!***”

- i. He *made* the **first** man & then woman... & ...
- ii. He *put together* the **first** wedding (next...)

*Adam went on a search, but it was God who provided the perfect solution.*

*GOD carefully & uniquely built woman out of the basic stuff of man – Adam’s side. ☺*

## Adam's song.

1. *Men, have you ever **sung** to your wife?* When God brought the **first** bride to the **first** groom, I think the guy began to **sing**! (He had to have a *pretty nice set of pipes*, because this all happened before *sin* ruined everything! ☺) *Isn't that **romantic** ...!* But at the risk of being labeled **unromantic**, I'd like to pause & analyze Adam's wedding song (**read v. 23**).
  - a. The *big idea* in Adam's verse seems to be that woman is *derived from*, & *fashioned for*, her man.
  - b. She is, at *last & truly*, the *missing piece of the puzzle*, the *companion suitable* for him.
  - c. There is also a **second** theme that flows thru Adam's song: **headship**. Woman comes *from* man; woman is brought *to* man; woman (Heb - **isha**) is named **by** man (**ish**; OBTW, this *naming* will be seen a **2<sup>nd</sup>** time in **3:20**).
2. **Moses** (the divinely inspired *author* of *Genesis*) then *explains* Adam's wedding hymn (**let's read v. 24**).
  - a. Marriage takes *precedence* over all *other human relationships*.
    - i. *Marriage*, w/ the *relationship & the family* it establishes, is the fundamental *building block of society*: its basic **organization**. The most basic form of **government**.
    - ii. Marriage is vital to *society*. Marriage is essential to the *church*. When you *mess* with the Bible's def'n of marriage, you mess w/ **God's blueprint**!
    - iii. God *invented* marriage! God *designed* it for a *man & a woman*, & God still holds the *patent* on marriage. Beware of *substitutes*!



- b. The *one flesh* idea in marriage (v.24) is *much more* than its *physical implications* (although *intimacy* is certainly implied here). God's goal for Adam & Eve, & for you & your beloved, is **oneness** in *intellect, emotion, & physical relationships*.
  - a. A husband must **not** let *career* or *hobbies* or even *ministry* become a *substitute* for his wife.
  - b. A wife must not let her *children (!)* or *home* or even *service* become a *substitute* for her husband.
  - c. Do you understand what God is *really* saying? → "**One flesh**" means **one** inseparably *shared life*. **Companionship**.
- c. To be "*one flesh*" (24) also implies God's *intent* of **permanence** in marriage. *Marriage is meant to be faithful & permanent*.
  - i. But think of society's *eroding regard* for biblical marriage. It's evident *everywhere*, but let's just considered, for example, **cyber relationships...**
  - ii. There are websites for *bypassing* marriage. Just *hook-up*!
  - iii. There are websites for *cheating* on your marriage. But remember that God warns: *the steps of a man are before the eyes of the Lord ...&... your sin will find you out!*
  - iv. **Now**, in the news, there's a website for *quickly ending* your marriage – *cyber divorce*; get this: [www.itsovereasy.com](http://www.itsovereasy.com)!
- d. Whether it starts *online*, or by *sinning the old-fashioned way*, a spouse that **isn't faithful** or a marriage that *fails* is the result of **someone's sin....**

3. *Marriage* requires *openness & holiness* (**let's read v.25**). The point of **v. 25** is **not** w.r.t *physical intimacy*, but is meant to suggest a completely *honest & open relationship*, unmarred by *sin & shame*.

- a. So here (25) is a *final marriage principle* from that *first wedding*:
- b. ***"Strong marriages are built on strong faith."***
- c. If you want a good *marriage*, guard & grow your *faith*, because *sin* has the power to pry-apart **any** relationship.

(Conclusion: )

***"I am my beloved's & my beloved is mine..."***

I have *enjoyed* all the *happy pictures* carefully arranged on our *wall of fame*.

Part of the *pleasure* is then looking around and seeing how those *happy beginnings* have *blossomed* over the years.

Christian marriage is about lasting *companionship* between a man & woman who are *filled w/the Holy Spirit & follow* their Lord together,

Which suggests the *three marriage principles* we identified this morning:

***"God made marriage!"***

***"God cares about who you marry!"***

***"Strong marriages are built on strong faith!"***

All of which remind us that *biblical marriage* is a fundamental part of God's *plan & blessing* from the *very beginning*. ☺

...pray... Thank You, Lord God, for marriage & family. ...  
 Beloved spouse & children (& grandchildren).  
 Protect & strengthen our marriages & families & church.  
 May your Holy Spirit fill us & guide us.