**‘The Woman’**

***19Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. 21So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23The man said,***

***“This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh;  
She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”***

***24For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.***  Genesis 2:18-24

These first few verses which follow God’s declaration that He will make a ***‘helper suitable’*** for the man, seem odd to us. Didn’t God know that all of these other creatures would not be ‘suitable’ for the man? Of course He did. What we read here isn’t for God’s benefit, but for the man’s. Because man was given dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every creature that creeps upon the earth, his first official act of rule and dominion was to “name” them. We may not be aware of the power of naming something, but Loren Graham of MIT and Harvard University writes…

***“A common concept in history is that knowing the name of something or someone gives one power over that thing or person. This concept occurs in many different forms, in numerous cultures—in ancient and primitive tribes, as well as in Islamic, Jewish, Egyptian, Vedic, Hindu, and Christian traditions. The strength of this belief varies, and there are certainly exceptions to it. Nonetheless, the persistence and historical continuity of the linking of naming and power are unmistakable. Some scholars find it embedded in the first verses of Genesis, probably written over three thousand years ago….*** ***In Genesis we hear in the first verses that “God said ‘Let there be Light’ and there was light.” Think about that statement logically. God named the thing before he created it; the naming seems a necessary first step toward creation. Then, according to Genesis, God gave Man the right to name all the animals and, at the same time, the right of dominion over them. Here again the act of naming carries with it a sense of power, of hegemony.”*** [[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/" \l "_ftn1)

It was in the process of naming all of the creatures of the air and land that the man would have come to realize that none of the creatures he named was going to be a helper “suitable” for him. The man needed to know this.

What could man do about the dilemma he faced? Absolutely nothing! Man could not create, but God could. This is why ***21… the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.*** After the man saw the perfect ‘helper suitable’ that God had fashioned for him, that the man had a “eureka” moment and exclaimed

***“This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”***

The man and the woman were perfect for each other, but since the man “named” the woman does this mean that he can rule over her? No. God made it abundantly clear that the man and woman were co-regents in Genesis 1:28 when God said to both the man and woman, ***“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*** The battle between the sexes is not intrinsic to the creation of man and woman, but a product of man’s Fall into sin.

Then we read, ***24“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”*** In the last post I wrote, “Man was created to live in community with others and the smallest unit of community living is the family.”[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/" \l "_ftn2) The family unit begins with a man and a woman[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/" \l "_ftn3), but as the Lord blesses them, their family grows as children are born to them.

I leave you with this quote by Matthew Henry:

***“The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”***

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/" \l "_ftnref1) http://philoctetes.org/news/the\_power\_of\_names\_religion\_mathematics

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/" \l "_ftnref2) http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/10/a-helper-suitable-for-man/

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/10/" \l "_ftnref3) Please know this: Though we live in a world that has done much to re-define the family, the family unit God recognizes is the one which **begins** with a man and a woman. The woman is the “suitable helper” for the man and together they have the blessing of God to be “fruitful and multiply.” I realize that some couples are not able to have children. This does not make them less a couple or a family unit. What I am writing about is how God established the man and woman to live together “in the beginning.” Origins matter. From what I have read in the Bible, God has never rescinded what He has said as it applies to men and women. Since God has not changed His mind, neither should we. There is no blessing from God given to man by our doing this.