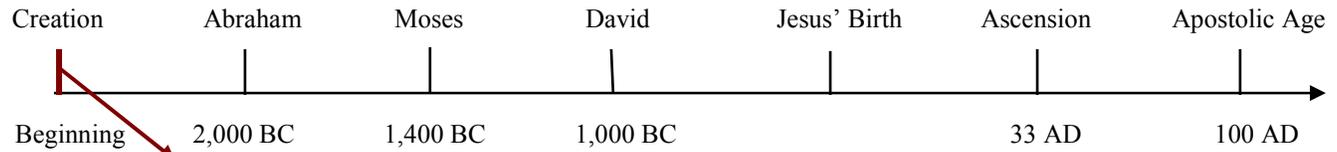


Across the Generations
Learning from God's Word and from Each Other

Sunday, October 22, 2006
"More than Living Together"

Context and Time Frame



Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	
Heaven / earth night / day	Expanse sky	Land / Sea vegetation	Stars / planets seasons	Fish / birds	Land animals wild animals	Man / woman Eden	God rested

Overview: Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Review

Genesis 2:4-25 is the expanded version of Genesis 1:26-27. The more detailed account is provided to show how God manifested his love to Adam in the way he created Adam, and in the way he preserved his life.

What do we learn from the name the LORD God?

What observation did God make regarding "man?"

What were the living creatures not able to provide Adam?

What was God's solution?

What was unique about God's creating process with the woman?

What was significant about the “introduction” of Eve to Adam?

Not only did God create the perfect companion for the man, what also did God institute at this time?

Verse 24 is often attributed to Adam, but who is the source of these important words?

What are the elements of “marriage” according to God’s direction?

My View

Evaluate: Marriage is first, and foremost, a way to find companionship.

What should I look for when I begin to think about marriage?

What does “united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” have to say about the marriage union?

How should I answer the statement: It is alright if I live together with someone and have sexual relations with that person, as long as I love him / her and am planning to get married.

Closing View

Where must I go to find . . .

- a) the proper understanding of marriage

- b) the right partner

- c) the strength to be one flesh with my spouse

Devotional Thoughts - Genesis 2:18-24
Monday, October 23rd through Saturday, October 28th

Monday

Read Luther on Marriage

“This is a true definition of marriage: Marriage is the God-appointed and legitimate union of man and woman in the hope of having children or at least for the purpose of avoiding fornication and sin and living to the glory of God. The ultimate purpose is to obey God, to find aid and counsel against sin; to call upon God; to seek, love, and educate children for the glory of God; to live with one’s wife in the fear of God and to bear the cross; but if there are no children, nevertheless, to live with one’s wife in contentment; and to avoid all lewdness with others.”

According to Luther who is at the center of marriage?
Why are the words “God-appointed” and “legitimate” so important?
What if a marriage is not blessed with children?

Prayer Thoughts

O gracious Lord, I thank you for the gift of marriage. Whether I am now married, or looking forward to marriage in the future, help me honor your will. Then, help me build my marriage on your Word. Amen!

Tuesday

Read Christian Worship 506 st. 1 & 5

Oh, blest the house, whate’er befall, where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly his — how sad and poor and dark it is!

Then here will I and mine today a solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

How do I make Jesus my “all in all” in my home?
Why is a home “sad, poor and dark” without Jesus?
Why is this promise so important: “I and my house will serve the Lord?”

Prayer Thoughts

O blessed Father, author and protector of the family, be with me and my family. Help us build our lives on Jesus Christ. Help us look to him for the peace and blessings he alone can provide. Amen!

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 (selected verses)

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word.

In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

To whom does Paul point wives when he says “submit to your husbands?”
To whom does Paul point husbands when he says, “love your wives?”
Why is Jesus Christ the best example to look at for marriage?
What does Jesus bring into a marriage, especially in regard to love, forgiveness, commitment?

Prayer Thoughts

O gracious Savior, Lord of the Church, help us look to you to see how we live as husband and wife. Fill us with the peace you give through your forgiveness. Give us the willingness to serve each other as you served us. Finally, lead us to follow your example of self sacrifice and love. Amen!

Thursday

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” - which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- What “two-way street” is created by the Lord in respect to family life?
- What does “honoring one’s father and mother” bring to a child?
- What blessing does a father bring his children when he trains them in the Lord?
- What happens when discord enters?
- What happens when fathers are not fathers or leaders in their family?

Prayer Thoughts

O blessed Lord, we thank and praise you for the blessing of being part of a family. Help us live together in love. Help us honor and respect all those in authority above us. Bless us with joy. Finally, allow our life on this earth to be a foretaste of what we will enjoy in heaven. Amen!

Friday

Read Luther’s Explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, *spouse and children*, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

- Why is it important to remember a spouse and children are part of the way God preserves us?
- What evidence of God’s preservation do we see in Adam’s life? in our life?
- What does God’s goodness and mercy lead me to do?
- Why does Satan seek to fill my heart with discontent in thinking God hasn’t given me what I want?

Prayer Thoughts

O gracious heavenly Father, accept my thanks for everything I have in this life. Make it a reminder of your great love and mercy. Amen!

Saturday

Read Mark 10:17-27

- Why did Jesus seemingly give this man something impossible to do?
- Why are riches and wealth so destructive to our faith in Jesus?
- Who then can be saved?