

Reflection - The Order of Creation

It is all about salvation, and it is always all about salvation, about God's desire to save each and everyone of us. And for that purpose He allows circumstances in our lives to steer us unto Himself, that we may make the right choices every time, for both His glory and our benefit. And this desire of God was no different in Eden, for in His dealings with Adam and Eve, we cannot help but to notice that God did the ultimate on their behalf, not only as their Creator, but also already as their Redeemer right there in Eden, so that they would not sin against Him.

Adam's downfall resulted from his great love for his wife. He loved her so much that he could not bear the thought of ever parting with her. So God made it a point to teach Adam trust in His Creator regardless of the circumstances. God did that by: firstly creating him alone, and secondly by giving him the task of naming all the animals. Adam was exposed to witnessing that each animal had its own mate. The realization that he was alone would usher him into a loneliness so profound that it would hurt. Now Adam desired to also have a mate. When he did that, when his every fiber cried out needing to be made emotionally whole by having a companion, God satisfied Adam's innermost desire and created the woman, and brought her to him.

God's plan was a wise plan. The unique experience of Adam, his loneliness, was exactly what Adam needed in order to save him from sinning against God. The experience was designed to serve him well. It was to prepare him for what was coming, for someday Adam would realize that his beautiful bride would die. At such a future time he would be able to remember that once before he was alone and lonely, and God took care of him, satisfying his every desire. Surely God would do the same for Adam once again if necessary and bring him a woman to share his life with.

So God did His part. And then it happened. The woman sinned and fell under the verdict of death. Now it was Adam's turn to reason to himself: "Once I was alone and lonely. I felt the need of a companion suited just for me and God satisfied my need. Now that my wife has sinned, I will again be alone and lonely. *But God already showed me that He satisfies my needs!* So I need not worry. I can trust Him. He will take care of me anew. So no matter what my fate shall be, I will not sin against my God."

Oh, if only Adam would have recalled the grief he felt at the time he realized he was alone and desired someone, an equal, a mate, to be with him, just like all the other creatures had, and that God satisfied the longings of his heart, it would have kept him still yielded to his Creator at such a difficult time. But instead, he feared for his future alone again, because for a moment he forgot the goodness of God in his past. What a lesson this is for us. Our greatest need is to trust God through it all.

What God did for Adam, He also did for Eve. Eve wanted everything, and then some. So God made it a point that she should have it all, everything a human should have, including a companion, a soul mate for life. Her husband would surely sweet-talk to her and explain how

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January 2013

Archived at www.women1844.com

much he had missed her, and needed her, and how God brought her to him. She would learn from Adam that God had given him everything except her and how it hurt him when he realized he did not have her. She would be able to reason that God not only had given her everything, including the man, but He had also spared her from that deep sorrow that Adam experienced. So Eve would have had a chance to reason that God was good to her. What more could she want? Surely she should have been totally satisfied. Surely the realization that God took care of her so would cause her to remain faithful, and make her not desire more than what God had already provided for her. And remembering this would be a weapon in keeping her from sinning. Oh, God planned wisely for her. But unfortunately, Eve didn't think about God's goodness towards her, and still wanted more, though God had already given her everything. *Everything.*

And how many of us, like Eve, desire more than what God has already provided? What will it take for us to find contentment with our portion, with what God has graciously allotted?

Creating the man alone and the woman thereafter was about God's eternal redeeming nature, about His love for them, about His wisdom in establishing a way out for both, that they would not sin. It was about salvation, saving Adam and saving Eve. God created Adam first in order to bring together the best scenario for the man, so that he would not sin against his Maker. And He appointed Eve's creation last also to create the best scenario for her, so that she would not sin against her Maker. Hence, the order of creation confirms that God, right there in Eden, was not only the Creator of the human race, but already the Redeemer laboring on behalf of the first pair, planning and coordinating the perfect platform for Adam and the perfect platform for Eve. Oh, what an awesome Savior we have!

Salvation was palpable in Eden. There was no favoritism for either Adam or Eve. If we were to magnify Adam over Eve because he was created first, or Eve over Adam by claiming she was the jewel of creation reserved to be revealed last as is the unveiling of an artwork, then we in fact magnify the creature. But the creature is not to get the glory. Only God is worthy of being exalted, only He is to be magnified. Otherwise, we lose sight of God the Redeemer in Eden; and, in essence, we *steal God's glory and shift it to a created being*, and emphasize glory for the creature instead of emphasizing glory for the Creator. But any and all glory belongs only to God and to God alone.

Adam and Eve were treated according to their individual character traits and in the best light that would render them to not ever sin. God, as Savior, did what he had to do for the salvation of the first pair, and it should magnify for us His glory and His love. It should inspire us to praise Him for His infinite wisdom as God *and* Redeemer. It should move us into thanksgiving for His workings to save Adam and Eve from themselves. God's eternal and redeeming wisdom gives ample evidence of His infinite love for ALL mankind and should affirm for us also that He is doing everything possible to likewise place us in a position favorable for our own salvation.