

MAN and WOMAN, Part 1

Restoring Yahweh's original intentions; *Back to the Garden*

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July 2012

www.LightontheRock.org

Summary: The Battle of the sexes has gone on since the Garden of Eden. This 2 –part message is not just the traditional same approach. You'll find new insights as we explore the high destiny of man and woman and what Yah's ideal in the Garden was. We review women in the Bible. It was originally man who was told to “keep” their garden home. Find out what that means and how that applies today. Eve -- the “help-meet” for Adam: was she really to be the main “helper” in a home and marriage? Who else is our helper? We also explore the Hebrew “word pictures” within words like “Eden”, helper, keep, and much more.

KEY words: Man and woman, helper, echad, help comparable, Garden of Eden, marriage, men and women, Yahweh, YHVH, Adam, Eve, Havah, Ish, Isha, lording it over, creation of man and woman.

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[Remember to also check out the blogs on the website.]

Welcome to another session with Light on the Rock. This is your brother Philip Shields, in the Messiah and our Father.

A few years ago **a book came out “Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus”** – to hi-lite the point that men and women might as well be from different planets, to explain the vast issues separating the sexes. The book had some excellent points, but all in all folks, men and women are from earth, handmade by YHVH Elohim, God the Creator, Himself.

I've got news for everyone: Men are not from Mars. We're from the ground of this earth. Women are not from Venus. Find out today where we really are from, and what men and women are really created for and who made us, and why. For what purpose?

This is Philip Shields, and what you're about to hear is a small insight into Yahweh's very, very high purpose for having men and women. His ideal. What we see going on between men and women today is not God's idea or ideal. This is Satan's world right now (**2 Cor. 4:4**) and Yahweh is calling you and every man and woman whose heart is stirred, to “get with it” – and I preach to myself, always first and foremost. The sermon you're about to hear has deeply, deeply convicted me too. I've repented deeply for falling so far from the ideal man that Yahweh created me for. I apologized to my wife for 36 years of falling short of what I was called to be as her husband. I'm asking Abba to mercifully turn me around and get me on the path he wants me to be on.

SO, I'm not preaching at any of you. I'm just sharing what I've come to see. Women, men, all who are being called by Yahweh: listen today to HIS words, not mine. Let HIM speak to your heart today. I feel so woefully inadequate for such an important topic. But IF you let Yahweh speak to your *heart*, and listen, your whole life could very well change.

Let me illustrate what I'm getting at by referring to something Paul was involved with.

The very strict ex-Pharisee Paul, who was trained by Gamaliel to thank God every day in words similar to this: “I thank you that you have not made me a Gentile or a woman” was now being told by the Holy Spirit to go to Europe. **Who was the first European convert? Not a man.** It was a woman from Lydia, or named Lydia. People were often called by where they were from – such as Mary of Magdala we know as Mary Magdalene. This “Lydia” was from Thyatira, a city of Lydia, and since she’s not even mentioned in the book of Philippians, she may have been either Euodia or Syntyche of Phil 4:2. But something in the story illustrates what I’m saying about setting our hearts.

Acts 16:13-15

13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. ***The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken*** by Paul.

So I’m asking you to ask your Lord and Master to open *your* heart to heed as well, because some of this will challenge some of you. (This will be a 2-part sermon.) This is not a marriage sermon per se, but on the other hand, if you apply these, it will improve your marriage. Carole, my dear wife of 37 years now, told me a couple days ago that she sees a big change in me. She said I’m treating her differently – and, praise Yahweh – she’s treating me differently too. It’s wonderful. I didn’t want to preach this until I first was at least beginning to practice more of what you’re about to hear.

We went to a meeting last night where I saw several couples – young and old – holding hands a lot, touching each other during the service a lot, eyes lighting up as they looked at each other. But in the world at large, over half of marriages end in divorce. There’s something so much better.

It’s going to take two –both of you coming together -- to become one. It’s going to take men and women working together. Being allies instead of each one trying to be the one controlling everything. We love to be in control of our own lives. Spouses get in the way of that. Sometimes it seems God does too! Think about that. But we’re called to have each one serving the other. Each one helping the other – even as there is still leadership in each home. Yahweh will have to be in each of our relationships – whether at work, at home, with our children and parents, or with our spouse – or the ideal won’t be attained.

So I praise my Saviour for HIS thoughts. I commend you who have written to me about this topic. Some of what you’ll hear is from you, as you let Yahweh guide you. A dear couple in Eastern Canada helped with part of this sermon. A lovely couple in British Columbia, a lady in the Netherlands, and even the mood I get at times from a couple in Australia – and so many more of you have contributed to this message. It’s really Yahweh’s spirit stirring His children. Thank you.

Surely each of you already knows the way it is out there in Satan’s world is so wrong. In one country at least, there are lakes with discarded baby girls because the parents wanted a boy, and aren’t allowed to have more than 1-2 children. “Honor killings” too horrible to even contemplate in other countries. In our own countries, we’re not where Yahweh wants men and women to be.

So this is about men and women. I have given 4 or 5 sermons in 2004 and especially 2005 on this website with sermons especially about how God views women. Please be sure to hear them. I will touch on some of those things today, but that's not my focus today.

So **you'll hear today how God Almighty is glorified when men and women work together as one** and get along – and how chaotic it is when we don't live together and work together as we were intended.

- **We'll study also the Hebrew “word pictures”** for “man and woman”, help-meet, ground/Adam, Eve, mother, father – All those words have deep meaning when viewed from the original Hebrew word pictures that I've been learning from Dr. Frank Seekins in Arizona as well as other sources. This part of this study alone has blown ME away.
- **We'll review Yah's original purpose for male and female.**
- **We'll begin to touch on the concept of *echad*, ONENESS** that permeates the Bible from the very first verse to the last verses. We'll cover that in much more detail in the 2nd message. Yahweh is one – *echad* in Hebrew – and he wants all of us to be *echad* (ONE) with Him, and with one another, until we are all ONE. We are to be so unified that even while we retain our individual characteristics, we are just like Abba, our beloved Father in heaven. We must turn our hearts back to Abba, who is turning His heart even more than ever to His children. You'll see how this fits into
- **The concept of realizing the ekklesia is His one family.** We need to ACT like his family, hallmarked by an indescribable agape love for one another in our marriage, in our families, in our relationships with one another. We're not a military camp. We're not a corporation that has to make a lot of money. We're a body. One body. We're not for sale. We don't operate just from financial perspectives, as some groups seem to be doing.

We're not to be discarded. Yahweh is going to make us one before His Son marries this one body called the ekklesia. *Jesus is not coming back to marry a bride made up of people who for the most part want nothing to do with one another.* But He will marry a Bride made up of men and women who have become one body as a larger ekklesia, and who are one body in their marriages and are getting along in other relationships. God is all about relationships! This constant splintering out there in the body of Christ can't be pleasing to Father – or to Jesus the Christ.

Time is short and HE is about to shake everything up phenomenally. Get on HIS team. He's opening your heart – like Lydia's – now YOU do your part and HEED His words.

One of my brothers in the faith wrote me a note a while back: “the one constant is that Satan wants to set men and women *against* each other. Satan wants war between the sexes because he wants to destroy God's purpose for marriage, which Christ said ‘was from the beginning’ – Matthew 19:4.

I thought that was well said.

So please – as I give this sermon about Yahweh’s stated purpose for men and women, please, please understand that Satan has been *poisoning* our minds to, at best, misunderstand one another and at worst – to be at war against the opposite sex, for thousands of years now. That is why we have scriptures reminding us to:

- *understand* one another (1 Pet. 3:7)
- **for men to honor their wives (1 Pet. 3:7) and do all they can to help them grow, love them (Eph 5:26-29) and to serve them.** Remember OUR model is our husband Jesus Christ who says HE came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). Ephesians 5:21 says we are to submit *to one another* (Ephesians 5:21). We are to “HUSBAND” our wife – like husbandry – help her feel NOURISHED, nurtured, give her an environment where she can grow and *come to LIFE*. (**Prov. 5:18-19; Col. 3:19; Gen. 2:24**). Husbands! Are you hearing God’s word?
- **for women to respect their husbands (Eph. 5:33) and to love them and be obedient to them (Titus 2:4-5).** To remember there is appointment leadership in the home, and that is the father and/or the husband (**1 Cor. 11:2; 1 Pet. 3:1, 5-6; Col. 3:18**). Any of you who have not read all these scriptures lately, I pray you do. Ladies, I’m not running from any of those scriptures *even as* I will teach men to treat you differently than many of us have. Certainly if men are doing their part, it will be easier to work with, honor and respect them. Wives, are YOU hearing God’s word *to you?*

Having a leader in the home was never intended to be taken the way some men have taken it. Women are not our slaves. *Though there definitely is God-ordained leadership*, it’s a stupid leader who won’t listen. *GODLY leadership is not domination*. Domination, tyranny, lording it over -- was the curse put on Eve, that because they didn’t work together, there would be a constant struggle for domination and in the end, the stronger man would dominate by sheer force.

Genesis 3:16 ASB

16 He said to the woman:

I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish.

Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate [KJV: rule over] you.

NET says, “You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you.”

IN God’s word, written by men, led primarily by men, women are respected.

Let me take 3-4 minutes to remind us all of that.

- We are to honor our father *and* our mother as the 5th commandment.
- In cases of adultery, both the man and woman involved were to be stoned (**Lev. 20:10**). A LOT of people would no longer be alive today if that were being practiced for there is a ton of adultery going on.
- Women were quick to help with the *tabernacle* materials and construction. They gave up their valuable jewelry. They gave up their precious bronze mirrors to make the big bronze laver of water (**Exodus 38:8**) from which Moses, Aaron and the priests washed their hands and feet when they went to the tabernacle.

- **Deborah** was a judge and prophet to who people came for decision (**Judges 4 and 5**). Please read those 2 chapters. Read Judges 5 where Deborah and Barak sing “when leaders lead...Bless Yahweh and Judges 5:7 – “Village life ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah arose, a mother in Israel...”

So obviously, GOD used women as well, especially when men wouldn't step up to the plate.

- **Huldah** was a prophetess so respected that even righteous King Josiah inquired about God's will *from HER*, not from the high priest (read **2 Chron 34:19-28**).
- **Yeshua's followers included women.** He lauded the women like Mary the sister of Martha, who preferred to learn than to just always be doing “the women's work”. He allowed them the greatest honor of being first to witness the resurrection. They were last at the cross – except for John. Later Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus came for his body. Women were last at the cross and first at the empty tomb. The first to announce, “He is risen!” Not Peter. Not John. No – Mary Magdalene. I can't help but think Yahweh was telling his men apostles, “don't ignore my women followers. They have a heart for me and listen to them too. Let them be a visible part of my *ekklesia*. I gave each of them talents. Let those talents SHINE! Don't put women in a back corner!”

If you think I'm over-reaching, remember that we're told *each* one, everyone in the body has been given certain gifts. Women are very much a part of the body of Christ, and HE has given each of them gifts that need to be allowed to blossom and be used, within the general guidelines He gives elsewhere.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ASB

Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different activities, but **the same God is active in everyone** and everything. 7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given **to each person** to produce what is beneficial.

Pastors, let the men AND women in your congregation with talents from God be able to serve with those talents. Let them blossom.

- On the day of Pentecost, **all 120 disciples spoke in other languages (Acts 2:1-4)**. All 120 included women (**Acts 1:12-14**). Women also spoke in tongues, that day, on that day of Pentecost.
- **Philip had four virgin daughters** who were prophetesses (**Acts 21:8-9**). In the end time, God's spirit will be poured out again and once again our sons AND our daughters will prophesy! (**Joel 2:28-29**).

Joel 2:28-29

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons **and your daughters shall prophesy**,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.
29 And also on My menservants and on My **maidservants**

I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Are we ready for that? Are you ready for women prophesying? Ready or not, it's coming, and may have already started. Paul acknowledges that women could prophesy (**1 Cor. 11:5**). Read it. She should have long hair as her covering (**1 Cor. 11:15**) or her veil.

- Paul commended many women for being fellow co-workers with him and told Romans to aid the woman Phoebe, whom he clearly respected (**Rom. 16:1**). God chose a woman – the first Gentile converts in Europe (**Acts 16:14-15**) were women praying by a river. You had to have ten men to have a synagogue. No men, or not enough men? Then women had to find a place to worship on their own.

So I've said all that so that you women understand I am going to preach the whole counsel of God. There IS GOD-ordained leadership, but the body needs the women too.

Men have been appointed to be the head of the family, but women form the HEART of the body, for she came from the side of Adam.

The head and the heart are both vital organs for the body to be able to keep living. They both have to function, both have to be healthy. A body with a sick heart is a sick body. Don't do anything to make your body, your wife, lose heart.

Men, protect your heart (your wife). VALUE your heart. Women, protect your head (your husband). Value your head. Men and women, let's come together in one body, honoring each other under our head Jesus Christ.

To understand HOW we got to where we ARE, we have to go back to where we started, what decisions we made, what courses we chose to follow. We must go back to the beginning. To understand the end of the book, we go to the beginning. I promise that many of you will hear today some things you don't hear preached in your congregation very often – if ever.

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember what happened long ago,
for I am God (El), and there is no other; I am God (Elohim), and no one is like Me.
10 I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: My plan will take place, and I will do all My will.

So let's go back to the beginning. I promise you: for most of you, you're about to hear a lot of things you have not heard before. Some of you have, but probably this will be a lot of new material for most of you.

BACK TO THE GARDEN

Alef-Tav

Scripture (Gen. 1:1) begins with "in the beginning". We can't understand why we are where we are, unless we understand where we started.

In Gen. 1:1, the first living Being mentioned is "**Elohim**", translated simply as "God". And then it says He created. ***Then there are 2 Hebrew letters untranslated into English***

– **alef and tav** – the first and last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which they call the alef-bet (first 2 letters of their alphabet). That's telling us a lot right there, and those 2 letters alef-tav as I said, are untranslated. You won't see them in your English Bibles, but they're there in Hebrew. It's saying EVERYTHING – from A to Z was created by Elohim. He's the Alpha and Omega, and all things were created by this one who was the word and became flesh (John 1:3, 14).

It might be interesting to you that the Alef – first letter, which points to God and has the numeric value of 1, followed by the letter Tav, the last letter – has a word picture in Hebrew of “the sign”. The Sign or the way the Tav looks, is something like a cross, like a T but more like a cross. Could it be, right in the first verse, that we're being told, “In the beginning God created...” –and then the word picture for “God crucified”? Just a thought. We are told He was crucified from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). I'm hoping to have an entire sermon soon on Hebrew word pictures and I promise you: you will see so many verses of the “Old Testament” in new light.

WHY am I going back to ALEF-TAV in a sermon about men and women? WHY? Because I'm establishing WHO it is who will say certain things about these new creatures called man and woman. I've spoken of “Alef-Tav” before. Earlier this year I gave a sermon on how Yeshua can be seen “hiding in plain sight” throughout the scriptures. The Alef-Tav is one of those.

If we want to understand the details of how man and woman came to be, we'd jump to Genesis 2. And that was my first inclination. **But Gen 1 comes before Genesis 2. There are good reasons why the wording is used FIRST in Genesis 1, and then details filled in when we come to Genesis 2.**

At the end of the first 5 days of creation week, Yahweh is happy and says each day that when He assessed His work, He said “it was good”.

“ADAM” is more than just the name of the First Man

Then on the 6th day he created animals and then later, *adam* – mankind – including Eve. When I say “adam”, little “a”, I'm using the same Hebrew word used in the Bible. In Genesis 1 and most of Genesis 2, whenever you read the word “man” or “mankind” -- the word in Hebrew is *adam* (Strong's 120). Later on, the MAN Adam was called “Adam”, **but *adam with a little “a” means mankind.*** That's important to understand. In other words, all humans are “adam” – referring to mankind, humanity.

The word “adam” probably comes from the Hebrew word for “ground” – *adamah*.

So when you understand the word “adam” in this light, most of those references are inclusive of male and female, because Eve was in the man Adam, and the word “adam” can mean “man” or “humankind”.

Genesis 5:1-2 KJV “This is the book of the generations of **Adam**. In the day that God created **man** [Hebrew: adam - mankind], in the likeness of God made He him; 2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, **and called THEIR name *Adam***, in the day when they were created.” ASV says the same.

Other translations basically say of verse 2, “and called them man”, or “called them human”. But the word, the name, ‘adam’ *can and does* refer also to the woman. Through most of early Genesis chapters, “adam” is usually translated “man or “mankind”.

Did you know that? Later, “Adam” becomes the actual name of the first man. But the word can and does mean “man, mankind” many, many times in the first 10 chapters of Genesis especially.

The details of how man and then women were created are given in chapter 2, but there’s a reason the words in chapter 1 come first.

MAN AND WOMAN’S DESTINY, TOGETHER

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God (Elohim) said, "Let Us make man (mankind; *adam*) **in Our image**, according to Our **likeness**; let **them** have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man [*adam*- mankind, not just the man Adam] in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them**. 28 Then God blessed **them**, and God said **to them**, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

This passage is worthy of an entire sermon by itself. I just want to remind us of some key things:

- What I just read is given to us before the details of man being created alone and first. Perhaps Yahweh wants us to get the high-level picture before we go into the details.
- The male and female are BOTH made in God’s image and likeness. BOTH sexes have God-like appearances and qualities. Males are not more God-like than females.
- “Image” has to do with what God looks like inside, what He *IS* like; His character. “Likeness” has to do with what He *looks* like. Many of you would disagree, but I believe firmly that we look like Elohim. I believe He has a head, 2 arms, and 2 legs – all of spirit essence.
- **BOTH** were to have dominion and *both of them* were to rule over the earth, *together*. Elohim blessed THEM both. This is Yah’s ideal! Even in homes, the man is the head, but *together* they are to rule the home.

Mankind’s destiny – for man and woman -- is to be children of God, in the family of Yahweh. Adam is even called “the son of God” or to be “of God” (Luke 3:38). Yahweh wants a family. He is spirit, and those in His family will ultimately be changed to spirit at the resurrection and will be like Him. Those who are part of the Bride will marry Yeshua, the son of God. We have God as Father. We have Jesus as husband. HE- Yeshua/Jesus – was the exact image, the exact replica of His Father (Hebrews 1:1-3). Col. 1:15 says Christ is the image of the invisible God. And yes, we are being formed into the IMAGE of Christ, who is in the image of God.

Romans 8:29

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Corinthians 15:49

49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust (Adam), we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man (Yeshua).

2 Cor. 3:17-18: we are being transformed into the image of the son of God, by God's Spirit.

1 John 3:1-2

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be **called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are **children of God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but **we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

This is our destiny. Together. Men and women are being called to be the first fruits of the children of God, made possible because of the good news story of His Kingdom – and how we enter that kingdom by the blood and resurrection of our Saviour, who died for us on the cross almost 2000 years ago. He lives. Hallelujah. And He walks the earth today IN us.

So with that in mind, Peter tells husbands to honor their wives because they also are co-heirs of the grace of life (**1 Peter 3:7**). And wives are told to walk this walk more than they talk this talk, and to let their husbands lead, to be submissive (**1 Pet. 3:1, 4-5**). Frankly, we don't hear this being preached very often lately.

God wants us to be "one". That's a theme of this sermon. He intended us to be one body as a church, *ekklesia* – and *not* this ridiculous mess we see among God's children today. He intended men and women working together to be allies, working together. He intended husbands and wives to be one. What happens next?

Genesis 1:28

"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, '**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth** and subdue it...."

At the end of the 6th day Yahweh ends His physical work and blesses them and tells them to multiply (translation: go have some fun together now, go have marital sex that I created to be beautiful between a man and his wife.) Some of you have wondered if it was OK to have sex on Friday night, at the beginning of sabbath. I kinda suspect Adam and Eve did, with Yahweh's blessing who told them to "be one, and go multiply" – at the end of the 6th day of Creation, what we would call Friday late afternoon. I'm sure neither one needed much more coaxing than that!

By the way, at the end of each creation day, Scripture says God looked at what He had done and declared it as "good" (**Gen. 1:10, 18, 21, 25**). The Hebrew means "pleasing, beautiful, satisfying, good". At the end of the SIXTH day, however, **the wording used is not "good" but...** Elohim looked at what He had made (animals, man, woman) and "behold it was *VERY* good" (**Genesis 1:31**).

Let's continue the story now in Genesis 2 (there were no chapters in the original version).

Guarding the Garden and Home

Genesis 2:7-8

7 And YHVH Elohim formed man (adam) of the dust of the ground (*adamah*), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 YHVH Elohim (God) planted a garden eastward in Eden, and *there He put the man* whom He had formed.

Adam was formed from dirt *outside* the garden and then moved into the garden. We have to be invited in to the relationship with Yahweh. It's an awesome privilege.

WHERE was the Garden of Eden?

I can't prove this, but I personally believe strongly that this garden was in the area that was called Mt. Moriah, where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac, and where the Temple was built – the Temple Mount area. Same place! Or perhaps the garden was in the area known today as Mt. Zion/city of David area, and the tree of Life was on what is now the Temple Mount. Of course the Flood no doubt changed the topography quite drastically from what we see today.

That's my theory and others believe it as well. This has always been a special place to Almighty God and I think it is very likely this was the area of the Garden of Eden. The gate was to the east, and in this case, it would be facing what is now the Mount of Olives. I believe "Eden" was the area we now know as the land of Israel. In the eastern part of that land is Jerusalem, where I believe the Garden of Eden was, on what is now the temple mount.

We can know the end from the beginning and perhaps the other way too: the beginning by what happens at the end. In the end, YHVH will rule the earth from Jerusalem. I think that is where He walked and talked with man in **Genesis 2-3** as well. It just makes sense to me.

Gan Eden – what the Hebrew is for the "garden of Eden", means "**Garden of Delights**". But in Hebrew, every letter has a word picture, much like ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and Chinese. "**Eden**" in Hebrew word pictures means – "**See the Door to Life**". Someday we'll explore that in detail. It's rich with meaning. Who is the Door to Life? Yeshua, the Yahweh who was walking with them in the cool of the day (**John 10:9**). As long as they kept Yah in the picture, and in their marriage, everything went well.

John 10:7, 9

Then Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I tell you, I am the Door of the Sheep. ...I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the YHVH God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend **and keep (*shamar* – guard) it**. 16 And the YHVH God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Yahweh tells Adam about the 2 trees. Eve is not yet present. Adam gets the instruction.

Adam is also told he is not only to tend the garden, but to *shamar* (Strong's 8104) it – to keep it. In Hebrew that also means to “guard, protect, hedge about, watch over, observe”. It's the same word for when the cherubim guarded the entrance to Eden to “keep the way of the tree of life” – to guard it properly this time, because our forefather Adam had not! (**Gen. 3:24**). It's the same word used to diligently “keep” God's commandments – guard them, observe them, be careful with them.

The last thing I do each night before going to bed is (well, let the dog out one last time) and then being sure all the doors are locked, the windows blocked, the garage door shut. I'm responsible to protect my home, my wife and to guard her with my life. When my grandsons were here with us recently for several weeks with my daughter, I was walking home with my 4 year old David. My son-in-law could not make the trip. Little 4 year old David said, “God is with my Daddy back home.” I said that was true and wonderful. Then he added, “God doesn't need to be here because you are here to protect me.” I thought that was incredible. I assured him God was with us too, because God is spirit. But my 4 year old grandson saw me as his protector in the absence of his dad. And indeed, I'd take a bullet for any of my children, my grandchildren or my wife.

MEN: we are STILL tasked with being the keeper/guard of the gates to our home. IN ancient times, the man sat at the door of his tent, his wife inside. He was the guard of anything that went in or came out. HIS task was to keep the Adversary OUT! Men, we are still tasked with keeping that Serpent OUT of our homes. We're often not doing any better than Adam did.

Sometimes we're the ones bringing that Snake IN. How? One common way is by wrong movies – that curse God's name, that defile the sanctity of marriage, and we find children of God finding entertainment from watching sinners sin. Anytime we as men don't lead the family into obedience by our own example, then that also becomes a way we're letting the Serpent into our “Garden”, our home.

Men, let's step up to the plate and KEEP SIN OUT of our little kingdoms called our homes. We bring sin in by internet porn. I know, it's all too easy. I've seen things I shouldn't have too. Men, we must put on the armor of guard and take the sword of the spirit and defend our homes and stand up for our high calling to be keepers of the gates.

Do you realize now, that the doorkeeper of God's House, the temple, had a very important job? They protected the sanctity of the temple. So we guard and keep that Snake, our enemy, *out* of our garden. But we let him in in many ways. By non-stop NOISE of video games, computers, TV noise, being too busy with work, etc – all to distract us from hearing the voice of our Creator.

Men: I have homework. Take some time tonight to think of ways you can help your wife see (by action, not words) that you have her back, that you're protecting her, helping her, giving her confidence that you're in this with her all the way to the end.

A FRESH LOOK AT WHO IS OUR “Ezer” (Strong's 5826) – our HELPER

Remember, Eve's not around yet. Paul tells us in 1 Tim. 2 that Yahweh did this to make it clear by creating the man first, that he was to be the leader. NOT the tyrant, not a person lording it over his wife – but leader.

Genesis 2:18

18 And the YHVH God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a **helper** comparable to him."

For millennia *some* women have felt demeaned by this "helper nonsense". Let's see who ELSE is our *ezer* – same word – helper – according to God's word:

Psalms 70:5

But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O **God!**
YOU are my help (ezer) and my deliverer; YHVH, do not delay.

Psalms 121:1-2

I will lift up my eyes to the hills – From whence comes my **help**?
2 My help (ezer) comes from YHVH, Who made heaven and earth.

There are many more including these: **Psa. 115:9, 10, 11; PS. 10:14**, and a couple in Deuteronomy.

One more: The name "**ELIEZER**". Do you know what it means? Eli = MY God; Ezer = help. Eliezer means "My God is my help".

But consider this women – and men: GOD is our husband, our Leader. But even HE inspires it to be written in His Scriptures that HE is OUR "ezer" – helper. If that is true, then 2 things:

- **Women**, if GOD is our ezer, you're doing a God-like activity! It can't be demeaning when understood. Wives, Yahweh made you to be the capable teammate so **TOGETHER** you two can conquer the world!

It IS true. I won't turn my back on the scriptures in **1 Cor. 11:8-12** that speak of woman being created for MAN. But it DOES go on to say there that men are not independent of women or women independent of men. We are INTERdependent. We NEED each other. Need to help each other. I recommend you jot down and read **1 Cor. 11:8-12**. When was the last time a minister referred to or read *that* passage in church?

1 Corinthians 11:8-12 (Apologetics Study Bible)

8 For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man; 9 *and man was not created for woman, but woman for man.* 10 This is why a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head: because of the angels. 11 **However, in the Lord, woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman.** 12 For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God.

- **MEN**, if GOD is our ezer (helper), maybe WE HUSBANDS should follow HIS example and also be a helper to our wives, to follow HIM as our Servant Leader. You

know, even the middle flame in the menorah, which pictures Yeshua, is called the Servant Lamp!

Nothing's changed. People everywhere want to get credit for what they do, they want to be recognized, seen as important, and be top dog. That's not the kingdom way. The 2 sons of Zebedee wanted to be on Yeshua's right and left hand side in His kingdom.

Matthew 20:24-28

24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over** them, and those who are great **exercise authority** over them (showing who's boss). 26 **Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.** 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — 28 **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

When God's children – we husbands and wives – see and understand this and SERVE one another, marriage is pure bliss. When my wife and I have our acts together, it's almost funny as we both are trying to please the other. But when we let our carnal nature take over, and we wonder why we should have to take care of things all the time, it gets rocky. I like bliss better. But it takes ME being an ezer to HER as well as her being an ezer to me.

“ISH” AND “ISHA” – AND YAHWEH'S GLORY REVEALED

This next section, which we'll really get into in the next sermon, is really exciting when understood. Next- vs 19-20, animals are brought to the man to name and no spouse is found for Adam. Yahweh is really setting this up.

Genesis 2:21-22

And YHVH Elohim caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which Yahweh God had taken from man He made (built) into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Eve wasn't created separately to be separate, but from one body God had already made. He didn't make her from the dust of the ground, in other words.

So at **the very end of Elohim's physical creation through work, He presents to man His crowning work: Eve (*Havah* or *Hawwah* in Hebrew), the woman.** She was the last thing He created physically. Of course He created the sabbath by resting. ***But perhaps by making her the grand finale of His creation, He is saying she is special and is to be seen as very special.***

Men, that's the way to wake up, eh? Adam's going like, "Wow, whatever that/she is, is nothing at all like all those animals... wow...Ouch, my side hurts... whoa, she's been taken right out of my side."

This wonderful creation called Eve – which means “life giver” -- was not taken from Adam’s foot to be trampled upon. Nor was she taken from his head to top him. She was taken from his side, near His heart, to be loved and cherished by him.

From Gen 1 thru to Gen 2:23, we have the word “adam” being used both for the individual who takes the name “Adam”, as well as for all mankind. Then a different word is introduced, which we’ll cover in detail next time, as it is very exciting. For now I want to focus on the Hebrew word “echad” – “one” – as we wrap up this message, part 1 of 2.

Genesis 2:23-25

23 And Adam said: [*ha-adam* in Hebrew = the adam]

"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman (*isha*), because she was taken out of Man (*ish*)."

24 Therefore a man (*ish*) shall leave his father and mother and **be joined to** his wife (*isha*) and **they shall become one (*echad*)** flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man (*ish*) and his wife (*isha*), and were not ashamed.

Notice: **ONE BODY, echad**

They are clearly TWO distinct individuals, but they are to become ONE, echad in Hebrew. If you’re married, that’s your goal. If you have a business and employees, that’s your goal there. If you host a congregation, that’s your goal there. But none as vital as in marriage between a man and a woman in marriage.

Woman was NOT created SEPARATELY from the dust of the ground alongside the man being created from the dust of the ground. NO. Woman was created from an existing male body. YHVH (GOD) never wanted 2 separately competing individuals but 2 acting as ONE – as Yeshua and His Father act. So ONE body was made and out of that came Eve.

EVE was the only woman to come out of a man. Every man since then has come out of a woman. However, Adam came from the ground, which is “adamah” in Hebrew, and “adamah” is a feminine word as it turns out.

Becoming one body takes a lot of repentance from each side. The focus was to be on doing things together. Teamwork. Unified. I’m not minimizing the leadership of the husband at all here, folks, for in Genesis 2, Yahweh first created man, then the women. But the man had to value her.

What did Jesus say to some who were part of His Bride? Whatever you decide on earth, I will bind in heaven” (**Matthew 16:19; 18:18**). He’s saying, “I’ve got your back! I’m behind you, in front of you and completely with you. You’re in me and I in you and we’re one.”

Matthew 18:18-20

18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Some men never let their wives make any major decisions. In some families, some wives never let their husbands make any major decisions! Both are wrong. I know households where the wife never learned to write a check, drive the car, or make any decisions. That's not Yeshua's example for us, as far as how He works with us.

Many of us men fall short, just as Adam did, and many of you women are falling short, just as the church is, just as Eve did. We need to all repent and get back to our calling and what we're to be.

The focus here was that they were to be as one. Our husband, Yeshua the Messiah, says HE will share HIS throne with His wife. That's our model, folks. We are co-heirs with Him of the entire universe when He comes back to earth to rule, this time *with* His wife the church. Even to the Laodiceans He says, "Come sit on my throne with me, let's rule together..." (**Rev. 3:21**), even – He says – "as I sit on with my Father on HIS throne."

Romans 8:16-17

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — ***heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ***, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together

It would not be easy or automatic; it **was something they were to become**. **Gen 2:24** says "they shall BECOME one flesh" or as KJV says "they shall be one flesh". The word "one" is ***echad***, the very same word used to describe Elohim as *echad* – as one.

You might remember what's called "the Shema" (meaning "Hear"), **Deuteronomy 6:4** -- where we are told "Hear (Shema), O Israel, Yahweh Eloheinu (our God) YHVH echad (*IS ONE...*)".

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: YHVH our God, YHVH is one (*echad*)!

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Echad – one - and that is the very same word used by Adam when he said to the woman, "the two shall be *echad* – ONE".

That's the goal and destiny of a godly marriage: 2 people who give of themselves, listen to each other, work together, love together, speak and listen together, and as one body accomplish God's will in their lives. The same goes for the children of God in the ekklesia. But that's not being done there either!

Next time we'll pick up from here and go into HOW a man and woman become ONE. Carole and I have been applying these for the last few weeks and we can report: it truly works! Don't miss next week's message.

We have to stop there for now. (I had used up my time by this point on audio – so it fades out at this point.)

Next time, after a brief review of hi-lites we will go into

- HOW man and woman become truly one.
- the new words used for “man” and “woman” and the secret they hold to being able to be truly one. It’s amazing what’s inside those Hebrew words.
- We will look at the pattern, the model, set for us by the perfect husband
- We’ll talk about leadership in the home and church, and how women fit into that picture....and much, much more.

The principles we will discuss will be applicable to all relationships, marriages, friendships and even at work and in church. I hope you’ll hear it.

Tell others about this series and this website today. The things we’re covering are too important for anyone to miss it.

May Yahweh bless you and guard (keep) you. May His face shine upon you, and give you peace (shalom.), in Jesus’ (or Yeshua’s) holy and mighty name, Amen. Until next time this is Philip Shields with the continuation of this vital topic. Next time I’ll title Part 2 as “Man and Woman – God’s Glory Revealed, or just fire?”