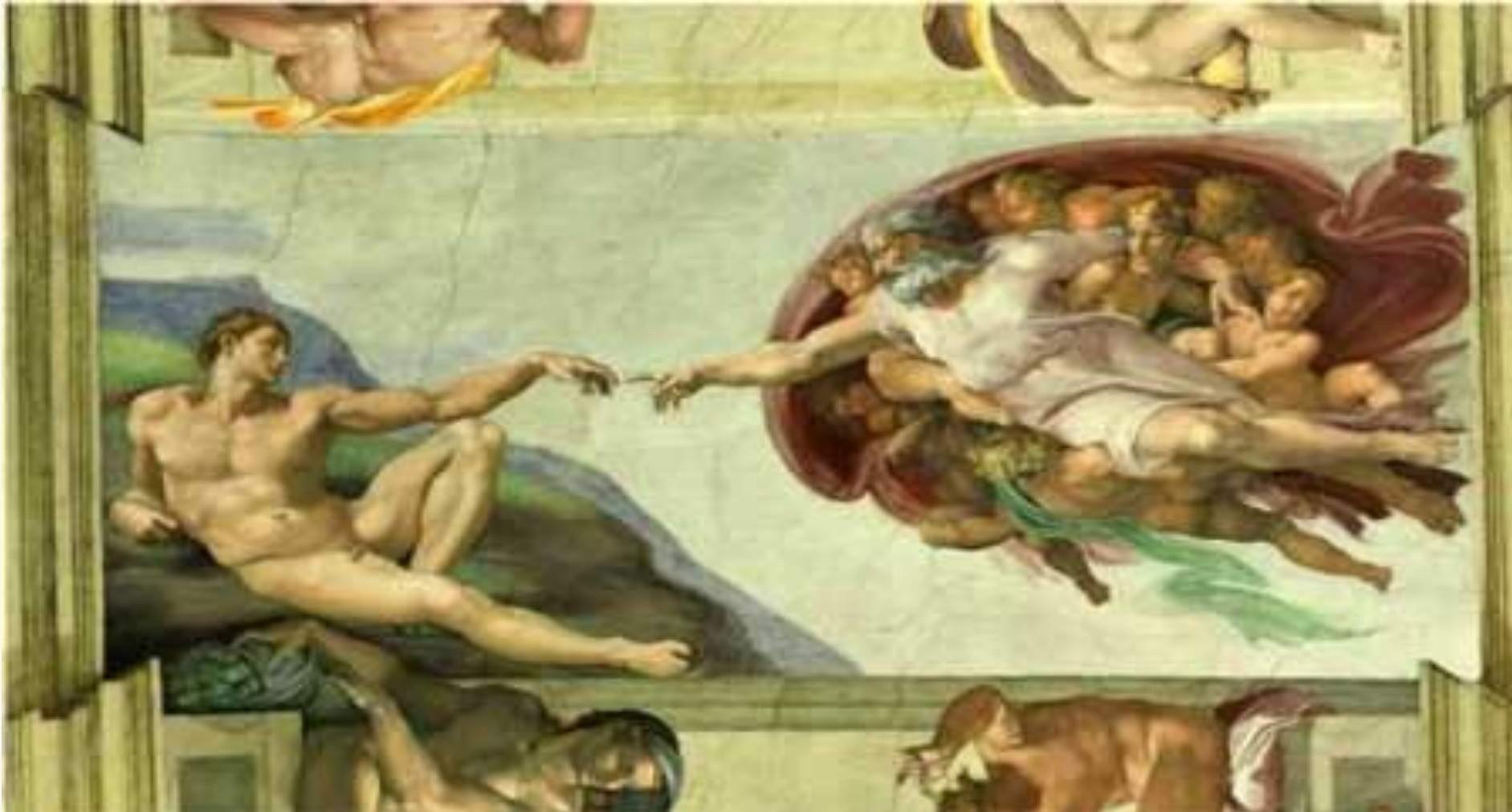


# Being Human and Responsible

Foundations for Life in Genesis 1 – 11

Part Two: Genesis 2:1-25

# Genesis 2:4 – 25



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# WHO AM I?



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What does it  
mean to be  
Human?

- **Ancient Mesopotamian view?** A human being is a slave of the gods
- **Hinduism and Buddhism?** A human being is the reincarnation of an animal or a god caught up in an endless series of births and rebirths
- **Evolutionary science?** A human being is one among millions of biological life forms that live and die on planet earth
- **Materialist?** A combination of organic compounds worth about £150

# Is Genesis 2 a competing creation-story or another phase of Creation?

## Genesis 1

- The creation of the cosmos
- Focus is on "God"  
(mentioned 35 times)

## Genesis 2

- The development of a "garden in Eden"
- Focus is on "humanity"  
(mentioned 17 times)



# Why a different name for God?

## The Name of Yahweh in Genesis



*God didn't reveal His personal Name until Exodus.  
So why is the Name of Yahweh showing up in Genesis?*



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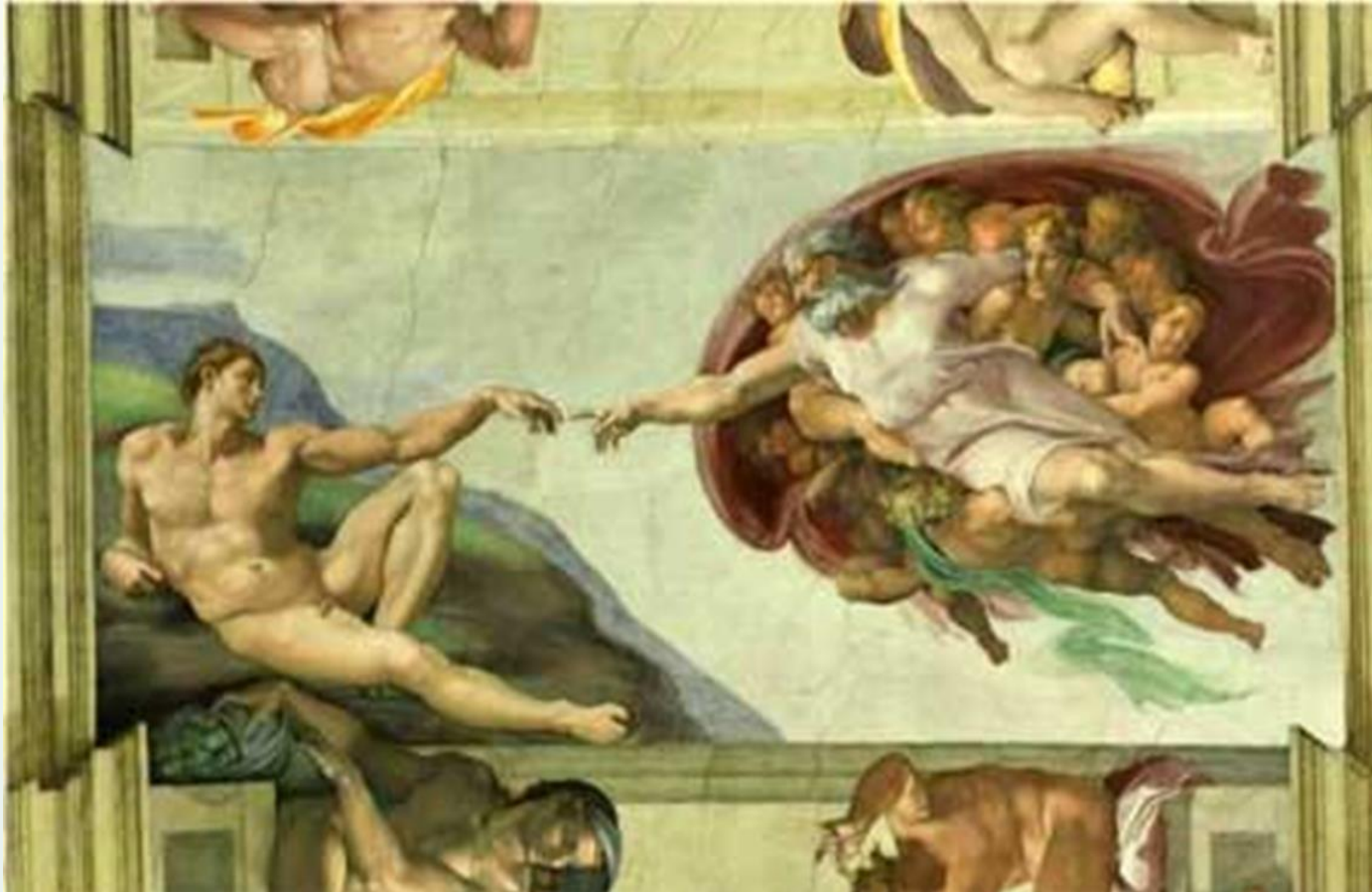
# An Interesting Shift!

- In Genesis 1:1-2:3 the author uses the term “God” (*elohim*) 35 times
- In Genesis 2:4-25 the term is always “LORD God” (*yahweh elohim*) and it is used 11 times

Why the name change?



# The Focus on Humanity



If Genesis 1 introduces the reader to the person and work of God, Genesis 2 sets out to speak about humanity.

- The *status* of humanity
- The *purpose* of humanity
- The *responsibilities* and *limits* of humanity
- The '*completeness*' of humanity

# i. Made of Dust – Raised to Glory (2:4-7)



<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up-- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,

<sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground--

<sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*, and the man became a living creature.

# GENESIS 2:4-7



# The paradox of human nature



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# Made of dust – Raised to glory!

“then the LORD God formed  
the man of dust from the  
ground and breathed into his  
nostrils the breath of life, and  
the man became a living  
creature”

Genesis 2:7

What is man that you are  
mindful of him, and the son  
of man that you care for  
him?

Yet you have made him a  
little lower than the heavenly  
beings and crowned him with  
glory and honor.

Psalms 8:4-5



## ii. Environment: Aesthetic and Practical (2:8-9)



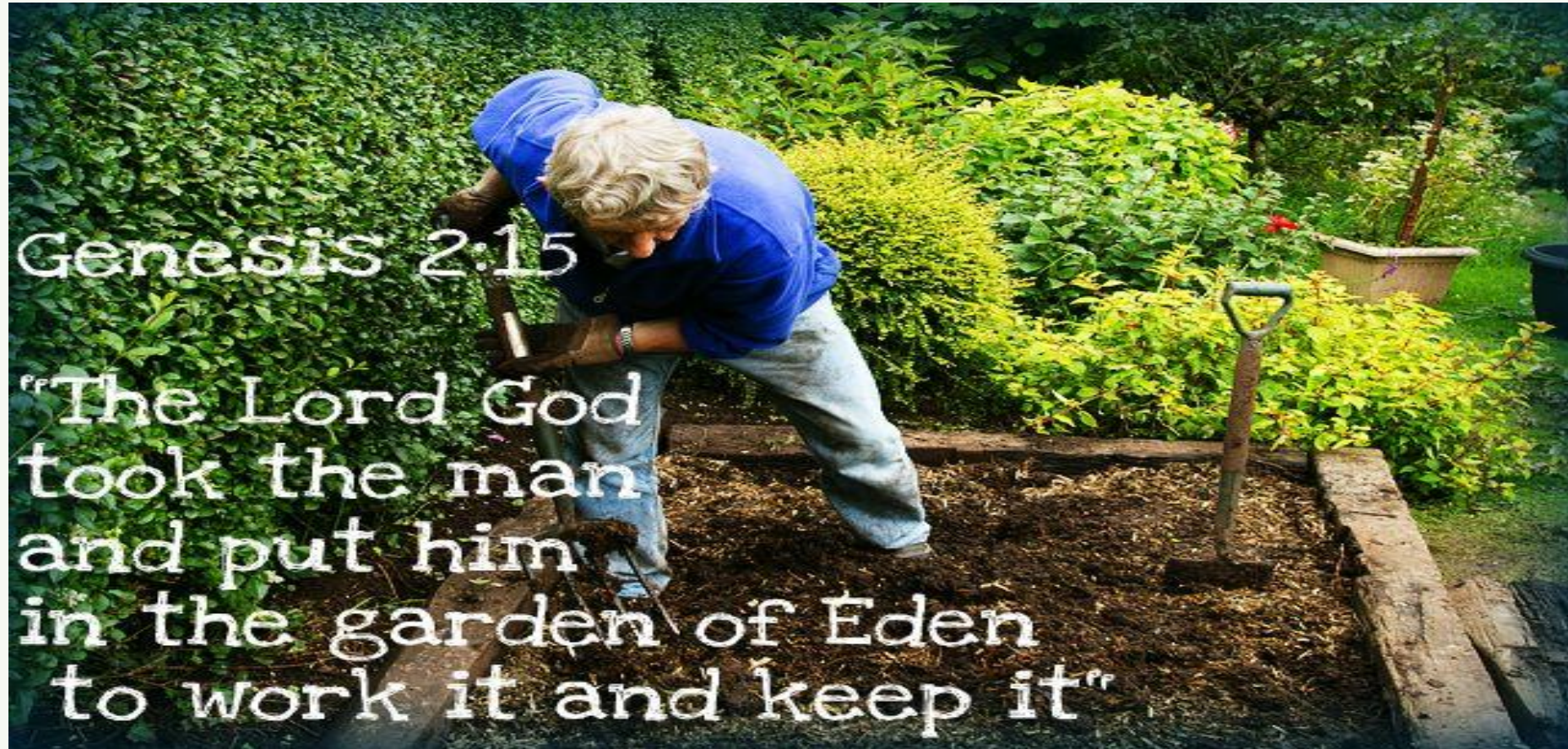


<sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

<sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is **pleasant to the sight** and **good for food**. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GENESIS 2:8-9

# iv. The responsibility of work before the curse of the Fall (2:15)



“to **WORK** it and **KEEP** it”(2:15)

Both verbs in Hebrew have two dominant meanings  
each 😊

**db^u\*** (*abad*) “Work” OR “Serve”

**rm^v\*** (*shamar*) “Keep” OR “Guard”

Which should we choose?



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# Work!

- 1) Work is a fact of our createdness – that's how we are made!
- 2) Work must be increasingly synonymous with service
- 3) Work aims to safeguard and protect the world as God created it to be



## v. Invited to Freedom

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, resting on a dark surface. The pages are yellowed with age and contain dense, handwritten text in two columns. The text is overlaid with a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background of the image is a blurred interior space with wooden floors and walls.

**And the LORD God  
commanded the man,  
saying, Of every tree of  
the garden you may  
freely eat:**

**—Genesis 2:16**



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“And the LORD God **commanded** the man,  
saying, "You may surely eat of **every tree** of the  
garden”

Genesis 2:16

# Henry Ford's idea of Freedom!



Any customer can have a car painted any colour  
that he wants so long as it is black.

(Henry Ford)

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# Paul's revolutionary advice about widows in the church in Corinth

“A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives.

But if her husband dies,  
she is free to be married  
to whom she wishes,  
only in the Lord”

1Corinthians 7:39

## vi. Observe Strict Limits

### GENESIS 2:16-17

- “And the Lord 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 will eat of it, you shall surely die”



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# Paul's revolutionary advice about widows in the church in Corinth

“A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives.

But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes,  
only in the Lord”

1 Corinthians 7:39

# Freedom and Limits



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# The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

**RIGHTS** and  
**RESPONSIBILITIES**

**WE HAVE THE BILL OF  
RIGHTS. WHAT WE  
NEED IS A BILL OF  
RESPONSIBILITIES.**

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# 'Completeness' of Humanity (Genesis 2:18-25)



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# Why, "Not Good"?

Now the Lord God said,  
It is not good  
(sufficient, satisfactory) that the man  
should be alone;  
I will make him a helper meet  
(suitable, adapted, complementary)  
for him.

Genesis 2:18 (Amplified Bible)

*Brian C. Bell*



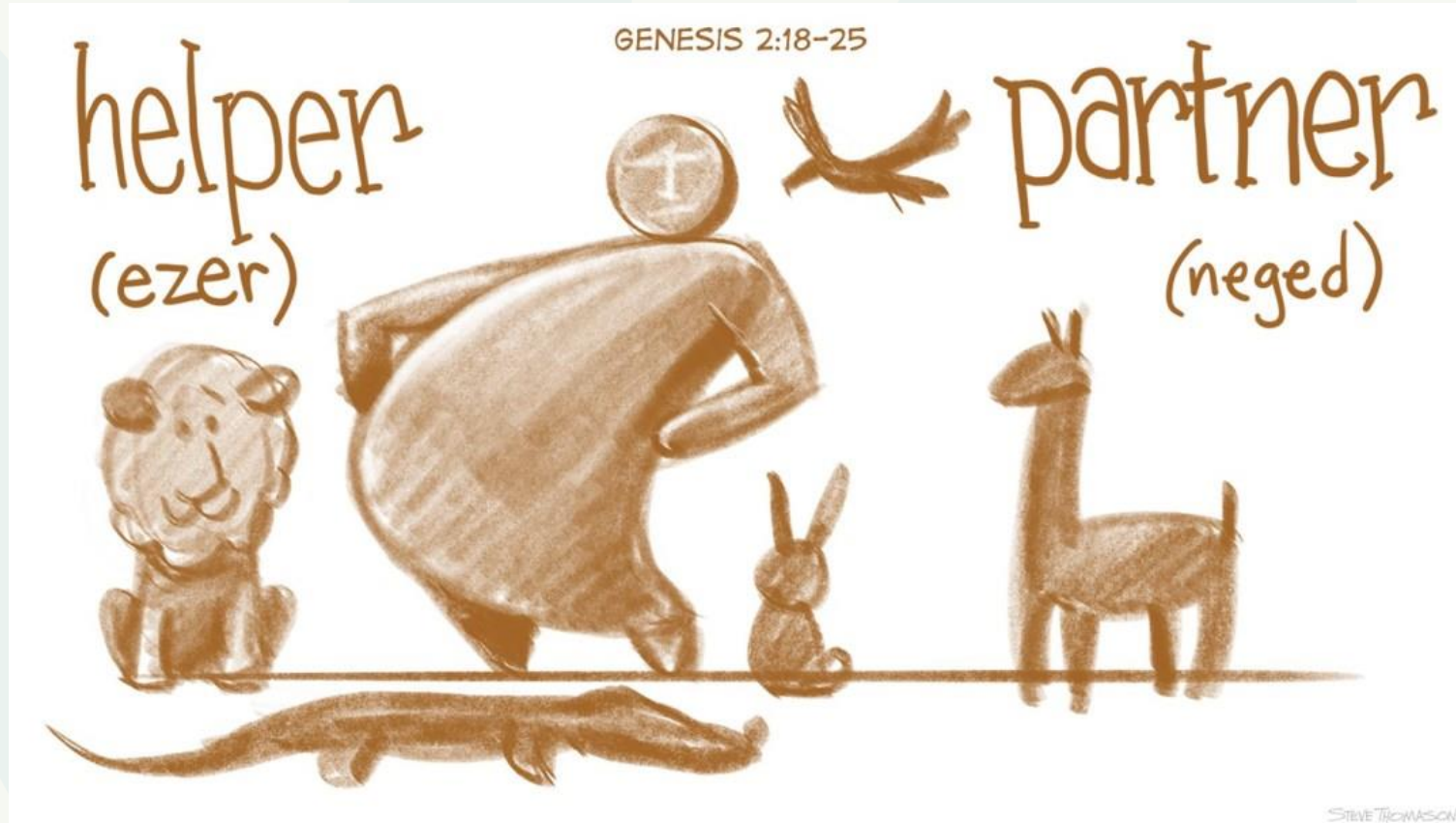
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# “Good” = Complete!

“The skies without the luminaries and birds are incomplete. The seas without the fish are incomplete. Without mankind and land animals the earth is incomplete. As a matter of fact, every phenomenon in Gen. 1-2, God excepted, is in need of something else to complete it and enable it to function.”

Victor P. Hamilton

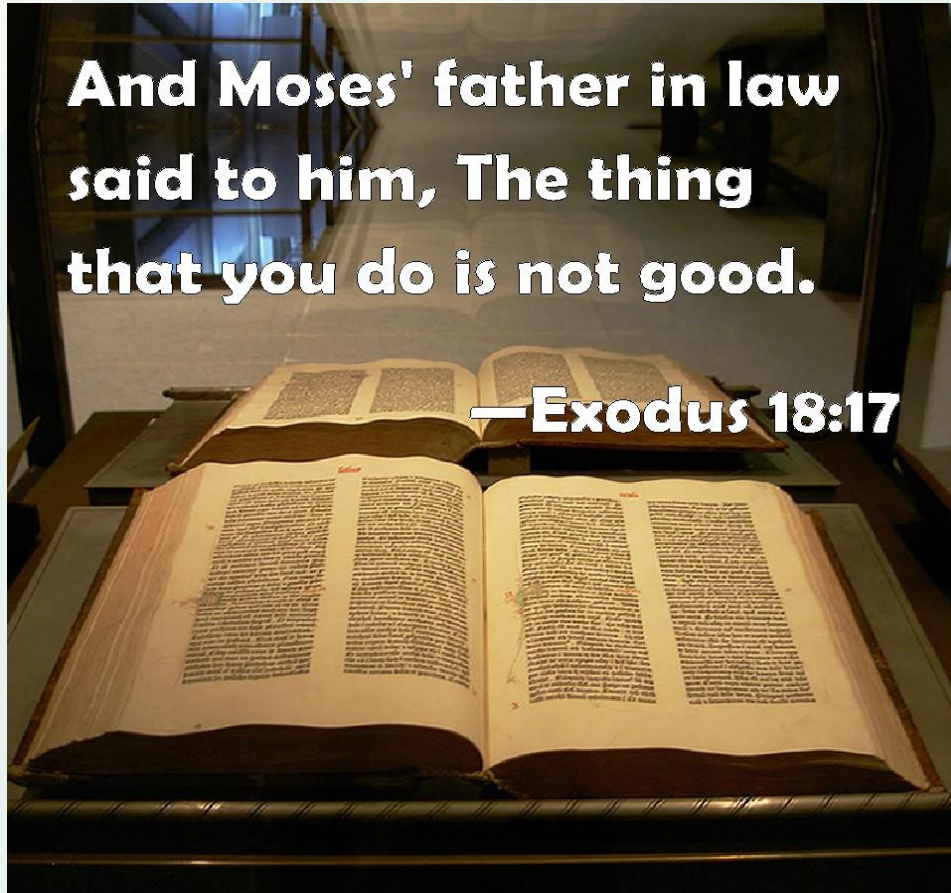
# “But for Adam no suitable helper was found”!



# The second time we find “not good” in Scripture? (Exodus 18:13-18)

**And Moses' father in law  
said to him, The thing  
that you do is not good.**

**—Exodus 18:17**



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# Marriage: Procreation and Companionship

Procreation

(Genesis 1:26-28)

Companionship

(Genesis 2:18-25)



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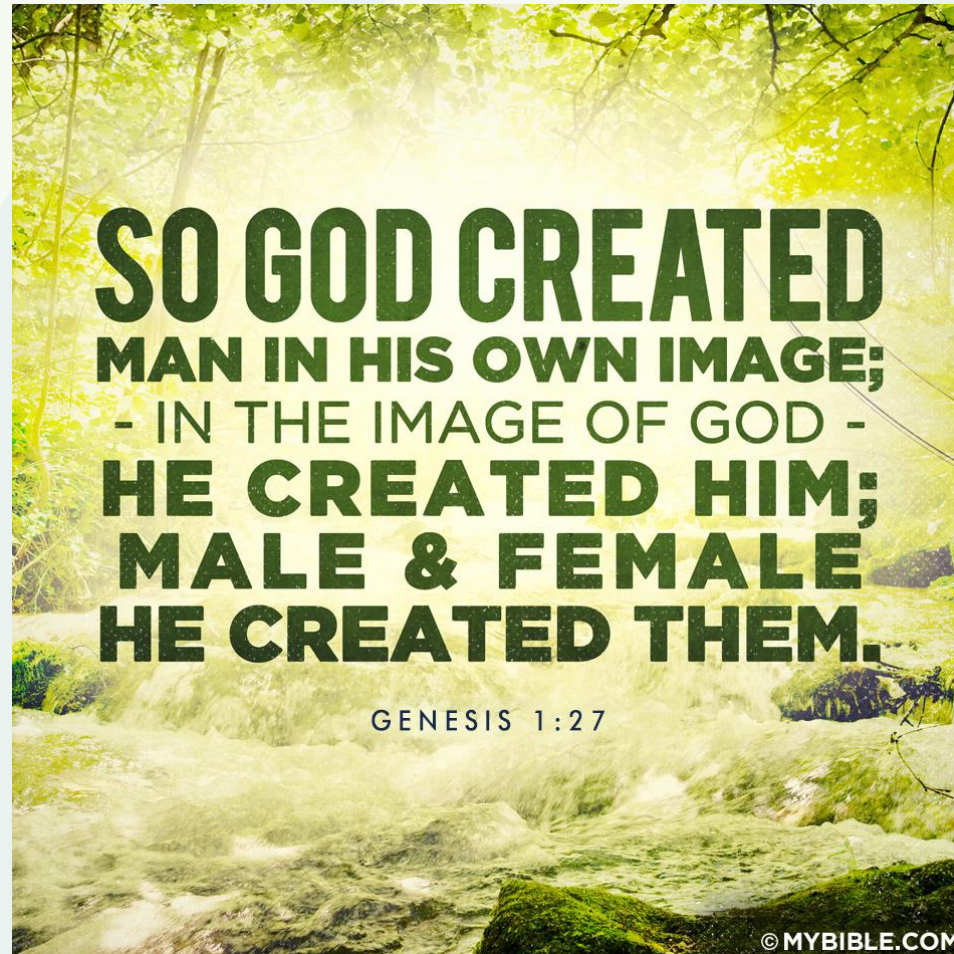


# The creation of Woman: A unique story in the ancient world!





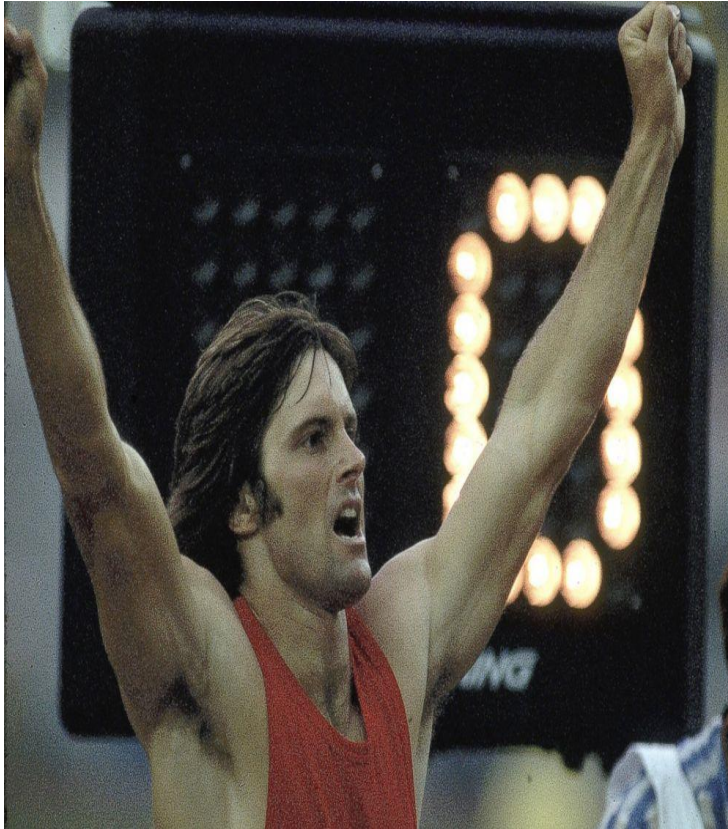
# Male and Female: Image Bearers together



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# Man and Woman: Different and Complementary



# Gender as our mandatory distinction?

**And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,**

**— Matthew 19:4 (NASB®)**

# Marriage: A Three-Step Guide

Therefore a man shall **leave** his father and his mother  
and **hold fast** to his wife, and they shall **become one**  
**flesh.**

Genesis 2:24



Leave!  
Cleave!  
Weave!

*“At the beginning the Creator made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate”*

MATTHEW 19:4-6

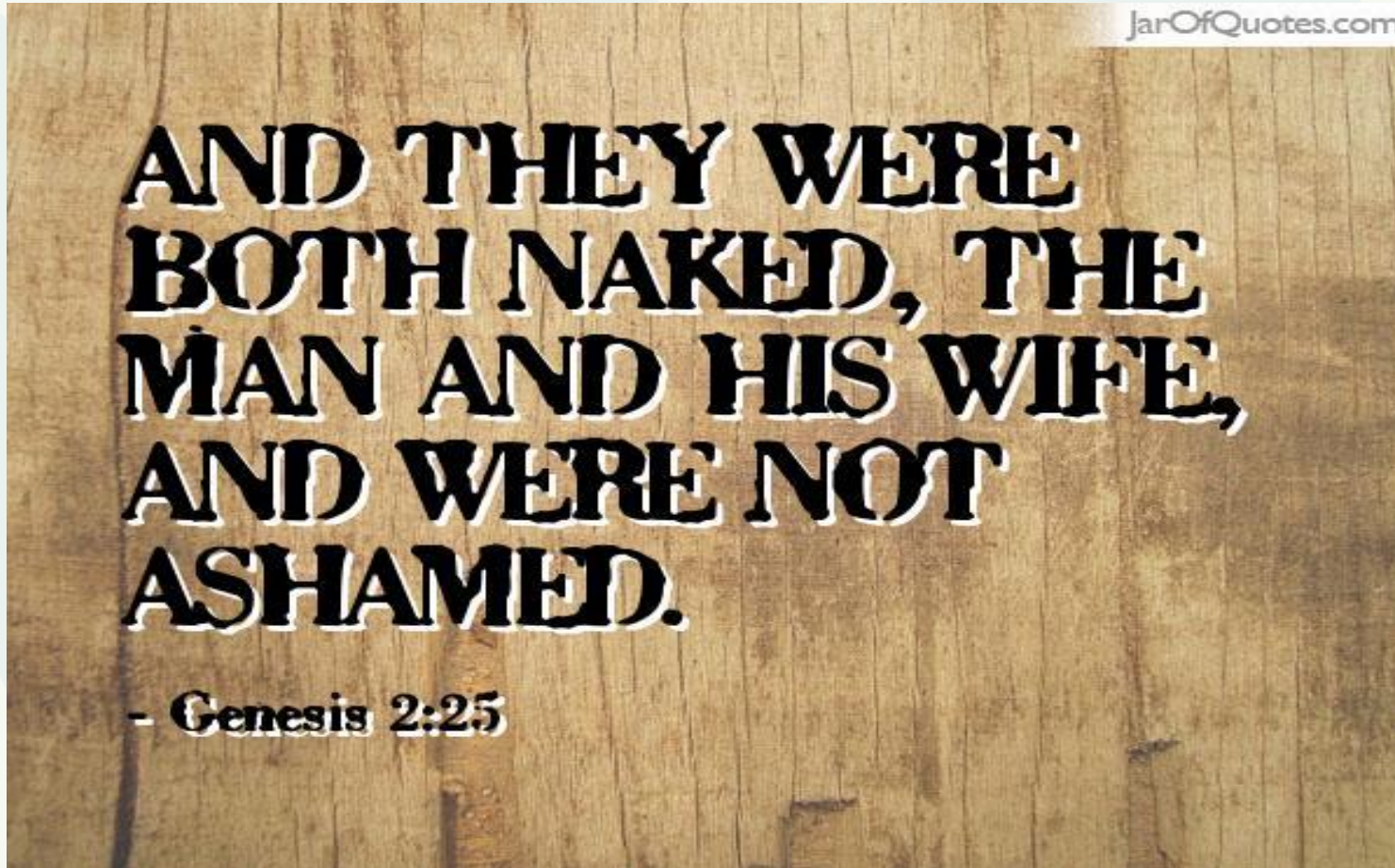


# Jesus and a Christian definition of

*marriage*  
*"At the beginning the  
Creator made them  
male and female. For  
this reason a man will  
leave his father and his  
mother and be united to  
his wife, and the two will  
become one flesh. So  
they are no longer two  
but one. Therefore what  
God has joined together  
let no one separate"*

Heterosexual  
Exclusive  
Committed  
Monogamous /  
Monoandrous  
Permanent  
Sacred

# Genesis 2:25: Unselfconsciousness



# Self-Consciousness: A result of the Fall?



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