

BRIDES - Eve (1)

Reading: Genesis 1 v 24 – 31
Genesis 2 v 7 – 9, 18 – 25
Genesis 3 v 20
Genesis 4 v 1,2

The name Eve only appears 4 times in the Bible, twice in Genesis (chap 3 v 20 and 4 v 1) and twice in the writings of the apostle Paul (11 Cor 11 v 3 and 1 Tim 2 v 13). However, there are quite a number of references to Eve where she is described as 'woman'.

- Creation** - Gen 2 v 22 *"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, **made** he a woman"*
- Marriage** - Gen 2 v 24 *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall **cleave unto** his wife"*
- Eve** - Gen 3 v 20 *"And Adam called his wife's name Eve: because she was the **mother of all living**"*

Creation:

Eve was a unique bride, created, formed by the hand of God, especially for Adam. The New Testament would teach us that this is a picture of Christ and the Church, but it is also a pattern for us.

The opening chapters of Genesis contain an accurate, factual account of the beginning of all things. We must hold fast to the amazing truths they contain e.g. Gen 1 v27 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* Creation, fresh from the hand of God was beautiful, awesome....beyond our wildest dreams or imagination. The verdict of God Gen 1 v 31 *"And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good."* Sin, the 'fall of man' and the great flood marred and disfigured that which God had made. The Theory of Evolution that is widely propagated today is an absolute contradiction of Genesis chapter 1 and 2. There is no place for evolution i.e. 'life arose spontaneously by chance' in the story of Genesis e.g. 1 v 11, 21 and 25 *"God created...after their kind"* and 1 v 27 *"So God created man in his own image"*.

All down Genesis 1 we read *"and God saw that it was good"*. In chapter we have highlighted the role of man in God's creation. According to v7 man was *"formed (moulded, squeezed into shape) of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"*. Man was unique in creation, made in *"the image of God"*. Is it any wonder David could say Ps 139 *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*. Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden *"to dress it and to keep it"*. The Hebrew writer tells us 2 v 7 *"didst set him over the works of thy hands"*.

Everything God had made he declared to be good, but in Gen 2 v 18 *"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* God would make 'an help meet' for Adam, a helper suitable for him, his counterpart, one who would complement him. In Gen 2 v 21, 22 we have the details of the formation of the woman, the help meet. As Adam slept God took one of his ribs and from that rib made, or builded, a woman. Notice what happened next Gen 2 v 22 *"the Lord God...brought her unto the man."* Fresh from the hand of God, unspoiled, pure. Can you imagine how Adam felt? In v20 all living creatures had come to Adam, but

“there was not found an help meet for him.” But now, provided by God, a help meet. Adam exclaimed *“This is now (‘At last’) bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman”*. Here was one with whom Adam could relate, one with whom he can enjoy mutual love and loyalty, his counterpart, a helper suitable for him. In 11 Cor 11 Paul speaks of Eve and says of the Church at Corinth *“that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*

Marriage:

It is God who brings the woman to the man and then at v24 we have marriage instituted: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave (joined to, abide fast, stick) unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* Brought together, made one, for a lifetime covenant of love and loyalty. This is the pattern marriage and there are foundation principles laid down. As we consider these principles note how far from them our nation has gone.

1. Instigated by God – It is ‘Holy matrimony’. It was God who said *“It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him an help meet for him.”* It is a general rule that men marry, but note the teaching on the single life in 1 Cor 7. Marriage is special; it is given by God.
2. God prepared a helper suitable for the man – She is his counterpart, not his equal. God made a woman and brought her to the man. God still prepares a helper suitable, a counterpart, a bride for a man. A matter about which we should pray and wait patiently upon the Lord.
3. The relationship is monogamous and heterosexual – The marriage bond is between one man and one woman. Anything else is a perversion of what God has instituted.
4. It is a bond of loyalty and love – It is the union of a man and a woman *“and they shall be one flesh.”* In the marriage union ‘each partner complements the other so that each is enriched’.
5. The marriage union is permanent – The Lord Jesus quotes Gen 2 v 24 in Matt 19 and says *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”*
6. It is a sexual union – God has given sex to be enjoyed in marriage with the purpose of producing children Gen 1 v 28 *“..and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth”*. This command was obeyed in Gen 4 v 1.
7. Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church – In Eph 5 Paul quotes Gen 2 v 24 and says *“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.”*

Eve:

In Gen 3 v 20 a name is given to the woman *“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve (life or life producer); because she was the mother of all living.”* In the preceding verses by her action she brought death into the world. Adam names her in hope, she would be the mother of the promised seed that would bruise the serpents head and bring life to man. She would also be life producing, in that it was through the woman each succeeding generation would come.

Creatorial order was that God would speak with man, who would communicate to the woman and together they would order and keep creation. In Gen 3 the order is reversed in that the serpent communicates with the woman. Eve, rather than discussing with her husband acts independently of him and sins. She then gives of the fruit to Adam *“and he did eat.”* Adam disobeys God, perhaps out of love for his wife and a desire not to be separated from her. The New Testament teaches that Eve was deceived, but Adam sinned with his eyes wide-open e.g. 1 Tim 2 v 14 and 11 Cor 11 v 3.

Satan first seeks to cast doubt upon the word of God, *“hath God said”*. The woman does not accurately tell the word of God – compare 2 V 16,17 with 3 v 2,3. We must be careful in handling the word of God, which Satan still today relentlessly attacks. Satan then denies the word of God, *“Ye shall not surely die”*, and the temptation is set. The woman being deceived believes the lie of Satan, desires what he is offering; it is desirable to the taste, to the eye and to the mind (compare 1 John 2 V 16). The outcome of this one act resulted in the fall of man.