

BIBLE STUDY on GENESIS (NIV) Part 2

GOD CREATES THE WORLD

Genesis 2 : 7 - 9, 15 - 18, 21 - 25

“7 The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden, and there He put the man He had formed. 9 And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” 18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

21 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. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. 23 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.” 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”

Something to Do

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct missing word.

1. *God provided a place for Adam to live.* He planted a _____ in the east, in _____ (verse 8).
2. *God provided work for Adam to do.* God put Adam in the garden of Eden to _____ and _____ of it. (v 15).
3. *God provided instruction on how to avoid death.* God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from _____ tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of _____ and _____, for when you eat of it you will surely _____ (v 16 - 17). >>

God Provides for Us

How God must have loved man, to provide everything that he needed! God knows what we need to be fruitful. **“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”** (*Philippians 4 : 19*) God wants us to trust Him, to have fellowship with Him, to delight in Him, to reign with Him. He has given us commands for our own good. **“The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees (law) and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive.”** (*Deuteronomy 6 : 24a*) What a wonderful God we have!

God’s Plan for Every Marriage

Marriage was God’s idea, and what a beautiful plan He had in mind! How grieved God must be when marriages of His people fall short of His perfect plan! His plan is given here in Genesis:

1. *A man will leave his father and mother.* Though we should always honour and respect our parents, there comes a time when a man becomes the head of his own home. Then he is free to love his wife fully. **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body.”** (*Ephesians 5 : 25, 28 - 29a*)
2. *A man will be united to his wife.* A man should stick to his wife, like *glue*, for life. Jesus confirmed this plan for marriage and added, **“Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”** (*Matthew 19 : 6b*) Why do people want divorces? Jesus said there is only one real cause. It is **“because your hearts were hard.”** (*Matthew 19 : 8*) But that is not God’s plan. God says that He hates divorce (*Malachi 2 : 16*). Instead of putting away our spouse, God wants us to put away all bitterness and wrath. **“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”** (*Ephesians 4 : 32*)
3. *They will become one flesh.* The physical union of bodies should be a beautiful expression of the unity of minds, hearts, and spirits. **“Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”** (*Hebrews 13 : 4*)
4. *The man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame.* Before sin came into the world, this first couple were open with each other and with God. They had nothing to hide. When Adam and Eve sinned, for the first time they realized their nakedness (see Story 3 - in the next Issue). God Himself then made clothes for them, involving the first shedding of animal blood.

Only as couples are made new creatures in Christ, by *Christ’s* blood sacrifice, can they experience true openness again between them. Confession of wrongs and of needs can be shared with God and with each other. **“So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”** (*Acts 24 : 16*) **“Love must be sincere.”** (*Romans 12 : 9a*) Genuine (real) love makes married partners tolerant (accept) of many things that would otherwise irritate.