

Genesis 2:15-23

15. Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. **16.** and the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17.** But from the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

We are called to care for this planet, but not to worship it. We are not the owners as we may like to think, but rather we are the Stewards of what belongs to God Himself. Many people have asked why the Lord ever planted the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden, especially if He knew the consequences if Adam and Eve ever disobeyed. The Lord put the tree there, to remind Adam and Eve that He was God, and that they weren't.

18. Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” **19.** and out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20.** And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. **21.** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. **22.** And the Lord God fashioned (or built) into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to man. **23.** And the man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.”

Much like a modern day biologist, Adam studied the characteristics of each animal in order to give it its name. I am certain that the Lord had another purpose in Adam naming the animals as well. As each animal or pair of animals crossed before him, Adam began to notice that none of them would be suitable as a helper for himself. Often times the Lord will do the same thing in each of our lives, He will bring us into a situation where we begin to see that something is missing. Then, we will begin to start asking Him for the very thing that He has already desired to give us. This is very true with one of the purposes of the Lord having Adam name all of the animals. God allowed Adam to see that something was somehow missing from his life, and then the Lord performed one of His greatest miracles to date.

Notice what the Lord did next; He took Adam and caused a deep sleep to come over him. When I was a youth, I once heard a minister teach on this verse. He shared that every non-married youth or single person needed to ask the Lord to place them a sleep, sexually that is, until He brings their mate; because, if a person will wait for God, I am convinced that the Lord will bring His best into each of our lives. Too often people get tired of waiting, whether because they are lonely or because of sexual desires; they simply take matters in to their own hands and they try and create their own mate, rather than waiting for God to do it. I have heard some preachers say that the Lord doesn't have a specific person for each of us. Personally, I believe that is ludicrous! How is it that the Creator of heaven and earth can be so intimately concerned with every detail of our lives, except for the very one that will have such a massive impact, choosing our mate. Lastly, I love how the Lord brings Eve to Adam after he has woken from his deep sleep. God doesn't simply allow them to discover one another somewhere out in the garden, but rather the lord presents Eve to Adam, as his co-laborer and lifetime partner.