

**Series: God & Man & Woman #775**

**Title: Genesis 2.21**

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world! It is good to have you here as we end the week with one another. I am grateful for your time. I understand it is precious and there are other podcasts and radio ministry broadcasts you are likely already committed to. You are likely also quite busy living your life, attending to all of your daily tasks, whatever it is God has given you to do. Therefore, please know of my love and appreciation for you as you spend these minutes with all of us!

I pray that you have benefited, and also enjoyed, all of the discoveries we have made about God and one another as we make our way through this second chapter of the Book of Genesis. We started at verse 4 and, by the grace of God; we have now come all the way down to verse 21. That's 17 verses. We have five more to go, and the remaining verses are *packed* with insights into who we are as men and as women (as male and as female). That's why the title we're using is God and Man and Woman. What does the Bible teach us about God and about man and woman? That is what we are finding out.

Last time I left you with an invitation to read ahead – verses 18-25 of Genesis 2 – and I wonder if you did? If so, you're prepared and ready for what follows. Just as a refresher and for those of you who ran out of time to do that or who are new to God Is, let me read in Genesis chapter 2. For the sake of time, I am going to read verse 18, then drop down to verses 21-25. Follow along with me in your Bible, if you are able to do so. (Genesis 2.18 and 21-25.) Hear now the Word of God to your body, soul, mind and spirit.

**“<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’ And now I drop down to verse 21. This is Genesis 2.21, “<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> 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.’**

**<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”**  
Wow! What an *awesome* passage of Scripture this is. I am excited to dive into it with you.

In fact, this is so exciting you will want to invite a friend or family member, someone from your church or synagogue, to join us at this time on this station and/or via the God Is Podcast from [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org).

Our focus beginning today is verse 21. We will carry this verse over into Monday. And here we find God the Surgeon. In verse 18 God makes a promise: **“<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said...I will make him a helper suitable for him.”** And in verse 21 God delivers on His promise. With God alone are all promises made and kept. Many people will make us promises. All will at some point in time and on some promise fail, but our God will never fail. That's why verse 21 begins, **“So...”** Since God will make man a helper suitable for him, so God now does it. And yet He does it in a way that we would not. What else is new with Almighty God? His ways are mysterious to us.

And God's ways are also consistent. What God does in one place, He does in the other. What God does with one man or one woman God does again with another man or woman. What God does within one community of His people, He will do with yet another community of His people. What God does in the Old Testament, He does in the New Testament and vice versa. If you've been listening to this ministry any length of time you know that I like to point this out to you, cross-referencing one Scripture to the other. And here we go again. Verse 21 continues, **“...the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept.”** God puts man to sleep.

And what does this remind you of? If you know Genesis well, this may bring to mind Abraham and Jacob. The Lord God put Adam to sleep then God acted. The Lord God also put Abraham and Jacob to sleep while God acted. **In all three cases God put the men to sleep in order to prove that while they may have a part to play in the fulfillment of God's plan, only God can make his plan a reality.** So in the case of Adam God fulfills God's plan for marriage and the multiplication of people on the earth. In the case of Abraham God fulfills God's plan for a covenant between Himself and Abraham and Abraham's descendants. And in the case of Jacob, God fulfills God's plan for that same covenant as demonstrated in Jacob's family life.

You say, "Well that's a lot to Swallow...Swallow! It is Friday. Can you run that past me again?" Yes, that is exactly what I will do and it will help if we go to two other Bible passages. Both of these are in Genesis. You can put a literal or mental finger at Genesis 15, verse 12 and Genesis 28, verse 10. That's Genesis 15:12 and 28:10. And I'll begin reading about Abraham's sleep at Genesis chapter 15 and verse 12. But just a quick note before I read the text, at this time in his life Abraham's name was still Abram. So you will hear me read Abram who is Abraham. This is Genesis 15, verses 12 and 13a.

**"<sup>12</sup> Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> God said to Abram..."** I will break off the reading there and tell you that from here God continues to speak and reveals to Abram (to Abraham) the covenant. Abram sleeps because the covenant does not involve any promise be made from Abram to God. Abram (Abraham) will have a part to play in the fulfillment of God's covenant, but only God will make that covenant plan a reality. Abraham is *totally dependent* on God. Without God what we call the Abrahamic Covenant does not exist. Anything Abraham does is done in vain if God fails to uphold the covenant relationship.

And we see this again in the case of Abraham's grandson Jacob. We stay within Genesis and turn over to chapter 28. I will begin reading in Genesis 28, verse 10 and read through verse 16. Genesis 28:10-16 says, **"<sup>10</sup> Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.**

**<sup>14</sup> Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.'"**

I read a little more there, for context only. I do not have time to teach this important text. The reason I raise it is to show you that God fulfills God's plan for that same covenant with Abraham in Jacob's life and in his family's life. Again, notice that Jacob sleeps and dreams. And God speaks. Jacob sleeps while God acts. Jacob has a part to play in the fulfillment of God's plan, but only God can make His plan a reality. Jacob is *totally dependent* on God. Anything Jacob does is done in vain if God fails to uphold the covenant relationship.

Now, with those texts in mind, let's go back to our text: Genesis 2:21 says, **"...the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept."** God put Adam to sleep then God acted. As with Abraham and Jacob, God put Adam to sleep in order to prove that while Adam will have a key part to play in God's plan for marriage and the multiplication of people on the earth, only God can make this plan a reality.

As we shall see, God is going to do something phenomenal in Adam's life, but what God does is dependent on God, not on Adam. Adam could not even create Eve. He had to depend on God for that. This all reminds us of Psalm 127, verses 1 and 2. Psalm 127:1-2. **"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...<sup>2</sup> It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for [God] gives to His beloved even in his sleep."**

Did you catch that? God gives to His beloved even in his [people's] sleep. While we sleep, God acts. While Adam, Abraham, and Jacob slept God provided to them. Had these men tried to do what God did, it would have all been in vain. But when God does it, it all comes to fruition. **"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."** We'll pick up here on Monday. Join me then for God Is!

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