MARRIAGE PREPARATION Genesis 2:7-22

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From Genesis 2:7-22 are seven points that give us Biblical guidance concerning marriage preparation.

With the Lord, to open our minds to understand these Scriptures in relationship to marriage preparation, we shall now continue.

This verse tells us:

- the "1st" time a "human" is recorded in Scripture.
- God made man alive "physically & spiritually"
- God created man and breathed life into man.
- the "LORD GOD" made "MAN."
- the "LORD GOD" comes first & "MAN" second.
 That order is to apply to our Christian lives,
 "the Lord" first, "us" second.

Jesus said in Luke 22:42, "...NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE."

The "Lord's will" and "not our will" applies to who we are to marry.

Now let's go to the second part of point number one.

In Genesis 2:8 it says, "AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN TOWARD THE EAST, IN EDEN: AND THERE HE PLACED THE MAN WHOM HE HAD FORMED."

This verse starts with "And" repeats the same words seen at the beginning of verse 7, "THE LORD GOD".

When words are repeated it conveys they are very, very important.

The "Lord's will" comes first and "our will" does not.

Now we continue with "AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED."

The "LORD GOD" is mentioned before "MAN."
The "LORD GOD" is emphasized - "not" the
"MAN"

The "LORD GOD" was in charge - "not" the "MAN."

The "LORD GOD" and His decisions are mentioned first.

When the "LORD GOD" saved us through Jesus Christ we are to know that He is in charge of our lives and not us.

Notice it says, the "LORD GOD" and "not" the "Saviour God".

Right from the first day we become born-again Christians we are to understand that Jesus is Lord and not just our friend and Saviour.

To think of Jesus just as a friend diminishes His supremacy in our lives.

To think of Jesus just as a friend subtly reduces His authority in our lives.

To think of Jesus just as a friend means He can only make suggestions but we are still in charge to decide if we will comply or not.

Now consider the words, "THERE HE PLACED THE MAN."

The word "HE" comes before "MAN."

"He" comes first, not us.

The man was in God's will.

The man was "not" in charge.

The man was where God wanted him to be.

Now consider the words "WHOM HE FORMED." These words repeat the thought described in verse 7 that God created man.

God saved us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God allowed us to be saved.
The words "when I accepted Jesus" are wrong.
It should be, "when Jesus accepted me."
We are to live to please Him and not ourselves.

Many want to "worship" God, but how many really want to obey God?

In 1 Samuel 15:30-31, Saul wanted to worship but did not want to obey.

In 1 Corinthians 6:20 it says,
"FOR YOU HAVE BEEN BOUGHT WITH A PRICE:
THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY."

(2) "AND...." (Genesis 2:9-14)

From verse 9 through to verse 14, we read of various things happening.

The man, however, is not mentioned.

We might think, God made man, why does He not hurry up and make the woman.

But the Bible does not do that.

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Verse 9, "AND...."
Verse 12, "AND...."
Verse 13, "AND...."
Verse 14, "AND...."
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(2) "AND...." (Genesis 2:9-14)

The beginning of these verses show a continuing and time going by.

Reading from verses 9 to 14 we sense time passing.

How much time we do not know.

What sense of is a waiting period.

The Bible has many examples of God taking plenty of time when dealing with a man to prepare him for his God-given task.

(2) "AND...." (Genesis 2:9-14)

The world does not want to wait.
The world demands instant everything.
Hastiness is very often a symptom of worldliness
Hastiness is very often a symptom of disobeying
God.

Hastiness is very often a symptom of the flesh in charge.

Hastiness is very often a symptom of the Spirit not being in charge.

In Ecclesiastes 5:2 it says, "DO NOT BE HASTY IN WORD OR IMPUSIVE IN THOUGHT TO BRING UP A MATTER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD."

This verse begins with the word "THEN."

The word shows a change to a new phase.

Now let us review key words from the following verses.

In verse 7, "THE LORD GOD" came "before" the word "MAN."

In verse 8, "THE LORD GOD" came "before" the word "MAN."

In verse 15,

"THE LORD" comes "before" the word "MAN." From when God made man, the Lord always came before the man.

This pattern is solidified and teaches us that before a man is ready for marriage, the "LORD GOD" must always come "before" the "MAN."

The "MAN" must be spiritually mature to put the "LORD GOD" first.

The "MAN" who desires happiness more than holiness is selfish.

Here are seven things to consider about the "MAN."

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The "MAN" was not on welfare.
The "MAN" was not on benefits.
The "MAN" was not unemployed.
The "MAN" was not a baby.
The "MAN" was not a child.
The "MAN" was not a teenager.
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The "MAN" was a grown up mature adult.

Please give attention to the words
"TO CULTIVATE IT AND KEEP IT."

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was obeying God.

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was going forward.

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was looking forward.

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was not looking back.

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was standing upright.

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was a mature man, not a baby.

The words "CULTIVATE IT" means he was walking with God before he was ready for marriage.

Before a man is ready for marriage he needs to be standing upright.

Before a man is ready for marriage he needs to be spiritually mature.

Before a man is ready for marriage he needs to be walking with God.

The words "KEEP IT" speak of being reliable.

The words "KEEP IT" speak of not being lazy.

The words "KEEP IT" speak of not being negligent.

The words "KEEP IT" speak of being a hard worker.

The words "KEEP IT" speak of the man being responsible.

The words "KEEP IT" speak of waiting.

Waiting is something the world and the flesh hates to do.

Waiting is something pride hates to do.

Waiting requires self-denial.

To conclude verse 15, the Holy Spirit teaches us that before God puts the man and woman together he has to be obedient to God, spiritually mature, hard working, reliable, going forward, and willing to wait.

There is a lot of pressure from friends and family not to wait.

Remember, Adam was walking, not crawling.

That shows a man is to be spiritually mature, and not a baby Christian before he is ready for marriage.

In verses 16-17 God was speaking to the man.

The man spent time with God.

This refers to a man spending time in prayer and daily Bible study to hear from God.

Both a man and woman need this foundation of daily spending time with God, praying, and reading His Word to hear His voice.

This is a vital foundation to be established before marriage.

In verses 16-17 the man listened to God's voice.

In verses 16-17 the man did not interrupt or argue with God.

That in itself is a sign of maturity.

Before the man was ready for marriage he listened to God's voice.

Before the man was ready for marriage he heard God's voice.

If you like to be listened to rather than listen then God needs to work more Christian maturity into your life before marriage.

Now consider the following: the Holy Spirit never contradicts His word.

For example: say you wanted to marry someone and you randomly flick the Bible open to Genesis 24 and read the story of Rebekah being chosen to be Issac's wife.

You think, wow, God spoke to me about marrying such and such a person.

But then your pastor tells you he has serious reservations about you marrying this person. You are certain God spoke to you but your pastor does not agree.

You are angry that the pastor stuck his nose into your personal life.

Then you read in Hebrews 13:17,

"OBEY YOUR RULERS, AND SUBMIT TO THEM: FOR THEY KEEP WATCH OVER YOUR SOULS, AS THOSE WHO WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT. LET THEM DO THIS WITH JOY AND NOT WITH GRIEF, FOR THIS WOULD BE UNPROFITABLE FOR YOU."

You think God spoke to you but your pastor does not agree.

It is vital for you to listen to your pastor and not run around looking for people who will agree with what you want to hear.

If you run around looking for someone to agree with what you want to do then it will not take long until you find someone who will agree with your rebellious decision.

Now, in point "five", we learn that God knew it is not good for man to be alone.

God is not against you getting married, but He is against you marrying the wrong person.

A man needs a helper, not a hinderer.

In Amos 3:3 it says, "DO TWO WALK TOGETHER UNLESS THEY HAVE AGREED TO DO SO?"

For example, if a couple talk before marriage and the man expresses that he believes God has called him to live in a certain location and the woman does not want to live there, it is obvious they are not in agreement.

From this verse we learn that God prepares the woman for the man.

"DO TWO WALK TOGETHER UNLESS THEY HAVE AGREED TO DO SO?" (Amos 3:3)

It is vital for a woman to desire the Lord more than a husband.

It is vital the woman has her life surrendered to God.

It is vital the woman be walking in obedience to God.

The Lord makes a woman suitable for her future husband.

The Lord will guide her to who He has chosen for her to marry.

The Lord is to be in charge of finding a wife.

The Lord makes the helpmate for the man.

The man is not to date various women to try to see who would be suitable as a wife.

Dating is not mentioned in the Bible as a means of finding a marriage partner.

Praying is imperative in knowing the will of God concerning who to marry.

Praying for guidance is seen in Gen.24:12-14.

Matchmaking belongs to the Holy Spirit, not us.

We now look into verse 19 and find that the Lord formed beast and birds and brought them to the man to name.

This shows the man had a good relationship with God. This shows the man could make decisions.

A man needs to have a good relationship with God before marriage.

A man needs to be decisive before he is ready for marriage.

What we learn from this is the Lord operated on Adam before giving him a wife.

There was a cutting away of Adam's flesh before he was given a wife.

In this verse we learn that the Lord removed something from inside the man.

Something needed removing before marriage.

Today the Holy Spirit does something similar in a Christian's life prior to marriage.

When a person becomes a Christian, it does not mean they are ready for marriage.

There is still a lot of the world and selfishness in a person that the Holy Spirit needs to cleanse from a new Christian.

The Holy Spirit digs deep and removes areas of the flesh before building a healthy marriage.

In contemporary culture, too often the heart is not dealt with and the consequences is two selfish people enter marriage wanting to "get" rather than "give".

Far too many couples start their marriages never having had the flesh adequately dealt with, which is much like starting to build a house with no deep foundation.

A house without a deep foundation will with time shift and cracks can appear.

The result so often is the marriage collapses.

In Luke 6:48 it says, "HE IS LIKE A MAN BUILDING A HOUSE, WHO DUG DEEP AND LAID A FOUNDATION UPON THE ROCK;"

This verse focuses on the Lord preparing the woman for marriage.

The words "LORD GOD" precedes the word "WOMAN."

Further on in this verse "HE," referring to the Lord, precedes "HER," referring to Eve.

This pattern is consistent with earlier verses.

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In verse 7, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
In verse 8, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
In verse 15, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
In verse 16, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
In verse 18, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
In verse 19, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
In verse 21, "LORD GOD" precedes "MAN."
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As with the man, the Lord God always came first.

In a woman's life the Lord's will must always come first prior to marriage and throughout marriage.

The words "BROUGHT HER" shows that Eve was walking with God.

The words "BROUGHT HER" shows that Eve was obeying God.

The words "BROUGHT HER" shows that Eve was not self-willed.

The words "BROUGHT HER" shows that Eve was not manipulative.

The words "BROUGHT HER" shows that Eve was submitted to God.

The words "BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN" shows the Lord brought the woman to the man and not the other way around.

The words "BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN" shows the Lord brought her according to His time schedule and not hers.

The woman did not take the initiative to go out looking for a husband.

In a marriage, the man is to be the leader, as Ephesians 5:23 says, "FOR THE HUSBAND IS THE HEAD OF THE WIFE, AS CHRIST ALSO IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH,"

We learn from this verse that the man and woman didn't go out dating prior to getting married.

Both the Adam and Eve knew God.

In New Testament terminology it means both the man and woman are to be born again Christians.

Prior to being married a couple are to be spiritually healthy and mature, obeying God, and walking in His truth.

In this study the Lord highlighted that time passed before He put the couple together.

In both the man and woman, their relationship to God came first.

It is imperative Christians seek holiness and not happiness.

The most important motive for getting married is not to be happy, but it is to glorify God.

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LET'S PRAY:

