

BIBLE STORY: THE CREATION OF MAN AND MARRIAGE
Genesis 2:7-25

Central Thoughts

- God formed Adam from the dust of the ground.
- The Holy Spirit breathed life into Adam and he became a living being.
- It is not good for the man to be alone because he needed a wife to love, to have children with, and to exercise dominion over the creation.
- Man exercised dominion over the creation in naming the animals.
- Eve was formed from Adam's side to be a helpmeet comparable to him.
- God instituted marriage, joining the man and the woman together as one flesh.
- Adam and Eve were not ashamed because they had no sin.

Discussion Questions

How did God form man?

From the dust of the earth

What did God breath into Adam?

The breath of life

Who is this breath of life?

The Holy Spirit

What did God place the man in the Garden of Eden to do?

To tend and keep it (to work and to care for the garden; to exercise dominion)

What nourished the life within the Garden of Eden?

The water that flowed from the rivers

What does this water make us think of?

The water of Holy Baptism

What had the Lord God given man to eat?

Every tree of the garden they could freely eat from, except the Tree of the Knowledge of God and Evil.

Why were they not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge?

They would die.

What tree in the Garden promised them life?

The Tree of Life

Why was it not good for the man to be alone?

He needed someone to love as God loves, to have children with, and to assist him in exercising dominion over the creation.

What was man doing by naming the animals of creation?

Exercising dominion over the creation

What is the Lord God teaching us by saying that for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him?

There is only one helpmeet for Adam that would enable him to reflect the image of God, to be fruitful and multiply, and to have dominion. That helpmeet is the woman whom the Lord God fashioned from Adam's side.

How did the Lord God create the woman?

He caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and He fashioned woman from a rib from Adam's side.

To what great act of salvation does the creation of woman from Adam's side point us?

How the bride of Christ, the Church, would be fashioned from the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side as He fell asleep in death for our sins.

What did the Lord God do after the creation of Eve from Adam's side?

Brought her to the man.

What did Adam confess of Eve?

This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.

What does woman mean?

Taken out of man

How does God describe marriage?

A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall be called one flesh.

Who joined Adam and Eve together in marriage?

The Lord God

What does this teach us?

That marriage came from God and that He is the one who has determined what marriage is and the purposes for which it was instituted

Why were Adam and Eve not ashamed when they were naked?

They had no sin

Meditation on the Bible Story

God created man out of the dust of the earth and the Holy Spirit breathed life into Adam. Adam was placed into the Garden of Eden to tend and keep the garden (to exercise dominion). Water nourished the life of the garden, just as water is the instrument through which God creates and nourishes our new life in Holy Baptism. In love, God had given all the trees of the garden for man to eat, except the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. To eat of the tree that God had not given would bring death, separation from God, because Adam would be turning away from God's Word that had given him life. It was not good for the man to be alone, because God had created us in His image, to be a community of loving persons (just like the Holy Trinity), to have children in love, and to exercise a gracious dominion over His creation. When Adam exercised his dominion over the creation, the Lord taught us that there is only one, uniquely created by God, who could be the man's helpmeet. Only a man and a woman together in the one flesh union of marriage can have children and exercise dominion over the creation as God intended. God instituted marriage to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman in one flesh, to love and support one another, to have children, and to care for the creation. In Jesus, the Second Adam, God fulfilled His gracious will in creating us in His image. Jesus' bride the Church was created from the blood and water of Jesus' side. Through His forgiveness we are cleansed from sin and made beautiful in God's eyes. Through His forgiveness and love we have fellowship with God forever.

Prayer on the Bible Story

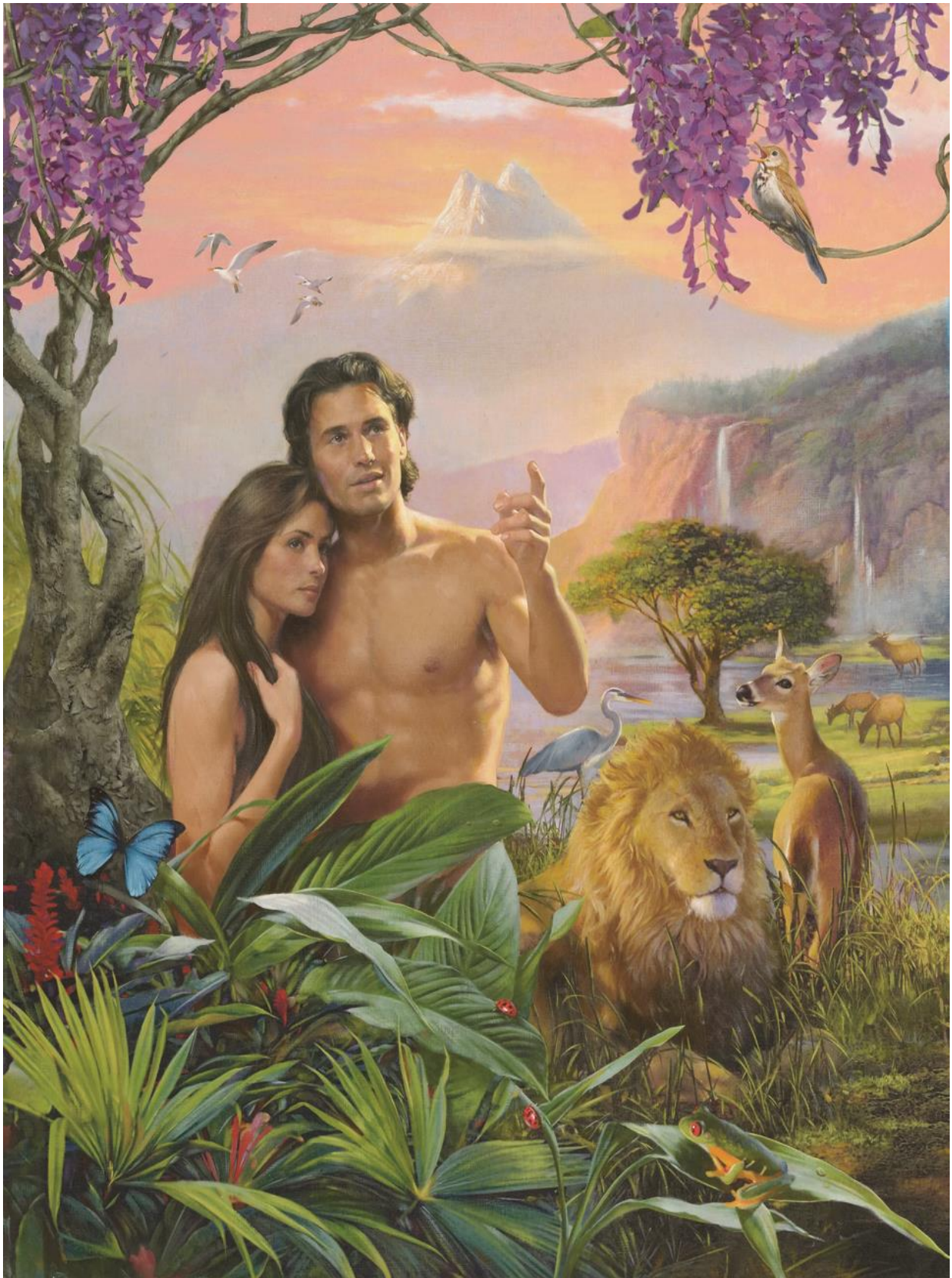
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the creation of man and woman in Your image and for the gift of marriage. Help us to honor, uphold, and teach the blessings of marriage to our children. Grant that all Christian husbands would love their wives. Help all Christian wives to receive the love of their husbands. According to your will, give them the gift of children. Enable them to love their children and to bring them up in the nurture and love of the Lord Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE CREED

(See Catechism or Congregation at Prayer for the Week)

Prayer on the First Article

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the First Article of the Creed You teach us that You are the God of self-giving love. You have created us and all things out of Your fatherly divine goodness and mercy. We give thanks to You for all that You have made, for every gift of body and soul, for our talents and abilities, and for all that You have given us to preserve us each day and to make our lives enjoyable. You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support us in this body and life, and You defend us against all danger and guard and keep us from all evil. Forgive us for not trusting in You, for failing to give thanks for all Your gifts of creation, and for not using your gifts in loving service to others. Strengthen us by Jesus' forgiveness and love to rejoice in all that You have made and to ever thank and praise, serve and obey You all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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