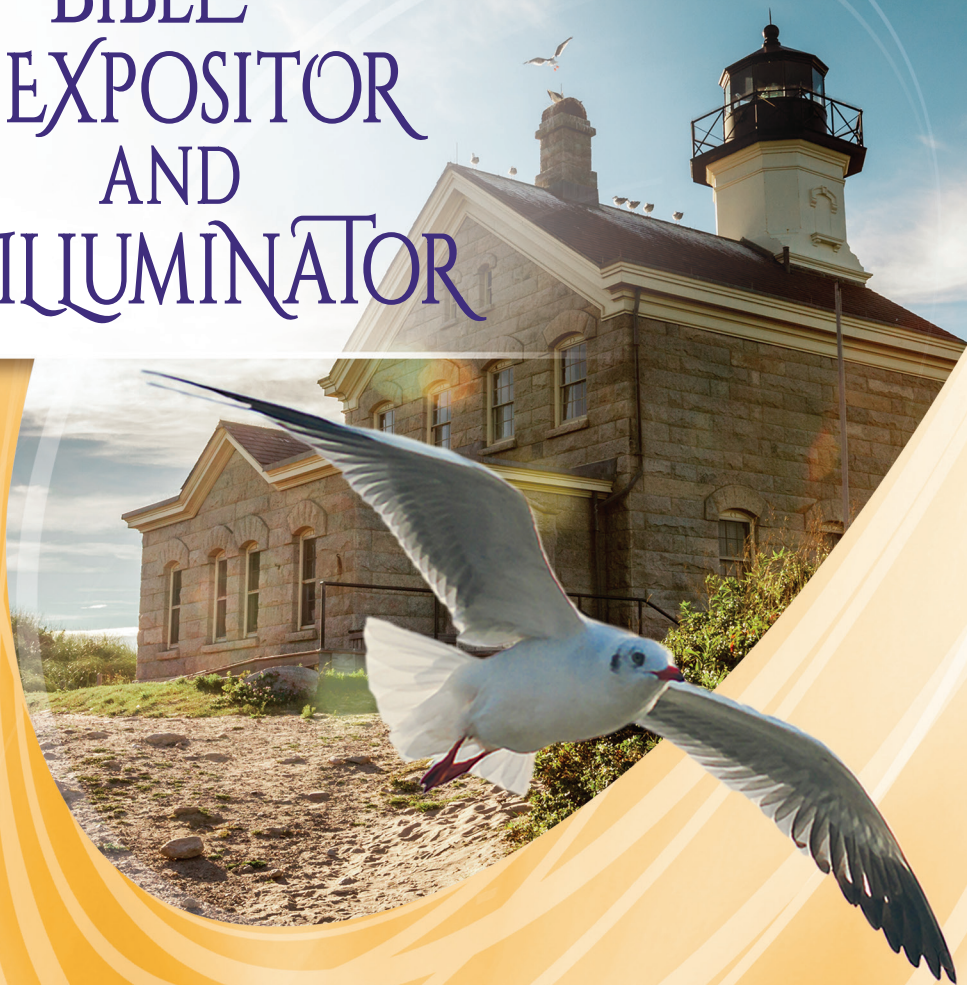


BIBLE EXPOSITOR AND ILLUMINATOR



Summer Quarter
June | July | August 2024

Bible Expositor and Illuminator

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LifeStone



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Edited and published quarterly by

LIFESTONE MINISTRIES

UNION GOSPEL PRESS DIVISION

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

Price: \$8.19 per quarter*

*shipping and handling extra

ISBN 978-1-64495-422-5

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LOOKING AHEAD

This quarter we will consider how God displays His greatness and glory through unexpected people—in particular through women (unit I) and young people (unit II).

God gave women a prominent place in His plan from the beginning of Creation. The initial absence of woman was the only thing “not good” when He created the world (Gen. 2:18-15; lesson 1).

After Adam and Eve fell into sin, God gave immediate hope by declaring that an offspring of the woman would crush the head of Satan, the deceiving serpent (Gen. 3:15). The Lord continually reinforced this promise throughout the Old Testament by using women as His instruments of deliverance at key points in Israel’s history.

The prophetess Deborah mobilized Barak and the army of Israel to deliver God’s people from the Canaanites (lesson 2).

Ruth was not an Israelite, but God demonstrated His own faithfulness through her commitment to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and through Boaz’s protection of Ruth (lessons 3—5).

Hannah overcame her enemies, not through retaliation or her own will-power, but through *prayer*—a weak instrument from a human perspective, but a strong instrument in the hands of God (lesson 6).

Through Esther, God once again gave Israel victory over their enemies and spared them from being massacred (lessons 7—8).

In the New Testament, women continued to be at the center of God’s work, as seen in a sinful woman’s display of love for Christ (lesson 9) and Dorcas’s quiet but impactful ministry to widows (lesson 10).

God also used young people and children as instruments of His grace (unit II). A prominent example is young David, whom God chose not because of his outward appearance but because of his godly heart (lesson 11).

God foreshadowed the far-reaching power of the gospel when He used the witness of a young servant girl to make Himself known to a Syrian military leader (lesson 12).

Josiah inherited the throne as a young child, but he became one of the best kings Judah had ever known, leading the nation away from idolatrous practices back to God (lesson 13).

As we study these amazing stories, let us take courage in our own ministries. God wants to work through our weaknesses so that His name will be glorified.

—Matthew Robinson

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Women in the Bible

TOM GREENE

Let's get the obvious out of the way: a lot of people outside the church today dislike what the Bible says about women, claiming it is sexist. However, a lot of those same people cannot tell you what a woman is, and many who think they can are not reliable guides to follow. But let's consider what they are saying. What is the biblical view of women? Is the Bible sexist? The answer is a resounding *NO!*

Let's paint a biblical view of womanhood, starting with Creation: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27). This is very important. God created both men and women in His image. Everyone, whether male or female, is equally worthy of respect.

When Eve was created, she was called a "help," or helper (2:18). This does not imply that women are inferior to men: David uses the same word to call the Lord his helper, and no one would say God was David's inferior (cf. Pss. 30:10, 54:4, 89:19). We *do* begin to see a difference in *roles* in Genesis 2, but no difference in importance. When Adam says "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh" (Gen. 2:23), he is saying that he and Eve are of same essence. Men and women are equally valuable and loved in the sight of God.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see that the roles of men and women were somewhat different: although both had some legal rights, women could not be priests, (Ex. 29:9) and a husband was considered the head of a

household (cf. Num. 30:3-16). Virtually everyone agrees on this (whether they like it or not), so we will not spend a long time here. Instead, we will focus on the status and role of women in the New Testament and among the people of God today.

In the New Testament, we clearly see that Jesus valued women. In a time when women sadly had less social and legal standing than men, Jesus regularly and caringly spoke with women and encouraged them to follow and support Him (Matt. 15:22-28; Luke 8:1-3; 10:38-42; John 4:7-26; 11:20-44). Indeed, when He was crucified, it was primarily women who stayed near the cross (Matt. 27:55-56). All the Gospels record that women were the first witnesses of His resurrection.

Jesus clearly valued women. He was also willing to break social norms; if He had wanted to, He could have appointed a woman as one of His twelve disciples. The fact that He did not do so is telling regarding the unique roles of men and women in ministry.

Men and women have different roles in churches in the New Testament, and women are not permitted to teach in the public gathering of the church (I Tim. 2:11-14). Because Paul is specifically writing about the context of the public worship of the church in I Timothy 2, his commands there should not be taken beyond what he intended. In Acts 18:26, we see both Priscilla and Aquila (a husband-and-wife team) teaching a man in a private setting.

Women are equally intelligent, valu-

(Editorials continued on page 186)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

GEN. 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and

he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam 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.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

NOTES

The Creation of Woman

Lesson Text: Genesis 2:18-25

Related Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-31; 3:9-21; 5:1-2; I Timothy 2:12-15

TIME: unknown

PLACE: Garden of Eden

GOLDEN TEXT—“The Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18).

Introduction

John J. Davis wrote, “Evolution, as represented in Darwinism and neo-Darwinism, simply asserts that all living organisms arose from one simple, living cell. The origin of that cell is traced to the accumulation of chemical and protein elements brought together over a long period of time by unknown chance factors.

“The concept of spontaneous generation, which is widely accepted and on which evolutionary theory is based, is an a priori assumption that lacks controlled scientific proof” (*Paradise to Prison*, Baker).

Since Christians are often under pressure to balance scientific explanations of origins with belief in God and Creation, many have accepted what is

referred to as theistic evolution. This theory states that while God might have directly created the original life forms, He followed that by ordering and directing the evolutionary process through the laws of nature He had established.

It might be tempting to accept such a compromise, but that explanation does not accord with the Bible's description of the creation of man. Scripture clearly attributes the origin of both Adam and Eve to direct creative acts of God.

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. ADAM BY HIMSELF—
Gen. 2:18-20
- II. ADAM WITH A COMPANION—
Gen. 2:21-25

Exposition: Verse by Verse

ADAM BY HIMSELF

GEN. 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever