

## EVE, THE FIRST WIFE & MOTHER

Text: Genesis 3:20

INTRO: In this lesson we will look at some interesting & informative facts about Eve, the "mother of all living."

### I. EVE AS A WIFE.

A. Earth was finished, the garden was planted. There was only one thing that was not good, Gen. 2:18.

B. Woman was not an afterthought. The text is God's way of dramatizing a normal man's need for female companionship, vs. 18, 21.

C. Adam went to sleep in a beautiful & wonderful world--but with a certain emptiness, for there was no one to share it with him. He awoke to a new world. There were the same rivers, the same trees, the same birds & animals. Yet it was a very different world.

D. The first marriage, vs. 24.

1. Adam & Eve were equals (meet, comparable), yet Eve was the "helper," Adam the leader.

2. These words are the words of God, MT 19:4-5.

3. These words were meant, not so much for Adam & Eve as for succeeding generations.

4. These words constitute God's basic marriage law. If there are to be any exceptions, they, too, must come from the Author of the law.

a. Marriage involves one man, one woman. Not 2 men. Not 2 women. No one man with a plurality of women... Under the law of Moses God tolerated polygamy, but the law of Christ takes us back to God's original plan, MT 19:8.

b. Marriage is to last as long as life on earth endures. Husband & wife are to be joined together as one family. Again, under the law of Moses, divorce was tolerated & remarriage encouraged, but the law of Jesus recognizes only one exception to the permanence of marriage, MT 19:9.

E. The pronouncing of the curse on Adam & Eve for their sin reflects their basic roles as husband & wife. Adam was the breadwinner, Eve the childbearer. Gen. 3:16-19.

## II. EVE AND THE TEMPTATION, Gen. 3:1-6.

A. Presbyterian preacher C.E. Macartney suggested that the serpent's choice in tempting Eve rather than Adam indicates an understanding of the woman's influence. Satan might have led the man astray & still not ensnared the woman. But if he could get the woman, he was almost sure to get the man with her.

B. Thru the ages, women have tended to be motivated spiritually & morally more than men. Adam was willing to sin, knowing full well it was wrong, 1 Tim. 2:14. But in order to get Eve to sin, Satan had to deceive her.

C. Men have tended to lead the way in excess: drink, filthy language, violent crimes, etc. Women have tended to press for moderation, purity. Thus, it is somewhat shocking, even today, to find women publicly parading their sins.

Rom 1:26-32, For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are

not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

### III. EVE AS A MOTHER, Gen. 4:1-2.

- A. Tho Eve had strayed, she did not abandon her acknowledgement of God. She knew where every good and perfect gift came from.
- B. After the death of Abel, Seth was born, thru whom the Jewish nation & the Son of God would eventually come, Gen. 4:25-26.
- C. Adam & Eve had many other children who were not mentioned by name, Gen. 5:3-5.
- D. It is encouraging to see that the godly line of Seth is specifically said to be in Adam's image. This allows us to have hope that Adam & Eve continued their relationship with God throughout their long lives.

CONCLUSION: And so closes the Biblical account of the life of Eve, the "mother of all living." Much that we would like to know, God has not chosen to reveal, but the things we need to know, God has made known. May we learn from Eve's mistake, just as she evidently did, and may we emulate her faith & give God the glory that is due Him as the creator and sustainer of life.

Exton, PA, May 12, 1991

La Porte, TX, May 5, 1992 (Meeting, Ladies' Bible class)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 10, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 11, 2003

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 8, 2005