

HELP MATE – 7.24.22

“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good (טוב:tov: good, pleasant) that the man should be alone (יָדָּ: bad). I will make him a help (עֵזֶר: ezer) meet (נִקְּדָּ: neged) for him.”” Genesis 2:18

The word good is tov which means to be in harmony with God. A more correct rendering would be “man is not in harmony with God because he is alone. Man is just not in a state of perfect harmony with God. In Genesis, God pointed out all that He created and explained to man that it was good.

When God said He would make a help meet He was saying “I will make a helper to stand in front of him, to lead him, guide him and clear the way to my presence.” The sages often picture a neged as a gateway or doorway. Some of the sages, however, see a deeper picture. A picture of someone taking man by the hand and leading him to God.

The Jews believe that women, by nature, are more spiritual than men. That is why the Midrash teaches that God said to Moses in Exodus 19:3 “Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob (the women) and tell the children of Israel (the men).

Women tend to be more inclined to obedience to God than men. A man would look to a woman to guide him in spiritual things. Therefore, the enemy tempted Eve and not Adam because he knew Adam would follow Eve’s guidance. That is why Adam said in his defense “The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”” Genesis 3:12 he was not trying to duck his own responsibility, he only asking, “But I thought you gave me this woman to show me the proper way?”

The enemy throughout the ages has caused a confusion such that we have lost sight of the teaching of the woman’s role as a guide. That is why in many societies women are made to be almost second-class citizens dominated by men as the enemy understood the crucial role that God created a woman to perform. He knew it was the woman who was to lead a man to an understanding of God and His love. In the love relationship between a man and woman a man would come to an understanding of what a love relationship was like with God. Therefore, this where the enemy created pornography and perverted this intimate relationship that is why he is pushing homosexuality, so man will not follow the guide that God created to His presence.

God did give man the leadership role in the family, but this leadership and headship role of man has been so emphasized that it pushed aside the guiding role the ‘ezeg kenegedou (help meet) role of the woman.

He created someone that would help him meet God. Now take a close look at the literal rendering of this phrase help meet which in the Hebrew is: ‘ezer kenegedou. The word ‘ezer’ is really a reference to someone who will help you obtain something. ezer's meaning is not just a “helper” it describes a warrior. We are a strong helper and warrior for Christ. The word kenegedou comes from the root word neged which means to stand in front to lead or to announce, to clear the way, blaze the trail or make something clear.

The word ezer is a combination of two roots, meaning “to rescue/to save” and “strength.”

The word that accompanies ezer is kenegdo which means “in front of him”, opposite as to him’ or ‘corresponding as to him’.

A great visual explanation of the word kenegdo would be two wings on a bird, they are not the same, but are equal. They correspond to each other, both are useful for flight, but they are not identical. When both are used together, they accomplish one purpose, movement towards Christ. Kenegdo denotes the idea of equality, a mirror image of a man, but the opposite of him.

The word נגד (neged) comes from the verbal root נגד meaning "to be face to face." This verb is always used in the causative form where it would literally be translated as "to make to be face to face," and is always used to mean "to tell" in the sense of causing another to come face to face in order to tell them something.

עֵזֶר: ezer

Ayin: eye, insight, perceive, understand

Zayin: cut, pierce, weapon

Resh: highest, head, most important, Christ

נִגְדָה: neged

Nun: life, activity, action

Gimel: to lift up, give out, lifting up the authority of God

Dalet: door, path

Together, man and woman formed the human species. Together, they exercised dominion over the earth. Together, as equal strengths, they reflect the nature of God, who took on flesh to save the world

As equally human as men, women reflect God. With or without the feminine stereotypes of weak upper body strength and a nurturing nature — even with all that and because of that — women reflect the strength and salvation of the Lord.

This last piece of information created quite a stir as you might imagine, prompting the upgrading of ezer from mere “helper” to “strong helper.”

The ezer is a warrior.

Like the man, she is also God's creative masterpiece — a work of genius and a marvel to behold — for she is fearfully and wonderfully made. The ezer never sheds her image-bearer identity. Not here. Not ever. God defines who she is and how she is to live in His world. That never changes. The image-bearer responsibilities to reflect God to the world and to rule and subdue on His behalf still rest on her shoulders too.

God sees women as warriors in battle. Women who are strong fortresses with our men, a savior in times of trouble. Jesus had many women that he called to battle. One of these was his own mother, Mary. Mary gave up everything to follow God. She was strong, and able. Ruth and the Proverbs 31 woman are called women of valor. Both women are described using the term 'chayil' (virtuous) This term is also a military term used to describe strength, might, armies, and force.

Between the word EZER and the word CHAYIL, God continually uses military terms to describe women. We are meant to be on the front lines. We are meant to do battle for Christ. We are a strength, a force to be reckoned with. Battle for your kids, battle for your husbands, battle for the ones you do not know their name (God does), battle for healing, battle for redemption, battle for the Kingdom of God. We battle in God's power and strength as a co-laborer.

“So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept. Then He took one of his ribs (עַלְתָּ: tsela: side) and closed up the place with flesh. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.” Genesis 2:21-22

The keyway this is done is that man cannot know the love of God so God gave him another human being, made in the image of God created from the side (the word in Hebrew is tsela which generally expresses the side rather than a rib, chamber of a temple, or the leaves of a door, or the side of an ark) of man. This would be someone that he could love and in that love relationship, in that caring, nurturing and intimacy with another human being called a woman a man would be able to understand what the love of God is all about. God recreated this human into two separate beings from one being.

עֵשׂ esh fire

אִישׁ ish man

אִשָּׁה isha woman

Both man and woman were made out of fire. The man has a Yod in it (the hand of God). The woman has a Hey (spirit). Each has something different to display. The Yod and Hey make YAH=God. Together a husband and wife display God.

With man and woman God is in their midst. Without the letters Yod in man and Hey in woman, in other words, without God in the midst of man and woman you have fire and fire and we all know how destructive that can be.

Both have the letter Aleph in their names so God can reside in man without woman and woman without man but they cannot form the name of God which explains who and what God is and thus man and woman alone cannot completely understand God, that is understand what the love of God is all about.

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.” (Revelation 22:17)

The Father and the Son are one. The Spirit and the Bride are one. The Holy Spirit is the mother of the bride! And the two become one flesh – the husband and wife are one. But we are also children of God. We are brethren, brothers and sisters in Christ. That is why we read in Song of Solomon:

“You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace... A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed.” (Song of Song 4:9,12)

The Father sent the Holy Spirit, who is the helper. And He made a helper suitable for his Son! This is amazing! It is explained this way, in the singular a woman’s relationship to man is that of a wife to a husband. Since man and woman comes from the same root word, she is not given over into his power, rather she complements him and stands at his side as an equal. The plural, however, expresses a public status of the woman. Only in a public status or the life a community does a woman give the appearance of being powerless, however, this is in the form of a nushah or creditor. A creditor loans part of his property or rights in return something. The woman gives up her rights in the public or community in return for the freedom to have the time to raise and care for her family.

You see God did not declare the creation of man or the human being as good – tov until He created the woman and then this finished off His creation. You see the completion of the good, the tov or harmony with God was not with the creation of the human being or man, but with the creation of the woman. Woman was the last of God’s creation and it was that creation that created the good or harmony with God. Maybe that is why women tend to be the most faithful to the church and service to God, they were the final piece to the puzzle of creation that put all of creation in harmony with God. For you see before Genesis 1:31 God declared everything as good, but after He created woman He declared everything kal all as tov mo’ed, very good, the complete and full good or harmony with God.

Let’s bring this full circle to being in Christ

Basically, if you look at the text in genesis 1:26 -27, it says that God created man in His image. In His image He created him, male and female He created them. So, God created Christ first – He created Himself in the image of man – and then He created male and female. This is evidence of His plan of redemption from before the foundations of the earth.

Now fast-forward to back to Genesis 2...

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’” Genesis 2:18

Since He made Christ before He made Adam, His purpose was to create a helper — a Bride — for his Son and likewise a wife for Adam. It is through the seed of Eve that the Messiah would come. The Bride comes through the bride (the wife, isha), a wheel within a wheel.

Bonus Scripture

“Then the Lord God formed man from the dust (עָפָר: apha: dry earth, powder, ashes, earth) of the ground (אֲדָמָה: adamah) and breathed (נָפַח: nafach: to breathe, blow) into his nostrils the breath (נְשָׁמָה: n’shamah: breath, spirit) of life (חַיִּים: chaim), and man became a living (חַי: chai) being.” Genesis 2:7

Breath of God as a hot wind kindling a flame. As breathed in by God it is God’s breath in man.

God’s Spirit brought life into man and man became a living (chaim) Nephesh (spirit). But this second use of life (chai) is singular. Our life becomes one life with God. God’s life is eternal and if we have our lives and spirit as one with Him, then our life and Spirit are meant to be eternally joined to Him.

The numerical value of life is 68: (Chet = 8, Double Yod = 10+10 = 20, and Mem = 40). His children (banayv) has a numerical value of 68 and he built (vayiven) has a numerical value of 68. Hence the plural word chaim is also telling us that man lives on after death through his children and what he has built.

עָפָר: apha: ayin, pey, resh

There appears to be something special about “aphar” and perhaps dust is not the best rendering. we find it is spelled “Ayin, Pey, Resh.” Right away we see “Mind (Ayin), Body (Pey) and Spirit (Resh). The dust gave man a connection with both the natural world and the Spiritual word. This is something the animals do not have. The Ayin speaks of the mind, or deep insight. It implies the ability to reason and communicate. Now we know animals can communicate with each other and they probably can communicate with God. However, no matter how developed an animal is in communicating, it cannot form a language with grammar and syntax to carry on a conversation. For man to have a free will, he must have a language. This is the difference between an animal and man, an animal does not have a free will, it only acts on instincts. We are made from “aphar” and animals are not.

“all the while my spirit is in me, and the breath (נְשָׁמָה: n’shamah: breath, spirit) of God is in my nostrils (אֶפְסָר: aph: nostrils, anger) Job 27:3

The word for my breath; we assume means his soul is nasham not nephesh which is your usual word for soul. Nasham is often rendered as the mind or one’s capacity to reason. Breath can be one rendering although it is quite rare. It would then read: Even though all my reasoning is within me, the Spirit or breath of God is in my nostrils.

Aph is derived from the camel snorting when he is frustrated or angry. Actually, anger is a hard word to understand in both the Hebrew as well as in the English so usually render it as an expression of emotion or frustration. The root of this frustration is the inability to act, or to control a matter in such a way that it is favorable to your desires.

Job is in the midst of suffering. He has lived a righteous life; he has always tried to serve God faithfully. God has always blessed him and answered his prayers and now all of a sudden the roof falls in and where is God? Why is God doing this to him, where are the miracles? Where is the answer to prayer? Job is saying: “While I still have my reasoning, I still understand that God is in charge and His will is being

done, yet God is in my nostrils, that is, I am totally frustrated over what the Spirit of God is doing with my life.”

The name Job means patience, and he was patient in his faith. He never wavered in his faith. He was married to God for better or for worse and that was that.

We may not understand or “see” the long-term effects of our circumstances, nor happy about it at that moment, but one thing for sure, the Spirit of God may be in our nostrils, what He is doing is making us frustrated, but our breath, our understanding is telling us that the life of Jesus Christ will always remain in us, no matter what the circumstance. In the circumstances we are being stretched and grow to look more like Jesus. Like Paul said he learned to be content in whatever state he was in. We trust the Father for the greater victory.

Scriptures with Ezer

Deuteronomy 33:7,26,29

Exodus 18:14:

Moses named one of his sons Eliezer, which in Hebrew means “My God is my helper” (Eli = “my God”; ezer = “helper”). This verse goes on to explain why Moses named his son Eliezer: because God had powerfully delivered Moses from Pharaoh’s sword!

Psalms 20:2, 33:20, 70:5, 89:17, 115:7-11, 121:2

Hosea 13:9

Ezekiel 12:14

Daniel 11:34

Targum Onqelos: סִמְיָךְ בְּקִבְלִיָּה—“a helper before him”

Targum Pseudo-Jonathan: סִמְיָךְ בְּקִיבְלִיָּה—“a helper before him”