

EVE . . . God's first gift to man  
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(GENESIS 2:21-22)

In a garden was laid a most beautiful maid  
As ever was seen in the morn:  
She was made a wife the first day of her life,  
And she died before she was born.

In these strange lines, someone has written the life story of the first woman the first sweetheart the mother of all living." In every age God has undertaken for the need of His servants, but not the least among His great gifts was woman. Man would be unspeakably lonely if he were left to walk alone. Thus the Creator planned His first present for man, and in due course Adam was joined by Eve.

#### God's Great Power

Stillness reigned in the garden, for man had been put to sleep. The great Surgeon was about to perform His first operation, and all creation waited expectantly. The stately trees provided the shade for the hospital theatre, and the Holy Spirit arranged every detail according to the divine requirements. Man, buoyant, radiant, unsuspecting, was given earth's first anesthetic; and as waves of increasing weariness swept over his tired eyes, he sank into the shadows, and the Surgeon smiled! Perhaps even the birds hushed their songs lest, inadvertently, they should waken the sleeper and so hinder the great work. Heaven's great Surgeon had been entrusted with the task, and with skill born of deity, He leaned over His patient. Gently, so gently, He closed the wounds, and looked at the unconscious patient. What a glad surprise would await Adam when he opened his eyes again! "And the rib, which the Lord had taken from man, made he a woman."

#### God's Great Pleasure

She was lovely; she was indescribably charming; as dignified as befitted the queen of creation; as refreshing as the morning dew. Her eyes were lit with enquiry and pleasure as she scanned her surroundings. Her movements were graceful and effortless, and when she spoke. pleasure thrilled the Creator's heart. She was fascinatingly beautiful; she was good, and very desirable. "And the Lord God brought her to man." Poor Adam, he was dumbfounded! He wondered if this were a dream; if this goddess would disappear immediately he awakened. Then he rubbed his eyes. She was still there, and her friendly smiles added charm to her attractiveness. Poor man, he was shy; he was an inexperienced boy; he had never had a sweetheart. And then love was born in his soul. The wedding took place within the sacred precincts of God's open-air cathedral. God, the Father of the bride, gave her away; man's best Friend, the royal Surgeon, stood at the groom's side; and the Holy Spirit was the officiating minister. And when the service ended, the choirs of heaven sang their anthems. The honeymoon was spent within the restful tranquillity of God's holiday home, and as the two lovers walked hand in hand, all creation acclaimed the wisdom of the Lord.

#### God's Great Purpose.

They built their little home, and regularly the great Surgeon went down to visit them. They talked together,

EVE . . . God's first gift to man and planned for the future. Time passed by, until stark tragedy overwhelmed them. They sinned, and forfeited their joyous companionship with God. They were cast out of their garden home. But then, in their hour of shame and sorrow, a new miracle was performed, and the future grew bright again with promise. Eve shared her secret, and Adam's heart overflowed. He watched her quiet preparations, and when she smiled into his eyes, heaven filled his heart. They could hardly wait for the coming of their treasure; but ultimately the dream came true, and Eve looked into the starry eyes of her child. Perhaps her voice faltered when she said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord," and that night there were three at the family altar. And thus the purposes of God began to unfold. There, too, were the earliest foreshadowings of God's greatest miracle. He sees the end from the beginning, and away in the dim and distant ages He saw the day when the Last Adam, the great Surgeon Himself, would sink into a deep sleep. He saw the miracle that would be performed when, through the death of the cross, the bride of Christ would be brought into being. The Church, radiant as the morning, without spot or wrinkle, without blemish or sin, would be presented to the Bridegroom, and at the marriage supper of the Lamb highest heaven would ring with the songs of the redeemed.

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