

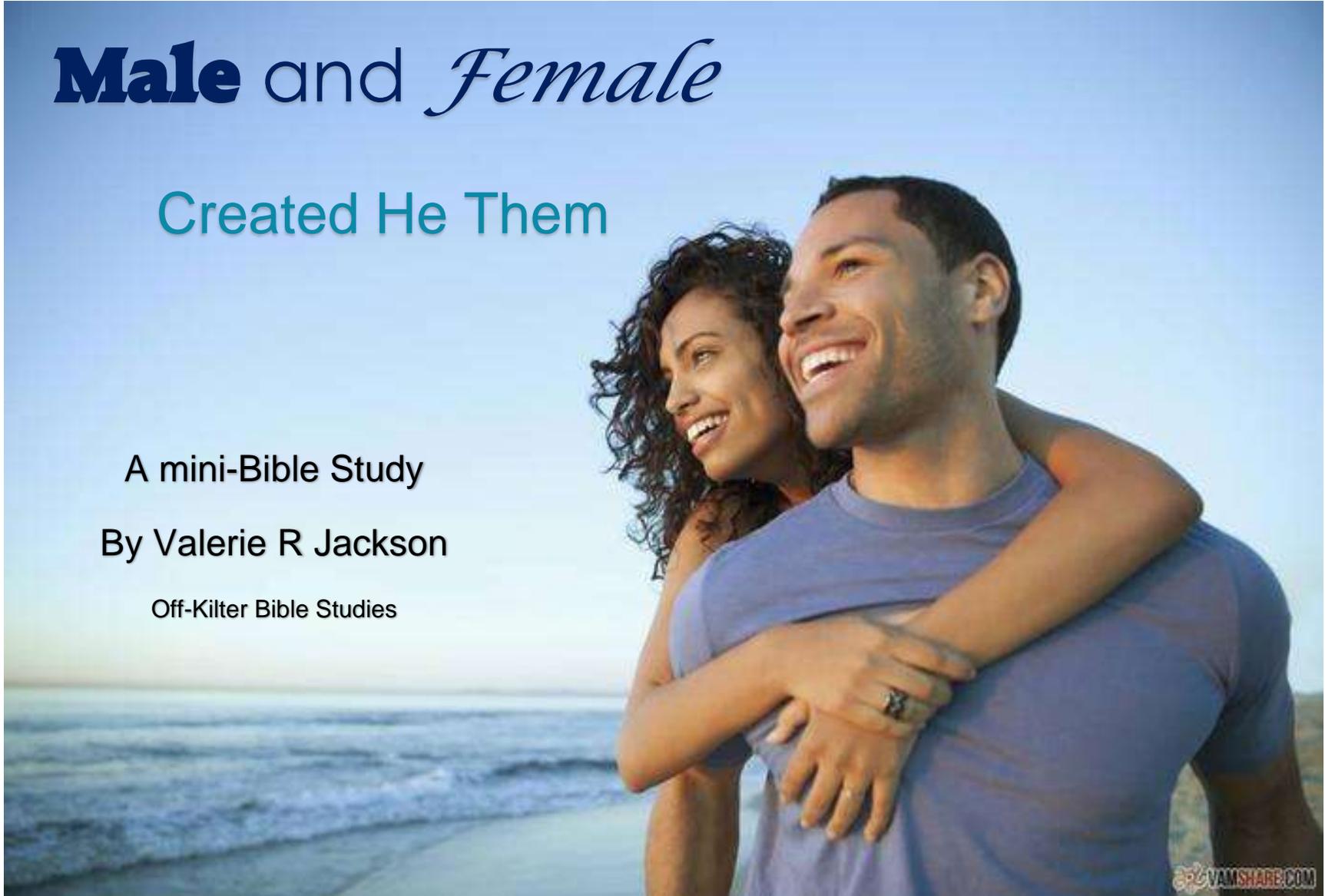
Male and *Female*

Created He Them

A mini-Bible Study

By Valerie R Jackson

Off-Kilter Bible Studies



Off-Kilter Bible Studies

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MALE AND *FEMALE* CREATED HE THEM

A MINI-BIBLE STUDY
BY VALERIE R JACKSON

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Preface

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

He created the light and the dark, the sun and the moon, and the land and the sea. All of these had a clear purpose in Creation.

God also had a clear purpose in determining that humanity would be created as both male and female persons. Each gender was designed to fulfill a vital role in the family. It is when these original roles are embraced that the family becomes more secure.

This study is for Christian husbands and wives who want to strengthen their relationship by understanding more about God's plan for marriage. It's also for single Christians who hope to marry one day.

Men and women are different. That's on purpose. And it's a good thing.



A Very Good Thing!

The voice of God called out from the very beginning. God created...

And oh-h it was wonderful! Out of nothing... came a whole lot of something! In the beginning was the Word.¹ All things that were made were created by Jesus, the spoken Word of God. At His Word and by His will the universe spun into existence.

Hebrews 11:3 tells us that "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

We know and love the story of how God said, "Let there be..." and at His command came forth the building blocks of terrestrial life, spilling out light and land, plants and animals. In the face of these wonders, the angels shouted for joy!

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
(Job 38:4-7)

Did you know all of this was for us?

Humanity was not an afterthought of creation, we were the end goal. From the first hydrogen and carbon atoms to the plant and animal life, Earth is a custom-designed environment with the provision of mankind in mind.

CUSTOM-DESIGNED

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!)

Who formed the earth and made it

(he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!)

I am the LORD and there is no other.

Isa. 45:18 (ESV)

¹ John 1:1

Often Christians are taught that God has some grandiose purpose for our lives. That we must all be a Moses or an Esther or a Paul. But most of us are called to be faithful in the small things which are, in truth, not so small. We are called to be husbands, wives, parents, and grandparents. We are called to be friends and neighbors, believers who live out our lives walking in the love of Christ.

This study is about the most basic of the roles we are called to play: the masculine and the feminine.

There is confusion these days about what defines a man and what defines a woman. We live in a world that would like to erase any differences between the genders and view everyone as simply human beings. Yes, we are human beings. But we are equally either a male human being or a female human being. And there would not exist such a clear division had God not established one.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Gen. 1:27 (ESV)

And so we start in Genesis. After God created all the creatures of the earth he said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."² It is stated right from the beginning that humanity would be made in the image of their Creator.

The Hebrew word for man (*adam*) is a general word referring to mankind as a species. And what better task for a being created in the image of God than to exercise authority over God's custom-created biosphere called Earth? It was determined prior to his creation that mankind would have dominion over all forms of animal life, those in the seas, in the heavens and on the earth.

God planted a garden in the east of this world, in a place called Eden. It was a garden filled with foods that would sustain adam. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow up out of the ground. They were lovely to look at and provided the man with food. Indeed every green plant was given to him for food.³ A river conveniently flowed through the garden and streams bubbled up from the ground to water all of the vegetation.

² Gen. 1:26a

³ Gen. 1:29

While there was yet only one *adam*, the male, God placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Some translations say "to work it and to guard it (ISR)," and "to work it and take care of it (KJV)."⁴

And so the man was immediately gainfully employed in the field of husbandry. His labors would provide for his needs, and he was given the role of protector.

From the beginning, the man was directed to PROVIDE and PROTECT.

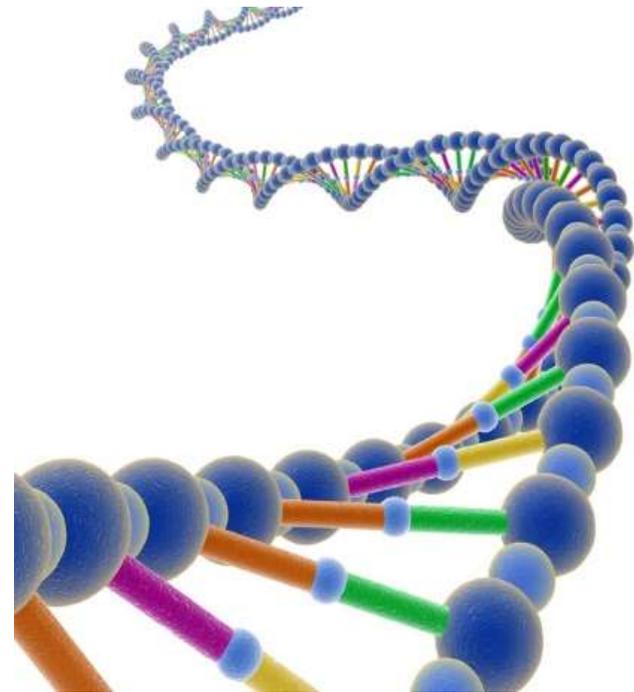
What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

The Lord God is Spirit. Yet when he created the universe he created it out of matter. He brought forth the physical out of the non-physical.

Does God have an image? Yes. There are many word-pictures in the Bible that describe our God. One of the best known is in Ezekiel 1:26-27. Enthroned above the expanse over the four living creatures was one whose likeness had a similarity to that of a man. This description is to be expected since we are made in His image.

The Bible speaks of God having a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.⁵ We are told to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord.⁶ He has a voice⁷ which is so far beyond our voices that there is absolutely no comparison. We are the physical modeled on the spiritual.

But we are also created in the image of God in spiritual ways. The very breath of God was breathed into *adam's* nostrils to create a living soul.



⁴ King James Version

⁵ Deut. 7:19

⁶ Deut. 12:25

⁷ Ex. 19:16-19

That there should be both a male and a female *adam* was determined from the beginning. The man was from the very first created... well, as a male! The obvious counterpart for a male is a female of the same species.

Having made the male, the Lord God confirmed that it is not good that the man should be alone. But the Lord didn't just say, "I'll make a woman." Just as the man's role was defined in the making of him, so is the woman's.

And Elohim (the Lord God) said, "It is not good for the man to be alone, I am going to make a helper for him, as his counterpart."

(Genesis 2:18 ISR)

The Lord took one of the man's ribs and, out of the same DNA source and from the same God-breathed living soul, made a woman. She is a help meet, a counterpart, a helper... Her defined task is to assist the man in his task of taking care of the earth, and (for this couple) that meant beginning with the garden in Eden where they live. It is not her task to do the work for him. Neither is it her task to labor alone.

The initial task of the woman is to be SUPPORTIVE.

The man, called Adam, identified her as "bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh."

And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one is called 'woman,' because she was taken out of man."

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife, **and they shall become one flesh.** And they were both naked, *the man and his wife*, yet they were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:23-25)

Notice that the concepts of both marriage and family are established immediately upon the creation of the female *adam*. A future is seen where a man leaves his father and mother, even though there is not yet a father or a mother upon the earth. Nevertheless, Adam models this ideal.

The man and the woman are immediately depicted in a relationship of a man and his wife. A husband and wife relationship. It does not matter that there are no other men or women on the earth yet. Their relationship is already exclusive. It is exclusive because of how they relate to each other, not based on how they do not relate to others.



Because the woman was taken out of the man, the man is to separate from his parents and return to a condition where he becomes one flesh with a woman.



When Adam and his wife sinned before God by disobeying Him, they were both told the consequences of their sin.

Adam, the keeper of the garden, was now to labor over a ground that did not willingly yield its fruits to him. Thistles and thorns would hamper his efforts to provide for his family's needs.⁸

His wife, his help meet and companion, learned that the sorrow and pain involved in conceiving and bearing children would be greatly increased. Yet her desire would be toward her husband, even though their relationship would change to one where he ruled over her.

Perhaps due to this confirmation that his wife would bring forth children, Adam called her by the name Eve. Now, this doesn't mean much to us in English, but in Hebrew her name is Chavah.

This suggests so much more than that she would give birth one day. The name Chavah means "*living one.*" It is about not only the nurturing environment of the womb but that she continues to nurture beyond the birth, bringing life to its fullest expression as an adult human being.

Chavah is about mothering. She feeds, initially out of her own body. Through her own life, she sustains life. She is the "mother of all living."



The second task of the woman is to be NURTURING.

⁸ Gen. 3:17-19

Chavah

The name Chavah is a derivative of the Hebrew word *chayah*, meaning "living one."

Chavah embodies both the essence of life itself and the creative ability to grant that life to others.

The idea of "mother of all life" expresses not only the ability to physically give birth, but also to create, nourish, and enhance all facets of life.

This is the ability of a mother - to take something from the state of potential, develop it, and bring it to actualization through her creative abilities.

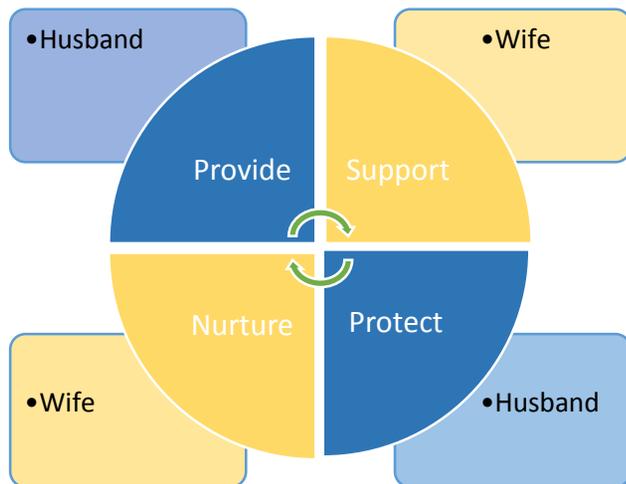
http://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/article_cdo/aid/335943/jewish/Chavah-Mother-of-All-Life.htm

Together a husband and wife form a stable and secure environment not only for themselves but for their children.

When God created the male and female *adam* in His own image, he blessed them and told them to "Be fruitful, and multiply..."⁹ And the Lord equipped them with the traits, the godly traits that come from being made in the image of God, which they would need to do so.

It is given to the man to labor, to provide and to protect his family. He has traits suited to the task which was given him to do. Some are physical traits, such as greater strength and muscle mass. But he also has, not just the ability to be protective, but the instinctive desire to protect that which he loves.

It is for the man to provide a covering for the woman by entering into a marital covenant with her.¹⁰ Under his protection, his family lives and grows safely. By his provision they are sheltered and fed.



⁹ Gen. 1:28a

¹⁰ Ruth 3:9; Ezek. 16:8

The woman came out of the man and with her came traits suited to the task which is given her to do.

It is interesting that she is called to be man's help meet. The Holy Spirit is also described as a Helper and The Comforter. And the Holy Spirit is spoken of in the feminine tense in the original Hebrew language. This does not mean the Holy Spirit is female, for God transcends our genders. But there could surely be no better role model for supporting and nurturing than from the original source of love, the One in whose image woman was made.

What the woman is to her children she is surely no less to her husband. She is one who supports him as he provides. And he is one that protects her as she nurtures. He shall cleave to his wife. And her desire shall be toward her husband.



“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and be
joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Eph. 5:23



CONCLUSION



Provide



Protect



Support



Nurture

These are the cornerstones of the human family. These are also the divine purposes of a husband and wife.

When a man is not committed to provision and protection, the house lacks security. When a woman is not committed to supporting and nurturing, hearts wither for lack of love.

We could cite statistics to show that single-parent households struggle, but really all you need to do is look around you. It means one parent is striving to be all four pillars in the home.

Through this study I have learned the human value of my God-given role. It encourages me to take up that role more purposefully. Why?

First, because these four pillars are all aspects of God.

He is our Protector.¹¹

He is our Provider.¹²

He is our Comforter.¹³

And He is our Support.¹⁴

Second, I see that the world *depends* upon us being true husbands and wives. Humanity thrives when all four pillars are in place. And whole families disintegrate when every man or woman is out for themselves.

To my little corner of the world I desire to bring comfort and love.

What will there be in your corner of the world?

God Bless You.

¹¹ Ps. 23:4-5

¹² Matt. 6:25-36

¹³ 2 Cor. 1:3-4

¹⁴ Ps. 28:26-28

About the Author

Valerie R Jackson is a Bible instructor and blogger. Her primary focus is on teaching the Bible in a way that is easy to understand, and on encouraging her brothers and sisters in Christ to make walking by the Word of God part of their everyday life.

She has been teaching since 2001. She has a minor in Biblical Studies from Abilene Christian University but depends largely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit when she studies the Word. (Which probably accounts for her slightly unorthodox view of the Scriptures.)

Valerie lives in the country in Louisa, VA with her husband Johnny R Jackson Sr.

