

**A Proclamation from the Book of Genesis**

The Lord God said:

“It is not good for the man to be alone.

I will make a suitable partner for him.”

So the Lord God formed out of the ground

various wild animals and various birds of the air,

and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle,

all the birds of the air,

and all wild animals;

but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man,

and while he was asleep,

he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The Lord God then built up into a woman

the rib that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called ‘woman.’

For out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother

and clings to his wife,

and the two of them become one body.

**The word of the Lord.**