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WOMAN'S GOD-GIVEN VALUE

LESSON 2

'ADAM – ISHI – ISHA

Yesterday we saw from Genesis 2 and 3 that God, Jehovah Elohim, formed an 'adam from the dust of the earth. God then took a rib out of that first 'adam and made a second 'adam to be a helper for him.

The name 'adam was God's name for the human race that He had just created. He did not give the first 'adam a "given personal name" of Adam. We know of no personal name for him, although people have "named" him Adam.

Genesis 2:23 says that the first 'adam said of the one made from his rib that ***"she shall be called woman, because she (made female) was taken out of man."***

A proper rendering of the Hebrew text would read like "and 'adam said... she shall be called ishshah (ish-shaw) because she was taken out of iysh."

We see here that a woman is called an ishshah which later was shortened to isha. The individual male 'adam was called an iysh which later was written as ish and ishi.

What God called 'adam is today called by science as homo sapiens. So 'adam (hence Adam) is the entire human race, both male and female. That is why when bible texts speak of "man" it is all humans, male and female. The "man" ('adam) is genderless. However, an individual person is an ish or ishi for a male and isha (or ishshah) for a female person.

Although we have no personal name for the first created 'adam, we do have a personal name for the second 'adam, namely the isha that was created from his rib. That is because he chose to give the Isha a personal name.

Genesis 3:20 says, ***"And Adam (the 'adam) called his wife's (ishshah's) name Eve, because she was the mother of all living ('adams)."***

Here in verse 20 the 'adam (ishi) gives his wife (isha) a personal name. It is Chavvah (Khav-vah') which translators put as Eve.

Verse 21 in English says, ***"Unto Adam and to his wife did the Lord make coats of skins."***

The Hebrew (from God) reads ***"(unto) 'adam and ishshah, Jehovah made coverings of skins."*** This was after their sin.

I go back to Genesis 2:18 when Jehovah Elohim said of 'adam ***"I will make him an help meet for him."*** The English "help meet" is the Hebrew word "ezer" which meant one to aid him in his work, a helper. It did not mean one to be subservient to him.

Through thousands of years, the egos of men have misinterpreted what an "ezer" is. They have made them to become subservient to all the "ishis," second class citizens so to speak. God created the first ishshah to be a help equal in status to the ishi.

Tomorrow we will begin to show how God views male (ishi) and female (isha) to be equal. Their roles as isha may be different, but he regards them as equal to ishi.