

MORE 2 LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.

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PASTOR JAMES GARNER

MARRIAGE BY DESIGN

I ASK YOU IF YOU WILL TO TURN TO THE BOOK OF GENESIS, FIRST CHAPTER. WE'LL BE STARTING A SERIES AND WE DON'T HAVE A TIME LIMIT ON IT. IT'S CALLED "GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER". SO MANY THINGS TO GET IN ORDER.

IF YOU WERE GOING TO BUILD A HOUSE, YOU WOULD WANT TO DO IT BY SOMEONE'S DESIGN. YOU WOULD WANT TO HAVE A BLUEPRINT; YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW THAT THAT BUILDER -- AND WE HAVE SEVERAL BUILDERS IN THIS ROOM -- WERE GOING BY A BUILDING CODE. NOW I WAS NOT A BUILDER BUT I WAS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FOR A VERY SHORT WHILE AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT WHEN YOU ARE A BUILDER, THOSE CODES CAN BE A PAIN IN THE NECK. BUT THOSE CODES WERE PUT THERE FOR THE CONSUMER TO PROTECT THEM. THEY WERE PUT THERE SO THAT SOMEONE COULD GO BACK IN THERE LATER AND INSPECT THAT BUILDING THAT HAD BEEN BUILT; THAT STRUCTURE AND SAY IT HAS BEEN BUILT TO A STANDARD CODE. SO WHEN THE HURRICANES CAME -- OF COURSE MOST OF THESE CODES CAME AROUND AFTER HURRICANE ANDREW, WHEN THOSE HURRICANES CAME THROUGH, THERE WOULD BE HOUSES STANDING; THERE WOULD BE STRUCTURES STANDING AFTER THE STORMS CAME THROUGH.

WELL IF THAT'S TRUE OF A PHYSICAL STRUCTURE, IT IS MUCH MORE TRUE OF THE HOME YOU ARE TRYING TO BUILD. MEN CAN BUILD A HOUSE BUT ONLY

GOD CAN BUILD A HOME. AND THERE ARE SOME BUILDING CODES. THERE IS A RIGHT AND A WRONG WAY TO DO IT.

OVER HALF THE MARRIAGES IN AMERICA FAIL. BUT YOU KNOW, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THE STATISTICS ARE JUST AS BAD IN THE CHURCH. THE STATISTICS SHOWED THAT HALF THE MARRIAGES IN OUR CHURCHES FAIL. I HAVE SAID THIS MANY TIMES BUT I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. WHEN YOU PUT INTO THAT MIX THE PEOPLE THAT STAY TOGETHER BUT HAVE A LOVELESS MARRIAGE, PROBABLY ¾'S OF THEM FAIL. AND AS TIME GOES ON, THAT RELATIONSHIP CHANGES. I'M GOING TO SAY THIS AND YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR IT IN THIS SERIES SEVERAL TIMES. NO RELATIONSHIP STAYS WHERE IT STARTED. IT IS EITHER GETTING BETTER OR IT IS GETTING WORSE. THERE ARE NO NEUTRAL WORDS; THERE ARE NO NEUTRAL ACTIONS. EVERYTHING IS EITHER BUILDING THAT MARRIAGE; BUILDING THAT RELATIONSHIP OR DESTROYING IT. YOU MAY BE SITTING HERE TODAY SAYING WELL, THIS IS NOT FOR ME BECAUSE I AM SINGLE OR RIGHT NOW I AM DIVORCED OR WHATEVER. IT IS FOR YOU. LISTEN TO ME. THIS CHURCH CANNOT THRIVE WITHOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS. THAT'S WHAT A CHURCH IS. CHURCH IS NOT AN INSTITUTION THAT WE COME TO AND JUST HEAR PRAISE MUSIC AND HAVE A SERMON. IF THAT'S ALL IT IS, WE MIGHT AS WELL QUIT. THE CHURCH IS TO BE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER IN RELATIONSHIP. BUT IF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE IS NOT WORKING, IS NOT THRIVING, THEN THE CHURCH WILL SUFFER BECAUSE AT THE CORE OF OUR LIVES IT'S NOT SOLID; IT'S NOT SOUND. AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THIS WHOLE TIME -- I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL BE -- GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER BECAUSE IF YOUR HOUSE IS NOT IN ORDER, YOUR HOME

IS NOT AN ORDER, THIS CHURCH CANNOT BE IN ORDER. YOU SAY, WELL IS IT SELF INTEREST? NO! YOU ARE PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. THIS BODY IS COMING TOGETHER DEPENDING ON EACH OTHER; INTERDEPENDENT ON ONE OTHER.

I'VE BEEN TALKING TO SOME PEOPLE LATELY ALONG THE WAY, PEOPLE THAT SHOULD KNOW BETTER AND I'M HEARING STUFF LIKE THIS. WELL, I'VE GOTTEN TIRED OF THE CHURCH; I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE I FIT IN THE CHURCH; I'M NOT GOING TO BE PART OF THE CHURCH ANYMORE. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND THAT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. WE'VE BEEN SEEING, OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THERE IS THIS CONSTANT CALL, BEING PART OF THE BODY, A MEMBER OF THIS BODY; AN ACTIVE PART OF IT; EACH FULFILLING THEIR ROLE WITHIN THIS BODY BUT THAT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IF THE HOME IS NOT IN ORDER. BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO COME IN HERE HURT AND WOUNDED AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO BE A PART BECAUSE YOU HAVE SO MUCH STUFF IN YOUR LIFE DESTROYING YOU AND WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO BE DOING. AND TO DO THAT, WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK TO GOD'S ORIGINAL AND INTENTIONAL DESIGN. NOT ONLY DOES MARRIAGE HAVE AN ORIGINAL DESIGN, IT HAS AN INTENTIONAL DESIGN. SO MANY PEOPLE WANT TO RUN THEIR MARRIAGE BY ACCIDENT HOPING THEY FIND SOMETHING -- YOU KNOW EVEN A BLIND SQUIRREL FINDS A NUT ONCE IN A WHILE AND WE JUST KIND OF HOPE WE STUMBLE ON SOMETHING --WHEN GOD REALLY DOES GIVE THE DIRECTIONS. HE REALLY DOES GIVE A DESIGN. IT GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE BEGINNING, HOW TO ESTABLISH A SOLID FOUNDATION. HOW TO CREATE AND PUT TOGETHER A LOVE RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME; THE

STORMS OF LIFE. WE WANT TO LOOK AT THAT AND GO BACK TO GOD'S BUILDING CODE AND GOING BACK TO GENESIS CHAPTER 1. WE'RE GOING TO START IN VERSE 20

AND GOD SAID LET THE WATER TEEM WITH LIVING CREATURES. AND LET THE BIRDS FLY ABOVE THE EARTH; ACROSS THE EXPANSE OF THE SKY. SO GOD CREATED THE LIVING CREATURES OF THE SEA AND EVERY LIVING AND MOVING SAYING WITH WHICH THE WATERS TEEM ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS AND EVERY WINGED BIRD ACCORDING TO ITS KIND AND GOD SAW -- CIRCLE THIS -- IT WAS GOOD. CIRCLE THE WORD GOOD; YOU'LL SEE IT SEVERAL TIMES. GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE IN NUMBER AND FILL THE EARTH AND FILL THE WATER AND THE SEAS AND LET THE BIRDS INCREASE ON THE EARTH AND THERE WAS EVENING AND THERE WAS MORNING THE FIFTH DAY. AND THE LORD SAID LET THE LAND PRODUCE LIVING CREATURES ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS, LIVESTOCK, CREATURES THAT MOVE ALONG THE GROUND AND WILD ANIMALS, EACH ACCORDING TO ITS KIND. AND IT WAS SO. GOD MADE THE WILD ANIMALS ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS; THE LIVESTOCK ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS; AND ALL THE CREATURES THAT MOVE ALONG THE GROUND ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS AND GOD SAW -- HERE IT IS -- IT WAS GOOD. THEN GOD SAID LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE AND OUR LIKENESS AND LET THEM -- CIRCLE THE WORD THEM -- RULE OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA AND OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR; OVER THE LIVESTOCK AND OVER ALL THE EARTH AND OVER ALL THE CREATURES THAT MOVE ALONG THE GROUND. SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE; IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM MALE AND FEMALE, HE CREATED THEM. GOD BLESS THEM AND SAID LET THEM BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE IN NUMBER. FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT.

RULE OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR AND OVER EVERY LIVING CREATURE THAT MOVES ON THE GROUND. THEN GOD SAID I GIVE YOU EVERY SEED BEARING PLANT ON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH AND EVERY TREE THAT HAS FRUIT WITH SEED IN IT. THEY WILL BE YOURS FOR FOOD. AND TO ALL THE BEASTS OF THE EARTH AND ALL THE BIRDS OF THE AIR AND ALL THE CREATURES THAT MOVE ON THE GROUND, EVERYTHING THAT HAS THE BREATH OF LIFE IN IT, I GIVE EVERY GREEN PLANT FOR FOOD AND IT WAS SO. GOD SAW ALL THAT HE HAD MADE AND IT WAS VERY GOOD. AND THERE WAS EVENING. AND THERE WAS MORNING. THE SIXTH DAY. THUS THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WERE COMPLETED IN THEIR VAST ARRAY. BY THE SEVENTH DAY, GOD HAD FINISHED THE WORK HE HAD BEEN DOING AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK.

VERSE 7 OF CHAPTER 2. THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND AND BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH LITERALLY THE BREATH OF LIFE AND THE MAN BECAME A LIVING SOUL. VERSE 15. THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND PUT HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO WORK IT AND TO TAKE CARE OF IT. VERSE 18. THE LORD GOD SAID IT IS NOT GOOD -- THERE IS A DIFFERENCE -- IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE. I WILL MAKE A HELPER SUITABLE FOR HIM. NOW THE LORD GOD HAD FORMED OUT OF THE GROUND ALL THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD AND ALL THE BIRDS OF THE AIR. HE BROUGHT THEM TO THE MAN TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD NAME THEM AND WHATEVER THE MAN CALLED EACH LIVING CREATURE, THAT WAS ITS NAME. SO THE MAN GAVE NAMES TO ALL THE LIVESTOCK, THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND ALL THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD. BUT FOR ADAM, BUT FOR MAN, NO SUITABLE HELPER WAS FOUND. IT WAS NOT BY ACCIDENT. SO LORD GOD CALLS THE MAN

TO FALL INTO A DEEP SLEEP AND WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING, HE TOOK ONE OF THE MAN'S RIBS AND CLOSED UP THE PLACE WITH FLESH. THEN THE LORD GOD MADE A WOMAN FROM THE RIB. NOW NOTICE, IT'S NOT ACCIDENTAL; IT'S INTENTIONAL; IT'S BY APPOINTMENT. THEN THE LORD GOD MADE A WOMAN FROM THE RIB WHICH HE HAD TAKEN OUT OF THE MAN AND HE BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN AND THE MAN SAID THIS IS NOW BONE OF MY BONES; FLESH OF FLESH. SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN FOR SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN. NOW, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU THAT IS VERY UNROMANTIC, ISN'T IT? IMAGINE STANDING THERE WOW BONE OF MY BONE; FLESH OF MY FLESH; THAT'S THE HEBREW VERB THAT'S JUST A HEBREW PHRASE FOR WOW! WOW! WHAT A CREATION! WOW! IT'S MORE THAN I EVER EXPECTED! WOW! BONE OF BONE, FLESH OF FLESH. SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN FOR SHE WAS TAKEN FROM ME. FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER. BOY WE OUGHT TO CIRCLE -- MANY OF US OUGHT TO CIRCLE THIS VERSE. NOW NOT ONLY MAN BUT WOMAN SHALL LEAVE FATHER AND MOTHER. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE UNITED TO HIS WIFE AND THE WIFE TO THE HUSBAND AND THEY -- CIRCLE THE WORD THEY WILL BECOME ONE FLESH. THE MAN AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH NAKED AND THEY FELT NO SHAME.

FATHER WE ASK NOW THAT YOU WILL TAKE THIS TIME THAT WE HAVE AND WHATEVER TIME YOU WANT IT TO BE THAT YOU WOULD SPEAK WORDS TO US THAT WE NEED TO HEAR ABOUT OUR HOMES. THERE IS SO MUCH THAT YOU WANT TO SAY IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. I JUST SENSE IT IN MY SPIRIT AND I'M ASKING FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT RIGHT NOW FOR TWO THINGS: TO FILL THE MOUTH OF THIS PREACHER AND OPEN THE EARS OF US TO HEAR

WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. AND THEN PUT A HEART IN US, A WILLING SPIRIT TO DO WHAT YOU SAY TO US. HAVE YOUR WAY AMONG US NOW. IN YOUR NAME WE PRAY, AMEN.

WHEN YOU GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO SEE ABOUT MAN. YOU HAVE TO SEE THAT MAN WAS NOT THE PRODUCT OF CHANCE. HE DID NOT COME BY AN EVOLUTIONARY CHAIN. NOW I KNOW THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT SAY WELL GOD USED EVOLUTION TO MAKE US. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. IF YOU HAVE A GOD WHO USES EVOLUTION TO MAKE MAN, THEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ORIGINAL SIN. THE BIBLE SAYS HE CREATED ADAM, ONE MAN, AND THAT ONE MAN SINNED. IF YOU GO BACK TO HAVING MANY COMING BEFORE ADAM, THEN YOU HAVE A WHOLE PROBLEM WITH THE ISSUE OF SIN BEFORE. YOU REALLY CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. THE BIBLE DOES NOT GIVE US THAT. YOU EITHER HAVE TO ACCEPT WHAT IT SAYS -- NOW -- THIS IS VERY GOOD. REMEMBER THE BIBLE STARTS IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED. VERY IMPORTANT. IT DOESN'T TELL US WHERE GOD CAME FROM; IT JUST TELLS US GOD MADE. NOW THIS IS THE REASON WHY AND I THINK THERE ARE MANY REASONS BUT ONE OF THEM IS THIS. IF YOU CAN TAKE FROM THE BEGINNING THE FACT THAT GOD CREATED, IN THE BEGINNING GOD STEPPED UP AND SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT AND THERE WAS LIGHT, THEN YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS BOOK. GOD STARTS DEALING WITH THE WHOLE BOOK BY FAITH FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. HE DOES NOT START BY TELLING US AND TELLING US BECAUSE WHEN YOU BEGIN TO WALK WITH GOD, LET ME TELL YOU, YOU ARE ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS. CAN I GET A WITNESS? AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WALK IN A FAITH RELATIONSHIP FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. SO

HERE'S WHAT HE SAYS. MAN IS NOT A PRODUCT OF CHANCE. LISTEN TO ME. MAN IS THE PRODUCT OF CHOICE. GOD DETERMINATELY AND DELIBERATELY MADE MAN. HE DID IT OUT OF A CHOICE; TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH MEN AND WOMEN AND YOU WERE MADE OUT OF A CHOICE. THAT MEANS THIS. THAT YOUR WHOLE LIFE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED BY ACCIDENT. YOUR WHOLE LIFE IS NEVER DETERMINED BY FATE. YOU ARE NOT THE VICTIM OF THE FATES; YOU ARE NOT THE VICTIM OF THINGS THAT JUST COME AT YOUR LIFE. THERE IS A PLAN. THERE IS A PURPOSE EVEN IF YOU DO NOT SEE IT. NOW EVERY ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM HAS BEEN VISITED BY TRAGEDY IN SOME WAY. MY WIFE AND I HAVE. SOME YEARS AGO, WE HAD A DAUGHTER THAT WAS DIAGNOSED AS MENTALLY HANDICAPPED. WE HAVE NO ANSWER FOR THAT BUT WE HAD TO DETERMINE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE THAT THERE IS PURPOSE TO THIS. SOME OF YOU HAVE HAD THINGS GO THROUGH YOUR LIFE OF THE SAME OR MAYBE WORSE AND YOU HAVE HAD TO, IF YOU'RE GOING TO WALK WITH GOD, COME TO THE POINT WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOVE GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND NOT FOR WHAT HE DOES. NOW WHAT HE DOES IS PERFECT AND HOLY BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY TO YOU AND I RIGHT UP FRONT. THERE IS A PURPOSE. EVERYTHING IS DETERMINED BY PURPOSE AND EVERYTHING IS DETERMINED BY DESIGN. NOW THAT DESIGN HAS TWO PARTS. THE FIRST PART OF THAT DESIGN IS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD. BUT THE SECOND PART OF THAT DESIGN IS TO BENEFIT YOU. EVERYTHING GOD DOES HE DOES BY GRACE. WHEN ADAM AND EVE SINNED, HE COULD HAVE SIMPLY WIPED THEM OUT WITH NO OTHER HOPE BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HE DID. WE'RE GOING TO SEE IN THE 3RD CHAPTER WHEN ADAM & EVE SINNED, GOD SETS INTO PLACE A PLAN OF REDEMPTION THAT HE ALREADY HAD PLANNED KNOWING

WHAT THEY WOULD DO. AND GOD IS CONSTANTLY WORKING THAT WAY IN YOUR LIFE. SO I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT THAT SPOUSE SITTING BESIDE YOU RIGHT NOW. SOME OF YOU ARE SAYING I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT HIM; I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT HER; AND I WANT YOU TO REALIZE THEY ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT!!!! SOME OF YOU ARE LIKE WELL – NO! IF YOU ARE GOING BY GOD'S DESIGN, THEY ARE AN APPOINTMENT.. WE'RE GOING TO GET BACK TO THAT. THEY'RE NOT ACCIDENTAL. SO LET'S GO BACK AND LOOK INTO THIS WHOLE THING GOING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL DESIGN AND MAN HAS A PROBLEM. NOW LET'S GO BACK AND WE STARTED AT DAY 5 FOR A REASON. GOING FROM DAY 1 TO DAY 5 HE SAYS 3 THINGS STAND OUT. GOD SAID IT WAS SO AND IT WAS GOOD. WHEN GOD SAID IT, IT HAPPENED AND WHEN IT HAPPENED, THE WORD GOOD LITERALLY MEANS IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE "AS IT WAS INTENDED TO BE". THAT'S LITERALLY WHAT IT MEANS. WHEN GOD CREATED THE FISH THEY WERE EXACTLY AS HE INTENDED THEM TO BE. THERE WAS NO MISTAKE. WHEN HE CREATED CATTLE, THEY WERE EXACTLY AS THEY WERE INTENDED TO BE. THERE WAS NO MISTAKE. WHEN HE CREATED DOGS, WHEN HE CREATED CATS, WHEN HE CREATED EVERY CREEPING THING; EVERY INSECT; IT WAS GOOD; IT WAS AS IT WAS INTENDED TO BE. IT MATCHED GOD'S NATURE. GOD'S NATURE IS GOOD AS IT IS INTENDED TO BE AND HE PUTS THE CREATION IN PLACE IN THE SAME NATURE. BUT THEN HE MAKES MAN AND SOME OF LADIES ARE SAYING UH HUH. AND HE WILL SAY IN CHAPTER 2; VERSE 18, AFTER HE MAKES MAN IN A WORD OF COMPASSION HE SAYS IT IS NOT GOOD. SOME OF YOU LADIES ARE SAYING UH HUH, WE KNEW THAT!!!

NOW WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE A WHOLE MESSAGE JUST ON THE FACT OF THIS. LET ME TELL YOU WHY YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE LADIES. HE IS

A MAN. DO I GET A WITNESS? GENTLEMEN LET ME TELL YOU WHY YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE. SHE IS A WOMAN. DO I GET A WITNESS? AND SEE THAT'S SEVERAL WEEKS JUST RIGHT THERE. IT IS NOT GOOD; SOMETHING IS WRONG;

ALL RIGHT LET'S GO LOOK AT THAT. CHAPTER 2; VERSE 18; LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS. IT IS NOT GOOD. WHY? HE TELLS US. FOR MAN TO BE ALONE. SEE THEY AGREE WITH ME. NOW THIS IS NOT A STATEMENT OF REGRET; IT IS NOT GOD SAYING OOPS, FORGOT SOMETHING. SOME OF YOU LADIES MAY DEBATE ME LATER. HE LEFT SOMETHING OUT; SOMETHING'S INFERIOR HERE; IT'S GOT A PROBLEM HERE; BETTER MAKE A WOMAN TO FIX IT AND SOME OF YOU ARE SAYING UH HUH! IT IS ACTUALLY A STATEMENT OF INTENT. WHAT HE IS SAYING IS I'M NOT FINISHED YET. I HAVE CREATED THIS MAN BUT THERE IS MORE TO FOLLOW. I HAVE A SURPRISE COMING. I HAVE SOMETHING TO FOLLOW UP THIS CREATION; I AM NOT QUITE DONE YET.

NOW LET'S GO TO VERSE 15 OF CHAPTER 2; WOULD YOU PUT IT ON THE SCREEN FOR ME. VERSE 15. THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN – THIS IS BEFORE EVE HAS BEEN CREATED; THIS IS ALL IN THE VERY FIRST DAY OF CREATION. IT'S A LONG DAY. IT ALL HAPPENS IN THE FIRST DAY. THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND PUT HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO WORK IT AND TO TAKE CARE OF IT. SO MAN WAS NOT JUST CREATED TO SIT AROUND AND WATCH FOOTBALL GAMES AND EAT CHIPS. I KNOW SOME OF YOU GUYS ARE LIKE OH MAN. HE ACTUALLY WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. I'VE HAD PEOPLE SAY BOY IT'S AWFUL WHAT HAPPENED TO ADAM. IF ADAM HADN'T MESSED UP WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK. NO IT DOESN'T SAY THAT. IT DIDN'T SAY YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK; IT JUST SAYS NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STRUGGLE IN IT. BUT FROM THE BEGINNING ADAM WAS

GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT TO BE PRODUCTIVE. ADAM WAS GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT TO WORK THE GARDEN; HE IS GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT; A STEWARDSHIP; A MISSION TO WORK THAT. NOW, IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE, THAT'S THE VERSES THAT FOLLOW SO IT MUST MEAN THIS: THIS WAS AN ASSIGNMENT HE WAS GIVEN AND HE WAS NOT TO DO IT BY HIMSELF. NOW LET ME GET TO THE PRINCIPAL AND MOVE IT TO TODAY. ALL, THAT WE DO, ALL THAT WE PURPOSE, ALL THAT WE PURSUE IS TO BE DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONSHIP. I WANT THIS TO SINK IN IF I DON'T GET ANY FURTHER TODAY, LET THIS SINK IN. EVERYTHING THAT IS IN YOUR LIFE, EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE IS TO BE DONE, IS TO BE PURSUED, IS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONSHIP. THAT MEANS THIS. WE SHOULD NEVER ALLOW THE PURSUITS OF OUR LIFE TO BE DONE AT THE EXCLUSION, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES. WE SHOULD NEVER ALLOW THE PROBLEMS OF OUR LIFE, GENTLEMEN, TO BE DEALT WITH BY PUSHING PEOPLE THAT WE LOVE OUT OF OUR LIVES. WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO DO THAT. SO LET ME SAY THIS AND WRITE IT DOWN AND YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR THIS IN A LATER MESSAGE. MEN HAVE CAVES AND WOMEN HAVE WAVES. WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE, MEN WANT TO REVERT INTO THEIR CAVES AND NO ONE BOTHER THEM. I'M WORKING EVERYTHING OUT RIGHT NOW; I'M WORKING ALL OF MY PROBLEMS OUT AND PLEASE DON'T TALK TO ME; DON'T BOTHER ME. DO ANY OF YOU MEN HAVE A CHAIR, YOUR CHAIR? SEE I DON'T HAVE AN OFFICE IN MY HOUSE; I HAVE A CHAIR. SOME OF YOU GUYS HAVE AN OFFICE IN YOUR HOUSE AND I TOTALLY ENVY YOU BECAUSE YOU CAN GO INTO YOUR CAVE AND LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING LADIES WHEN HE IS IN HIS CAVE; DO NOT GO IN THERE TO GET HIM! YOU WILL GET MAULED! YOU WILL REGRET GOING

INTO THE CAVE BECAUSE HE DOESN'T SAY COME ON INTO THE CAVE HONEY. HE'S GOING TO LOOK AT YOU LIKE WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO ME? I STILL HAVE THINGS TO PURSUE. NOW HE MAY BE IN THAT CAVE FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND WHEN HE COMES OUT OF THAT CAVE, HE'S GOING TO LOOK AT YOU AND SAY BOY, YOU HAVE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET LATELY. AND YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK AT HIM LIKE HE IS FROM MARS, WHICH HE PROBABLY IS.

SHE HAS WAVES. GENTLEMAN, LISTEN TO ME. IT WILL BUILD AND BUILD AND BUILD AND BUILD FOR WEEKS. YOU WON'T BE KNOWING ITS BUILDING -- WELL YOU WILL ABOUT THE LATTER PART. YOU'RE GOING TO KNOW SOMETHING IS COMING. TSUNAMI IS COMING. AND SOME MISGUIDED SOUL WILL STAND THERE AND TELL THE WAVE NOT TO BREAK. BUT THAT WAVE IS COMING. AND WHEN IT COMES, JUST DEAL WITH IT. DO I GET A WITNESS LADIES? I COULD STOP RIGHT THERE AND GIVE AN INVITATION, I THINK. DON'T TRY TO STOP THAT WAVE! IF YOU GET IN FRONT OF THAT WAVE, YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT! YOU CAN YELL AT THE WAVES, SCREAM AT THE WAVES. THAT'S HOW GOD MADE THEM. SO WHAT WE END UP DOING IS WE END UP PULLING BACK IN OUR PROBLEMS AND OUR PURSUITS BECAUSE LISTEN, WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY THAT'S ALL ABOUT ISOLATION. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY THAT'S ALL ABOUT DEALING WITH IT MYSELF. I DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO KNOW; I HAVE TO BE STRONG. WE HAVE A SOCIETY THAT IS SO MOBILE, THAT IS MOVING TOWARD MOBILITY AND PROSPERITY, THAT WE HAVE TORN DOWN COMMUNITY AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT EVEN COMMUNITY IN THE CHURCH, WE CAN'T GET EVEN A MINDSET OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ONE IN PART OF EACH OTHER.

I WILL GO HOME TODAY AND I WILL PARK MY CAR IN MY DRIVEWAY. SOME OF YOU EVEN HAVE THAT GARAGE THAT CLOSES. NO ONE HAS TO SEE YOU; NO ONE HAS TO TALK WITH YOU; YOU GO IN THE HOUSE AND SIT AND THAT YARD BECOMES THE MOAT THAT KEEPS THE BARBARIANS AT BAY. I DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD AND NOW WE HAVE INTERNET WHERE WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TALK TO PEOPLE. I DON'T HAVE TO CALL YOU ANYMORE, I CAN E-MAIL YOU. I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO E-MAIL YOU, I CAN INSTANT MESSAGE. I CAN DO FACE BOOK AND HAVE ALL THE COMMUNITY I WANT. PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DEAL WITH PEOPLE. BECAUSE IN FACE BOOK I CAN SIMPLY TURN YOU OFF. SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN TURNING EACH OTHER OFF. PEOPLE AREN'T THAT EASY; THEY'RE MESSY, AREN'T THEY. AND WE KEEP PURSUING OUR STUFF AT THE COST OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS.

NOW LET ME GET TO A POINT. THE DEEPEST AND MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE TO PURSUE IN LIFE, NUMBER ONE RIGHT UP FRONT IS THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. IF YOU DON'T PURSUE THAT, EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST DETAILS. THE DEEPEST, MOST ESSENTIAL LEVEL OF YOUR LIFE MUST BE A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IT MUST START THERE. DEEP MUST CALL TO DEEP. WE HAVE TO GET A HOLD OF THAT. IF WE DON'T, WE'RE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF EACH OTHER. I'M GOING TO COME MORE TO THAT IN JUST A MINUTE.

I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT FIRST SEVEN OF CHAPTER 2. THE LORD GOD FORMED -
- NOW UNDERSTAND THAT MAN IS NOT AN ACCIDENTAL THING. HE IS A DIRECT HANDIWORK OF GOD. HE IS A HANDS-ON CREATION. LISTEN HOW HANDS ON IT IS. MORE THAN ANY OTHER CREATION, THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND, BODY. HE BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE SPIRIT OF

LIFE, SPIRIT; AND THAT MAN BECAME A LIVING BEING, A LIVING SOUL, BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT. YOU WERE BREATHED INTO A SPIRIT. WHEN WE'RE GOING TO FIND IN THE THIRD CHAPTER THAT PLACE WITH GOD IS LOST. AND WITHOUT GOD REAWAKENING THAT SPIRIT, BRINGING THAT SPIRIT ALIVE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST WHO MAKES THAT ALL POSSIBLE, THEN ALL WE ARE OPERATING ON IS SOUL AND BODY AND WE'RE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO FILL THAT INNER CORE WITH SOMETHING. IF WE DON'T FILL IT WITH CHRIST, WE'LL FILL IT WITH COUNTERFEITS, EVEN IF IT'S A PERSON. YOU MAY HAVE A WONDERFUL WIFE BUT SHE MAKES A LOUSY GOD. YOU MAY HAVE A WONDERFUL HUSBAND BUT HE CANNOT FILL THE DEEPEST PLACE OF YOUR LIFE. SOME OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS WE HAVE THINKING THAT IS POSSIBLE. ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST IS THEIR ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT. LISTEN TO ME. PRIMARILY AND ULTIMATELY, YOU ARE ONLY GOING TO KNOW GOD THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL REALM. THAT'S WHY SO MANY OF US KEEP TRYING TO FIND GOD IN AN EMOTION; FIND GOD HERE. I WANT TO FEEL GOD. YOU DON'T COME TO CHURCH TO FEEL GOD. YOU COME TO CHURCH TO LEARN TO WALK IN FAITH WHETHER YOU FEEL HIM OR NOT. OUR WALK WITH GOD IS PRIMARILY A SPIRITUAL WALK. IT'S NOT SENSUAL; IT'S NOT PHYSICAL; IT'S SPIRITUAL. GOD KNOWING THAT, KNOWING THAT HE IS AN INVISIBLE GOD, DOES AN AMAZING THING. HE GIVES US A RELATIONSHIP IN THE PHYSICAL REALM, IN THE HUMAN REALM, -- NOW REMEMBER WHAT WE ARE, WE ARE SPIRIT BEINGS WHO HAVE A SOUL THAT LIVE IN A BODY. YOU ARE NOT A HUMAN BEING HAVING A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE; YOU ARE A SPIRITUAL BEING HAVING A HUMAN EXPERIENCE. AND WHILE YOU ARE UPON THE EARTH, WHICH IS ONE OF THE REASONS THERE IS NO MARRIAGE IN HEAVEN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT GOING TO NEED THAT

THEN, BUT WHILE YOU ARE ON THE EARTH, GOD HAS DESIGNED A RELATIONSHIP OF SUCH POTENTIAL THAT IT HAS THE ABILITY TO TOUCH YOU AT EVERY DEEPEST LEVEL OF YOUR LIFE, BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT.

NOW WE'RE GOING TO TALK IN A LATER MESSAGE ABOUT WHY IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU START AT THE SPIRIT FIRST AND THE DANGER THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T. BUT THIS IS A RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE WITH YOUR SPOUSE THAT IS ABLE TO TOUCH YOU AT THE DEEPEST LEVEL, SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY.. AND IF IT IS KEPT UNDER GOD'S DESIGN, IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SHOW YOU WHAT A TRUE LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS REALLY LIKE. I WANT YOU TO WRITE SOMETHING DOWN. AND IT'S GOING TO COME BACK TO IT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. NOW LISTEN TO ME. I WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS LIKE BY WHAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SPOUSE IS LIKE. IT IS ALWAYS A MIRROR. I'VE HAD PEOPLE FIGHT ME ON THIS BUT I'M TELLING YOU AFTER 20 SOME YEARS OF DOING THIS, YOU WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHAT A PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS LIKE BY HOW THEY ARE DEALING WITH THEIR SPOUSE. ALWAYS. IT IS ALWAYS A MIRROR.

NOW LET ME START PULLING THIS TO A CLOSE. AND SOME OF YOU ARE SAYING WELL, I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. JUST HANG WITH ME. IT MAY BE A LITTLE WHILE BUT I'M TRYING TO COME TO IT.

GOD HAS A WAY OF DEALING WITH THAT ISSUE. HE HAD A WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS ALONENESS AND HERE IS WHAT HE DOES. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE, VERSE 18. I WILL MAKE -- GET A HOLD OF THIS. WHAT'S HIS ANSWER? WHAT WAS HIS PLAN? HE'S NOT FILLING IN A GAP. HE IS SAYING THIS IS PART OF CREATION. TWO WILL BECOME ONE; THEY WILL WORK

TOGETHER AS ONE. I AM GOING TO MAKE A HELPER SUITABLE -- CIRCLE THE WORD -- SUITABLE, COMPARABLE FOR HIM. NOW WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN IF WE GO BACK AND READ THAT GOD HAS PREPARED A PLACE FOR HIM TO LIVE IN. REMEMBER THIS CREATION IS GOOD. IT IS AS IT WAS INTENDED TO BE. IT IS EXACTLY TAILORED TO MAN. THIS EARTH IS A DESIGNER LABEL. NO ONE ELSE CAN MAKE IT. NO ONE ELSE CAN MAKE THIS. THIS IS A TAILOR-MADE DESIGNER LABEL. NOW HE'S GETTING READY TO DO SOMETHING IN THE PERSONAL REALM. HE IS GOING TO MAKE A PERSON TO LIVE WITH. NOT A PLACE TO LIVE IN BUT A PERSON TO LIVE WITH THAT IS GOOD AS GOD INTENDED IT TO BE; EXACTLY SUITED, TAILOR-MADE, DESIGNER LABEL, EXACTLY FOR ADAM. THIS IS WHAT IT SAYS, VERSUS 20 THROUGH 21. I'M NOT GOING TO READ THEM, YOU KNOW THE STORY. ADAM FALLS INTO A SLEEP; HE TAKES A RIB OUT OF ADAM; INCIDENTALLY MAN DOES NOT HAVE ONE LESS RIB THAN WOMEN. THAT'S AN OLD MYTH. IT'S NOT TRUE. HE TAKES A RIB OUT OF ADAM AND MAKES A WOMAN. WELL COULDN'T HE HAVE CREATED HER FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND? YES. BUT GOD IS DOING SOMETHING IN SHOWING A PICTURE. HE'S SHOWING THAT THROUGH THIS TAKING, BONE OF BONE AND FLESH OF FLESH THEY ARE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER THAT IS OF SUCH INTIMACY AND THERE IS SO MUCH A PART OF EACH OTHER, THEY WILL LIVE AND ACT AS ONE. REMEMBER WHAT HE SAYS, THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. BUT LISTEN HOW THIS HAS TO HAPPEN. TO BEGIN WITH. YOU HAVE TO LEAVE -- ANTENNAS TO THE TOP -- YOU HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR SINGLENESS BEHIND AND CLEAVE, TAKE HOLD OF THE SPOUSE. WELL I LEFT MY MOM AND DAD. YEAH, BUT YOU NEVER LEFT YOUR JOB.. SOME OF YOU LADIES ARE SO MARRIED TO YOUR CHILDREN, YOU FORGOT YOU HAVE A HUSBAND.

WHOA I KNOW I WENT TO MEDDLING. SOME OF YOU MEN CAN'T QUIT BEING 15. WHOA GOT QUIET. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM I SEE WHEN COUPLES COME IN? HE STILL WANTS TO BE 15! AND SHE WANTS HIM TO BE A MAN AND TO GROW UP. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIS PROBLEM IS? HE DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY HIS MAMA. YOU'RE NOT HIS MAMA. I KNOW YOU THINK YOU MUST NEED TO BE BECAUSE HE PROBABLY NEEDS ONE BUT YOU'RE NOT IT. YOU WERE NOT DELEGATED. QUIT TRYING TO RAISE HIM. HE DOESN'T APPRECIATE IT.

NOW WHAT WAS HER PURPOSE? LISTEN TO ME, WRITE THIS DOWN, VERY IMPORTANT. I KNOW I'M DOING A JOHN TODAY BUT WRITE THIS DOWN. HER PURPOSE WAS NOT TO COMPLETE HIM. I READ THESE BOOKS AND THE WOMAN WAS MADE TO COMPLETE MAN AND THAT WAS NOT HER PURPOSE. THANK GOD! CAUSE WOMEN CAN'T DO IT. THERE IS THIS ERRONEOUS IDEA OUT HERE THAT I AM HALF A PERSON UNTIL I MEET MY OTHER HALF. AND THEN WHEN I FIND MY OTHER HALF, HE OR SHE WILL SO MEET MY NEEDS; WILL SO MAKE ME WHOLE; THAT I WILL JUST – WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER HAPPILY EVER AFTER AND THERE WILL BE NO MORE PROBLEMS AND THERE'LL JUST BE BLIPS ON THE SCREEN BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS. ANY OF YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED OVER FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, KNOW IT AIN'T SO. IT JUST AIN'T SO. THERE ARE PROBLEMS WHO COME.. NOW I KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY THIS IDEA OF COMPLETING. I KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO SAY. THERE IS SOMETHING THAT A WIFE BRINGS TO A HUSBAND AND VICE VERSA, HUSBAND BRINGS INTO THE LIFE OF A WIFE IN A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP THAT NO OTHER RELATIONSHIP IN THIS WORLD CAN DO. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT HERE'S THE DANGER. IN THIS QUEST, IN THIS HUNGER

FOR CONNECTION THAT IS NOT BEING MET, ESPECIALLY IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY AND THIS HUNGER FOR SOMEONE TO FILL THE GAP, FOR SOMEONE TO FILL THIS EMPTY SPACE, EVEN WITH BELIEVERS, FOR SOMETHING TO MAKE ME FEEL WHOLE, I WILL LATCH ONTO THAT SPOUSE AND I WILL SUCK THE EVER LIVING LIFE OUT OF THEM. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET ALL MY SEXUAL NEEDS; YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET ALL MY EMOTIONAL NEEDS; YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SUPPLY FOR ME FINANCIALLY; YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO FALL; YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE BANKRUPTCY. THIS WAS YOUR FAULT; NO THIS WAS YOUR FAULT. YOU'RE TO BLAME; NO YOU'RE TO BLAME. I COULD'VE BEEN HAPPY WITH OUT YOU. NO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE. BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T BE HAPPY WITH THEM YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPY WITHOUT THEM. NOW I KNOW SOME OF YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH ABUSE IN YOUR HOMES AND YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH TERRIBLE THINGS. WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT AND I KNOW I'M STATING A GENERAL STATEMENT BUT LET ME STATE SOME VERY GENERAL STATEMENTS. SECOND MARRIAGES END FASTER THAN FIRST; THIRD MARRIAGES END FASTER THAN SECONDS; FOURTH MARRIAGES END FASTER THAN THIRD. IT GOES TO SHOW THAT WITH EVERY NEW PARTNER WE GET, THE EMPTINESS GOES DEEPER. NOW IF YOU ARE IN YOUR SECOND MARRIAGE, IN YOUR THIRD MARRIAGE, MAKE THAT ONE WORK. MAKE IT WORK. YOU CAN BUT YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BIG "S" WORD. SELFISHNESS. I'M TALKING TO YOU JUST AS IF YOU WERE SITTING IN A COUNSELING SESSION WITH ME TODAY AND IT'S HARD TO HEAR. IT'S HARD TO HEAR BUT IT'S TRUE. WE HAVE SUCKED THE LIFE OUT OF EACH OTHER AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS IS ONE OF TWO THINGS: THERE IS THAT PERSON THAT KEEPS DEMANDING, KEEPS DEMANDING, KEEPS DEMANDING, KEEPS

BELITTLING, KEEPS BLAMING TILL IT RUNS TO DYSFUNCTION, DISTORTION, ABUSE; THAT THEY ARE CONSTANTLY DRAWING, CONSTANTLY DRAWING, CONSTANTLY GOTTA HAVE MORE. IT'S NEVER ENOUGH OR THAT PERSON THAT SIMPLY BAILS OUT AND GOES TO OTHER VENTURES. LET ME MAKE A STATEMENT. YOU WILL NEVER BE WHOLE UNTIL YOU ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST AND THE BIGGEST PROBLEM – THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS WE PLAY THIS GAME; WE COME TO CHURCH; WE SAY WE'RE WALKING WITH CHRIST BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS HE SO FAR FROM THE CORE OF OUR LIVES THAT YOU CAN'T FIND HIM. AND YOU HAVE TRIED TO REPLACE GOD WITH SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ELSE. THERE CAN NEVER BE ONENESS AS A COUPLE UNTIL THERE IS WHOLENESS IN CHRIST AS AN INDIVIDUAL. VERY IMPORTANT. YOUR SPOUSE CANNOT COMPLETE YOU. THEY CANNOT DO IT. THEY ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE BUT THEY CAN'T FILL THE DEEPEST AREA. SO WHAT IS THEIR JOB? THEIR JOB IS TO COMPLEMENT. THEIR JOB IS TO BE A PARTNER.

I WANT YOU TO TURN TO THE BOOK OF HAGGAI -- SOME OF YOU ARE LIKE WHAT. LET ME HELP YOU, IT'S BETWEEN ZEPHANIAH AND ZECHARIAH. DID THAT HELP? IF NOT JUST GO TO THE FRONT OF THE BOOK AND IT WILL TELL YOU WHAT PAGE IT'S ON. I WANT TO READ THIS TO YOU. ANTENNAS TO THE TOP. THIS SOUNDS LIKE IT COMES RIGHT OUT OF THE NEWSPAPER. IT COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN FOR TODAY. LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS. VERSE 2. THIS IS WHAT THE LORD ALMIGHTY SAYS. THESE PEOPLE SAY THE TIME HAS NOT COME FOR THE LORD'S HOUSE TO BE BUILT. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THE STORY. THE TEMPLE HAD BEEN STARTED 16 YEARS BEFORE. BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION, BECAUSE THE STUFF GOING ON, THEY QUIT BUILDING IT. AND FOR 16 YEARS, THEY WALKED AROUND AND SAID WOW THAT'S WHERE THEY

WERE GOING TO BUILD A TEMPLE. FOR 16 YEARS. NOW THE GRASS HAS GROWN UP. WE HAVE A HOUSE THAT WAS STARTED ABOUT THREE HOUSES DOWN FROM US ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO AND IT'S JUST SAT THERE FOR THREE YEARS AND GROWN UP AND I GET THE IDEA OF WHAT 16 YEARS WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE. YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING. IN THAT LITTLE MOUND OVER THERE IS WERE THE TEMPLE WAS GOING. FOR 16 YEARS, IT SAT THERE. AND THEY ALL WENT ON WITH THEIR LIFE AND WENT ON WITH THEIR COUNTERFEITS. THEN THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME THROUGH THE PROPHET HAGGAI, IS IT TIME? YOU SAY IT'S NOT TIME BUT IS IT TIME FOR YOU YOURSELVES TO BE LIVING IN PANELED HOUSES WHILE THIS HOUSE REMAINS A RUIN? WHILE THE CORE IS NOT DEALT WITH. IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RUN AFTER YOUR NEW BOAT? IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RUN AFTER YOUR SEADOO? IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RUN AFTER YOUR NEXT VACATION? IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RUN AFTER YOUR NEW THIS OR YOUR NEW THAT? IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO TRADE IN YOUR SPOUSE FOR A NEW ONE? NOW THIS IS WHAT THE LORD ALMIGHTY SAYS. GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS. LISTEN TO THIS. FOX NEWS COULD HAVE PUT IT OUT OR CNN. YOU HAVE PLANTED MUCH BUT HAVE HARVESTED LITTLE. YOU EAT BUT NEVER HAVE ENOUGH. YOU DRINK BUT NEVER HAVE YOUR FILL. YOU PUT ON CLOTHES BUT THEY ARE NOT WARM. YOU EARN WAGES -- LISTEN TO THIS -- ONLY TO PUT THEM IN A PURSE WITH HOLES IN IT. CAN I GET A WITNESS? THIS IS WHAT THE LORD ALMIGHTY SAYS. GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS. GO UP ON THE MOUNTAIN; BRING DOWN THE TIMBER; BUILD THE HOUSE SO I MIGHT TAKE PLEASURE IN IT AND BE HONORED. GET BACK TO THE BASICS. GO BACK TO THE FOUNDATION. LISTEN TO THIS. YOU EXPECTED MUCH BUT SEE IT TURNED OUT TO BE LITTLE. LISTEN

TO THIS NEXT STATEMENT. WHAT YOU BROUGHT HOME I BLEW IT AWAY. WHO BLEW IT AWAY? GOD. WHAT YOU KEPT BRINGING HOME KEPT BEING BLOWN AWAY BECAUSE GOD BLEW IT AWAY AND YOU BLAMED IT ON THE DEVIL AND YOU BLAMED IT ON YOUR HUSBAND AND YOU BLAMED IT ON YOUR WIFE. WHEN GOD KEPT BLOWING IT AWAY TO BRING YOU TO A POINT OF ABSOLUTE CRISIS. AND THIS CRISIS YOU'RE IN IN YOUR HOME; THIS CRISIS YOU'RE IN IN YOUR MARRIAGE; THIS CRISIS YOU'RE IN FINANCIALLY; THIS CRISIS YOU'RE IN IS BECAUSE WE HAVE BROUGHT IT UPON OURSELVES. THE PROBLEM IN AMERICA IS A MORAL BREAKDOWN. THE REASON THAT THE BANKS BROKE DOWN WAS GREED. PEOPLE TRYING TO BUY HOMES THEY COULD NOT AFFORD. PEOPLE TRYING TO BUY CARS THEY CANNOT AFFORD. PEOPLE TRYING TO LIVE LIFESTYLES THEY CANNOT HOLD AND WHEN THE FINANCES BREAKDOWN, THEY BLAME EACH OTHER FOR IT. BOTH TRYING TO WORK JOBS; BOTH WORKING AS HARD AS THEY CAN AND YET IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH. WHY? BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE TO HAVE MORE. WE HAVE BROUGHT THIS ON OURSELVES AND WE HAVE BLAMED EACH OTHER FOR IT. WHEN GOD IS SAYING COME BACK TO THE BASICS. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THAT SPOUSE?

LET'S GO BACK TO GENESIS. LOOK AT VERSE 27. GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. SO WHEN GOD LOOKS AT MANKIND, IT IS NOT MAN AND THEN HIS TAG ALONG EVE. IT WASN'T ADAM AND IT'S NOT LIKE BATMAN AND ROBIN. WELL THERE'S THE TAG ALONG, THE ONE HE REALLY DOESN'T NEED. I USED TO READ THE STORIES BATMAN AND ROBIN AND YOU KNOW IN THE NEWER VERSIONS, THEY JUST GOT RID OF ROBIN. IT'S NOT NECESSARY AT ALL. AND THIS IS KIND OF WHAT WE DID. WELL THERE'S ADAM AND HIS TAGALONG

EVE; SHE WAS THE ONE THAT WAS GOING TO COMPLETE HIM. ONLY GOD COMPLETES. SO LISTEN TO THIS. GOD LOOKS AT US, HE SEES MALE AND FEMALE. NOT ONLY IS SHE AN EXACT FIT; SHE IS AN EQUAL FIT. THEN GOD SAID -- LISTEN -- GOD BLESSED THEM -- VERSE 28 -- AND SAID TO THEM BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE IN NUMBER; FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT; RULE OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, THE BIRDS OF THE AIR AND OVER EVERY LIVING CREATURE THAT MOVES ON THE GROUND. I WILL GIVE YOU EVERY SEED BEARING PLANT AND ON AND ON IT GOES. EVERYTHING IS YOURS; YOU RULE IT. I WANT YOU TO NOTICE THAT ADAM AND EVE WERE BOTH GIVEN THE SAME BLESSING AND BOTH GIVEN THE SAME COMMISSION. SO IT'S NOT MAN IN CHARGE AND WOMAN TAGGING ALONG. THIS IS A JOINT VENTURE OF EQUALS. NOW THERE IS A WHOLE ISSUE OF AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT WHEN WE GET TO EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5 BUT THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO GET ACROSS TODAY. THAT PERSON YOU MARRIED IS YOUR EQUAL. HE HAS AN OPINION THAT'S WORTH LISTENING TO. SHE HAS AN OPINION THAT'S WORTH LISTENING TO. SHE IS NOT ALWAYS WRONG. HE IS NOT ALWAYS WRONG. GOD MADE THEM THERE TO BE EQUAL WITH YOU AND TO SHARE THIS WITH YOU AND WHAT HE WANTED YOU TO DO IS COME INTO SUCH A PARTNERSHIP THAT YOU WOULD LIVE AND GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. REMEMBER, IT'S A TRIANGLE AND WE'LL SEE THIS. I WILL HAVE A LITTLE SCREEN NEXT WEEK. A TRIANGLE IN WHICH GOD IS THE HEAD AND AS I GROW AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, I WILL GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH MY SPOUSE. AND THEN AS WE GROW IN THIS AND CHRIST IS THAT OVER ARCHING CENTER, THEN WE WILL BEGIN TO FULFILL THE MANDATE HE GAVE TO US TO MULTIPLY, TO FILL THE EARTH, TO CREATE A SOCIETY WHERE CHRIST IS LIFTED

UP. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH WAS TO CREATE THAT SOCIETY. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH HAD MORE OF A PURPOSE THAN JUST TO MEET ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AND PRAISE GOD IN A BUILDING. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO CREATE ON EARTH A SOCIETY WHERE CHRIST WAS LIFTED UP SO THAT WHEN PEOPLE LOOKED AT THIS COMMUNITY, THEY WOULD SAY THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE BY DESIGN. BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL THAT.

SO LET ME ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING. QUIT DEMANDING OUT OF YOUR SPOUSE WHAT THEY CANNOT DO. SHE CAN'T MAKE YOU HAPPY. BECAUSE IF GOD IS NOT MAKING YOU HAPPY, SHE'LL NEVER MAKE YOU HAPPY. HE CANNOT MAKE YOU HAPPY BECAUSE IF JESUS CHRIST IS NOT ENOUGH, THEN HE WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH. CAN WE QUIT LOOKING AT OUR SPOUSE AND START LOOKING UP AND FINDING OUT THAT THE PROBLEM IS RIGHT HERE, THERE IS A BLOCKAGE? CAN WE QUIT ASKING THE QUESTION WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR ME AND START ASKING THE QUESTION HOW DO I SERVE YOU?

I'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR 29 YEARS. WILL BE 29 YEARS IN OCTOBER. ALONG THE WAY MY WIFE HAS DRIVEN ME CRAZY. ALONG THE WAY I HAVE DRIVEN HER WORSE. SHE'S GONE GRAY AND I HAVE LOST IT ALL. WE'VE HAD TIMES WHERE WE DIDN'T LIKE EACH OTHER. EVER HAD A TIME WHEN YOU JUST DIDN'T LIKE THEM? MAYBE TODAY IS ONE OF THOSE DAYS. I DON'T KNOW. I'VE HAD TIMES WHERE I THOUGHT MAN! I'VE HAD TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT WHY DOES SHE DO THAT? SHE'S HAD TIMES AND SHE THOUGHT ARE MEN JUST ALL BRAIN-DEAD? LET ME TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENED IN 28 YEARS. EVERY TIME THE ENEMY HAS TRIED TO TEAR, WHERE GOD FIXES THAT TEAR, THAT BECOMES THE STRONGEST PART OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. AND THROUGH THE YEARS AS THE TEARS HAVE COME, THEY BECAME STRONGER. IT WASN'T

BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T PROBLEMS; IT WAS BECAUSE IN THE MIDST OF OUR PROBLEMS, JESUS CHRIST WAS THE ONLY PLACE WE HAD TO GO. WHEN WE FOUND OUT BETHANY WAS MENTALLY RETARDED, I DIDN'T KNOW IF WE WERE GOING TO MAKE IT. BUT I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. AND ALONG THE WAY, WE LEARNED TO SAY, WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS! WE WILL MAKE IT AND I HAVE SEEN YOU AT YOUR WORST AND WE WILL MAKE IT! IT JUST COMES DOWN TO BEING RESPONSIBLE. I AM ABLE TO CHOOSE MY RESPONSE AND SHE IS NEVER DISPOSABLE. SHE IS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE. THERE ARE NO DISPOSABLE PEOPLE. THERE ARE NO DISPOSABLE SPOUSES.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU TODAY ARE DEALING WITH ISSUES OF ABUSE, I UNDERSTAND THAT. SOME OF YOU ARE COMING OUT OF ISSUES THAT YOU HAD NO CHOICE; YOU HAD TO GET OUT FOR YOUR LIFE'S SAKE; FOR ABUSE, I UNDERSTAND THAT. WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER. BUT I AM TALKING TO THE AVERAGE PERSON SITTING HERE THAT HAS JUST GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE YOU HAVE PULLED APART. WHY? WHY? IT WAS THE LITTLE FOXES THAT SPOILED THE VINE, WASN'T IT? AND ONE FIGHT LED TO THE NEXT FIGHT AND YOU HAVE BEEN FIGHTING THE SAME FIGHT -- YOU HAVE NEVER HAD A NEW FIGHT; IT'S JUST AROUND 90 OF THE SAME BATTLE YOU HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YEARS. AND EVERY TIME YOU FIGHT, YOU FIGHT OVER THE SAME THINGS. YOU HAVE COME TO THE POINT WHERE YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN CHANGE THEM. NO YOU CAN'T. SO GOD SAYS, LET'S CHANGE YOU. WITH HEADS BOWED AND EYES CLOSED.

(PRAYER)

(SAM'S TESTIMONY)