



“A father to the fatherless, a defender of the widows,
is God in his holy dwelling” (Psalm 68:5).

In ancient times, God gave his people His Law and commanded them to keep it; in doing so, they would be blessed. Yet, among His people a group became vulnerable by no fault of their own, they would fall into peril and become destitute—totally dependent on the mercy of other people. They are the widows and the fatherless.

God, the Creator loves all of His creation. He will self-sacrifice to care for the vulnerable and needy. He is honest, not taken for bribes or partiality. He loves His creation equally. “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, **showing no partiality and accepting no bribe. HE EXECUTES JUSTICE FOR THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOW, and He loves the foreigner, giving him food and clothing**” (Deuteronomy 10:17-18).

The Bible is filled with scriptures of God advocating for justice and care of the fatherless and widows.

“You shall **not afflict any widow or orphan**” (Exodus 22:22).

“Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, **Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow**” (Isaiah 1:17).

“**Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.**’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen’” (Deuteronomy 27:19).

Yet, as the nation of Israel sinned more and more, they brought great suffering in particular to the most vulnerable people in their community: the fatherless, the widows and the foreigners.

“Woe to those who enact unjust statutes and issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of fair treatment and withhold justice from the oppressed of My people, **to make widows their spoil and plunder the fatherless**” (Isaiah 10:1-2).

“Your rulers are rebels, friends of thieves. They all love bribes and chasing after rewards. They **do not defend the fatherless, and the plea of the widow never comes before them**” (Isaiah 1:23).

“They have grown fat and sleek, and have excelled in evil matters. They have **not taken up the cause of the fatherless**, so they might prosper, **nor** have **they defended the rights of the needy**” (Jeremiah 5:28).

“Father and mother are treated with contempt. Within your walls **the foreign resident is exploited, the fatherless and the widow are oppressed**” (Ezekiel 22:7).

History has recorded the story of the vulnerable sector and they have suffered despite God’s warnings and admonition. Women who have lost their husbands were left without a protector, an inheritance of their own and income; boys and girls without a father lost their protector and provider and foreigners were rarely treated equally and given the full rights of a citizen.

Into the 21st century, the West along with many other nations have introduced laws and supports to assist these people though many improvements are only recent.

Why didn’t God build into His law a self-protective commandment for the vulnerable sector, so that they would not have suffered for hundreds of years being dependent on the goodness of other people who may or may not choose to obey God?

In the Old Testament, inheritance was only given to the daughters when there were no sons born into the family. The ability for a widow to work and earn money to provide for her children was very limited in times past. Foreigners have often experienced similar limitations. Yet, the Apostle James defines **pure and undefiled religion** before God to be **the care for orphans and widows in their distress.**

“**PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION BEFORE OUR GOD AND FATHER is this: TO CARE FOR ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world**” (James 1:27).

There lies within James 1:27 the bigger story—a spiritual revelation visible through the mirroring God uses through His creation of the genders, which He made: male and female.

The female gender was created intentionally to image the church: both the righteous and the false. **In general, she images mankind.** This is important when understanding the bigger story.

This is not a mystery into the 21st century as it was at the time of Apostle Paul, who wrote, “For we are members of his [Christ’s] body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his **wife**, and the **two will become one flesh. THIS MYSTERY IS PROFOUND, BUT I AM SPEAKING ABOUT CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**” (Ephesians 5:30-32).

The marriage of Jesus Christ to his Bride is peppered throughout the scriptures. “Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME, and HIS BRIDE HAS MADE HERSELF READY**; it was granted **her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure**” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints” (Revelation 19:7-8).

And, as Biblical scholars agree, the female gender is also used when identifying a false church. “The **woman** was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries... I saw that the **woman** was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 17:4, 6).

In both cases, God is using the female gender to identify two different groups of people who comprise of physical men and women; they are churches led usually by male priests and pastors. Yet, God uses the female gender, never-the-less because He is revealing a spiritual matter.

That is the reason for **creating Eve AFTER Adam**, to reveal to mankind that a creation existed prior to the creation of mankind [Eve] and that an Adam would come from that creation [the first creation] and through that Adam [the man], the church [Eve, the second creation—mankind] would receive a Savior and through the rib of that Savior, she—that is the righteous church, would receive life—ever-lasting life.

All of mankind have fallen short and sinned. God knew from the very beginning, that mankind [Eve] would need a Savior, so He intentionally created her **after** Adam [the first creation] and took a rib from him—the first creation to create Eve. The first Adam failed and as if there were a series of attempts, clearly the last Adam succeeded and became a life-giving spirit.

“The Scriptures tell us, ‘The **first man**, Adam, became a living person.’ But the **LAST ADAM**—that is, **CHRIST—IS A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT**” (1 Corinthians 15:45).

God created a physical man, Adam to picture the first creation—that is, the creation in the heavens.

“In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). **In the same time period**, God created **both the heaven and the earth**. Sometime between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, He completed the heaven and created all of the heavenly beings there—and there are an uncountable number of them. All of them in heaven are sinless, except for Satan and his rogue coalition that appears to be 1/3 of everyone in heaven.

God foreknew the fall of mankind. He carefully planned long ago the creation of mankind and their redemption plan. The creation of man would come sometime after the creation in heaven. Mankind is a different creation to the heavenly-kind. The timing of the creation of mankind was planned exactly when God was ready to deal with the rebelling heavenly-kind. Both creations are being tested and tried at this time. There is no redemption plan for the rebelling heavenly creation because they sin knowingly. But, mankind was deceived beginning on the first day Eve sinned and mankind remains deceived by the wicked heavenly rulers, powers and authorities that the Apostle Paul identified as the sole enemies of Christians (Ephesians 6:12).

“The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The happy voices of brides and grooms will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the greatest in the world, and **YOU DECEIVED THE NATIONS with your sorceries**” (Revelation 18:23).

“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, **who is called THE DEVIL AND SATAN, THE DECEIVER OF THE WHOLE WORLD**—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him” (Revelation 12:9).

God remembers His female creation and the shoes He gave her to wear. Her life would mirror the life of God’s church during both this evil age and the age to come. During this evil age, she is: vulnerable, dependent her nation’s protection, and her opinion is often discounted by browbeaten words flowing from those who think they are in the know. While the false church is adorned in big, glorious buildings, priestly dress with the elaborate, eye-dazzling attire and sit in positions that demand authority and obedience.

The Apostle James said that **“pure and undefiled religion” is taking care of God’s church [the widow] who is vulnerable because Christ [her husband-to-be] has not yet returned and Evil surrounds her everywhere.** When she speaks, Evil shuts her down, belittles and shames her. Since the inception of God’s church, Evil has sought to destroy her and **her children—the fatherless, who are the faithful and loyal believers who throughout the ages have been persecuted, tortured and killed.** That is the bigger story written by James, the Apostle. **Pure and undefiled religion is providing for and protecting God’s church and her congregation** so that her voice, the teaching of the pure truth, God’s word is heard, acknowledged and even sought after.

When the Apostle John wrote, “These [the 144,000] are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure” (Revelation 14:4), he was revealing the spiritual matter of men and women who have not defiled themselves by false religion, but embrace the pure, undefiled word of God.

Mature Christians study to discover and unveil the bigger spiritual lessons, for that is the true message of God. The bigger picture is a cry from God Almighty for the protection of His righteous church and her faithful children on earth, until He sends His Son to take his rulership on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The limitations placed on women in ancient times: no family inheritance and dependency on their husbands mirrored the limitations on the physical church: no inheritance of eternal life due to sin and dependence on a Savior [the man] to pay the price for their sins. Eternal life was always part of the first creation in heaven, while mankind [the second creation] was sentenced to death, until payment for sin was accepted. Since Christ's resurrection, the situation of the church has changed. Eternal life is again offered to the repentant righteous church and similarly, the situation for women in general in Christian countries has improved.

“All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children” (Revelation 21:7).

“Now if we are children, then we are **heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,** if indeed we **share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory**” (Romans 8:17).

Widows and orphans have suffered and continue to carry a heavy burden because God gave them the shoes to wear for all to see the image of the bigger revelation, yet, truly it is understood by only a few in this evil age. The greater learning is yet to come.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich