



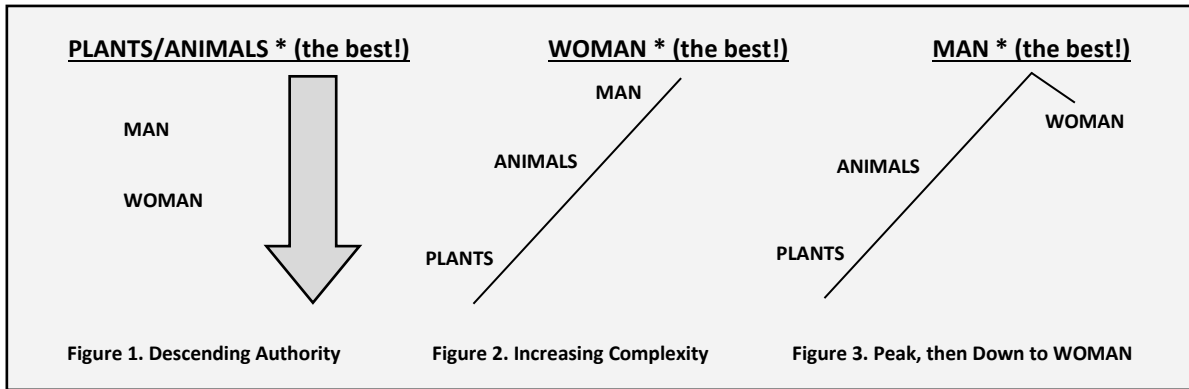
Does “created first” mean that men always lead?

No. The “created order” belief states, “Because God created the man first, he is therefore the ‘leader.’” But does the order of creation imply leadership? Or does God paint a different, beautiful purpose with the creation story? Let’s apply some logic to this “created order” theory.

Key Term

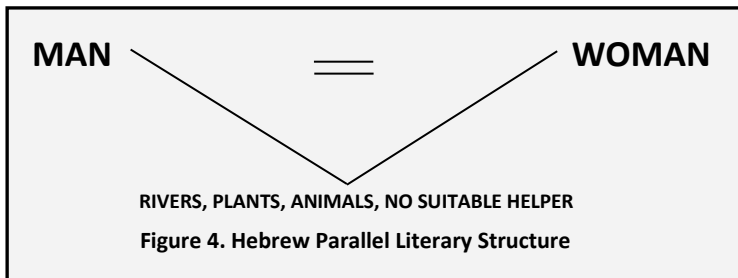
Hebrew Parallelism

Graphic Views of “Creation Order.” Do any of the following views display the intent of Genesis 1-2?



- **Figure 1** - Man came before women, but plants and animals (and dirt) were created prior to people. Does created order mean that plants/animals lead humans and have greater authority because they came first? No!
- **Figure 2** - Does created order mean that creation became more complex, more perfect (women are best)? No!
- **Figure 3** - Does created order mean that males are the highest pinnacle of creation? God later made man’s servant, women, similar but just a little lower, “equal but different”? No!

So what is the solution to the “created order” question?



Hebrew parallelism - “first equals last.”

Hebrew parallelism repeats similar themes, equating the first to the last. In Genesis 2, God’s symmetrical order of creation showed the equality of male and female. Both blessed, both strong, both pure, both image bearers. Among all creation, no equal could be found. Through the creation of the woman, God provided for the need of the man - he was alone. The man celebrated the woman as his equal image bearer - calling her, “bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.”

Conclusion

“First” does not equal “leader.” In Genesis 2, the peak of creation (man) parallels the other peak of creation (woman). Both were created in God’s image, with shared blessings, commands, responsibilities. **The first woman came from man; now every man comes from a woman. What a powerful couple created to bless the world! Rather than reading “created first = leader/authority,” into the text, celebrate God’s powerful, mutual design!**

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?