



RUN WITH IT

One Pagers

5

Were women created as the *helper* of men?

Yes, but probably not like you think! Genesis 2:18 states:

"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

So what does *helper* and *suitable* mean?

Helper comes from the Hebrew word **EZER** (pronounced "ay-zer"). Ezer is used 21 times in the Old Testament.

Now the vital question...

Key Term

עֶזֶר

ezer

WHO is the primary *ezer* in the Bible? WHO is *most* commonly described as an *ezer*?

16 out of 21 times *ezer* refers... to GOD!

God is the one who provides "help" from enemies and rescues from death. God is the one who "helps" by displaying superior strength and military might, coming to the aid of the weaker party (Moses, David, Israel, etc.). Sixteen times God is the *ezer*. Three times *ezer* is used when Israel needs a powerful military rescue. Two times *ezer* is used in Genesis 2 in reference to the woman. See all of the OT references below. When the Hebrew audience heard the word *ezer*, they thought "strength to rescue" or "power to come to the aid" of a weaker ally.

EZER = STRENGTH

Clearly, the term *ezer* has nothing to do with domestic duties or a subservient position. Think about it... if you needed *help* with your math homework, would you seek someone who knows less than you? If someone attacked you, would you want *help* from someone weaker? No! You would choose someone with more power, skill, or ability than you.

Ezer describes God's character. God is the rescuer, the protector, the defender, the helper. God gives valuable and vital strength to those who are weaker. God chooses to use the same word for women that He used for himself!

Key Term

פָּנֶגֶד

k'negedu

However, the word following *helper* is *suitable*, which in Hebrew is **K'NEGEDU**. *K'negedu* comes from the root *neged*. *Neged* means "in front of", "in sight of", "opposite to", "counterpart". The *k'* adds the meaning "like, as, according to." Therefore, *k'negedu* modifies *ezer*, revealing God's perfect harmony.

K'NEGEDU = EQUAL, LIKE A MIRROR

God intended, by the creation of woman, to make a "strength" or "power" that would "correspond" to the man—**equal strengths**. Nothing in the text indicates the woman is inferior, weaker, lesser, limited, or in any way carries less authority than the man. **God created the man and woman to be powerful counterparts with a worldwide mission!**

OT References for EZER

Passages referring to God - 16 times:

Exodus 18:4; Deuteronomy 33:7, 26, 29, Psalms 20:2, 33:20, 70:5, 89:19, 115:9, 10, 11; 121:1, 2; 124:8; 146:5; Hosea 13:9

Passages not referring to God - 5 times:

Genesis 2:18, 20; Isaiah 30:5; Ezekiel 12:14; Daniel 11:34

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?