

"male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:27)

God's Grand Design

The Beauty of Biblical Complementarity

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Gen. 1:27)

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." (Gen. 2:18)

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. (Gen. 3:7)

- The complementarity of man and woman is an essential aspect of God's design before the Fall; not the result of the Fall

Patriarchs, Priests, Kings and Prophets

Old Testament Patterns

Old Testament Patterns

1. Equality of Men and Women

- equality in worship – women sang, danced, wrote songs, made vows, offered gifts and sacrifices (e.g. Ex. 15:20; Lev. 12:6; Num. 6:2; 1 Sam. 18:6)
- equality in prayer – women prayed directly to God (e.g. Gen. 21:17; 1 Sam. 1:9-10)

Old Testament Patterns

1. Equality of Men and Women

- shared role in teaching children spiritual truths (e.g. Prov. 1:8; 31:26)
- some share in the prophetic gifts and calling; four women called "prophetess"
 - Miriam (Ex. 15:20); Deborah (Judges 4:4);
 - Isaiah's wife (Is. 8:3); Huldah (2 Kings 22:14)

Old Testament Patterns

➤ *Role of the Prophet*

- served outside of the institutional authorities in Israel; situational and occasional
- no enduring governmental authority; no subjects obliged to follow; no human sanctions for ignoring their words

Old Testament Patterns

2. Priority of Male Leadership

a. Patriarchs

- leadership in the family was focused on the father; he was in charge of and responsible for the welfare of family members
- “patricentrism” – father resided at the center

Old Testament Patterns

2. Priority of Male Leadership

b. Priesthood

- priest exercised authority by mediating God’s relationship with Israel through sacrificial offerings, temple worship and teaching the law
- women were excluded, but they did serve at the doorway of the tent of meeting (Ex. 38:8)

Old Testament Patterns

2. Priority of Male Leadership

c. Monarchy

- Israel only had kings, not queens – the one exception (Athaliah- 2 Kings 11) was an illegitimate usurper
- as a “son” the king was to represent the Lord’s (his “father’s”) righteous, benevolent rule

Old Testament Patterns

- *Jesus, the incarnate Son, is the ideal male leader (provide, protect, and rule for our eternal good)*