



## Grain

“In this twenty-first century, an adequate human response to the ecological state of the world—especially among industrialized countries—will require a transformation as great as the transformation that occurred in the United States and other Allied societies when they rose to the challenge of war in the 1940’s. and outermost aspects.” –Rev. Dr. David Rhoads and Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing

## Field

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

<sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. Gen. 2:18-24

## Thoughts by William Mattson, Rhinelander, WI

The creation parable tells of early humans, Adam and Eve making selfish decisions while living in the Garden of Eden, their gifted paradise. As a consequence, it forever cost them their special relationships with their Creator, their paradise, and with their fellow humans. One common interpretation is that early humans forfeited a Heavenly life on Earth. Some mystics say that’s where Heaven truly is and it can be recovered. Adam’s and Eve’s blissful life vanished, and they came to discover that they were in a different place, far away from the paradise of Eden. The parable is about the importance and fragility of our relationships. It’s about how we humans can move either closer to or further away from a utopian heaven depending on how we value and nurture our spiritual and physical relationships with our creator, fellow humans, and our home, i.e. the rest of earthly creation. Can we discover and recover Heaven on earth by seeking loving relationships with one another, all of creation, and God? Isn’t that what Jesus taught? It may be argued that ALL of these relationships must be simultaneously cherished and nurtured and in good repair in order to find that sacred physical and spiritual place. Look around, and ask if we latter day Adams and Eves are climbing toward or are falling ever further away from our gifted Garden of Eden. God help us to help ourselves do better at these sacred relationships. We have immense responsibilities that precede our rights. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

William Mattson