

# Genesis 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

## Analysis

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**And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and b...** This passage continues the detailed account of Eden, human creation, and God's design for human flourishing. Genesis 2 complements chapter 1 by providing intimate details about human origins, the garden setting, marriage institution, and humanity's vocation as priest-kings in God's sanctuary-garden.

The narrative emphasizes God's personal involvement, careful preparation of human habitation, clear communication of covenant requirements, and provision for human needs including work, rest, relationship, and worship. The garden of Eden represents perfect environment where heaven and earth intersect, God dwells with humanity, and everything needed for life and blessing exists.

Key theological themes include human dignity as divine image-bearers, work as divine calling (not curse), marriage as covenant partnership, moral freedom with accountability, and the necessity of obedience for blessing. The detailed geography and placement of Eden in historical space-time (rivers, lands) presents this as real history, not mythology. These foundational truths establish the pattern for understanding humanity's purpose, relationships, and destiny throughout Scripture.

## Historical Context

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Genesis 2 provides a detailed account of human creation and Eden's establishment, using different literary style than chapter 1. Ancient Near Eastern parallels include the Sumerian Paradise myth and the Gilgamesh Epic's plant of life, but Genesis transforms these motifs within strict monotheism. The garden sanctuary with its rivers, trees, and divine presence parallels ancient temple theology where gods dwelt in sacred spaces.

The geographical references (Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel/Tigris, Euphrates) ground the narrative in historical space-time rather than mythological timelessness. While the exact location of Eden remains debated, the inclusion of identifiable rivers presents this as real geography, not allegory. The Mesopotamian setting connects to humanity's ancient origins in that region, confirmed by archaeology.

Ancient audiences would have recognized marriage's divine institution as countercultural, elevating women beyond their typical status as property. The intimate account of woman's creation from man's side presented revolutionary equality and partnership. The garden-temple imagery established patterns for Israel's tabernacle and temple, where God would again dwell with His people in sacred space requiring holiness and obedience.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?

2. How does this passage challenge modern cultural assumptions about identity, purpose, or morality?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and the gospel of redemption?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּצַר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	מִן	הָאָדָמָה	כָּל	חַי הָאָרֶץ
formed	the LORD	God	H4480	And out of the ground	H3605	every beast
H3335	H3068	H430		H127		H2416
הַשָּׂדֶה	וְאֵת	כָּל	ע וֶ	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וַיָּבֵא	אֵל
of the field	H853	H3605	and every fowl	of the air	and brought	H413
H7704			H5775	H8064	H935	
הָאָדָם	וְכָל	לֹא אֶת	מֶה	יִקְרָא	ל וֹ	אֲשֶׁר
them and whatsoever Adam	to see	H4100	called	H0	H3605	H834
H120	H7200		H7121			
ל וֹ	יִקְרָא	הָאָדָם	וְכָל	נֶפֶשׁ	חַי הָאָרֶץ	וְאֵל
called	H0	them and whatsoever Adam	creature	every beast	that	
H7121		H120	H5315	H2416	H1931	
שְׁמוֹ:						
was the name thereof						
H8034						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 1:28** (References God): And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

**Genesis 6:20** (Parallel theme): Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

**Genesis 9:2** (Parallel theme): And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

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