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# Exploring the Chronology of the Marital Union

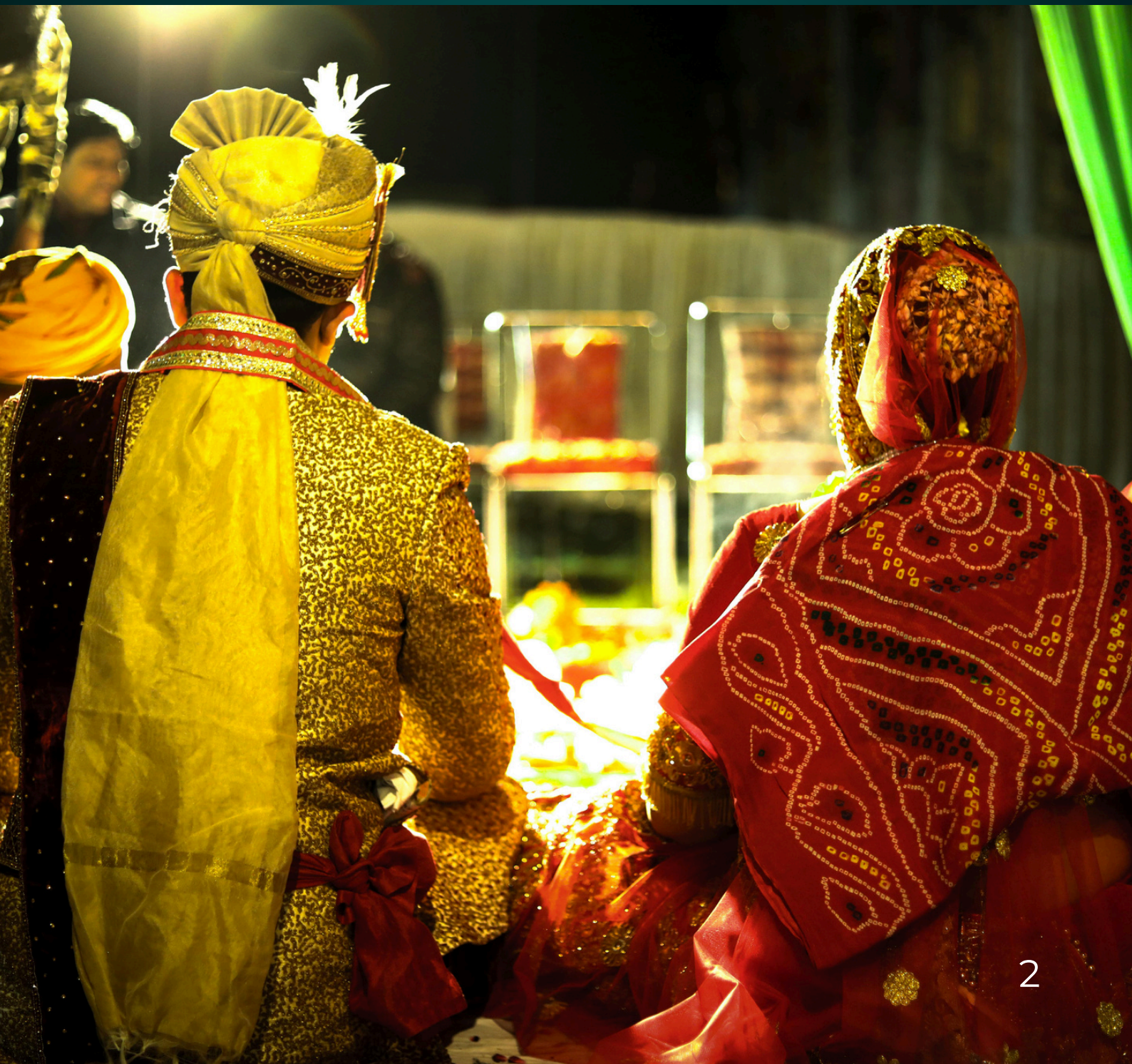
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Marriage is a relationship that exists between a man and a woman who have been joined together as husband and wife. There are quite a number of perspectives that seek to explain the roles and responsibilities of these two individuals in the marital union. There are many more that inform on the qualities the man should possess before he becomes a husband and what the woman must possess before she becomes a wife.

In this article, I have attempted to explore the chronology of the marital union by examining the record in Genesis 2 which gives an account of the order in which series of events took place to establish the marital union. I have outlined 11 steps in the chronology of the marital Union with attendant insight and suggestions for the aspiring husband and wife alongside their family and friends.





# 1: The Position

Genesis 2:8 (KJV). And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

When God formed Man, He placed him a place where he can be easily found. This positioning looks like a physical determination for man, however it also connotes where Man is to stand in relation to his relationship with God.

When man sinned and fell from grace with God, the first question God asked him in Genesis 3: 9 was "Adam, where art thou?" Sin had dislocated him. Definitely this wasn't a physical dislocation as much as a positioning with respect to his fellowship and relationship with God as God was always seeking to fellowship with him in the cool of the evening.

It is important that a man determines his physical and spiritual location before marriage. God defined the location of man by placing him in a specific and well defined place.

Where you position yourself is very important in influencing the opportunities and people that find you. The Bible said in Matthew 5:13-16 that "A city that is set on an hill cannot be hidden". It is true that there is mobility owing to career and business opportunities as time goes on but it is important for the man preparing to be married to be able to ascertain where he would be prior to the union.

**It is important that a man determines his physical and spiritual location before marriage.**



## 2: The Provision

Genesis 2:9-14 (KJV). And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

To provide suggests to supply with food, drink, or equipment, especially for a journey. God had just created a man to live and we are not particularly certain as to how long God wanted Adam alive but as long as he was alive, there was sufficient provision for him. God shows benevolence to man by ensuring that his survival and sustenance was provided for. God made fruit trees for food and allowed rivers to flow into the garden for the sustenance of the trees and the refreshing of man.

It is important that every man that is approaching a marital be assured of the provisions of God for the sustenance of his life. Matthew 6:26 says "Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns--and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Our worries should never be centred around what to eat and drink, there are provisions and a man going to get married must walk in the reality of this. The allocation of your provision is in your position. The man going to get married must come to terms that God is the source of his sustenance. Psalms 104:27 says "All creatures look to you [GOD] to give them their food at the proper time. (NIV)"

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# 3: The Assignment

Genesis 2:15 (KJV). And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

God made man an undertaker of a specific assignment. God took the man He had made, positioned and provided for and gave him work to do. No man approaching marriage should be without work. There is something that you must do. Man has got a heritage of greatness as earlier remarked in Genesis 1:26-30 but he still needed to work. God does not encourage idleness or laziness even after providing for your needs. Proverbs 12:24 says "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."

## **Man has got a heritage of greatness.**

A man who will not work will waste resources even if openly committed into his hands. God gave Adam his Job Description, He said he must "dress it and ... keep it". The assignment God gave man starts with creativity. To dress means to decorate something in an attractive way. God expects man to improve on what he finds in the garden. The groundwork has been done, he is expected to garnish, embellish, beautify, and enhance the value of what has been committed to him. God expected the man to keep the garden as well. To keep suggests that he was to look after the garden by guarding and protecting it. Man was made to work as a creative defender. The assignment that God gives reveals the competences that a man has.





## 4: The Rule

Genesis 2:16-17 (KJV). And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

A man thinking of marriage must be one guided by a code of conduct. He must have explicit rules governing his affairs in practically all areas of his life. God gave the man a rule. The man before the marital union was given principles that will serve as the foundation for his system of belief and behaviour. These principles provide a chain of reasoning. It is important that as a man conducts his affairs with others, he is guided by sound ethics.

### **A man desiring marriage must have explicit rules governing the affairs of his life.**

Every man looking towards marriage should be asked: "What are the explicit principles that govern the conduct of your life?"





# 5: The Thought of Making the Woman

Genesis 2:18 (KJV). And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

The next event in the chronology of the marital union was the expression of intention to unite the man with a helper suitable for him. God never intended for a wife for Adam before the first four steps. I have counselled that no man should consider marriage until he is able to ascertain that he knows his position, provision, task and rules for his being on earth. What God was literally saying here is that "it is not good that the man (one who knows his position, one who is assured of my provision, one who has an assignment and one who guides his affairs with principles) should be alone. Invariably, it is okay for a man without these four things to remain alone.

**The married woman stays in her husband's crib because she was taken from his rib.**

The thought of marriage should always be preceded by the aforementioned four events. It is also pertinent to assert that the man who has passed through the four events should be deliberate in his quest to be married.





## 6: The Test

Genesis 2:19-20 (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. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Man is a creation of God meant to fulfil a task on the earth. Just as manufacturers conduct product testing today, God did test the man before committing him to the task of leading the earth and importantly marrying a woman.

In a production process, a test is that procedure aimed at affirming the quality and reliability of something before it is made available for use. This was what God to Adam by bringing the animals He had formed to Adam to "to see what he would call them". We must be certified before we are deployed to lead and take charge.

**God tested Adam with the task of naming the animals in order to affirm his quality and reliability before committing the earth into his hands.**





# 7: The Making of the Woman

Genesis 2:21-22 (KJV). And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

The picture painted here shows us that the woman is a "spin-off" from the man. This means a woman was derive from the man. A woman is a derivative from the man. The value of a woman is derived from the man. Her being was made possible because of the creation and existence of man. This understanding is vital because it is expected that a woman's desire is to be towards her husband.

The woman upon marriage stays in the man's crib because she was taken from his rib.

**A woman is a derivative from the man.**





## 8: The Presentation

Genesis 2:22b (KJV). And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

God has his ways of bringing to us what He knows we need. He had said that man - Adam- needed a help meet. Upon the creation of the woman, God took upon himself the liberty of bringing the woman to the man. The man retained his position, managing his provision and executing his task based on principles, however, God guided his new creature on his path. God leads the woman to the place where the man will find her. God accompanied Eve to the point of her discovery. God took the role of the shepherd, guiding his creature to her lover. God positioned the woman where the man can see her because he is on a search for his own soul mate.

**God always lead the woman to the place where the man will find her.**





## 9: The Acknowledgement

Genesis 2:23 (KJV). And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

When a man sees a woman, he forms an impression of her. This impression doesn't necessarily lead to any desire for affection. The case is different for man actively in search of a life partner, he is able to tell which meeting with a lady leaves him with an impression to pursue affection.

**When a man sees a woman, he forms an impression of her.**

A man seeking to marry must ensure that whosoever he meets, evoke images of a union, and emotions that desires companionship and affection otherwise there's no need assuming she can be a wife to him.





# 10: The Standard

Genesis 2: 24 (KJV). Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

The model for a marital union was later conceptualised by the leaving of the man to the cleaving to his wife. The marital union demands that a man becomes very strongly involved in the affairs of his wife. Inability to do this was what gave room to the devil to deceive Eve. The standard of the marital union demands that the man become very emotionally attached to his wife.

Every marital union is for the sticking together of two individuals - man and woman - as one flesh. The term "one flesh" is used to explain the spiritual and physical union of the man and the woman in marriage.

**The marital union demands that a man becomes very strongly involved in the affairs of his wife**





# 11: The Practice

Genesis 2: 25 (KJV). And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

**The idea of marriage is such that the couple should live in honesty towards each other without having to nurture a sense of guilt.**

Having established the standard for the marital union, the bible revealed that Adam and Eve were both naked - vulnerable - towards each other and never felt ashamed - embarrassed or guilt. The idea of marriage is such that the couple should live in honesty towards each other without having to nurture a sense of guilt. Marriage is a union of openness that is void of embarrassment. It is a relationship built on transparency.

The marital union is a relationship of two people that are in need of special care, support, or protection because of their complementing abilities which may be pronounced or dormant.







## 11 Chronological Events toward a Marital Union





# 12 PROFOUND INSIGHTS FROM THE MARITAL UNION OF ADAM AND EVE

In an earlier article, I discussed the chronology of the marital union between the biblical Adam and Eve. Here, I want to share the profound insights I got from this exposition in Genesis 2.

- **vs. 8: God is responsible for positioning a man:** God places us in locations where He has made provision for our sustenance. God put Adam in the garden. The man before the marital union must know where He stands in his relationship with God.
- **vs. 9-14: God is man's source of supply:** God is committed to sustaining us. God is committed to providing for all our needs. He knows exactly what we will need to keep our lives going. The man before the marital union must acknowledge God as the source of all supplies and be rest assured that He will deliver on His word.
- **vs. 15: God recognises the need for work:** God does not encourage slothfulness even when He is responsible for sustaining the life that we live. The hand of the diligent will end up in rulership. The man before the marital union must have a career. Ideas rule the world but executors of ideas are the rulers of the World.
- **vs. 16-17: God sets our conduct based on rules:** The man before the marital union must show that his life is guided by principles. Rules are life tools that separate the wise from fools.
- **vs. 18: God acknowledges man's marital needs and provides for him:** God knows the deep-rooted needs of the man.
- **vs. 19-20: God agrees to test the man so he can affirm his quality:** Every man desiring the marital union must objectively assess himself to see if he is ready to take on and discharge the responsibility that accompanies marriage.





- **vs. 21: God is responsible for making help available to man:** The fact that man has an idea of what he needs in a lady does not mean he is able to bring it into being.
- **vs. 21: God put man's help within him:** The woman came out of the man's rib and moves on to stay in his crib. It is however to note that the woman that turned out to be Adam's wife was first in him. What helps man accomplish his goals is actually within him but must be further refined to deliver value.
- **vs. 22b: God guides the woman to the place where she would be found:** Man is on a search for a help meet for himself but little did he know that God had reached into him to make another woman. God positions the woman where she can be seen by the caring husband.
- **vs. 23: Men always form impression upon sighting a woman:** The impressions that a man forms in the first meeting with a woman is mostly sensual. Her desire must resonate with his for there to be a union.
- **vs. 24: Marital union excels with involvement:** The success of every marriage is dependent on how strongly involved the couple are towards each other. Marital relationships are strengthened to the extent that the couples are very emotionally attached to each other.
- **vs. 25: Marital union is made stronger because of no hidden issues:** A successful marriage is one that is filled with honest, open and transparent engagements that are void of fear, guilt, regret and embarrassment.

**God knows exactly what we need to keep our lives going.**





## God's Role in Preparing Man for Marriage





## Final Word

These 11 steps show the need to pay attention to details in the quest for a marital union. It has shown the quality of the man and the expectations from the woman. It has revealed the pattern that has become a standard for us to follow in the pursuit of marital bliss.





## Profile for Dr. Olumuyiwa Akinrole Oludayo

Dr. Olumuyiwa Akinrole Oludayo is a transformative leader and consultant with a distinguished career across higher education, human resource management, and organisational development. His professional journey reflects an enduring commitment to influencing impactful change and advancing practices that drive growth and excellence at both individual and organisational levels.

With a strong foundation in academia, Dr. Oludayo has contributed extensively to higher education as a Member of Faculty for Human Resource Management, guiding the next generation of professionals and leaders. His roles as Dean of Students, Registrar, and Director of the African Leadership Development Centre have enabled him to influence institutional leadership and capacity-building across Africa, crafting learning environments that are centred on holistic development and resilience.

As a Research Fellow with the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria, Dr. Oludayo has made notable contributions to HR practice in Nigeria. His publications and development of frameworks have significantly shaped best practices within the industry, equipping HR professionals with contextually relevant strategies that address both contemporary and emerging challenges.

Organisations that engage Dr. Oludayo's consulting expertise benefit from a wealth of experience and a bespoke approach to people management. Through his work, he has supported a diverse range of organisations in optimising their talent strategies, enhancing leadership capacity, and creating resilient teams. His consulting work is marked by a commitment to solutions that are analytically robust and deeply aligned with an organisation's unique culture and objectives.

By partnering with Dr. Oludayo, organisations gain access to innovative approaches to talent development and organisational effectiveness. His strategic guidance encourages a culture of resilience, adaptability, and continuous improvement. His proven ability to integrate strategic insight with a people-centred approach makes him an invaluable asset for organisations striving for sustainable growth and a competitive edge.

In bridging the realms of academia, research, and practical consulting, Dr. Oludayo offers a holistic perspective that is both visionary and results-driven. His contributions go beyond enhancing performance; they cultivate lasting organisational value, enabling businesses to thrive through a stronger, more cohesive approach to human capital management.

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