

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

O-1^M

Reading

Genesis 1: 26–28. 31a

Male and female he created them.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

²⁶ God said,
‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves,
and let them be masters of the fish of the sea,
the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts
and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’

²⁷ God created man in the image of himself,
in the image of God he created him,
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, saying to them,
‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it.
Be masters of the fish of the sea,
the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’

³¹ God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

Readings from the Old Testament

Looking at the Text

M O-1 Genesis 1:26-28, 31a:
Male and female he created them.

The Book of Genesis

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Some have called it the book of beginnings, for it starts with the stories of the beauty and goodness of Creation. It continues with God's plan for saving and blessing people, with stories of people being presented with opportunities, to choose between the bad or the good, to demonstrate faith when others around think they are mad, to believe in God's promises when it seems impossible, to make choices to forgive and to trust. Perhaps one of these stories might speak to you about opportunities and choices you make as a couple, which lead to great blessings in your life, for example, choosing to get married according to the rites of the Catholic Church.

This reading from Genesis, chapter 1, speaks of Man and Woman created in the image of God, and God's plan for them to live life to the full in an exclusive, loving commitment and fruitful relationship. And this image of man and woman together gives us a glimpse of what God is like.

Reflecting on Scripture together

Use the 'Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way' in the introduction 'Choosing your Wedding readings'.

Further Reflection

Following the 'slow reading' process, here are some questions for further reflection:

- How would you describe your relationship? What is 'very good' about your love for one another? What are your hopes for your life together?
- Why do you think this reading might be a good one for your wedding?

Note about the Reading

M = this indicates that this is a reading which speaks explicitly about Marriage. One of the chosen readings must be taken from those which are about Marriage.