

Origin and use of the hebrew term “ezer kenegdo” in the Old Testament

Origin:

(pronounced – ei-zer); masculine term; comes from the words that mean to “save” and “strength”.

Uses:

Genesis 2:18, 20 (NLT) 18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a **helper** who is just right for him.” ... 20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no **helper** just right for him.

- Exodus 18:4 (NLT) 4 His second son was named Eliezer,[a] for Moses had said, “The God of my ancestors was my **helper**; he rescued me from the sword of Pharaoh.”)

[a] 18:4 Eliezer means “God is my helper.”

- Deuteronomy 33:7 (NLT) 7 Moses said this about the tribe of Judah:

“O Lord, hear the cry of Judah
and bring them together as a people.
Give them strength to defend their cause;
help them against their enemies!”

- Deuteronomy 33:26 (NLT) “There is no one like the God of Israel.[a]
He rides across the heavens to **help** you,
across the skies in majestic splendor.

[a] Hebrew of Jeshurun, a term of endearment for Israel.

- Deuteronomy 33:29 (NLT) How blessed you are, O Israel!
Who else is like you, a people saved by the Lord?
He is your **protecting** shield
and your triumphant sword!
Your enemies will cringe before you,
and you will stomp on their backs!”

- Psalm 20:1-2 (NLT) *Fort he choir director.* A Psalm of David.
1 In times of trouble, may the Lord answer your cry.
 May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm.
2 May he send you **help** from his sanctuary
 and strengthen you from Jerusalem.

- Psalm 33:20 (NLT) We put our hope in the Lord.
 He is our **help** and our shield.

- Psalm 70:5 (NLT) But as for me, I am poor and needy;
 please hurry to my aid, O God.
 You are my **helper** and my savior;
 O Lord, do not delay

- Psalm 89:19 (NLT) Long ago you spoke in a vision to your faithful people.
 You said, "I have raised up a **warrior**.
 I have selected him from the common people to be king.

- Psalm 115:9-11 (NLT) 9 O Israel, trust the Lord!
 He is your **helper** and your shield.
10 O priests, descendants of Aaron, trust the Lord!
 He is your **helper** and your shield.
11 All you who fear the Lord, trust the Lord!
 He is your **helper** and your shield.

- Psalm 121:1-2 (NLT) *A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.*
1 I look up to the mountains—
 does my **help** come from there?
2 My **help** comes from the Lord,
 who made heaven and earth!

- Psalm 124:8 (NLT) 8 Our **help** is from the Lord,
 who made heaven and earth.

- Psalm 146:5 (NLT) 5 But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their
 helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

- Isaiah 30:5 (NLT) 5 all who trust in him will be ashamed. He will not **help** you. Instead, he will disgrace you.”
- Ezekiel 12:14 (ESV) 14 And I will scatter toward every wind all who are around him, his **helpers** and all his troops, and I will unsheathe the sword after them.
- Daniel 11:34 (NLT) 34 During these persecutions, little **help** will arrive, and many who join them will not be sincere.
- Hosea 13:9 (NLT) 9 “You are about to be destroyed, O Israel— yes, by me, your only **helper**.

Note: In Genesis, both – man and woman – are called to multiply and rule the earth, and to be the image of God. Gen.2:18,20 – Says **ezer kenegdo** which means “the help that goes before him” or “the one that fights beside you”. To be a “helper” is not subordinate but also not superior, rather, it means that the one helped can not do it without the helper.

Observations: Almost every time this term appears it is used to describe God Himself as our helper, especially in circumstances where He fights for us. Obviously, God is not inferior to us - neither is the woman inferior to man. This phrase describes an important purpose in marriage: to fight for each other, not against each other.

Examples of when God commands the man to listen to the woman:

Gen.21:12	1 Sam.25:32-35	2 Chron.34:22/2 Kings 22:14	Ruth 2-3
Acts 18:26	Matthew 27:19 (Pilate should’ve listened to his wife!)		

Examples of when you should NOT have listened to your wife:

Adam (Gen. 3:6)
Ananias (Acts 5:1-10)

A Wife of Noble Character (Prov.31)

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NLT)

- 10 [a]Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.
- 11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.
- 14 She is like a merchant's ship, bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.
- 16 She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.
- 18 She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night.
- 19 Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.
- 20 She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.
- 21 She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.
- 22 She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.
- 23 Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.
- 24 She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.
- 26 When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness.
- 27 She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.
- 28 Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:
- 29 "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!"
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.
- 31 Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

[a] 31:10 Verses 10-31 comprise a Hebrew acrostic poem; each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Observations:

- Does she seem "weak" or "meek" or "ignorant" or "useless"?
- What are the most outstanding qualities that impresses you about women?