

## God's Dream Lesson 1

- a. One Sentence Summary: When we define God's dream, we will be able to live life the way God wants it to be lived.
- b. Outline
  - i. Introduction
    1. God has a dream.
    2. Genesis 1.26-27 God made man in His own image. We were created in the image of God. Those words "in the image of God" mean that man was not created in the likeness of any of the creatures that had been created before Him.
    3. This means that humans share (in an imperfect and finite way) God's nature, His character.
    4. Therefore our lives are SUPPOSE to reflect God's life, His personality, His truth, His wisdom, His creativity, His love, His holiness and His justice.
    5. As His children, as we create new things, we should realize, "We are reflecting God because God is a creator."
    6. As believers helping others through trials, we should be realizing, "Hey, this is a reflection of God because God is the great counselor." Just about everything we do (besides doing evil) is a reflection of God.
    7. We have the ability and power to dream things for the future.
    8. Whether it is "What we want to be when we grow up" or "what we want to do in our line of work" or "How God can use us to advance God's kingdom..." we all dream.
    9. And if we dream, and we are created in the image of God, then we are concluding that God dreams....
  - ii. Body
    1. There is a huge difference in God dreaming and our dreaming. Our dreams may never come true. We may work at them with all of our heart, but we may fall short. This is different from God's dream.
    2. When God dreams, it happens. It comes about. God makes it that way and it is a perfect dream with a perfect outcome. One which reflects who He is, and how He seeks to reveal His purposes and glory.
    3. God would have a "Big" Dream and it would have something to do with the word "eternal."
      - a. Rev. 4.6-7 And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having an **eternal gospel** to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."
      - b. Heb. 13.20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the **eternal covenant**, *even* Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- c. Hebrews 9:12 talks about eternal redemption, referring to Jesus death to give us eternal life....
  - d. 2 Thess. 2:16- 17 says, “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. You and I will be comforted by our Lord eternally... forever and ever!
  - e. 2 Thess. 1:6-10 Not only is there eternal comfort, but there will be **eternal destruction** and pain. For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
  - f. Heb. 6:2 and Matt. 25:41 also speak of eternal judgment and eternal fire.
  - g. Romans 1:20 speaks of God’s eternal power...
  - h. Hebrews 9:15 speaks about an eternal inheritance... something we will receive.
  - i. In 2 Pet. 1:10-11 we read: Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11for in this way the entrance into the **eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. Jesus has an eternal kingdom. We get to be a part of it. We will be in it. This too is a part of God’s dream
  - j. In 1 Peter 5: 10 we discover another piece to the puzzle. After speaking about how we may suffer for God’s kingdom, we read: 10After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to **His eternal glory** in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. We are called into the eternal glory of Christ. His glory, will last forever and ever and we will be a part of it. This passage again points us to the fact that God’s dream deals with glory, and now specifically, the glory of Christ!
  - k. 2 Tim. 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.
  - l. 2 Cor. 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an **eternal weight of glory** far beyond all comparison,
4. All of these are pieces to the puzzle of understanding God’s dream. If we could find the outer frame of the puzzle, you know, finding the pieces that have a flat side to them and putting them together, then we would have a much easier time figuring out this eternal dream of God.

5. This “frame” begins to come together by looking at Eph. 3:8-11. Because here, Paul speaks about an eternal Purpose of God... He speaks about how it was a mystery for such a long time that both Jews and Gentiles are to be a part of the body of Christ (because for such a long time, the original disciples felt it was only for the Jews...Paul was trying to reinforce, “No, it is for the Gentiles as well.”) He finally says the wisdom of doing all of this is being revealed to the angels in heaven through us, the church!
6. The Key: all of this is being done according to His “Eternal Purpose...” Eternal purpose. That sounds like the dream... The big picture of what God is doing...
  - a. 8To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;
  - b. 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.
  - c. 11*This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
  - d. God has an eternal purpose! That sounds like a dream... God’s dream. ; What God wants to do forever and ever and ever...
  - e. And it is a purpose and a purpose that is eternal.
  - f. Verse 9 tells us that the mystery about the Gentiles was kept “hidden in God.”
  - g. God can choose to hide something from us. It can be for a few days, for a few years, for a few decades, for a few centuries, and in this case, it was withheld for a few millenniums.
  - h. That which God hides is difficult to see. This is why Paul says in 1 Cor. 13:12 “Now we see in a mirror dimly...” There are lots of texts that tell us that understanding God’s way can be difficult.
  - i. Job 11:7-9 says: “Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty? “*They are* high as the heavens, what can you do? Deeper than Sheol, what can you know “Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.
  - j. Is. 40. 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.
    - i. The word Inscrutable is defined as: incapable of being investigated, analyzed, or scrutinized; impenetrable. 2.not easily understood; mysterious; unfathomable:
    - ii. God’s understanding is that way. It is mysterious, incapable of being investigated, analyzed, or scrutinized;

- k. Rom. 11:33 “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!
  - l. Deut. 29:29: “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.
  - m. Deut. 29:29 NLT “The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that He has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.
  - n. There are secret things that only God knows about. We are not held accountable for those. What God does reveal, that is what we are held accountable for.
7. Does “God’s Dream” fit into the “secret things known to no one?” Well, in one sense, yes, but in another sense, we can try to fit the pieces of the puzzle together and discover that dream.
  8. And if we know what the dream is all about, then we can align our lives up with that purpose, our families with that purpose, our churches with that purpose...with what we are calling, God’s dream.
  9. Wouldn’t it be phenomenal to be able to say, “I know what God is doing on an eternal basis? I know what God is up to! I see the big picture!”
  10. That’s what we are trying to do in this short section. We want to discover God’s dream so we can know it and live according to it.
  11. That’s what we are trying to do in this short section. We want to discover God’s dream so we can know it and live according to it. We haven’t defined it yet, but we will in the next few lessons.
- iii. Conclusion
1. When we define God’s dream, we will be well on our way to living life the way God wants it to be lived, pursuing His greatest glory while receiving the greatest Joy.