

## God's Dream Lesson 4

- a. One Sentence Summary: Part of God's dream is to exalt His Son resulting in all nations worshipping Him.

- i. Introduction

1. We are asking questions like, "Why did God create?" Inside that question is the question, "Why did God create us?" But more importantly is the bigger question of "Why did God create anything?"
2. Review
  - a. In our first lesson we found out that there was an eternal purpose of God. It is eternal in the sense that God will be living it out forever and ever...in all of eternity
  - b. In our second lesson we found out that God takes great pleasure in the dream. Everything was created "for His pleasure." You and I are here for His pleasure.
  - c. With this, we were reminded that God has emotions. We saw in the scriptures that there are things that can please Him. There are certain things that do not please Him.
  - d. And we also found out that God had this dream in His mind before Genesis 1:1 took place. In other words, before He spoke into being the first star, this plan, this dream was in His mind.
  - e. All of this we described as puzzle pieces as to what the dream actually is. But we never really felt like we found the heart or the core of what that eternal purpose of God was specifically about.
  - f. In our third lesson we discovered what we called "a third" of that specific purpose. And that related to the fact as to "WHY" we are saved and seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.
  - g. And the answer came to us that we are saved and seated with Christ in the heavenly realms so that God can live out and show off the incomparable riches of His grace expressed to us in Jesus Christ forever.
  - h. And we found from Moses' time before the Lord in Exodus 33, when Moses cried out "Lord, show me your glory" that grace is a part of the glory of God.
  - i. So we linked grace to glory and concluded that God wants to live out His glory and show it off forever and ever.
  - j. This was the first-third of God's eternal purpose. But there are still two other parts to discover.

- ii. Body

1. To discover this second- "third" of the core of God's dream, we need to go back and talk about mysteries.
2. The scriptures speak of many mysteries or "secret things" Let's reference just a few of them in the N.T.
  - a. Matthew 13:11 speaks of "the secrets [mysteries] of the kingdom of heaven"
  - b. Luke 8:10 speaks of "the secrets [mysteries] of the kingdom of God"

- c. In 1 Corinthians 4:1 we find out that we are “servants of Christ... entrusted with the secret things [mysteries] of God”
- 3. Now I want you to notice that many of the mysteries revolve around Christ.
  - a. In Ephesians 3:4 it speaks of “the mystery of Christ”
  - b. And in Eph.5:32 states “a profound mystery... Christ and the church
  - c. Colossians 1:27 speaks of “the mystery, which is Christ in you”
  - d. Colossians 2:2 speaks of “the mystery of God, namely, Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
  - e. In Col. chapter 4: verse 3 “the mystery of Christ”
- 4. One key mystery to focus on is Ephesians 1:7-9 referencing the mystery of His will.
  - a. In verse 7 we read: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.
  - b. Take out the descriptive phrases and it reads “In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.
  - c. There it is. There is the second part of the three parts of the Dream of God. He wants to sum up all things in His Son Jesus Christ.
- 5. Jesus is to be the Lord of all. All things are to be under His rule and command. He is to be the sovereign leader triumphing over the church and the lost. Put simply, Jesus is Lord and God the Father wants us all to know it.
- 6. All of this shows us God is positioning His son to shine as the all surpassing wonder and awe of all creation.
  - a. First, God made Jesus to be the image of the invisible God.
  - b. Colossians 1:15 And He is the image of the invisible God,
  - c. Hebrews 1:3 says it this way: 3And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature ...
  - d. This pleased the Father in verse 19  
“For it was the *Father’s* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,”
  - e. One of the reasons God wants to exalt His Son Jesus is because He is the radiance of His glory...the image of the invisible God.
  - f. Secondly, God exalted Jesus as the firstborn over all creation...in other words; He has preeminence in all things. What Paul is trying to show is the supremacy of Christ, remember, that’s the whole purpose of the book of Colossians.
  - g. “Firstborn” implies both Christ’s priority *to* all Creation (in time) and His sovereignty *over* all Creation (in rank).

- It signifies He has dominion over all things. As the first born in a family He was heir and Lord of all back in those times.
- h. A third way God has exalted Him is that God created all things For Him and through Him AND all things hold together in Him.
    - i. Colossians 1:16-17 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
    - ii. This means that the galaxies, the earth, the sky... and you and I were created by Christ and FOR Christ, and we hold together in Him. We are not our own wandering around aimlessly. We are by Christ and for Christ.
    - iii. **If you are being held together, then God must still be pleased with you and has a purpose and plan for you.**
  - i. Also in this Colossians passage, He is the head of the church. This is the fourth way God is exalting Him. He is to have first place in everything! Verse 18...He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
    - i. When the church comes together, Christ is the head. He is our leader. He is our Lord. He is to have first place in all of our lives, our goals, our plans and our dreams.
    - ii. We were created to have Christ as Lord of our lives. When that happens, our existence is working the way God designed it to work. Our lives will have the greatest purpose and peace when this happens.
  - j. A fifth way God has honored Jesus is by making Him to be our judge with regard to eternity.
    - i. In John 5:22 we read: 22“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,
    - ii. Matthew 25:31. “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. “All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.
    - iii. Jesus is the one who will separate the sheep from the goats. To the sheep on the right, He will say, “Go, inherit the eternal kingdom prepared for you.”

To the goats on His left He will say, “Go into the eternal fire...”

- iv. Because He is our Savior, we should love Him.  
Because He is our judge, we should fear Him.
- k. A sixth way God will show the supremacy of His son will be in giving Him His kingdom
  - i. Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
  - ii. Jesus is the heir of EVERYTHING the Father has. He gets it all.
  - iii. Philippians 2:5... Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. 8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
  - iv. By what Christ did in honoring the father... that being dying on the cross, humbling himself to the point of death when He could have claimed, “I AM GOD”... because of that, God highly exalted Him. God has honored Jesus as Jesus lived for Him... God wants to show the supremacy of His son. All of this is done, “to the glory of God the Father.”
- l. A final way Jesus is exalted by God the Father is by having Him sit down at the right hand of God signifying rule and authority.
  - i. Heb. 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
  - ii. Later, in speaking about Christ being our high priest, he writes: 1Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. Sitting at the right hand of a throne bears great significance. It has embedded in it the idea of

“rest” and “rule.” Rest from all His enemies, they have been subdued. And rule...great power and authority. This is what Jesus was referencing in Matthew 28 verse 18 when He said to His disciples, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

m. God has honored His son greatly. He has positioned Him as the supreme heir and authority of all things, bearing His image. And as God lifts up His son in preeminence, God specifically wants all nations to worship Him. We see this repeated over and over again in the scriptures.

i. Matthew 28: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

ii. Luke 24:46 and 47: “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

iii. Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

iv. Does God ever make it happen? Yes. Our answer is found in Revelation 5:9...“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

v. Why is God so set on having all nations worship His son? John Piper’s reasons come from His book “Let the Nations Be Glad” on page 199: In this passage, John speaks of the fame and greatness and worth of an object... This is what we are saying God wants to increase for His son...The fame and greatness and worth of an object of beauty increases in proportion to the diversity of those who recognize its beauty. If a work of art is regarded as great among a small and likeminded group of people but by no one else, the art is probably not truly great. Its qualities are such that it does not appeal to the deep universals in our hearts but only to the provincial biases. But if a work of art continues to win more and more admirers, not only across cultures, but also across decades and centuries, then its greatness is irresistibly manifested.

iii. Conclusion: So what is the second part of God’s dream? He wants to exalt His Son, who is the exact radiance of Himself, and have all nations worship Him for His beauty and worth. For then, the greatest exaltation of Christ will take place showing His value and worth forever and ever...