

Series: The Love of God Series: Level 1 – Session 3

Title: God's Dream For Man – Part 1

Author: Eduard Serediuc

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Introduction

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ "Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- God was looking for someone to love – to be LIKE him and relate to Him, to afford rulership and authority
- We weren't created for a selfish motive – look at the following verses, (29-31) making everything for us!

Proverbs 8:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,
³¹ Rejoicing in His inhabited world, and **my delight was with the sons of men.**

- Just as the prophets and even David in Psalms would speak the words of Jesus before He came, we see Solomon speaking the words of Jesus from heaven.

God Finds a Friend

- Adam & Eve > Sin > not to live forever (tree of life)

Genesis 5:21-24 (NKJV)

²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.
²² After he begot Methuselah, **Enoch walked with God three hundred years**, and had sons and daughters.
²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.
²⁴ And **Enoch walked with God**; and he was not, for God took him.

- God found a friend. Enoch walked with God 300 years (v. 2).
- Enoch "pleased" God (delight).

Hebrews 11:5 (NKJV)

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that **he pleased God.**

Genesis 6:5-8 (NKJV)

⁵ Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every intent** of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually**.

⁶ And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

⁷ So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

- God is sorry, He let it go until He found **ONE** man: Noah.
- He was not being mean when He brought the flood, it hurt to destroy His Creation (He has emotions!).

God Finds Another Friend

Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.

² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Abraham – Was he asked to be a servant? No, God wanted to bless him.
- Abraham – In you, ALL the families will be blessed [Is. 41:8 refers to Abraham as His "friend"].
- So, we see that God keeps looking for friendships so that He would fulfil His promise from Genesis 3:15.

Abraham Becomes Israel

- Fast-forward story: Abraham becomes Israel... slaves in Egypt (Abraham > Isaac > Jacob (Israel) > 12 sons (Joseph) > Egypt > (Pharaoh that didn't know Joseph) slavery > Moses).

Exodus 19:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you **to Myself**.

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be **a special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

- I delivered you... **special treasure (a daily delight)**:
 1. Brought you to Myself - to be with us
 2. Keep my covenant
- God again is looking for His people that He can bless and love and who can be His daily delight.

Exodus 25:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 29:44-46 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests.

⁴⁵ **I will dwell** among the children of Israel and will be their God.

⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

- Here's the amazing part of the story where God, the Creator, who lives in heaven, the beautiful heaven, comes to these slaves from Egypt who are now in a hot desert and tells them: hey make Me a tent because I don't want to live in heaven right now, but I want to be with you.
- In Leviticus, God is making a deal with the people of Israel:

Leviticus 26:1-13 (NKJV)

¹ You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God.

² You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord.

³ If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

⁵ Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

⁷ You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

⁹ For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.

¹⁰ You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.

¹¹ I will set **My tabernacle among you**, and My soul shall not abhor you.

¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

¹³ **I am the Lord your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

- Eternal God wanting to be with US still!
- I will be **their** God

- I will dwell with THEM! (not in heaven?)

Numbers 13:1-3, 23 (NKJV)

¹ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."

³ So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the Lord, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel.

...

²³ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.

Numbers 13:26-33 (NKJV)

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷ Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

²⁸ Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for **we are well able to overcome it.**"

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

³² And they gave the children of Israel a **bad report** of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.

³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

- v. 27 – What does milk and honey mean? They surely didn't have rivers and milk and honey running all over. A land that flows with milk and honey signified 2 important things:
 1. To have a lot of milk ment you had a lot of cows or goats. So when God said the land flows with milk it ment they were going to have lots of herds and flocks and cattles. They knew they not only had milk, but meat and industry and jobs and business. That's what they heard!
 2. To have a lot of honey ment you had bees. But what do bees do? Polinate! And if you had a lot of bees, you had a lot of crops better than other people's crops. In United States there are about 90 crops that need to be polinated by bees. And they rent these bee hives from bee farmers just for the purpose of polination.

Numbers 14:1-11 (NKJV)

¹ So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.
² And all the children of Israel **complained against Moses and Aaron**, and the whole congregation said to them, **"If only we had died in the land of Egypt!** Or if only we had died in this wilderness!
³ Why has **the Lord** brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"
⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."
⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.
⁶ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;
⁷ and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
⁸ **If the Lord delights in us**, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'
⁹ Only **do not rebel against the Lord**, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."
¹⁰ And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.
¹¹ Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject **Me?** And how long will they **not believe Me**, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

Numbers 14:22-23 (NKJV)

²² because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these **ten times**, and have not heeded My voice,
²³ they certainly shall **not** see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

Numbers 14:29-31 (NKJV)

²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.
³⁰ Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.
³¹ But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

- Have you ever been rejected? Has anyone ever talked unfairly about you? Misjudged your character? The people of Israel did that to God and not only one time, but 10 times.
- Now all that first generation has died and we're moving forward to the second generation.

Israel's Second Generation

Deuteronomy 7:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ "When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,

² and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

³ Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

⁴ For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

⁵ But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

⁶ "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

⁷ The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

⁸ but **because the Lord loves you**, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 14:2 (NKJV)

² For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

- I want to be with you! In love. God could be embarrassed by how humbled He's being towards His creation!

The Most Rehearsed Story in the Bible

- The salvation from Egypt and the leading of the people of Israel into the promise land is the most rehearsed story in the Bible because of 2 reasons:
 - It is very dear to God's heart
 - It is a typology of salvation of how we were saved from sin (Egypt), born again and given salvation (the promise land).

Psalm 78:1-60 (NKJV)

⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children;

...

¹⁰ They did not keep the covenant of God; they refused to walk in His law, ¹¹ And forgot His works and His wonders that He had shown them. ¹² Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, in the land of **Egypt**, in the field of Zoan. ¹³ **He divided the sea** and caused them to pass through; and He made the waters stand up like a heap. ¹⁴ In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. ¹⁵ He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink in abundance like the depths. ¹⁶ He also brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. ¹⁷ **But they sinned even more** against Him by rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness. ¹⁸ And they tested God in their heart by

asking for the food of their fancy. ¹⁹ Yes, they spoke against God: they said, **“Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?”** ²⁰ Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. **Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?”** ²¹ **Therefore the Lord heard this** and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel, ²² Because they did not believe in God, and did not trust in His salvation. ²³ Yet He had commanded the clouds above, and opened the doors of heaven, ²⁴ Had rained down manna on them to eat, and given them of the bread of heaven. ²⁵ Men ate angels’ food; He sent them food to the full. ²⁶ He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; and by His power He brought in the south wind. ²⁷ He also rained meat on them like the dust, feathered fowl like the sand of the seas; ²⁸ And He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings. ²⁹ So they ate and were well filled, for He gave them their own desire. ³⁰ They were not deprived of their craving; but while their food was still in their mouths, ³¹ The wrath of God came against them, and slew the stoutest of them, and struck down the choice men of Israel. ³² In spite of this they still sinned, and did not believe in His wondrous works. ³³ Therefore their days He consumed in futility, and their years in fear. ³⁴ When He slew them, then they sought Him; and they returned and sought earnestly for God. ³⁵ Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. ³⁶ Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue; ³⁷ For their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant. ³⁸ But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath; ³⁹ For He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again. ⁴⁰ How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! ⁴¹ Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. ⁴² They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy, ⁴³ When He worked His signs in Egypt, and His wonders in the field of Zoan; ⁴⁴ Turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, that they could not drink. ⁴⁵ He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them. ⁴⁶ He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, and their labor to the locust. ⁴⁷ He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. ⁴⁸ He also gave up their cattle to the hail, and their flocks to fiery lightning.

...

⁵² But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock; ⁵³ And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

...

⁵⁵ He also drove out the nations before them, allotted them an inheritance by survey, and made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents. ⁵⁶ Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, and did not keep His testimonies, ⁵⁷ But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. ⁵⁸ For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, and moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. ⁵⁹ When God heard this, He was furious, and greatly abhorred Israel, ⁶⁰ So that **He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh**, the tent He had placed among men.

- God brought the second generation into the promised land and drove out all the enemies from their midst’s, they don’t have to pay rent to anybody, they are not slaves anymore but land owners. Everything belongs to them. But after a few years, they start going to the hills and bowing down to carved images.

- God's heart was so injured... but His love makes Him relentless. God He will not give up on you.

Psalm 81:8-16 (NKJV)

⁸ "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, **if you will listen to Me!**
⁹ There shall be **no foreign god among you;** nor shall you worship **any foreign god.**
¹⁰ **I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt;** open your mouth wide, and **I will fill it.**
¹¹ "But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me.
¹² So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels.
¹³ "**Oh, that My people would listen to Me,** that Israel would walk in My ways!
¹⁴ **I would soon subdue their enemies,** and turn My hand against their adversaries.
¹⁵ The haters of the Lord would pretend submission to Him, but their fate would endure forever.
¹⁶ **He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat;** and with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you."

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NKJV)

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—
³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.
³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Ezekiel 37:21-28 (NKJV)

²¹ "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;
²² and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.
²³ They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.
²⁴ "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.
²⁵ Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.
²⁶ Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.
²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
²⁸ The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." ' ' "

- God (Jesus) longs for a people to love Him – His DREAM

Zechariah 2:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the Lord.

¹¹ “Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

- Jesus is looking forward to coming – I wanna be with you.