

## **DREAMS: GOD'S FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE**

### **How does God speak to us through Dreams?**

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#### **I. Everyone Dreams**

- A. Albert Einstein's Dream
- B. Examples of dreams from other famous people
- C. God talks to us through our dreams
- D. We all dream every night
  - 1. Dreams are essential to our physical & emotional health
  - 2. God has a purpose behind our dreams

#### **II. The Bible is full of Dreams**

- A. One-third of the entire Bible is dedicated to dream/vision material
- B. Examples of Dreams in the Bible
  - 1. Abram (future slavery of people & Promised Land)
  - 2. Jacob (ladder into heaven)
  - 3. Joseph (had dreams & interpreted dreams)
  - 4. Gideon (would defeat the Midianites)
  - 5. Solomon (the gift of wisdom came through a dream)
  - 6. Pilot's Wife (told husband not to have anything to do with Jesus)
  - 7. Ananias (assist a man named Saul)
  - 8. Paul (stay and work with the new believers in Corinth)
  - 9. Jesus' birth (5 dreams & 3 visions)

#### **III. Ancient Cultures & The Church Fathers**

- A. Dream Libraries
  - 1. Ninevah
  - 2. Egypt
- B. Dreams of the Church Fathers
  - 1. Tertullian
  - 2. St. Augustine
  - 3. Cyprian
  - 4. Athanasius
- C. Dreams are for everyone; not a special gift of the elite or faithful few

#### **IV. What is a Dream vs. a Vision?**

- A. A Dream is a story-parable that happens while one is asleep.
  - 1. From Hebrew word halom meaning to make whole or healthy
  - 2. Content may be of our own creation or entirely from God
- B. A Vision is never dictated by the sleeper.
  - 1. Content is always from God.
  - 2. Hebrew word hazon meaning a divine revelation
  - 3. Can happen when you're asleep or awake
  - 4. Revelations of heaven, hell, spiritual battles, etc.
- C. Avenue to dialogue with God in a different way

V. **Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**

A. Read about it in Daniel 2

B. He couldn't remember his dream or understand it

1. We too can have difficulty remembering dreams.
2. Need to filter out excess noise and quiet ourselves to hear God's voice
3. Practice quiet reflection & prayer before sleeping
4. Keep a notebook beside bed to record dreams

C. Only God in heaven reveals mysteries (Daniel 2:27)

1. Pray directly to God for the significance of a dream
2. The language of dreams is symbols
  - a. Symbols are a language of pictures
  - b. Meaning of symbols can change from dream to dream
  - c. Jesus spoke in parables; think of your dreams as Jesus sharing a parable with you

VI. **Dream Categories**

A. Housekeeping Dreams

1. Reflect and comment on the events of our daily lives.
2. Sort out events of day before or prepare us for day to come
3. Can bring healing from old wounds

B. Archetypal Dreams

1. Full of symbols that may be unfamiliar to us
2. Symbols have parallels in mythology, fairy tales, & religious content.  
For example: snakes, angels, unicorns, etc.
3. Often come at a life crisis or point the way to major new personality developments that must be attained

C. God Dreams

1. The entire content is from God and given for a specific purpose
2. Can warn of danger, point you to help someone in need, convert someone to Christianity, bring Good News
3. Example of two dreams
  - a. Birth Announcement of Adopted Child
  - b. Muslim woman converts to Christianity after seeing Jesus

VII. **Testing the Interpretation**

A. Go directly to God in prayer for confirmation: ultimately, dreams should bring further understanding & peace, not confusion

B. Check your dreams against Scripture: God doesn't contradict himself by saying one thing in the Bible and the opposite in a dream

C. Seek confirmation from trusted Christian friends: does your dream and how you choose to apply it to your life make sense to those who know you best?

D. Heed the feeling you have in your own spirit about the interpretation: the truth of your dream will usually plant itself in your heart

E. Don't strain to get the message of a dream: sometimes it will be obvious and other times it will defy interpretation.

1. Record your dreams even if you don't understand them
2. Dreams can come in a sequence, often a pattern will emerge
3. Some dreams might not be understood for years (example of Joseph's early dreams in Genesis)

**VIII. Dreams Always Point to the One True God**

- A. Be cautious around people who wish to foretell the future through dreams
- B. Deuteronomy 13:1-4 . . . does the dream/miracle/sign point you back to worshiping the One True God?
- C. Dreams should always point us towards truth and restoration
- D. God wants to speak to us, have conversation with us, even if it means whispering in our ears while we're asleep!

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