

DR. JOE IBOJIE

BEST  
SELLING  
AUTHOR

# DREAMS AND VISIONS

VOLUME ONE

How to Receive, Interpret  
and Apply Your Dreams



Foreword by BISHOP JOHN FRANCIS

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Please note that this publishing style capitalizes certain pronouns in Scripture that refer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may differ from some Bible publishers' styles. Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. I choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.



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# Endorsements

*Dreams and Visions* stands tall among other books you might read on the subject of dreams and visions. It teaches the reader to understand and appreciate the voice of God in the night season of life through practical principles inherent in the Word of God. The author, Joe Ibojie, ministered in Cali, Colombia, and profoundly imparted to the Colombian Christians. The anointing of God was clearly evident in Joe's ministry as he taught and ministered with deep and dynamic revelation to Church leaders in Colombia. I recommend this book to all believers, young and old, including pastors and Church leaders. This book will create a new hunger in the Body of Christ and will cause them to listen to the voice of God and be guided by the Holy Spirit in a completely new way.

*Apostle Randy Macmillan*  
Founder of Mission South America Norfolk,  
Virginia, USA

This book and its Bible-based dictionary are a mighty tool in the hand of those in the Body of Christ who are seeking to recognize the voice of God in their life. God has blessed Dr. Ibojie not only with a powerful anointing and gift himself, but also with the grace to help others unlock the inner potential within themselves through powerful keys of wisdom and insight. This book is a treasure chest filled with God's revelation and hidden mysteries that have been waiting to be uncovered since before the foundation of the earth. *Dreams and Visions* shall bless, strengthen, and guide any believer in search of the purpose, promise, and destiny of God for their lives.

Thank God for this Christ-centered, Bible-based message that will restore the awareness that God continually longs to communicate His love, desires, and will to His children. "He

*who watches over Israel will never slumber nor sleep*" (Ps. 121:4). While you are sleeping, He is still speaking. Let he who has an ear (and the desire to hear) listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*Bishop Ron Scott, Jr.*

President, Kingdom Coalition International  
Hagerstown, Maryland, USA

The prophet Joel declares that "in the last days" the Holy Spirit's outpouring will include an increase in dreams and visions as a form of prophetic gifting. How many of us have had dreams and visions without realizing that God may be speaking to us in parables? It stands to godly reason that if the Lord is indeed speaking to us while we sleep, then He will also give the gift of interpretation so that we may understand what He is saying.

In *Dreams and Visions*, Joe Ibojie presents sound scriptural principles and practical advice that can help us to this end. As Joe repeatedly makes clear, such understanding is not formula-based, nor is it human reason, but "interpretation is of the Lord." Therefore, we must diligently seek Him.

Joe Ibojie is a medical doctor who is also an ordained minister of the gospel. He has an effective prophetic ministry with a Daniel-type anointing in the interpretation of dreams. That this book is clearly rooted in the Word of God is evidenced by his encyclopedic knowledge and Scripture use. I am sure many readers will gain much spiritual benefit from a careful reading of this book.

*Gordon Shewan*

Senior Pastor, All Nations Christian Fellowship  
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

This is a comprehensive study of the reality of spiritual dreaming. The significance of the prophetic language of dreams and how God's eternal purpose is expressed in our dreams is well established. Dr. Ibojie has studied the Scripture and uses biblical keys to unlock understanding

into this supernatural area of divine communication. He is a meticulous teacher of the word of God and a wise master builder, and his explanation of the interpretation of dreams is a foundational teaching that will greatly assist the believer in understanding the significance of dreams, without moving into error.

This study is balanced, well-written, and very motivational. It will be a blessing to the Body of Christ and is a must-read for all teachers of prophecy, elders of the congregation, and students of dreams.

*Emmanuel Ziga*

President, Grace for All Nations Ministries International  
Seattle, USA

Father God desires to speak to His people. The Lord is doing much of His communication in visions and dreams, but it has been difficult for many to determine what is from God and what is not. The Lord has given Dr. Joe a divine insight into the way He speaks to us through such heavenly encounters. This book is a practical guide that helps answer many questions, including God's purposes and types of dreams and visions and what they typically mean. There is also a wonderful chapter on how to hear the voice of God. We have found *Dreams and Visions* to be the best book we have read in regards to dreams and visions. Our prayers are for this book to be a blessing to many hearing the call of destiny from God as it's expressed to us in visions and dreams.

*Robert and Joyce Ricciardelli*

Directors, Visionary Advancement Strategies  
Seattle, Washington, USA [www.vision2advance.com](http://www.vision2advance.com)

I have been privileged to minister with Joe on a frequent basis. However, I am more privileged to know him not just as a person with Daniel-type anointing or as a prophetic voice (although he is frequently both of these to me), but as one of my closest friends. A true servant of God, Joe is a

man with a passion to see God's kingdom extend wherever he goes and to whomever he meets. Writing this book is simply an extension of that passion and it has come out of years of experience. He has worked it out on a practical level and seen people transformed and set free to a life of liberty and purpose in the Holy Spirit. Others have been built up, encouraged, and edified because they gained a clearer understanding of God's purposes and plans in their lives through a godly and, I believe, biblical interpretation of their dreams.

*Dreams and Visions* is a book to be revisited time and again. It corrects much of the flaky teaching about dreams that is often propagated and seeks to anchor everything in the truth and steadfast surety of Scripture. This is a book that every prophetic person in the Church should have and should study, weigh, and test it against Scripture. This book should be placed not on a shelf, but on a nightstand!

*Pastor Phil Sanderson*  
All Nations Christian Fellowship  
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

Dr. Joe Ibojie is a true man of God who walks in real integrity and ministers under the anointing and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Accurate prophetic revelation flows as Dr. Joe interprets dreams. I see this book as a manual to equip and inspire you in this area. The timing is just right for the release of this book, which is sure to unlock incredible truths that lie within your dreams and visions. As you read, God will open up your understanding on this little-heard truth and reveal a whole new avenue of hearing God's voice. Highly recommended as a must-read for every dreamer!

*Duncan Wyllie*  
Senior Pastor, Kairo Christian Outreach Center  
Peterhead, Scotland, UK

I have worked closely with Dr. Joe Ibojie as a member of the pastoral team of All Nations Church and the Greater Church



in Aberdeenshire. It has been my privilege to have had access to this book's genius and to monitor its progress from conception to completion. Joe has an extraordinary understanding of the meaning of dreams and the ministry of angels. He is a man of unusual gifting, passion, and tenderness, and his writing portrays the gracious nature of his character. The impact of his insights has had a profound effect on me. On numerous occasions, I have observed firsthand the liberty, joy, and peace that many individuals have received through Joe's ability to interpret, with certainty, the mysteries of their dreams. He is becoming a popular speaker in church conferences as his gifting is becoming better known and sought after by Christians. I am persuaded that *Dreams and Visions* will equip and enable many readers to develop a similar understanding of their own dreams. This book should generate a persuasion throughout the Church of the significance of dreams and their place in the myriad ways that God reveals Himself to mankind.

*Reverend Hector Mackenzie*

Bible Teacher, Director, Christian Solidarity Worldwide  
All Nation Christian Fellowship  
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

*Dreams and Visions* is a wonderful tool to help train and equip today's believers in the revelatory realm of dreams, as well as their interpretation and application. Dr. Joe Ibojie presents a vibrant book that is both inspiring and challenging.

*Catherine Brown*

Founder, Gatekeepers Prayer & Mission  
Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
[www.gatekeepers.org.uk](http://www.gatekeepers.org.uk)  
[www.millionhoursofpraise.com](http://www.millionhoursofpraise.com)

I've always had very vivid dreams, and it's only now that I've started to unravel them with the help of *Dreams and*

*Visions.* For the first time during prayer, I've started to receive pictures as well. This book has truly blessed me immensely.

*Jess Howells*  
Editor  
Kent, England, UK

I have always been skeptical about this “dream thing”, but there is a certain balance in this book that brings about an enjoyment in dream interpretation. I am proud of this hard work for the Kingdom. I have enjoyed and learned from reading this book by my beloved son Dr. Joe Ibojie. If the bible talks about it, we cannot afford to be silent. Thanks for this insight!

*Bishop Fred Addo*  
International Praise Cathedral,  
Kaduna, NIGERIA

# Foreword

When leaders of Scotland's Charismatic Church put on a "Prophetic Ministries" seminar several years ago, I did not realize that a prophetic word given to Joe Ibojie sowed the seeds that would lead him to greater heights in the prophetic realm, and, eventually, to his writing of this book.

We have traveled together a few times and ministered in various prophetic seminars. On one such occasion—while in America teaching on the prophetic at Crow Reservation in Montana—Joe said to me, "It's your fault because you prophesied over me!" All I can say is that I'm willing to take the blame and give God all the glory for the power of the prophetic word in Joe's life.

He is an outstanding man of God who has grown in stature in the prophetic ministry over the years. He has gained great understanding in the Holy Spirit of what it means to be prophetic, and of what our dreams can mean to us. Paul prayed for the Ephesians, "*may [God] give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better*" (Eph. 1:17).

This book on understanding dreams is a testimony to this prayer in Joe's life. He is able to take such knowledge and explain it in a way that we can all understand what our dreams mean. This is not a book just to read and pass on; it is one to go back and make reference to as you learn to interpret your dreams. We all dream, whether we realize it or not. Some dream more than others; so keep this book on the shelf (or on your nightstand) because you will need it again.

Joe writes as he speaks, and you can feel his passion in the pages, along with his eagerness to share what God has given him. He is also a firm believer in being part of the

local Church, and he contends for prophetic words being released to every believer. *“For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged”* (1 Cor. 14:31). Our heart is to see people realize their potential, be able to encourage each other, and reach out to the world.

Many people, both inside and outside of the Church, would love to have their dreams interpreted. Joe’s book is a great tool to help us serve the Body of Christ and reach out to the lost as we learn to hear God in this unique way.

*Pastor Joseph Ewen*

Founder and Leader of Riverside Church Network  
Banff, Scotland, UK

# Part One

## DREAMS AND VISIONS

# Chapter 1

## AN INTRODUCTION TO DREAMS AND VISIONS

Dreams and visions are natural to man. In fact, one can say they are part and parcel of the journey on earth. They are valuable survival tools in a world constantly distancing itself from God. The Bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered from God; and I believe that dreaming is one sure way of getting fresh mandate from Him. Ultimately, we need to hear God for ourselves on personal level. Revelation is a by-product of intimacy with God and revelatory “gifting” is the potential, or capability, to receive revelation. As Psalm 25:14 says, *“The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them.”*

Only by the Holy Spirit can one get a true and correct interpretation of dreams, visions, and mysteries of God. From Genesis to Revelation, the true meaning of the parables, dreams, mysteries, and “the handwriting of God” were divinely “sealed.” That’s why magicians, enchanters, wise men, and religious leaders in Egypt and Babylon could not interpret or understand these revelations. Up to this day, no other power besides God can tell the true meaning of a dream, no matter how simple the dream might seem.

In this book, I quote extensively from authorized Bible translations because I believe that the Word of God can speak for itself. Where appropriate, I have given a few of my personal experiences, but only to bring biblical truth to a practical relevance. By and large, the contents of this book are based on what is recorded in Scripture. Any other books on understanding dreams as written by non-Christians offer un-Christian methods of interpretation; unlike the

interpretations offered by this book, such are not inspired by the Holy Spirit. These authors are not filled with the Holy Spirit, so they are unable to understand spiritual things. Therefore, they offer “soulish” conclusions at best, which often mislead and misdirect those seeking true interpretation. This book endeavors to provide you with a necessary understanding to approach your own dreams through the Holy Spirit, and it does so by providing biblical illustrations and meanings of dreams and symbols, and by exploring the godly art of dream interpretation.

## DREAMS

Dreams come from God in the form of a parable language or illustrated stories. These personalized encoded messages are full of symbols that express the mysteries of God. As a result of the symbolism, dreams need some form of interpretation before a proper understanding can be gained. Interpretation can come to the dreamer either spontaneously, after praying to God about the dream, or through a person gifted in dream interpretation. Many people still hesitate to seek the meaning of their dreams, although it is biblical to do so; yet dream interpretation should be a carefully guided effort. Wrong interpretation has the potential to lead a person into bondage.

God utilizes very individualistic language in communicating to us in dreams. He takes it from our life experiences, specific personal traits, and biblical examples. God also uses events in our lives that no one knows about except Him, and sometimes incorporates these into His communications. So, a person gifted in dream interpretation can help with one’s understanding, but correct interpretation must come from the dreamer due to a dream’s specific, individualistic traits.

Contrary to the view that some people do not receive dreams, I believe that God speaks to everyone through them in one way or another. However, most people are

unable to recall their dreams and, therefore, cannot appreciate their importance. Many people wonder why they do not receive many dreams. Some even claim that they do not dream at all, while others are simply at a loss at what to do with their endless amounts of dreams. These puzzles have no simple answers. But everyone needs to understand this incredible form of divine communication, so that regardless of what category you belong to, you can avail yourself of a dream's inherent potential.

During a dream encounter, your soul finds respite in an atmosphere devoid of the world's mind-set of tension; this is true whether you remember the dream or not. Dreams that cannot be remembered do have some value because they are sown into the dreamer's spirit. By the time you are 70 years old, you will have spent a lot of time in dreamland. During a dream encounter, God can impart to our spirits, just as He did when giving divine wisdom to a dreaming Solomon (see 1 Kings 3). Dreams, therefore, are more than just information packages; all the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be received through them.

God uses dreams to reveal Himself to the heart of man. Having a dream is similar to experiencing the spiritual atmosphere of the Garden of Eden; there are no limitations in time or in the dreamer's capabilities. However, good and bad impartation can occur in dreams because both good and evil spirits exist in dreamland, just as they did in the Garden of Eden.

God's major purpose for giving us dreams is so that we respond appropriately on earth to what He is doing in Heaven. The first, most important response to a dream is to pray for all its elements, events, and persons (both friends and perceived enemies); you should do that even before gaining an understanding of the dream's meaning. The next useful step is to record the dream and pay attention to what God might be saying—whether it's warning, encouraging, or corrective.



Most misunderstandings or fears evoked by a dream usually result from the dreamer's failure to realize that most events in a dream are *potential* circumstances. In other words, these situations can eventually occur, but are not inevitable. A dream that warns of danger is so that a person can avert the danger; a dream that speaks of good promises needs to be prayed through so as to result in its fulfillment.

One type of dream that can mislead is when the dreamer has forgotten some vital parts; partial information is dangerous. So, recording our dreams is of utmost importance. You should write down your dream in a notebook, because writing not only records the dream, but also allows God to throw in more insight for its understanding. Recording the date, time, and place when the dream was received is also important. Dreams fade if not recorded because God writes them in spiritual ink that fades.

God will increase the number of dreams you receive if you keep proper records of the dreams that you have had. He honors such efforts by unfolding greater insight and more revelation. As you study your dreams, God will reveal more of Himself to you through them. Delays in recording dreams may result in losing its essential elements, which may become irretrievable as the vanishing ink fades away.

A dream with a more clear promise brings a greater responsibility to act on it, and there is also greater enemy opposition against its fulfillment. The interpretation in dreams must be properly studied, as both the dream and its interpretation may need further understanding. Do not try to adjust what you see in the dream to what you know in the natural. Sometimes the person you know is superimposed onto the one whom you do not know.

A dream may occur or be remembered in fragments. In most of these cases, God usually wants to focus on the parts that one can remember. Fragmented dreams may also indicate poor reception, as due to a dreamer's sin or a lack

of prayer. God may also be protecting the dreamer by concealing some aspects of a dream. When you do have dream recall, it's through a prompting of the Holy Spirit. Sometime God gives dream revelation for you alone, so that you can offer it up in prayer—it's *not* for public pronouncement.

One of God's purposes in sending us dreams and visions is ultimately to align us with His plans. He speaks to us where we are to lead us further into Christ. The purpose of dreams and visions is to break through our rational thought patterns to show us what we have yet to hear or believe. There must be a willingness to obey what God says to us in dreams and visions, so that we can realize the overall end-time purposes of God.

In Scripture, some dreams affected the entire destiny of mankind; to these dreamers of old, their reveries were just ordinary dreams at the time of receiving them. Therefore, one should wonder about the possible relevance of dreams we get today.

#### DREAM OR VISION?

True dreams sent by God come in the form of multimedia packages—a mixture of images, metaphors, similes, poems, dreams, and remarkable story lines during sleep. Dreams are only received when one is asleep, which is not the same as a vision. Dreaming is not restricted only to night season; dreams are received in the spirit and then get translated into the mind for comprehension. Our mind has a pictorial depository where dream imagery is received and processed. Sanctifying the mind prepares it to receive dreams without corruption, despite background noise of the world's events.

A vision, however, is the visual perception of revelation or supernatural occurrence through our spiritual eyes; these are often more real and more literal than dreams. One can receive a vision even when the mind is awake.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DREAMS AND VISIONS

DREAMS	VISIONS
<p>To receive dreams, the mind has to be asleep:  <i>Genesis 15:12-13: "As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the Lord said to him, 'Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.'"</i></p>	<p>Visions are received with varying degrees of mind alertness, through trances, apparitions and divine sights. An open vision is received with the natural eyes wide open.</p>
<p>Dreams are always experienced on personal basis.</p>	<p>Visions can be experienced in a group setting:  <i>Acts 22:6-9: "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute Me?' 'Who are You, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' He replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of Him who was speaking to me."</i></p>
DREAMS	VISIONS
<p>Dreams are received by the spirit of man, and are mostly spirit-to-spirit encounters. What seems to be bodily involvement in our dreams is due to visions within dreams.  <i>Daniel 7:1: "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream."</i>                      This is the so-called dream/vision category, common in the ministry of Seer.</p>	<p>Visions may involve varying degrees of the physical or natural realm, such as tangible bodily experiences.  <i>Acts 22:10-11: "'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me."</i></p>
<p>Dreams are <i>more symbolic</i>.</p>	<p>Visions are <i>more literal</i>.</p>
<p>Most dreams need to be <i>interpreted</i> symbolically.</p>	<p>Visions need to be carefully <i>evaluated</i> before proclamation.</p>
<p>Dreams are often more <i>divinely coded</i> on purpose for the dreamer with personal symbolism. Twilight dreams are less ambiguous because they require prompt response.</p>	<p>Visions are <i>more real, often clearer, and may require little interpretation</i>. They may, sometimes, demand immediate or prompt response.</p>

## DREAMS AND VISION INTERPLAY

Dreams and visions can interplay in a dreamer's life in many ways. A dreamer can have many manifestations: either external or internal visions; visions in a dream; visions in a vision; a dream within a dream; or a dream in a vision. On the whole, various combinations of this interplay occur. Although dreams are purely spiritual experiences (or spirit-

to-spirit encounters), visions are spiritual encounters with differing involvement of various levels of the natural realm.

The prophet Daniel aptly described the dream and vision interplay in Daniel 7:1. Unlike a vision, a dream is welded to a dreamer's heart and has the potential of stirring up the deepest part of a human heart. Bodily involvement is also not primarily common in pure dreams. Most times, what seems to be bodily movement in dreams is a result of dreams with visions within them.

For most dreamers, the majority of spiritual encounters within dreams also contain visionary components. Therefore, what can occur appears to be bodily involvement when dreaming, or even a carryover of pain from a dream/vision category when the dreamer awakens. *A pure dream should have no carryover of bodily pains because it's a spirit-to-spirit affair.* On the other hand, visions have a varying degree of involvement with the natural realm. For instance, Paul was blinded for three days after his conversion, and Jacob walked with a limp for the rest of his life after his visionary encounter.

God Himself spoke of the subtle differences between dreams and visions when He spoke of Moses: *"When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal Myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams"* (Num. 12:6). The fact that God says, *"I speak to him"* indicates intimacy or a further deepening of relationship. On the other hand, *"I will reveal Myself "* means showing God's nature or displaying His attributes. Therefore, dreams connect with God's heart, whereas visions reveal His nature. No wonder it is only by revelation that we experience the true nature of God.

## Chapter 2

### GOD'S PURPOSES IN DREAMS AND VISIONS

Ultimately, God uses dreams to align our hearts, thoughts, and intentions to His eternal purpose. He may use dreams in a variety of ways: to answer our questions; to appoint us to a new mission; to command changes in how we live; to commune with us concerning secrets of His heart; to promise us something yet to come; to teach us vital truths that we might have missed, and so forth.

Many misconceptions about dreams result from precepts of worldly wisdom. Humanistic ideology states that dreams only tell us unresolved aspects of a dreamer, such as anxieties, bitterness, jealousy, unforgiveness, secret yearnings, and untapped ambitions. This school of thought further claims that all these occur in dreams because the person has not recognized them while awake, or is perhaps even unwilling to admit to them. The fact is that God relates these aspects in our dreams both to correct our excesses and to guide us into truth. He brings them into our dreams for the purpose of aligning us with His eternal purpose. As the Bible says:

*For God [does reveal His will; He] speaks not only once but more than once, even though men do not regard it [including you, Job]. [One may hear God's voice] in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men while slumbering upon the bed, then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction [terrifying them with warnings], that He may withdraw man from his purpose and cut off pride from him [disgusting him with his own disappointing self-sufficiency]. He holds him*

*back from the pit [of destruction], and his life from perishing by the sword [of God's destructive judgments] (Job 33:14-18 AMP).*

The message of a dream or vision can come in many ways: as prophecy (most common); a word of knowledge; a gift of discernment; a gift of healing; a gift of wisdom; or as a gift of interpretation. Solomon was given wisdom in a dream. He woke up and was wiser and began to demonstrate divine wisdom and respect for human life. God can radically rewrite our lives through the dreams we receive. Dreams have the power to expand, confirm, enlighten, enrich, and deepen your understanding of God's Word:

- Through dreams, we get more details and specific direction for achieving a given task. Dreams can also give hidden insight of wisdom specific to the situation.
- It is important to know that God does not send dreams to embarrass, condemn, or confuse us.
- Through dreams and visions, God grants us insightful understanding of our own hearts. The apostle Peter's wrong mind-set that Gentiles were unclean (which came from his Jewish upbringing) was revealed to him through visions he received from God:

*"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven (Acts 10:14-16).*

In modern terms, these visions sound like what many would describe as "pizza dreams," which supposedly come from eating junk food too late at night. But these dreams

were divinely inspired, even though Peter did not understand the message until much later.

- God uses dreams and visions to give us insight into circumstances of life and the true reason behind our experiences. Abraham's dream of his descendants going into slavery in Egypt was foretold and explained as follows:

*Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years (Genesis 15:13).*

- God exposes satan's plans and gives us insight into hell's assignments.
- God designs some dreams to be therapeutic; He reveals hidden hurts from the dreamer's past and gives healing.

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared*

*to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized (Acts 9:10-18).*

- Some dreams and visions have significant intercessory calls, and may require the dreamer to stand in the gap through prayer.

*During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them (Acts 16:9-10).*

- Through dreams, God gives the voice of proclamation and deliverance. That is so we can be the voice of agreement that allows God’s transformation and renewal to come to a situation, as in Amos 3:7: *“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.”*

*During the night I had a vision—and there before me was a man riding a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses. I asked, “What are these, my lord?” The angel who was talking with me answered, “I will show you what they are.” Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, “They are the ones the Lord has sent to go throughout the earth.” And they reported to the angel of the Lord, who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace.” Then the angel of the Lord said, “Lord Almighty, how long will You withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which You have been angry*



*with these seventy years?" So the Lord spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. Then the angel who was speaking to me said, "Proclaim this word: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, but I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they added to the calamity.' Therefore, this is what the Lord says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there My house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,' declares the Lord Almighty. Proclaim further: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem'" (Zechariah 1:8-17).*

- Through dream symbolism, God can design a dream in such a way that it is not acted on until the time comes for its understanding; only then can the appropriate action be taken. Some dreams unfold in stages because their message is for both current and future fulfillment:

*Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected" (Genesis 42:8-9).*

#### OTHER FUNCTIONS OF DREAMS

- Dreams contain superior wisdom and intelligence because of the Spirit of God.
- They show where we are wrong.

*Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the*

*synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" "Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:1-6).*

- They show us where we have not yet taken on a Christ-like attitude (see Peter's vision in Acts 10:14-16).
- They warn us concerning danger (see Mary and Joseph hiding Jesus in Matthew 2:11-15).
- They predict future events.

*Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered round mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me" (Genesis 37:5-9).*

- They reveal the deeper meaning of our lives.
- Dreams are places where our spirit, our soul, and sometimes even the real purpose of our lives, returns to rest: in an atmosphere not dominated by our mind.

HOW GOD USES DREAMS AND VISIONS IN SCRIPTURE

The Bible is full of many instances where God used dreams and visions as channels through which He reached out to humanity. *“Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets [in dreams, in visions, and even face to face] telling them little by little about His plans”* (Heb. 1:1 TLB). God spoke to Abraham in dreams, telling him of the many years his descendants would be slaves and strangers in a country not their own:

*As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterwards they will come out with great possessions”* (Genesis 15:12-14).

This part of Abraham’s covenant was cut in a dream because, at that time, his mind would have been incapable of comprehending the truth of this revelation. Similarly, Joseph (of the coat of many colors) saw his destiny in a dream and yet did not totally understand its content. When the dream’s fulfillment came many years later, its magnitude was beyond his wildest imagination, and the Bible records that *“he remembered his dreams about them”* (Gen. 42:9).

In a vision asking for his help, the apostle Paul received a call to Macedonia. As a result of this vision, the gospel entered Europe (see Acts 16:7-10). The Bible records that he concluded, *“God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”* This vision was pivotal to the advancement of God’s kingdom into Europe. Whenever the meaning of a dream or vision has been confirmed, we should take up our responsibility.

### *Joseph’s Dreams*

Let's take a look at Joseph in Genesis 37:1-10 and explore God's purposes for him through the anatomy of the dreams.

*Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of corn out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered round mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" (Genesis 37:1-10).*

In breaking down both dreams to look at their individual meanings, we find the following information:

### *First Dream*

<b>SYMBOLS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>POINTS OF NOTE</b>
Sheaves of grains out of the field.	Joseph and his brothers.	<i>Background setting.</i> Joseph's dreams were given within the context of a kindred feud in Jacob's household. As Joseph struggled with animosity in the family,

Joseph's sheaf of grain	Joseph would be elevated above his brothers.	God revealed his future, and allegorized it with his current struggles in the family.
Field.	Their life situation.	
"Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright..."	Joseph's elevation.	Indicates the suddenness of Joseph's rising from being a prisoner to becoming a prime minister.
Bowing.	Obeisance and respect for high authority.	

### *Second Dream*

SYMBOLS	MEANING	POINTS OF NOTE
Me.	Literally referring to Joseph.	Confirmation and further exposition of the first dream.
Stars.	Important personalities.	Tilted focus: the brothers were so carried away by their obeisance to Joseph in the dreams that they failed to see that God regarded them as "stars." The second dream, therefore, was meant to speak encouragement to the brothers and reveal their importance in God's plans. They were to become the patriarchs.
Moon and Sun.	Rulers of the known world.	Joseph's father and mother did not bow before him, but the rulers of the known world did, once he became prime minister of the greatest kingdom on earth at the time. Joseph had a narrow perspective of the promised ruler role that God showed him in the first dream. To correct this imbalance, God used the moon and the sun to indicate that his rule would cover nations of the known world.

These two dreams were not the same, but each presented different aspects of the same subject and emphasized different points. The second dream confirmed the first as established in Heaven and addressed issues that arose in the minds of Joseph and his brothers after the first dream.

#### *Dreams God Gave to Unbelievers in the Bible*

Here are some key dreams that God gave to unbelievers, which affected the course of history.

- Abimelech the Canaanite king: In Genesis 20:1-7, Abimelech had a dream in which God told him that Sarah was Abraham's wife.

- Laban, the Aramean, Rebekah's brother: In Genesis 31:22-24, he pursued Jacob but was apprehended by God in a dream to "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."
- Pharaoh of Egypt: In Genesis 41:1-7, God gave him a dream of the global famine that would follow seven years of prosperity.
- The Midianite, an enemy soldier: In Judges 7:9-15, Gideon was encouraged by the dream and its interpretation, which he heard while on a divinely inspired spy mission to the enemy's camp. God did this to bring His people to victory at a critical moment in their history.
- Pilate's wife: In Matthew 27:19, "While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: 'Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.'"

### *Figurative Use of the Word "Dream" in the Bible*

Ecclesiastes 5:7:

*For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God (NKJ).*

*Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore stand in awe of God (NIV).*

*Dreaming instead of doing is foolishness and there is ruin in a flood of empty words: fear God instead (TLB).*

The entirety of Ecclesiastes 5 addresses the issues of human attitudes towards God. In this instance, using the word dream is not related to prophetic dreams or messages from God. Rather, it speaks of the foolishness entailed in too much planning without work.

Jude 1:8

*Yet these false teachers go on living their evil, immoral lives, degrading their bodies and laughing at those in authority over them, even scoffing at the glorious ones (those mighty powers of awful evil who left their first estate) (TLB).*

*Likewise also those dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority and speak evil of dignitaries (NKJ).*

Using the term dreamers indicates that they were not being realistic. In other words, they were merely daydreaming.

Isaiah 29:7-8

*Then the hordes of all the nations that fight against Ariel, that attack her and her fortress and besiege her, will be as it is with a dream, with a vision in the night—as when a hungry man dreams that he is eating, but he awakens, and his hunger remains; as when a thirsty man dreams that he is drinking, but he awakens faint, with his thirst unquenched. So will it be with the hordes of all the nations that fight against Mount Zion (NIV).*

This is a figurative use of the word *dream* being used as a simile, which is a phrase that makes comparisons explicit by using the formula of *like* or *as*. This Scripture means that dreams happen in a supernatural way and may not always be taken literally as being as real in the natural.

#### DREAMS AND VISIONS THAT AFFECTED OUR DESTINY

In looking at scriptural examples of dreams that affected mankind's destiny, I hope to jog your mind as to the possible relevance of your own dreams. Remember, these particular people of old had what they believed to be ordinary dreams, but these reveries ended up greatly impacting mankind.

#### *Joseph: The Earthly Father of Jesus*

Obedience enhances the seer's ability to hear the voice of God. Joseph stands as a giant for his role as the earthly

father of Jesus. But he's also an exemplary figure for his art of hearing God, his unwavering faith in God, and his unswerving commitment to obeying His commandments. Joseph had an extraordinary ability to receive messages from God with profound lucidity, which he then followed with prompt obedience. More than this, his swift obedience was necessary.

Joseph's dreams were mainly direct speeches from divine messengers, which had no ambiguity and allowed for his prompt obedience. After receiving dreams with remarkable angelic interactions and dream phrases, he acted promptly. By doing so, he secured humanity's destiny. He epitomizes the dreamer with an excellent spirit who receives messages from God and pays attention to them.

From the outset, Joseph was destined to a role in the background away from the limelight. A carpenter of probably little significance, his only prized possession was the young lady to whom he was betrothed. Like any young man, he looked forward to marriage with great expectation. No doubt, he quietly waited for this blossoming lily in the garden of his heart. At this point, however, like lightning in the sky, his boat was rocked by an emotional avalanche of the news of Mary's pregnancy. Although hard to believe, she was pregnant and not by him! Bewildered by the circumstance, Joseph was at a crossroads. The ground itself must have shifted beneath his feet. Nevertheless, Joseph kept his cool and stayed committed.

He agonized and sobbed, but even then remembered kindness. In an act of kindness, he decided to keep the news from becoming public so as to save Mary's life. At the close of the day, he retired to the comfort of his bed. Sleep fell and overwhelmed him, putting off his weary body and mind from further agitation. In the serenity and tranquillity of this night, Heaven visited humanity. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and gave him understanding as to the true reason behind his "troubles."



*This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-21).*

Joseph obeyed God and married Mary. He lived with her, but kept his distance. He resisted his carnal urges, subdued the lusts of his flesh, tamed his tongue, and looked after Mary and her pregnancy. He restrained himself so that humanity might have Jesus, according to the promise that He would be born of a virgin woman and that His purity would remain undefiled. The devil could not find any hold on Jesus, just because one man—Joseph—had the ability to rule his emotions and flesh; in doing so, he gave hope and purpose by providing disciplined parentage for Jesus on earth.

After the birth of Jesus, King Herod became jealous. Jesus' life was in jeopardy. Again Joseph had another dream:

*When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him." So he got up, took the child and His mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called My son" (Matthew 2:13-15).*

However, that did not mark the end of Joseph's dreams. When the time came to leave Egypt, he had yet another dream:

*After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." So he got up, took the child and His mother and went to the land of Israel (Matthew 2:19-21).*

*But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene" (Matthew 2:22-23).*

A dreamer's ability to receive revelation with clarity is connected to the purity of his lifestyle and his obedience to what God says. The life of Joseph also clearly reveals that angelic involvement is a defense in a dreamer's ministry.

#### OTHER EXAMPLES IN SCRIPTURE

- Peter's Vision: Salvation Is Extended to the Gentiles

God said to Peter, *"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean"* (Acts 10:15). This was a landmark revelation—first to Peter and then to the entire Jewish people—that salvation belonged not only to Jews, but also to the Gentiles.

- Paul's Conversion

Paul was chosen to carry the gospel to the Gentiles, therefore shaping our destiny. Ananias later received a vision from God confirming this: *“This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel”* (Acts 9:15).

- Abrahamic Covenant—Through Whom “All the Families of the Earth Will Be Blessed”

*After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can You give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir”* (Genesis 15:1-4).

*“In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking brazier with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates...”* (Genesis 15:16-19).

# Chapter 3

## TYPES OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

In order to understand dreams and visions more successfully, it is useful to take a look at the various types that can occur. This allows us to better judge our own interpretations and conclusions. Most dreams are symbolic, with God using metaphors for one object or person to represent another.

### TRUE AND FALSE DREAMS

The Bible has two broad categories of dreams: true dreams and false dreams. A false dream is a product of the dreamer's own delusion. Scripture says that any dream God has not sent is a false, made-up story and delusion of the human mind. In the Book of Jeremiah, God says, "I did not send them" and "their made-up dreams are flagrant lies." Consequently, you cannot receive a dream as true unless it is sent by God. If God has sent the dream, then it is a true dream with a message from Him.

#### *False Dreams: Made-Up Delusions From the Heart*

*"I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in My name. They say 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds?" (Jeremiah 23:25-26)*

*'Listen to the dream I had from God last night' they say. And then they proceed to lie in My name, how long will this continue? If they are 'prophets' they are prophets of deceit, inventing everything they say. By telling these false dreams they are trying to get My people to forget*

*Me in the same way as their fathers did, who turned away to idols of Baal. Let these false prophets tell their dreams and let My true messengers faithfully proclaim My every word. There is a difference between chaff and wheat! Does not My word burn like fire? ...Is not it like a mighty hammer that smashes the rock to pieces? So I stand against these prophets who get their messages from each other, these smooth-tongued prophets who say 'This message is from God.' Their made-up dreams are flagrant lies that lead My people into sins. I did not send them and they have no message at all for My people," says the Lord (Jeremiah 23:25-32 TLB).*

*For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed (Jeremiah 29:8 NKJ).*

*The Lord of heaven's armies, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the false prophets and mediums that are there among you fool you. Do not listen to the dreams that they invent, for they prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them," says the Lord (Jeremiah 29:8 TLB).*

The phrase "your dreams which you cause to be dreamed" refers to dreams invented because of people pressuring them to declare dreams— regardless of whether or not they actually had one. In the days of Jeremiah, prophets were sent on vision or dream quests and were expected to receive dreams or visions, as evidence of their being true prophets. As a result, many made up stories merely to save face.

*Then the Lord said to me "The prophets are prophesying lies in My name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divination, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds (Jeremiah 14:14 NIV).*

*Then the Lord said: "The prophets are telling lies in My name. I did not send them or tell them to speak or give them any message. They prophesy visions and revelations they have never seen nor heard; they speak foolishness concocted out of their own lying hearts (Jeremiah 14:14 TLB).*

*Then the Lord said to me, "the false prophets prophesied lies in My name. I send them not, neither have I commanded them, nor have I spoken to them. They prophesied to you a false or pretended vision, a worthless divination, conjuring or practicing magic, trying to call forth the responses supposed to be given by idols, and the deceit of their own mind (Jeremiah 14:14 AMP).*

*Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime, it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds; He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone. The idols speak deceit, dreamers see visions that lie. They tell dreams that are false. They give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd (Zechariah 10:1-2).*

## VISIONS

A vision is a visual perception of revelation or supernatural occurrence with the spiritual eyes. One can receive a vision even when the mind is awake. Great interplay exists between the natural and the supernatural, often with varying degrees of bodily activities and involvement of the physical realm. These bodily activities can sometimes result in healing, physical tiredness, or even physical afflictions after a visionary encounter. Most times visions need little interpretation, but they do require careful proclamation and applications. They speak not only of God's nature, but also offer more remarkable impartation to recipients than dreams.

### *Open Visions*

These occur when you watch an open scene with your eyes open, yet you “see” the scene in the spirit.

*I, Daniel was the only one who saw the vision, the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gaping at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees (Daniel 10:7-10).*

### *Divine Sight*

This is an open vision in which the natural surroundings blend into the overall scene. With divine sight, you cannot tell if the image is real or spiritual.

*Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God (Exodus 3:1-6).*

### *Closed Visions*

There are two specific types of closed visions. With your eyes closed, the image of the vision is “seen” in your mind as either:

1. Pictorial or static vision.
2. Panoramic vision (like a movie) in which there is motion.

#### INTERACTIVE DREAMS AND VISIONS

Interactive dreams or visions occur when an exchange happens between the dreamer and God in the encounter. In order for interaction to take place, the dreamer must be able to retain some degree of appropriate consciousness of his or her true, natural situation while in the dream or vision.

#### *Interactive Visions*

In my experience, interactive visions are more common than interactive dreams, but your experience may be different. Perhaps this is because visions involve varying degrees of the natural realm; therefore, it is easier to retain the degree of natural consciousness required for interaction to occur in visionary encounters. Peter had an interactive vision in Acts 10:9-20 in which God unfolded His plan of salvation to the Gentiles. Another example occurs when God appeared to Ananias and commanded him to lay hands on Saul to restore his sight (see Acts 9:19-16).

#### *Interactive Dreams*

The frequency of interactive dreams reflects the glory of God available to society and the grace of God in the dreamer’s life when the encounter occurs. The Lord warned King Abimelech of Sarah’s true nature as Abraham’s wife as a means of giving him grace from Abraham’s deception in disguising their true relationship.

*Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his*



*wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman." Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother?' I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands." Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against Me. That is why I did not let you touch her. Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die" (Genesis 20:1-7).*

### *My Personal Experience*

In an interactive dream, God once asked me to put Isaiah 54 into a song. I replied that He knew that I'm not a good singer and requested that He allow me to put only a few verses into a song. God insisted, however, that my song had to include the entire chapter. In the dream's next scene, I was heading home to inform my wife of the encounter. On the way, I met a gathering of Christians who were singing praises to God. I decided to join them and, to my surprise, they were all singing Isaiah 54. At the very moment I joined in, they were singing the second verse, which was being projected onto a big screen in the front of a hall.

This is how the Scripture read: "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." At this point, I woke up.

These are dreams or visions, including trances, which are received in twilight states. They come in various forms. Some are “breaking news” type encounters; others are of a summary type; and many are trances. All of these manifestations are common to the ministry of a seer.

### *Breaking News*

These dreams and visions are characteristically short, sharp, and clear, and are given mainly for the purpose of guidance. In the last days, God will increase His communication through various types of dreams. But He will particularly increase the number and lucidity of dreams received in the twilight state. God commonly uses “breaking news” dreams at critical periods in a dreamer’s life to align him to God’s purposes. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, had many such dreams in the period surrounding the future Messiah’s birth.

God also uses “breaking news” dreams to break through our natural defenses to convey an urgent message. On the whole, an increase in “breaking news spiritual encounters” of various sorts will occur in the last days. These manifestations are full of dream phrases, which give clear, unambiguous instructions or warnings; they are commonly associated with angelic messages and speak of “things that are happening” or what will happen shortly, hence the term “breaking news.”

For example, of Jesus’ future birth, the Bible states:

*But after he [Joseph] had considered this [divorcing Mary], an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from sins (Matthew 1:20-21).*

Further examples of breaking news dreams/visions can be found in Jacob’s dream (see Gen. 31:10-14), Laban’s dream

(see Gen. 31:24), and further dreams to Jesus' earthly father (see Matt. 2:12-13).

### *Summary Dreams*

God uses these dreams to recap the many dreams that may occur in a night. Summary dreams are common with high-volume dreamers or seers. These short dreams contain the main highlights of a night's spiritual encounters. I have had many of these dreams, and I tended to overlook them, but God revealed their purpose. Once, I was on a church retreat and I was going to speak the next morning. The night before I was scheduled to speak, however, I had many dreams that I couldn't remember. I woke up in the middle of the night and prayed about those dreams, even though I didn't remember them. As I drifted back to sleep, God told me in a dream that He was going to summarize that night's dreams for me, and that He had actually done this in the past even though I hadn't taken notice. The Lord then proceeded to give me main points of the night's encounters.

### *Trances*

A trance is a state of partial or complete detachment from one's physical surroundings. Trances are classic examples of twilight spiritual encounters. They can occur at any time and mimic the feeling of being between sleeping and being awake. Like "breaking news" dreams, trances are short, sharp, and clear and are usually rich in phrases and often involve angels. As in the Bible, they often speak to the person in unambiguous terms, mostly addressing imminent or ongoing issues that demand prompt action:

*About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance (Acts 10:9-10).*

*“When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking. ‘Quick!’ He said to me. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about Me’” (Acts 22:17-18).*

### PROCLAMATION DREAMS AND VISIONS

In certain dreams and visions, we can become the voice of agreement for God to proclaim His plans on earth. Proclamation dreams and visions can also occur through the voice of an angel, a divine messenger, or even God Himself. Most proclamations speak of decreed events, so we are well advised to take them seriously. Once proclaimed, the event happens almost instantaneously in the spirit realm, although its natural manifestation may follow later (see Zech. 1:8-17).

Another common form of proclamation is when God uses a respected spiritual leader or worldwide leader to declare an insightful spiritual statement relevant to the dreamer’s life. Sometimes the dreamer makes the proclamation and declares profound insights into a situation. On the surface, such proclamations may be totally out of context with a dream’s setting, but they can be deeply relevant to certain situations in the dreamer’s circumstances.

#### *My Personal Experience*

In one dream, I got out of a car while wearing an army general’s uniform. However, I didn’t realize that I had the uniform on until I got out of the car. I then declared to two people having an argument that, “If only you knew that there was urgency in the spirit,” then they would have to be more focused. At this particular time, God was speaking to me about the need to speed up what He had asked me to do.

In another dream, I was about to board a plane to attend a medical conference. (In my secular life, I work as a medical

doctor.) Before boarding the plane, I had to pass through a security checkpoint. The security officer called me “Prophet Ibojie.” When I asked the officer why he said that, the guard replied that I was wearing the badge of a prophet. I then realized that I had the badge on, and, as I looked behind me, I saw my medical files on the floor.

### *The Importance of Proclamation Dreams*

Proclamation dreams are important because they can be prophetic declarations to a situation marked by indecision or confusion. Another scriptural example can be found in the vision that Zechariah saw:

*Then the angel who was speaking to me left, and another angel came to meet him and said to him: “Run, tell that young man, ‘Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of men and livestock in it. And I Myself will be a wall of fire around it,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will be its glory within. Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,’ declares the Lord. ‘Come, O Zion! Escape, you who live in the Daughter of Babylon!’ For this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘After he has honored Me and has sent Me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye—I will surely raise My hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me. Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,’ declares the Lord. ‘Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become My people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent Me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because*

*He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling (Zechariah 2:3-13).*

#### PREDICTIVE AND CORRECTIVE DREAMS

Predictive dreams offer foresight. They can be:

- *Prophetic dreams:* Numbers 12:6; Deuteronomy 13:1-2; and First Samuel 28:6.
- *Blessing and destiny dreams:* Genesis 28:10-12; 37:5-11; and First Kings 3:5.
- *Turning point dreams:* the butler's dream in Genesis 40:9-15. Corrective dreams are insightful and can take the following forms:
- *Warning and correction dreams:* Job 33:14-18; Daniel 4:4-27; Genesis 20:3; and Matthew 27:19.
- *Encouragement and confirmation dreams:* Judges 7:13-15.
- *Guidance dreams:* Acts 16:10.

#### DREAMS/VISIONS THAT CALL TO SERVICE AND COMMISSION

Certain dreams or visions can register God's call and/or commissioning to a person's divine destiny in the Lord. Two examples of this are when Saul (Paul) was brought out of his lifetime career of persecuting Christians, and when Isaiah accepted his prophetic call with the purification of his lips.

*"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:5-6).*

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy,*

*holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'" (Isaiah 6:1-9).*

#### HEALING AND DELIVERANCE IN DREAMS

Many dreamers have received emotional healing in dreams, and testimonies of physical healing are plentiful. Several instances in Scripture depict dreamers either being strengthened physically or receiving encouragement in dreams. Some possible reasons why the dream atmosphere is conducive for such occurrences include:

- In dreams, God bypasses our logic, our preconceived notions, and other obstacles of the conscious mind to connect with our spirit, which is the center of man. Perhaps, like a mirror, a dream may have most relevance when it reflects what is wrong with us. However, this can be where we misunderstand our dreams the most.
- Dreams are where our spirit and soul return to find balance and real purpose in life, in an atmosphere not dominated by our mind.

- In our dreams and visions, God may show us where we have yet to take on a Christ-like attitude in life. See Peter's vision in Acts 10:14-16.
- God can give divine impartation in dreams to overcome our issues, problems, or fears.
- In dreams, God can take us back in time to reveal what needs to be properly dealt with.
- God can impart the required grace, mercy, and power for healing afflictions.
- A dreamer can become the voice of proclamation in a dream to decree a healing or deliverance on earth.

Emotional healing takes place in dreams or visions when (and if ) we submit to it. In Acts 10:9-16, for example, God delivered the apostle Peter from the mind-set that only the Jews were qualified for salvation. In terms of healing, there should be deliverance from hurts that occurred in our negative experiences, as well as from ungodly soul ties and unconfessed, habitual sins. Deliverance is also necessary from other destructive influences, including the spirits of Jezebel, divination, and witchcraft. Healing is also necessary from unforgiveness, bitterness, and a critical or judgmental spirit.

Until healing occurs, the enemy has an open door to terrorize a person, and this extends to dreams as demonic activities or nightmares. Once God heals the trauma, the memory is also healed and nightmares may disappear. This has been my testimony. One can say that fear damages the pictorial center and, quite possibly, also our word depository, which then plays up in our dreams as negative experiences.

#### THEOPHANIC DREAMS

These are dreams in which God appears and comes in the fullness of His glory and with awesome reverential fear. His appearance is so powerful that the dreamer is compelled to



listen. An example of a theophanic dream can be found with that of Abimelech speaking to God in Genesis 20:1-7.

#### Dialoguing With God in Dreams

This dialogue often takes the form of a series of dreams in which the dreamer awakens between dreams and intercedes in response to the preceding dream. God then replies to the dreamer's response with another dream so as to continue the discussion.

On many occasions, I have had dialogue with God in my dreams. I once had a series of seven dreams in about an hour, and all the dreams were on the same subject. In this encounter, God gave me progressive revelations in response to my intercession. Dialoguing in dreams can span a period of minutes, hours, days, weeks, or months. Therefore, it is most important that the dreamer record all his dreams.

We should ask God to give further information on anything revealed to us in dreams. Most of the time, God wants to continue speaking to us on these issues. Also, the majority of recurring dreams are God's progressive revelations on issues that the dreamer does not properly understand or has not adequately dealt with; the repetition is usually to address the dreamer's inner uncertainty or confusion.

One biblical example is found when Joseph (of the coat of many colors) had two dreams consisting of different details, yet they were on the same subject. Joseph's two dreams constituted a pair of dialoguing dreams. After the first dream, Joseph and his brothers responded to the dream. Then, God continued His discourse by releasing the second dream (see Chapter 2). Also, the repetition of Joseph's dreams indicates God's emphasis on the subject.

Abraham's dream in Genesis 15 is a combination of an interactive and dialoguing dream. In this visitation, God reassures Abraham about the future promise of his descendants. This encounter includes an interactive vision (verses 1-9), an interlude (verses 10-11) and the furtherance of his discussion with God (verses 12-18).

## “THIS IS THAT” PHENOMENON

A seer may not instantly gain full understanding of all that he receives. And there are many reasons why this may happen. Oftentimes, God will prompt him to recall relevant revelations when the need arises. Observe how God dealt with Samuel in regards to Israel’s future leader, Saul.

*Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel: “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over My people Israel; he will deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon My people, for their cry has reached Me.” When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern My people” (1 Samuel 9:15-17).*

### *The Value of “This Is That” Phenomenon*

Through the “this is that” phenomenon, Jesus’ disciples recalled the Old Testament writing, “Zeal for Your house will consume Me,” as was previously prophesied in Psalms 69:9.

*When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So He made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; He scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves He said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn My Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for Your house will consume Me” (John 2:13-17).*

The following prophetic Scripture from the prophet Joel was recalled by the apostle Peter in Acts 2:15-21 as he addressed the crowd on the Day of Pentecost:

*Even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls (Joel 2:29-32).*

Most dreamers may have experienced this phenomenon without recognizing it. Commonly, many feel familiarity with a place where they have never been in the natural. Truth be told, the majority of such cases are due to a quickening of spiritual familiarity from their own spirit.

#### PREMONITORY DEEP AND HEAVY SLEEP

Some seers are hit with a premonition of imminent, deep, heavy sleep when God wants to break through daily routines. The Lord does this to convey an urgent message in a dream, vision, or trance—because in order to receive a dream, one’s mind needs to be asleep, whether it is day or night.

Over the years, I have learned to discern when this unusual sense of premonition comes upon me. I have never found it to be crippling or disabling. Actually, this sleep is quite pleasant, even though deep and heavy. If resisted, the urge will usually go away quite easily, but when complied with, it can lead to outstanding revelation within minutes.

Many instances of this phenomenon occur in the Bible. Most take place within the context of visionary encounters. Abraham’s covenant was cut in a vision, and then later concluded in a dream. Genesis 15:12 says, *“As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.”* In this sleep, God

revealed what Abraham's mind was unable to comprehend at the time of his dream.

*Falling Into Deep Sleep Within the Context of Visionary Encounter*

God sends such deep sleep in order to bypass the mind, connect with the spirit of man, and avoid the seer's mind-set. This is necessary to impress the spirit with what the mind may be incapable of comprehending at the time.

*Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground (Daniel 10:9).*

*So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man (Genesis 2:20-22).*

#### APPARITIONS

This is a visionary manifestation of the supernatural in the physical realm, and it's perceived by natural senses. Apparitions were very common in biblical days. Although still quite common in modern times, many people experience them without realizing it. An apparition can be a tangible experience or an actual happening of a supernatural event in the physical realm.

Sometimes, they are barely more than mere sight; and at other times, they are a tangible sense of an actual experience in the physical realm. Apparitions are an example of interplay between spiritual and natural in visionary encounters. Most of them are interactive. Observe the phenomenon of apparitions in the following Bible passages:

*King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way (Daniel 5:1-6).*

*That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak (Genesis 32:22-30).*

*After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, I will put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell*

*face down to the ground terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," He said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus (Matthew 17:1-8).*

*When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours— otherwise not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart (2 Kings 2:9-12).*

*Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for His servant?" The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so (Joshua 5:13-15).*

## Chapter 4

# HOW DREAMS ARE RECEIVED, REMEMBERED AND RECORDED

### HOW TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR DREAMS

Since we see dreams with the eyes of the heart, we should not switch off the light in our hearts. God is the light of our human hearts—He is the Father of light—and if you fill your heart with God, then light will shine in. The Bible says, *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows”* (James 1:17). Therefore, we should commit the last moment of each day to meditating on God’s Word and preparing the spiritual soil of our heart for whatever dreams God may give us.

Make provision for keeping a record of your nightly encounter with God. Be sure you have a pen and notebook on hand. (Some people may find it easier to record dreams using a small tape recorder.) Meditate on the meaning of your dreams after they have been recorded and capture the essence of what God is saying to you. *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings”* (Prov. 25:2).

Most people find that fasting and prayer heightens sensitivity to the Spirit. Fasting prepares you to receive revelation faster and at a deeper level! Adding the reading of God’s Word to your fasting releases faith, which is our eye for operating in the supernatural. Peter’s fasting and prayers cleared the way for him to receive a groundbreaking vision of the Gentiles’ salvation:

*About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance (Acts 10:9-10).*

Before retiring to bed each night, it is also a good idea to meditate on God's goodness and kindness.

*Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger for ever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him (Psalms 103:1-13).*

#### HOW TO REMEMBER YOUR DREAMS

Most dreams vanish with the intrusion of daily thoughts. A dream and its vital details may also be lost if the dreamer is not at peace. Most dreams can be lost within a minute or two of waking up, so it's important to spend quiet time to let dreams speak into the stillness of our mind. We need this quiet time to recall our dreams. Before a day's busyness



starts, we should allow time for dreams to drift into the image center of our mind.

Stillness is not lack of activity, but calmness in the inner being. Remember, dreams can be hindered by the effect of alcohol, bitterness, anger, resentment, medication, and even physical exhaustion. Also, attempting to interpret a dream before its full recollection and recording is a common cause for losing vital parts of a dream. Another simple cause for lack of recall is when a dreamer does not give much attention to his dreams. We should recall our dreams immediately upon awaking, just as the prophet Zechariah did:

*Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lamp stand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights" (Zechariah 4:1-2).*

Dreams are received in the spirit when the mind is asleep and unable to receive translation. The mind participates best when it is awake. Dreams literally line up in the spirit, wait for the mind to wake up, and then get translated in the first few minutes of one's being awake. Many times, however, dreamers may think their way through things while dreaming. Therefore our mind is largely, but not totally, bypassed in dreaming. Dreams are most likely to be lost or forgotten in the first few minutes of waking. *"Like a dream he flies away, no more to be found, banished like a vision of the night"* (Job 20:8). Dreams are written in spiritual ink that quickly fades, so we must transcribe them into the more durable ink of human memory. We should always write down what we receive, whether it is clear or not:

*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he*

*was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream (Daniel 7:1).*

One of the most common causes of not remembering dreams is the intrusion of the voice of a person's mind. We must learn to put off our mind's voice, with its echoes of life's failures, successes, challenges, and unanswered prayers, all of which speak quite loudly. Dreams are best captured before pressures of life's routines start flooding into our consciousness.

A sudden noise upon waking up, such as from an alarm clock, is another common cause for failing to recall dreams. Noise drives away the stillness required for a dream to drift from one's spirit into the mind's image center.

#### HOW TO RECORD YOUR DREAMS

The Bible clearly instructs us to write down whatever we receive from God, whether in dreams or other forms of revelation. If we do not record dreams and visions, they are of little use.

*In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, each of them will turn from his wicked way; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin (Jeremiah 36:1-3).*

*Go now, write it on a tablet for them, and inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness (Isaiah 30:8).*

*Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it" (Habakkuk 2:2).*

*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show His servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1-2).*

A dream is often like one scene in a movie. Therefore, it's important to record all your dreams so that you can build up a broader picture over a period of time. From time to time, go over your dream recordings to gain a wider perspective of what God is saying: you might see an element that was missed from just a single dream:

*“All this,” David said, “I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me, and He gave me understanding in all the details of the plan” (1 Chronicles 28:19).*

In the process of writing down his revelations, David learned that God gave him more insightful understanding of what was being revealed. Recording dreams also brings in more details that might otherwise have been lost. Revelation should always be recorded to ensure that we have a hard copy of what God has said. This is important for several reasons:

- Future circumstances may suggest that we have misheard God.
- We can confront our circumstances with hopeful expectation of the substance of our revelation, as opposed to letting our natural circumstances seemingly deny it.
- Revelation that is recorded will not be easily forgotten amidst the storms of life.
- Recorded revelations may be made available to be reviewed by others.

A dreamer may wake up in the middle of the night to record a dream or vision. This may occur because God or an angel has directly awakened the person. *“Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep”* (Zech. 4:1). A dreamer may also awake in the middle of the night by acquiring the discipline to do so. *“At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me”* (Jer. 31:26).

#### HOW DREAMS ARE RECEIVED

##### *The “Antenna”*

God has to give revelation before anyone can receive it. A person’s capability of receiving revelation can be likened to a television antenna. The functioning of a television antenna depends on many factors—including its positioning, correct tuning, and availability of airwave signals. Similarly, a human “antenna” is also dependent on many factors in order to receive revelation. Different sizes of television antennas can be likened to varying degrees of giftedness needed to receive dreams and visions.

The Bible reveals that the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (see 1 Cor. 14:32). The same is true for using the gift of receiving dreams and revelation. The extent to which a gifted dreamer receives is dependent on what the dreamer does with this valuable gifting. Human “antennas” are primarily geared to receive from God, but they can also tap into a counterfeit channel in the spiritual realm and get hijacked by satan. Many spiritually gifted people are recruited into the devil’s service, such as in the New Age movement.

We must be cautious about what we receive and then truly discern where it is coming from. Satan controls a powerful network of information that can sometimes appear as God’s revelation. Remember, revelation is a fresh, divine spotlight on an aspect of God’s eternally established truth to humanity. If we misuse dreams, it might result in God’s

withholding further revelation, so we must believe that God speaks through dreams and visions and not treat them with triviality.

From the outset, it is vital to be able to identify factors that will ensure you receive correct revelation. For example, a proper security system must be in place to guarantee that reception of spiritual signals is put towards godly purposes. Tuning the frequency of human antennas involves training the human spirit to receive from God. This is done by studying the Word of God and by living a life of prayer and sacrificial service through regular fasting and growing in intimacy with God. All of these elements will increase the amount and clarity of dreams we receive.

#### GOD IMPARTS DREAMS INTO THE SPIRIT OF MAN

God releases dreams and visions to our spirit. This impartation is enhanced by the state of our spirit, which is determined by factors like spiritual wisdom, a sanctified conscience, and communion with God:

- Spiritual wisdom is the practical application of the Word of God and such wisdom always come from Heaven.  
*“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere”* (James 3:17). In other words, wisdom is comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God, as enunciated in His Word.
- A sanctified conscience is one washed by the blood of Jesus, which transcends the limits of the intellect. It also operates by the laying down of a personal agenda and preferring the interest of others to our own.
- Communion with God is the basis for which wisdom and conscience are birthed and maintained in God. We need constant communion between our spirit and the Spirit of

God. Understanding this will enhance the planting of dreams in the spirit.

Another factor that enhances an automatic sowing of dreams into the spirit *is being submitted to God*. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us, this is pivotal: *“How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live”* (Heb. 12:9b). Submission to God enhances the sowing of revelation in the human spirit.

#### HINDRANCES TO RECEIVING DREAMS

- When God withholds further revelation: An ultimate objective of dreaming is to call the dreamer to action. If this action is not taken, then the value and purpose of giving the dream goes unrealized, and the reception of further dreams is hindered. When this happens, God withholds further dreams and visions.
- When there is no peace in your spirit: Our spirit must be in a condition to release to the mind and receive what God is giving. Therefore, we must live in the peace of God, and maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- When we grieve the Holy Spirit: When the Holy Spirit withdraws from us, we do not receive revelation.

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you (Ephesians 4:29-32).*

- When revelation is not planted in the right place: The planting of dreams and visions in the human spirit is also hindered when we go to bed in anger. The Bible says, *“In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold”* (Eph. 4:26-27).
- When we live a prideful life: God resists the proud and exalts the humble. If you are full of pride, God does not give revelation. He may protect us from becoming too proud by sealing parts of the dream.
- When we use alcohol or drugs: These substances can depress reception and remembrance of dreams. They also affect release of dreams to the image center and the processing of revelation in the human mind. Drugs and chemicals cannot cause one to have dreams. But they do result in a chemical imbalance that produces hallucinations, which are quite different from dreams. A hallucination is defined as a *“false perception with a characteristically compelling sense of the reality of something not really present”* (*Reader’s Digest Universal Dictionary*).

Blurred images and distorted, fragmented dreams show signs of a planting in our souls that has somehow been hindered.

#### THE MIND WILL ULTIMATELY PROCESS THE DREAM

At first, our carnal mind is incapable of understanding revelation, although it can begin to process it. When dreams and visions are planted in our spirit, our mind gets bypassed; thus, emotion, sentiments, mind-sets, human will, worldly ambition, goals, and expectations are also bypassed. Properly processing dreams and visions means eventually having to involve our soul. Therefore, dreams and visions are eventually released from our spirit into our consciousness.

The dynamics of translating revelation from man's spirit to his mind is influenced by the dreamer's faith. Release of dreams to the mind is enhanced by faith in God. Without faith, a revelation will remain inactive in the spirit. Once a revelation has been processed, its meaning and understanding is correlated to the dreamer's natural circumstances; this stage is influenced by the peace and liberty that come from God's indwelling presence. Without faith, any release from the spirit of man is fragmented. Without the Holy Spirit's presence, there is no godly liberty and understanding. The Bible says that where the Spirit of God is, there is liberty (see 2 Cor. 3:17).

#### NORMAL SEASONAL VARIATION IN THE RECEPTION OF DREAMS

Whether you are a high-volume or low-volume dreamer, everyone has seasons of intense dreaming, and then seasons when dreams are scarce. Times of normal, seasonal lows in receiving and remembering dreams are characterized by:

- Peace and liberty, which the dreamer maintains from the Holy Spirit's presence, even though he is receiving very scanty dreams.
- God speaking through other means (such as the still small voice). The dreamer uses this period to develop further sharpness in other abilities.
- Inner assurance, so that the dreamer does not suffer from emptiness and unholy fear.
- Lack of anxiety or frustration.
- Usually quite brief period.

If a seasonal low in receiving dreams is rather prolonged, the dreamer should go back to former spiritual disciplines that may have lapsed unintentionally. Some seasons of poor reception are due to issues in the dreamer's life; this could



arise from a need to study the Word of God. In my practical experience, when my dreams are getting blurred, scanty, and difficult to remember, my first instinctive reaction is to study Scripture a little more:

- The Word of God gives you wisdom and is the light on your path. Without light, you cannot see.
- Meditating on the Word of God sharpens your imagination and enhances your ability to see in the Spirit. Holy imagination entails visualizing Bible scenes as you read the Scriptures. This practice prepares the soil of the mind to receive pictorial revelation.
- The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword and rightly divides between what is of the spirit and what is of the soul, marrow, and bone (between wholesome and unwholesome), and between attitudes and thoughts of the heart.

A lack of worshiping God could also be a hindrance. Worship brings the glory of God's presence to manifestation, and this glory has the power to dispel any form of darkness. Sin is also a hindrance to receiving revelation from God, and it seals the heavens from the dreamer. Mishandling previous revelation—especially by manipulation—will make God withhold any further revelation.

#### WHEN GOD SEALS THE ANTENNA OF THE PROPHET/SEER

God may withhold revelation beyond the normal, seasonal lows (as mentioned above). In many biblical instances, God sealed (or blocked) the antenna from receiving revelation due to people who persisted on sinning without repentance:

*Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless, be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer. The Lord has brought over you a deep sleep. He has sealed your eyes [the prophets]. He has covered*

*your heads [the seers]. For you the whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him "Read this please," he will answer, "I can't, it is sealed." Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read" (Isaiah 29:9-11).*

*As it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day" (Romans 11:8).*

*The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions (1 Samuel 3:1).*

*Her [Jerusalem] gates have sunk into the ground; their bars he has broken and destroyed. Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations, the law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the Lord (Lamentations 2:9).*

*And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer: Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions (Isaiah 28:7).*

#### THE EVIL REVELATORY DELAY

Satan can interfere with transmission from the spirit to the natural consciousness (the mind), which is where understanding and remembrance occur. The devil often interferes through the nearly incessant intrusion of our mind's voice. The devil can do this in two main ways:

1. He can input information into the human mind and make it appear as revelation, with the intention of causing confusion and deception.
2. He can hinder a dreamer's ability to translate what the spirit receives for its understanding in the human

mind. A block in translation is a major way the devil hinders the remembrance of dreams. Visions are less affected in this way.

When the work of satan is responsible for poor reception and remembrance of dreams, I call this “revelatory siege” and it’s usually characterized by:

- Frustration
- Anxiety
- Lack of peace
- Insecurity
- A feeling of emptiness

During this period of “delay”—when reception is hindered and translation of spiritual experience to human memory is blocked—God will often give revelation through other means.

#### DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF DREAMING

##### *High, Medium, and Low Volume Dreamers*

Revelatory giftedness is the potential to receive revelation. However, what is eventually received, and how this occurs, depends on one’s relationship with God, because the Lord confides in those who fear Him. Additionally, some people are gifted to receive variable volumes of revelations. The essential point is how the dreamers put giftedness into use. God is able to meet each dreamer’s needs within his level of giftedness.

There are high, medium, and low volume dreamers:

- High volume dreamers receive as many as two or more dreams in a single night on a consistent basis. The majority of what a high volume dreamer receives may

address issues pertaining to routines of life that most people would not imagine God to be interested in.

- Medium volume dreamers receive an amount in-between the other two categories.
- Low volume dreamers receive about one dream in a week, or one dream in few weeks, on a fairly regular basis.
- Others, or so-called non-dreamers, includes those who claim to be non-dreamers because they cannot recall any dreams. Everyone dreams, although some people may have completely lost the ability to recall dreams, particularly if they fail to pay attention to their dreams over a long time. They then lose or severely weaken their innate potential for recalling dreams.

It is God's prerogative to give revelation before anyone can receive it. But since most dreamers operate below their gifted potential, there is always room for advancement when the person pays attention to dreams and moves closer to God. This is also how it becomes possible to increase the scope of our dreams' coverage to include non-personal issues.

Most people will have lengthy dreams when they are born-again (new Christians). However, the percentage of lengthy dreams may be reduced as one grows in relationship with God. Most likely, this happens because we allow life's impurities to be washed away. As we attain more Christ-likeness, we can communicate more closely with God and get sharper, clearer, and shorter dreams. Many mature Christians can still have lengthy dreams from time to time, if God deems it necessary. Multiple dreams in one night often refer to different aspects of a message or different scenes of the same story; this is a common occurrence in the life of high volume dreamers.

#### REPEATED DREAMS

This refers to dreams repeated more than once within a short time, and which commonly occur in a single night. There may be minor variations in elements or symbolic actions within the dreams, but the plot remains the same (see Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:1-15 and Pharaoh's dreams in Genesis 41:1-8).

Dreams are repeated for the following reasons:

- For divine insights into other aspects that might have been missed.
- Misunderstanding or partial understanding of a previous dream's message.
- Decreed events, which God has ordained to happen. Joseph said dreams can recur when the event is settled in Heaven. Such dreams will soon happen.

*The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon (Genesis 41:32).*

- No responses or inappropriate responses to previous dreams.

#### RECURRING DREAMS

Recurring dreams are those that are repeated more than twice over a long period of time. These often indicate an issue that needs to be resolved or is in the process of resolution.

Dreams can recur because of the following:

- Hurts or unhealed wounds of the past.
- Emotional scars that need healing.
- Bondages or negative strongholds that need to be pulled down.
- Divine insights into other aspects of the matter that might have been missed.

- Persistent misunderstanding or partial understanding of a message from a previous dream.
- No responses or inappropriate responses to previous dreams.

Once a recurring dream has been correctly interpreted and its meaning acted upon, then the dream will usually cease. If the dream recurs again, then the original interpretation was probably incorrect or incomplete.

#### SLEEP, SLEEPLESSNESS, AND YOUR DREAM

Sleep is the temporary suspension of exercise in the power of the body and soul. A dream is the visual revelation received when one is asleep, so one must be sleeping to dream. Sleeplessness is the lack of regular sleep periods. Receiving a dream encounter only takes a few seconds or minutes. One can receive a lengthy dream in just a few seconds (as often happens in twilight states) because dream encounters are outside of time.

Factors such as stress, anxiety, sorrow, or being traumatized can impinge on one's ability to get regular sleep, so these factors will also adversely affect a person's dream-life. A person's state of mind will influence the dramatization of the dream message and so affect it that proper understanding becomes colored and the message's true substance becomes compromised.

#### NIGHTMARES AND NIGHT TERROR

The true definition of a nightmare is a dream that arouses feelings of acute fear, dread, or anguish. A nightmare, therefore, is a subjective term that reflects an individual dreamer's perception and judgment. What is a nightmare to one person may not be a nightmare to another; perhaps this explains why children are more prone to call dreams "nightmares." Under the following circumstances, dreams are regarded as nightmares by a majority of dreamers:

- Dreams that have become more graphic as a result of not listening to previous warnings in dreams. God often waits patiently for our response. If we fail to respond to the dream, it may be repeated over and over again. If we continue to ignore it, we may be frightened by a terrible nightmare to show us how serious the situation has become.
- Dreams of spiritual warfare could easily be regarded as nightmares because they are often God's expositions on happenings of wars in the spirit realm. They warn the dreamer about hell's assignments and reveal a divine strategy for victory.
- Dreams that warn of impending dangers could easily be regarded as nightmares. Most such dreams address personal weaknesses, focus on the likelihood of poor judgment that may lead to bad decisions, or warn of the danger of wrong associations or influences—the list is endless. King Nebuchadnezzar had a terrifying dream that told him about his kingdom's future.

*In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means" (Daniel 2:1-3).*

Job was warned in dreams about what would come across his path, even though he did not understand them, *"For God does speak—now one way, now another—though man may not perceive it" (Job 33:13)*. The dreams gradually became a nightmare to him: *"When I think my bed will comfort me and my couch will ease my complaint, even then you*

*frighten me with dreams and terrify me with visions...” (Job 7:13-14).*

#### HOW VISIONS ARE RECEIVED

Visions are received predominantly in the spirit, with varying degree of involvement of the natural realm. Thus, a person can receive a vision with the natural eyes wide open but see the vision in the spirit. In apparitions, however, the supernatural happenings can be perceived with the natural senses and even experienced tangibly.

#### THE INTERPLAY OF VISIONS AND THE PHYSICAL NATURE

As previously explained, visions are spiritual encounters with differing points of involvement in the physical realm. In some scriptural examples, people who had visions were left with residual, physical evidence of the encounter. Unlike dreams—in which encounters are on a purely individual basis—visions can be corporate because of its involvement in the natural realm. In Genesis, Jacob had a visionary encounter with an angel that left him with a physical deformity:

*So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man (Genesis 32:24-25).*

Paul described a visionary experience in which he was not sure whether or not he was in the body:

*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heavens. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell (2 Corinthians 12:2).*



## VISIONS AND THE THIRD HEAVEN

The frequency of visions received in a particular place reflects the openness of the “third Heaven” over that location. The immediate surroundings of the throne and abode of God are the third Heaven. (The second Heaven refers to the zone of spiritual warfare, which is the abode of Satan and his agents; while the first heaven refers to earth).

In Genesis, Jacob saw the open heaven:

*He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and He said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying” (Genesis 28:12-13).*

Jesus also spoke of open heavens in John 1:51, *“I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”* The heavens also opened during the baptism of Jesus Christ:

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:13-17).*

An opening of the heavens bypasses hindrances of the second Heaven to connect God’s abode with the earthly realm. The third Heaven can be opened over a geographical location, on a permanent or temporary basis; one could also

be opened over the head of an individual, but usually only temporarily. Scripture speaks of “*your heavens which are over your head*” (Deut. 28:23 NKJ). Angelic activities and visitations are increased under open heavens, as is the possibility of falling into a trance or other visionary encounters:

*Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became very hungry and wanted to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened... (Acts 10:9-10).*

An open Heaven invites you to come up to the third Heaven realm, which is where blessings are poured on mankind. A heavenly portal is a permanent opening of the third Heaven over a place. Heavenly portals exist in many locations on earth, but usually in places of very high contention in the spirit realm, such as Jerusalem, Mount Sinai, and Bethel.

#### KEYS TO “OPEN HEAVEN” ACTIVATION

Temporary opening of a “third Heaven” over a location is facilitated by what we do. If we want this to happen we should be doing the following:

- Exercising our spiritual senses on a constant basis:  
*But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses [spiritual] exercised to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14 NKJ).*
- Ensuring that every experience in our spiritual life is Bibleguided. We should exercise the practice of waiting upon God to activate the seer anointing.
- Strengthening our spirit-man. Many people collapse when their inner strength cannot withstand pressure from the outside.

*I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:16-18).*

- Ensuring that we see with eyes of faith, as “the eyes of our understanding” are actually eyes of our faith. For most people, prophetic experiences may be initiated in their mind, as in a daydream. Therefore, we must sanctify our imagination to enhance this process; then, by faith, we must position ourselves where God can initiate a spiritual experience. In seeking spiritual experience with God, it is also important to keep our hearts and motives pure. We must learn to control our minds and learn to quiet our souls before the Lord. Paul admonished us to look at what is not seen, for our natural senses will not cease to see physical circumstances around us. As spiritual people, however, we should be careful what we hear or see because that affects our spiritual senses and, ultimately, our spiritual experiences.
- Applying the blood of the Lamb: *“He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:12).*
- Praying and fasting:  
*If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).*

*The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want Me to give you" (1 Kings 3:4-5).*

- Giving tithes and offerings: Cornelius' charitable giving is a classic story of how an offering on earth can initiate a response from Heaven, and thereby create an open connection:

*He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God" (Acts 10:2-4).*

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10).*

- Meditating on the Word of God:

*And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19).*

*And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you (Romans 8:11).*

A CLOSED (BRASS) HEAVEN

When there is no open Heaven, then there is no answer from God. When the Lord shuts the heavens over a place, His word and visions become rare:

*“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it (Amos 8:11-12).*

Psalm 106 details what will cause closed heavens:

- “Not waiting or seeking the Lord,” because those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.
- When we forget the power of our testimony: “They soon forgot His work.”
- “They did not wait for His counsel.”

#### THE WORST OF ALL FAMINES: WHEN THE WORD OF THE LORD BECOMES RARE

When God withdraws visions and His words from a people, they experience the worst of all famines. This judgment from God stands above all others. Our God is holy, and whenever the level of iniquity gets high enough, then man becomes spiritually distanced from Him. In Israel’s history as a nation, the people experienced the Lord’s silence on many occasions. The Bible tells of a time when the Word of God was rare in Israel under the corrupt priesthood of Eli: *“The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions”* (1 Sam. 3:1). The prophet Isaiah reiterated this when he said:

*Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have*

*separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isaiah 59:1-2).*

This is also emphasized in Proverbs:

*If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you. But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me (Proverbs 1:23-28).*

#### REVELATIONS AND OPEN HEAVENS

As described in the Book of Revelation, the third Heaven is the highest place of prophetic revelation. All symbols used in this passage symbolize elements of the revelatory realm.

*After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne,*

*were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and behind (Revelation 4:1-7).*

# Chapter 5

## WHAT DO DREAMS AND VISIONS MEANS?

### WHY WE SEEK MEANING

Scripture has many examples of those who sought the meaning of their dreams. Therefore, it is biblical to seek understanding of a dream or vision. Many believe that since the Holy Spirit gives dream interpretations that they do not need to search for the meaning themselves. However, the Bible says, *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings”* (Prov. 25:2).

God asked Gideon to go to the enemy’s camp so as to hear a dream and its interpretation. The Lord can use *other people* to give us interpretation of *our* dreams in much the same way as *we* can do interpretations for others’ dreams—by giving exposition of Scripture, even though the Holy Spirit is our teacher. It’s important to build up a dictionary of dream symbols that God uses to communicate with you.

### INBUILT DIVINE DRIVE

Every dream comes with an inbuilt drive to search for the true meaning. This divine drive is not easily suppressed, no matter how hard you may try to ignore it, or how much others try to dissuade you from seeking its meaning. That desire can last for years, and it only fades once true interpretation has been found. This inbuilt drive reflects the divine premium placed on such a dream; its magnitude varies from dream to dream, according to the degree of divine premium placed on it by God. For this reason, some dreams are harder to ignore than others. The inbuilt drive was so powerful with King Nebuchadnezzar that he



threatened to kill all the wise men, magicians, and diviners in his kingdom:

*The astrologers answered the king, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men." This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death (Daniel 2:10-13).*

Many people ask, "Why would a loving God speak to His children in 'obscure language,' which is difficult to understand because of its symbolism?" This question is reminiscent of what the disciples asked our Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry:

*Then the disciples came to Him and said, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" And He replied to them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: 'because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand'" (Matthew 13:10-13 AMP).*

When we seek a dream's meaning, we gain more spiritual knowledge, and keys of wisdom of life will be given to us. What is revealed belongs to us for our benefit, but a dream's benefits do not belong to us until its meaning is revealed: *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but*

*the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29).* However, if we do not pursue the dream’s meaning, the revelation may not benefit us.

- The Cupbearer and the Baker: Our dreams create in us a desire to get an understanding, no matter what circumstances we are in or where we are geographically:

*When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. So he asked Pharaoh’s officials who were in custody with him in his master’s house, “Why are your faces so sad today?” “We both had dreams,” they answered, “but there is no one to interpret them.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams” (Genesis 40:6-8).*

- Pharaoh: God reigns supreme, be it in a palace or prison dungeon. Therefore, it’s no wonder that even the king of the most powerful state on earth needed answers to questions raised by his dreams:

*In the morning his mind [Pharaoh] was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.... So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires” (Genesis 41:8, 14-16).*

- Another powerful monarch—King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon— also sought meaning of his dreams on four

different occasions:

*In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means" (Daniel 2:1-3; also see Daniel 2:16 and 4:18).*

- King Belshazzar was another ruler of the great kingdom of Babylon, who also sought interpretation of a puzzle or a divine riddle:

*Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.... "Now I have heard that you [Daniel] are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom" (Daniel 5:5,16).*

#### HOW TO CONFIRM THE MEANING OF A DREAM

Confirmation can be defined as hearing further from God regarding the meaning of a particular dream. First off, there is the "inner witness," which is a covert knowledge of a dream's meaning that exists within the actual dreamer's mind. This knowledge is what confirms an interpretation as either correct or incorrect. Confirmation of a dream interpretation can occur in a variety of ways because God has made each one of us divinely unique.

Depending on circumstance, God can confirm interpretation in many different ways, including hearing further on the subject through God's audible voice or through an inner voice, other dreams and visions, and even mental pictures to inner impressions. No matter how we hear from God, we can become more receptive to His voice and more attentive to His ways through prayer, fasting, meditation, worship, and studying Scripture. Confirmation can also happen through prophets, other forms of prophecy, events (past or ongoing), and God's other revelatory means, including recurring dreams. Here's what to avoid in the process of confirming whether a dream interpretation is correct:

- The danger of over-spiritualizing matters. Be alert and wait upon the Holy Spirit: He will quicken you as to what is important.
- The danger of becoming too "sign dependent." Romans 1:17 (NKJ) states, "*The just shall live by faith.*" To demand a sign at every stage is to doubt God or lack boldness to act on your belief. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead (see James 2:17). Gideon was too sign-dependent:

*Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in Your eyes, give me a sign that it is really You talking to me".... Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have promised—look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You said." And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with*

*the fleece. This time, make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew.” That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew (Judges 6:17, 36-40).*

- Failing to act on your dream for lack of details. The fullness of a dream will unfold with time as you obey and let the Lord lead.

### THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

All true dreams and visions come from God. Through the Holy Spirit’s help, a dreamer is able interact with God in a dream and to handle what is received. A true dream is the divinely coded parable language of God. Anyone without the Holy Spirit cannot understand this language, even if it appears to be simple.

*Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream. In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him (Genesis 41:7-8).*

*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).*

True dreams, as parables of God, require the Holy Spirit’s help for understanding them. They reflect the ways of God, so, therefore, they transcend the limits of human understanding. Jesus’ disciples were clearly puzzled by the extensive symbolism and parabolic language that He taught in. Like most of us, they asked Him for an explanation. Jesus explained meanings to them in private and also promised

that the Holy Spirit would help them know what they might not have understood:

*All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:25-26).*

Therefore, it is scriptural to seek the understanding of a dream whose meaning may not immediately be clear.

#### HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO INTERPRET DREAMS

In my experience, the Holy Spirit can enable us to interpret a dream in three ways:

1. By giving a word of knowledge regarding God's mind in sending the dream

A majority of Christians are enabled to gain insight into their dreams by using this means. This is also how God commonly answers prayers when we ask Him for the meaning of our dreams. In the Scriptures, most angelic interpretations given in response to a dreamer's prayers came in this form.

2. By the gift of interpretation

This is an offshoot of a gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit, and it's a sovereign gift by the Lord.

3. By acquiring the interpretative skills

Every dreamer needs these skills in addition to the above two gifts. Interpretation is a studied art made sharper by practice, yet few Christians consider acquiring this wonderful skill to be worthwhile. Yet it's a great resource in gaining some understanding of dreams. Whether you are gifted in interpretation or not, all of us need to be able to properly expound on the relevance of symbols to a dreamer's life.

#### HIDDEN MEANING IN DREAMS AND VISIONS

The hidden things of God—which are beyond human understanding by natural reasoning—are purposely sealed

by the Holy Spirit until a set time. Every dreamer will have many of these dreams. Unless the Lord reveals their meaning, they remain obscured to man.

A “Daniel-type anointing” is the ability to understand all types of dreams and visions in which God releases meaning to man. In dream interpretation, a “Daniel-type anointing” also requires a person to have the humility needed to recognize when a hidden meaning exists and to ask God for its understanding. Daniel had many personal dreams and visions with hidden meanings. This dependency helps keep the gifted interpreter in humble submission to the Holy Spirit.

In one instance, an angel revealed a hidden meaning to Daniel:

*While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man’s voice from the Ulai calling, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision” (Daniel 8:15-25).*

In other instances, Daniel acknowledged that only God knows what has been hidden in the dark:

*Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him” (Daniel 2:19-22).*

*I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand” (Daniel 12:8-10).*

Daniel probably had interpretations for all the dreams that people brought to him, but he was humble enough to recognize meanings hidden within his own dreams. The first step in gaining understanding of the hidden meaning of dreams is to do as Daniel did: Have a desire to gain understanding and then ask God to reveal it.

*I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things (Daniel 7:15-16).*

#### SATAN'S ROLE IN DREAMS AND VISIONS

The Bible does not have any scriptural example of dreams being sent by the devil. All through the Bible, the devil and his agents could not interpret dreams of the kings of Egypt and Babylon. They were probably unable to understand because the key to understanding and interpreting dreams belongs to God. The Holy Spirit explains dreams to man, who would otherwise be unable to get the true meaning of dreams because they are divinely sealed.

Also, nightmares are not necessarily from the devil. The fact that a dream is terrifying does not mean that it is not from God. This is what the Bible says:

*For God [does reveal His will He] speaks not only once, but more than once, even though men do not regard it [including you, Job]. [One may hear God's voice] in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men while slumbering upon the bed. Then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction [terrifying them with warning]. That He may withdraw man from his purpose and cut off pride from him [disgusting him with his own disappointing self-sufficiency]. He holds him back from the pit [of destruction], and his life from*



*perishing by the sword [of God's destructive judgments]  
(Job 33:14-18 AMP).*

The Book of Revelation, with all its graphic and rather terrifying imagery, is the revelation of the future of the Church, coming out from the very throne of God Himself. Ezekiel was taken in the spirit by God and shown demonic activities amongst the spiritual leaders of Israel. The Lord gave Ezekiel this vision, even though it was full of demonic activities.

*And He said to me, "Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here." So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and detestable animals and all the idols of the house of Israel. In front of them stood seventy elders of the house of Israel, and Jaazaniah son of Shaphan was standing among them. Each had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol?" (Ezekiel 8:9-12)*

However, evil does exist in dreams, just as it did in the Garden of Eden. The devil can cause corruption, confusion, and distortion of truths. Satan showed up in one of Zechariah's visions:

*Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" (Zechariah 3:1-2)*

Despite the fact that about one-third of the Bible deals with dreams and visions, there is no scriptural evidence of dreams or visions being sent by the devil.

In her book, *Parables in the Night Season*, Joy Parrott writes:

One of the greatest surprises I found during my in-depth study of the scriptures was that nowhere does it say that Satan can directly give us dreams. However, what I have found is that he can influence us in our hearts or soul area.<sup>1</sup>

I believe that every meaningful experience in the spirit—or any establishing doctrine on spiritual issues, for that matter—should be Bible-guided. Otherwise, we run the risk of falling into deception and hollow philosophy.

#### ENDNOTE

1. Joy Parrott, *Parables in the Night Seasons—Understanding Your Dreams* (2002), p. 37.

## Chapter 6

# THE ART OF HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

God speaks to us in many ways. And no matter how He decides to speak, it is important that we hear the voice of God for ourselves. Hearing God's voice is not an option, but a bare necessity of life. It's an indispensable survival tool to navigate the intrigues of life. Our relationship with God is, first and foremost, dependent upon our ability to hear and discern His voice. Many perish because they cannot hear God's voice, and, therefore, are unable to usher His counsel into the realities of their lives.

Job was a righteous man of outstanding reputation. Regarding him the Bible says, *"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil'"* (Job 1:8). Nevertheless, this great and righteous man suffered and, most notably, failed to hear the voice of God on a personal level. Job was rightly wrapped up with circumstances of his natural existence, but he suffered consequences from a lack of prophetic insight.

Our greatest asset in life is our ability to hear God's voice on a personal level. We are all called to prophetic lifestyles and to live the supernatural in our natural lives. I believe that the wishes of Moses are being fulfilled in this generation. For Moses said, *"I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit on them"* (Num. 11:29). We must seize the momentum and be partakers in this glorious fulfillment. More than anything else, true dreams speak to the dreamer on a personal level.

We can hear God's voice in a variety of ways: through the Bible; in dreams; in visions; experiencing trances, visitations, and translations; through His audible voice or through other people. No matter how we hear His voice, we need to confirm that what we have heard is from God. Many voices exist in the spirit world, but God's voice will be recognizable if our spirit bears witness, if it lines up with Scripture, and if it speaks of His love.

True dreams are the indirect voice of God on a personal level. These are His parable language in a personalized, coded message full of symbols that are often embedded with His mysteries. In dreams and visions, He communicates with us in very individualistic forms usually taken from our life experiences and personal traits.

#### OTHER WAYS OF HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

##### *The Logos and Rhema Word of God*

The *logos* Word (the written Bible) is what God is saying to everyone, but what He says to an individual on a personal level is the *rhema* word of God. *"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son"* (Heb. 1:1-2). This Son is Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God. A *rhema* word is an inspired word of God birthed within your own spirit, like the still small voice that spoke to Elijah in the cave (see 1 Kings 19). The strategy for breakthrough in any circumstance lies in discerning the *rhema* word for that particular situation.

In Luke 5:4, Peter received a breakthrough by heeding a *rhema* word for his life: *"When He [Christ] had finished speaking, He said to Simon,*

*'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.'*" Note that after Jesus finished speaking generally, He spoke personally to Peter to launch out into the deep. Peter had the choice whether or not to obey. After all, Peter was a fisherman and—after having labored all night without

success—he had every reason not to obey. Many questions must have passed through his mind, as they would for any of us under similar circumstances. Perhaps, he wondered, “What is the point? What does a carpenter know about fishing?” Besides, fishing was better done at night, and Jesus spoke to Peter during the daytime.

Despite all these potential reasons, Peter complied. He let down the nets and caught an incredibly large number of fish, so much so that the boat almost capsized. The principle here is that Peter’s ability to discern what the Lord was saying to him on a personal level resulted in this miraculous catch of fish. That was the point at which Peter began to realize the deep things of God. From that moment onwards, he surrendered the frailty of his human mind to the sovereignty and superior wisdom of Almighty God. *“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’”* (Luke 5:8). It’s little wonder that Peter was entrusted with leadership of the early Church in the Book of Acts.

#### FAITH IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO HEAR IN THE SPIRIT

The Book of Revelation repeatedly says, *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”* (Rev. 2:17). The Spirit obviously has a voice, and in order to hear His voice, we must use spiritual ears (also called the ears of faith). However, this does not come to us naturally in this world of logic and reasoning. It is difficult not to place undue reliance on our perceptive senses, as they are used to navigate challenges in the physical realm. Yet I am reminded that we must *“fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”* (2 Cor. 4:18). Ultimately, *faith* is intricately connected to and central to hearing God’s voice.

#### INNER WITNESS

The inner witness is also essential to the art of hearing from God. You must learn to pay attention to the inner witness in order to hear what the Spirit says. The voice of God comes with peace, and it's always easier to discern when we are spiritually minded and living in a godly way.

#### THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF HEARING FROM GOD

There are various ways of hearing from God. Some people are hearers, some are seers, some are feelers, and others are able to discern what the Spirit is saying. However, once the voice of the Spirit is heard and tested, it should prompt us to take necessary action.

#### THE MANY VOICES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD

Many voices exist in the spirit world. Therefore, whatever is heard must be tested: Does it exalt Jesus Christ? Does it comply with the Scriptures? Does it put the interest of others before self-interest? Does it encourage unity in the Body of Christ? Does it seek peace of all? Does it give hope no matter what it speaks of? Does it have respect for human life? Does it speak of the love of God? The answers to these questions will help distinguish the voice of God from other voices.

*But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14 NKJ).*

Maturity in the spirit only comes through a process of consistently using our spiritual senses. This principle applies in the natural—as explained in Hebrews 5:14—as well as in the spiritual. Mature believers are those who—through consistent exercise of their spiritual senses— can discriminate between sound and unsound doctrines and between wholesome and unwholesome conduct. The only way to grow in God is to learn to walk with God. If we are afraid of misunderstanding what God says, then we will

never master the art of hearing God and walking in His obedience. We need to approach the issue with reverence and realize that no man shall prevail by strength.

Hearing from God must begin where we are, and then gradually progress forward towards maturity. Divine inspiration may occur to us as a mere impression, or perhaps a prompting, such as a flash of ideas, a picture, a birthing in the spirit, or even a knowing in our conviction. However, we require maturity to distinguish what is of God and what is not. Our only security in this process lies in walking in love and in realizing that we should come to God just as little children come to a natural father—with transparent innocence and simplicity. In other words, stepping out in faith will move us from the stage of impression into greater spiritual encounters with divinity.

#### THE PART OF MAN THAT GOD SPEAKS TO

To clearly hear what God is saying, you have to strengthen your spirit to receive correctly. A man is only as strong as his spirit is. God said, *“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”* (Gen. 1:26 NKJ) and also, *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”* (Gen. 2:7 NKJ). Therefore, God’s breath is the center of man’s life. Clearly, man is a spiritual being since God is Spirit. The breath of God lives in everyone as the human spirit—this part of man is in the likeness of God. This breath of life comes as a package to every human being and contains the seed of our destiny. This is the part of man that bears witness with the Spirit of God; He always speaks to our potentials.

However, the spirit of man lives in a *body* and has a *soul*; these two components of man sometimes interfere with the ability to hear the voice of God, who is Spirit. The body—which consists of flesh, bone, and blood—houses the soul and the spirit; ultimately, it will return to the dust of the

ground upon physical death. The soul—the part of man that allows interaction between the body and spirit—consists of the mind, emotion, and will; therefore, it is not physically tangible, but instead refers to the zone immediately surrounding the human consciousness. In the Garden of Eden, the soul and the body were completely ruled by the spirit.

At the Fall, the soul of humanity became prominent when he chose to disobey God, and the Bible says, “*then the eyes of both of them were opened*” (Gen. 3:7). Mankind acquired knowledge, but also hidden in the package was the curse of separation from God. In scriptural terms, the body and soul together—without rule of the spirit—is referred to as *flesh* or *carnal nature*.

A strong human spirit enhances the art of hearing God. Prior to the fall, humanity enjoyed unbroken communion with God in the Garden of Eden. This experience was most definitely a special spiritual encounter, which led to an experiential knowledge of God. Before the Fall, humanity lived and worshiped God in a state of near spiritual purity, as they lived according to the law of the Spirit of life. Man literally lived in a state that could be described as the realm of God.

#### PREPARE YOURSELF TO HEAR FROM GOD

The spirit is the center of man, and it consists of “communion, conscience, and wisdom”:

1. Communion: the power derived from dwelling in His Presence (see Psalm 16, 91).
2. Conscience: the ability to discern; innate ability to know wrong or right; that which has been sanctified by the blood of Jesus (see Heb. 9:14).
3. Wisdom: life’s application of the Word of God (see James 3:17), which is also called wisdom from above.

After the Fall, the reality of our Christian walk is that man’s soul and spirit are pitted against each other in a



conflict of warfare. *“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish”* (Gal. 5:17 NKJ). The dynamics of this conflict are such that when the soul becomes prominent, the spirit gets diminished and vice versa. Therefore, when the spirit breaks through and shines, the soul becomes diminished. When your spirit is strong, then you are able to correctly hear and discern what God is saying. In order to strengthen our spirit man, we should train and exercise the spirit. The Bible says,

*Don't waste time arguing over foolish ideas and silly myths and legends. Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, and practice being a better Christian because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too* (1 Timothy 4:7-8 TLB).

Whenever we spend time with God, we become less emotional; the more we apply the Word of God (which is divine wisdom), the less we depend on human will. The more we use our sanctified conscience— which means laying aside personal agendas and learning to prefer the interest of others—the less dependent we become on the human mind and the rule of head knowledge. This relationship is like a tug-of-war: communion versus emotion; conscience versus mind; and wisdom versus will. On the whole, a strong spirit enhances the art of hearing God.

#### PUTTING OFF THE VOICE OF THE MIND

To truly understand what God is saying, you must be able to distinguish between voices of the mind and the voice of the spirit. The voice of the mind is one of busyness of life's routines; it echoes the triumphs, failures, sorrows, joy, worries, and contentment of daily living. To be able to hear

the Spirit's voice on a consistent basis, we need to renew and continuously sanctify our mind.

Also, a strong personality will resist the voice of the Spirit and distort what God is saying. The will is humanity's decision-making venue, while emotion is the relational venue. Emotionally ruled flesh is carnality; it opposes the Spirit and prevents us from hearing and discerning God's voice. Our emotions must be controlled; otherwise our feelings will influence how we hear or see spiritually.

It is the birthright of every born-again Christian to hear God on a personal level, whether through His audible voice, dreams and visions, or the eternal Word of God.

## Chapter 7

# TIME TO RETURN TO BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

Now is the time to return to scriptural perspectives of dreams and visions. But remember that *what is personally descriptive should not be taken as generally prescriptive*. God deals with each of us in unique, diverse ways. As we know, God's ways are anchored on His Word.

Paul warns us:

*I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments... See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... (Colossians 2:4, 8-9).*

### EXTRA-BIBLICAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

To redeem dreams and visions to their proper place in God's purposes, we must realize that extra-biblical experiences may be true spiritual experiences. Therefore, we should regard them as valuable, but not generally prescriptive; otherwise, some people will chase after what are uniquely personalized dealings of God in other people's lives. Therefore, every experience in one's dreams and visions should be Bible-guided, with a realization that God can move in a new way, but only for experiential knowledge—it's not to be taken as doctrine.

Dreams and visions are valuable tools in the next stage of divine advancement in God's kingdom. Evil has multiplied exponentially, and worldly wisdom has grown astronomically. Consequently, there's an emerging need for us to have accuracy in spiritual matters so we can match any challenges in this perilous time. These days are like when God heralded Jesus Christ's birth and ministry with a series of short, clear, and directional dreams, visions, and angelic interactions. More than ever before, we cannot afford to face today's challenges with yesterday's mandate. On a daily basis, we need a fresh mandate. If God so desires, dreams and visions are particularly unique in keeping us in tune with the Father's heart, particularly when most other methods have failed.

For those in the secular world, audio-visual aides are indispensable tools for effective communication. In like manner, we can equate dreams and visions as divine, audio-visual, strategic dialogues; these have lingering impact on dreamers in a way that words alone cannot. More than that, the visual impact brings a dreamer into a degree of faith, which leads to conviction and commitment that's hard to ignore.

#### THE DISPENSATIONAL PATTERNS AND FUTURE SHAPES OF DREAMS

The evolving history of dreams over periods recorded in the Bible need a proper understanding, especially if we are to appreciate changing patterns of dreams that will occur as God pours out His Spirit on all flesh. In my mind, we can liken this to a "dispensational pattern" of dreams and visions; this refers to historical periods of dream-communication, when God communicated with man according to a particular spiritual closeness, with clarity, interaction, and angelic involvement. Also, during each period, God gave a variable degree of wisdom, grace, and special attributes to the dreamers. I have arbitrarily chosen

these periods in Bible history to help me illustrate my points in this discourse.

### *Garden of Eden Era*

In this age of innocence, mankind enjoyed an immortal life in God's realm. Man was also capable of direct and unbroken communion and fellowship with God. Natural senses had not been "opened." *"The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame"* (Gen. 2:25). Spiritual senses were more active than the natural senses. In this state of near spiritual purity, man could also communicate with the devil without fear. Evil existed on earth, but man had no knowledge of it. Because of unbroken communion with God, there was no need for dreams or visions; man experienced life in a direct fellowship with God.

Following the Fall, man lost that heightened level of spirituality and unbroken intimacy with God. Eventually, dreams and visions emerged to allow us opportunity once again to experience life in God's realm. During unbroken fellowship with God, emotions, mind-sets, and the human will (with its ambitions, goals, and expectations) all get bypassed. These factors of an "activated soul" are what hinder and corrupt reception and understanding of God's mysteries in the natural world.

### *From the Fall of Man to the Time of Abraham*

During this period death became inevitable as a consequence of disobedience to God. As man fell, his spiritual senses became dampened and the activated soul assumed pre-eminence. The Fall opened a door to the knowledge of good and evil, which started a thought process of logic that has continued to grow ever since. Direct fellowship with God was no longer possible in an unbroken manner. Humanity also became more limited in relationship to time. Lucid, interactive dreams and visions emerged and were frequent. God also spoke audibly and sent messages through angelic interaction. In Genesis 15,

Abraham had an interactive dream in which he dialogued with God about his covenant.

### *After the Death of Abraham to Present Age*

Progressively, sin and wickedness multiplied. Mankind's soul grew astronomically as humanity ran after the wisdom of this world. In the Book of Daniel, the Bible says, "*But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge*" (Dan. 12:4).

Lucid dreaming and interaction in dreams became rare occurrences. As modern lies about dreams escalated, many people treated them as omens. Dreams began being used in ungodly ways, such as with the sin of divination. (Consequently, there emerged a corresponding lack of appreciation and awareness for dreams/visions and the Joseph and Daniel-type anointing). God began speaking to humanity more in symbolic language and parables. God coded dream messages to hide them from worldly people and the devil. (This is also why Jesus Christ said in Matthew 13:11, "*The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them [the heathen].*") Instead, He revealed their meaning by the Holy Spirit only to His children, who are those with receptive hearts. One example of a message concealed in extensive symbolism occurs when an angel spoke to the prophet Zechariah (see Zech. 4).

### *The Days Ahead*

I believe that the coming days will see a return to interactive dreams, dialoguing in dreams, and more trances, translations, and angelic encounters. This will be the time for a fulfillment of the prophecy given by the prophet Joel, which was again reiterated by the apostle Peter:

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your*

*young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy (Acts 2:17-18).*

It is my opinion that knowledge of God's glory permeating the air will multiply the number and clarity of dreams and visions. This time will also see a marked increase in an awareness of angelic ministry. Habakkuk 2:14 states, *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* The Spirit of God poured out upon all flesh will result in an increase of experiential knowledge of God. There will be an increase in dreams, with lucidity and interaction in an atmosphere of more awareness of the supernatural. At the same time, God will reawaken the Joseph and Daniel-type anointing. Speaking of Daniel, the Bible says, *"And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds"* (Dan. 1:17). God will once again bring men and women to this level of great insightful knowledge through the Holy Spirit's help.

## Part Two

# DEVELOPING DREAM LIFE AND INTERPRETATION



## Chapter 8

### ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

Before the Fall, man had perpetual, direct communication with God. God came down in the cool of the evening to fellowship with Adam and Eve: *“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day”* (Gen. 3:8).

After the Fall, however, man was separated from that heightened level of intimacy with God. Thus, it became necessary to somehow reach out to God. What resulted was a gradual emergence of indirect means of communication such as dreams and visions. Soon, it became evident also that men ought to pray. The need to call on God’s name became obvious; as we read in Genesis 4:26, the time came when *“men began to call on the name of the Lord.”*

Dreams and visions gained relevance as man became spiritually distant from his perpetual stay in God’s experiential presence. Over the years, this spiritual distance from a state of unbroken communion with God has grown larger. Immediately after the Fall, for instance, man was still spiritually close enough to God to intermittently experience His realm in a direct manner.

That relationship is evident with the frequent occurrences of lucid and interactive dreams and great supernatural awareness that existed immediately after the Fall. But, sadly, the reality and likelihood of experiencing such life in God’s realm continues to decrease as evil increases in the world. As a result, direct communication with God has progressively become more restricted, while lucid and interactive dreaming has become even more rare.

The prevalence of lucid dreams and interactive dreams reflects the amount of God's glory available in an environment, as well as the dreamer's giftedness and quality of lifestyle. In the days to come, the full extent of Joel's prophecy will only be truly appreciated on the basis of this understanding. When God pours His Spirit on all flesh, His glory will permeate the atmosphere. Not only will dreams and visions increase in number, but so will the clarity and ability to interact with God in dreams. The prophet Habakkuk spoke of these days when he said, "*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*" (Hab. 2:14).

#### MODERN LIES ABOUT DREAMS

The superstitious attitude regarding dreams stems from the fact that they are available to all of humanity, including those heathen without the Holy Spirit. Some non-believers treat dreams as omens and seek to utilize them outside God's purposes. Using spiritual principles in an ungodly way is called divination. In *The Parables of Jesus*, Dr. R.T. Kendall writes:

A parable may be defined as a simple story that illustrates a profound truth. Telling parables was Jesus' main way of helping His followers grasp spiritual truths. He was building a bridge from the natural to the spiritual. It was Jesus' way of helping people to make the transition that each of us must make every day of our life—to move from the natural level of life to the spiritual level of life. Jesus revealed these insights through parables so that those for whom the truth was intended might know the meaning, but those for whom it was not intended would not understand.<sup>1</sup>

*The disciples came to Him and asked, "Why do You speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has*

*been given to you, but not to them [heathen]” (Matthew 13:10-11).*

The abuse and resultant misconception of the nature of dreams—which is due to a lack of understanding—should not diminish the value of this awesome means of communicating with God.

#### “SEALS THEIR INSTRUCTION”

*[One may hear God’s voice] in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men while slumbering upon the bed. Then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction [terrifying them with warning] (Job 33:15-16 AMP).*

Every dream comes with meaning to man’s spirit, but this meaning remains hidden to the dreamer’s mind until unfolded by the Spirit of God. This is why the dreamer is the only one who can tell when an interpretation is correct; in tales of Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar’s dreams, interpretations were given by other people, but these kings could recognize a true interpretation when presented with one. The Lord seals dream instruction and only the Spirit of God can unfold it, no matter how simple the dream might seem. As the Bible says, interpretation belongs to God.

#### THE INDIRECT VOICE OF GOD

A dream is the indirect voice of God in a world spiritually distant from experiencing the reality of the Almighty God’s presence. In *The Coming Prophetic Revolution*, Jim Goll defines dreams as: “The inspired pictures and impressions given to the heart, while one is sleeping. These are given by the Holy Spirit in order to teach, exhort, reveal, warm, cleanse or heal.”<sup>2</sup>

I believe that this understanding helps set dreams in a correct perspective.

#### THE DREAMER’S IMMEDIATE SETTING

Elements and symbolic actions in dreams come out of settings in the dreamer's life, especially immediate circumstances. At times, a dream reaches far beyond the dreamer's conscious experience, perhaps even far into the future. Therefore, truly grasping the message in a dream means examining it from the prevailing setting of a dreamer's life. This is the framework by which God gives a crucial message that may reach far beyond the dreamer's immediate consciousness.

In my experience, a great majority of dream messages are allegorized within a dreamer's immediate circumstance. In a similar vein, most biblical dreams also featured similar allegories. Perhaps that is why the Bible says, "*As a dream comes when there are many cares...*" (Eccles. 5:3). To my mind, this is the most appropriate translation of this verse. Nowhere is it truer than in dream life—if you pay attention to something, you will make room for it. This may also explain why a great percentage of our dreams are on personal issues. But you can widen the scope of your dream-coverage by making room for other people in your prayer life.

Issues that preoccupy our minds can play out in our dreams, but they do not cause dreams to happen. God uses what is prominent in a dreamer's mind to allegorize circumstances, events, and personalities of the dream's message. God revealed to King Nebuchadnezzar what was yet to happen because of thoughts in his heart: "*As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen*" (Dan. 2:29). Peter's groundbreaking vision about global expansion of God's kingdom to include Gentiles was predicated on his hunger at the time. Hunger did not cause the vision, but it did allegorize the vision's message while the heavens opened over him.

*He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven (Acts 10:11-16).*

Daniel was praying about the prophecy of Jeremiah when God sent an angel to reveal its fulfillment in a vision.

*In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands".... While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for His holy hill—while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision..." (Daniel 9:1-4, 20-23).*

EVERY TRUE DREAM HAS VALUE

Although some dreams may bear more immediate significance than others, I do not believe that a throwaway true dream exists. We tend to judge the value of a dream sent by God within limits of our reasoning or knowledge. But that means using our limited, natural wisdom to judge revelation of divine origin and superior wisdom. Some dreams do not immediately mean much to us because we lack understanding. For instance, a dream's significance may only become apparent after we experience events that God revealed to us ahead of time in the dream. Also, the value of a soul dream is that it reveals hidden intents of our hearts. One value of demonic dreams is that they give revelation about activities and plans of satan.

#### THE HEART CONDITION OF THE DREAMER

The influence of a dreamer's heart condition is profound and can radically color what is received in a dream. Sometimes what we dream about reflects the intents of our hearts, especially as God exposes whether it hinders or lines up His will in our lives. The Bible says, *"A person who is pure of heart sees goodness and purity in everything; but a person whose own heart is evil and untrusting finds evil in everything, for his dirty mind and rebellious heart color all he sees and hears"* (Titus 1:15 TLB).

#### BLIND SPOTS

Dreams may reveal blind spots in our thinking. In dreams, God bypasses our logic—our preconceived notions and other obstacles of our conscious mind—to connect with our spirit, which is the center of man. Like a mirror, perhaps, a dream may have most relevance when it reflects what is wrong with us. Yet, this is often where we misunderstand our dreams. Most people struggle when dreams expose and address blind spots in their thinking.

The danger in deciding that some dreams are valid and others are not comes when we choose dreams that we like

and discard ones we dislike. This is a dangerous practice because we are bound to lose valuable instructions from God. A true dream is a message from God specifically designed and coded in personal symbolism. God uses dreams to get through to us when other avenues may have failed.

#### HOW DREAMS EVENTUALLY FADE

When a dream has fulfilled its purpose, it fades from our consciousness. Until that time, it can last for years while waiting for its divine timing. However, if we neglect the dreams, the divine premium placed on them—which drives us to look for its meaning and attain its fulfillment—can be withdrawn; therefore, it gradually fades from the mind. While the divine premium placed on a revelation may fade if neglected, the substance of that revelation remains valid. *“Through your own fault you will lose the inheritance I gave you”* (Jer. 17:4).

*If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in My sight and does not obey Me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it* (Jeremiah 18:7-10).

In my experience, warning dreams have short-lived premium and are meant to guide us through certain events in life. Once this has passed, we should know that the warning is no longer relevant and should not live in perpetual fear. However, wisdom derived from such an experience may apply to other situations in life.

#### ENDNOTES

1. R.T. Kendall, *The Parables of Jesus* (Sovereign World, 2004), p. 12.
2. Jim Goll, *The Coming Prophetic Revolution*.

## Chapter 9

### HOW TO RESPOND TO YOUR DREAMS AND VISIONS

God's major purpose in giving dreams is for us to respond appropriately on earth to what He is doing in Heaven. You should pray for all the elements, events, and persons within a dream, even before you gain understanding of its meaning. The next useful step is to record the dream and pay attention to whether God is warning, encouraging, or correcting.

The following are the steps that I normally take in responding to my dreams.

#### STEPS TO TAKE

- Allow peace to reign in your mind immediately upon waking up. Avoid emotional backlash. Then ask what God you have seen in the night, while also maintaining stillness in your inner man to allow the dream to flow into your mind.
- Try to rerun events as they played out in the dream. This helps to transcribe the message into more permanent memory ink.
- Write out the dream and study it.
- Pray about all elements, events, and circumstances of the dream.
- It's sometimes helpful to share the dream with responsible trusted people, particularly your spouse or those in spiritual authority over you—if the Holy Spirit allows. Seek interpretation from the Holy Spirit and ask for clarification from those with the gift of interpretation



who have a track record of true and trustworthy interpretation. A dreamer must try interpreting a dream before asking others for help.

- Do not act on the dream before its interpretation is confirmed.
- When the dream's meaning has been confirmed, first begin by making only minor adjustments towards the dream's fulfillment. Start with what will not drastically alter your personal circumstance. Remember, obedience is better than sacrifice. For example, many people want to quit a secular job for full-time ministry when they have yet to master faithfulness in paying tithes. As you obey in the little, God will unfold greater responsibility. Allow your faith to gradually build up before you take the stake to a higher level.
- Always remember that dreams are possibilities and not inevitabilities.
- A dream may not always sound logical, but hang on to it and treasure it until the appointed time:

*But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19).*

*When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind (Genesis 37:10-11).*

- Dreams will always lead to a process. Identify the direction you are drawn to. An appropriate interpretation should bring you closer to God. The journey is as important as the destination to God. He measures maturity and character, but the dreamer may be more time conscious of progress as a measure of time. The process took Joseph 17 years to fulfill, but it was worth all the waiting.

- Plant dreams in your spirit and wage war with the promise when circumstances seem to run contrary to the dream.
- Respond truthfully to corrective dreams; it is between you and God.

*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"—and You forgave the guilt of my sin (Psalm 32:3-5).*

#### RESPONDING TO WARNING DREAMS

We all receive dreams that warn against an impending danger, errors in judgment, misplaced priorities, and life-changing situations. With all of these, we must seek understanding of why God has given the warning. Usually, it is so that prayers may be offered and calamity averted. Therefore, it's a privilege that God has considered it worthwhile to give you a revelatory warning.

*Is that the right reply for you to make, O House of Jacob? Do you think the spirit of the Lord likes to talk to you so roughly? No! His threats are for your good, to get on the path again (Micah 2:7 TLB).*

It is important to remain calm and not jump to hasty conclusions. Quiet your soul before the Lord, and ask Him to bring His peace and further divine revelation on the subject. The purpose of the warning is to make intercession and avert judgment. Nebuchadnezzar did not heed the advice that Daniel had given him, so calamity eventually overtook him.

*"Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be*

*that then your prosperity will continue.” All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you...” (Daniel 4:27-31).*

With warning dreams, many people become terrified instead of being thankful for advance notice and a chance to alter the course of future events. Seek healing for any areas of fear that the dream might have stirred up. Ask God to eliminate any stronghold of fear from your life and to remove any emotional backlash from your soul. Always remember that it's only a warning!

### *My Personal Experience*

I had a warning dream during a personal time of retreat to seek the Lord's face. At times like that, I thought I should have victory dreams; after all, I was in a sacrifice of intense prayer and fasting.

In this dream, I was in prayer in my living room. Then, I noticed that one of the windows was slightly open and also that fans had not been put on—even though the room was getting quite hot. I also noticed an ugly animal trying to force its way into the room. My first inclination was to ignore it and continue with my prayer, but it continued relentlessly to force itself into the room. Realizing that my children were at home, I thought it might be better to completely shut the window to prevent the creature from gaining entrance into the room. As I try to do this, the animal gets hold of my hand—at this point, I woke up.

My first reaction came from the realm of my soul; I was upset that an animal could get hold of my hand, even during a time of such prayer and sacrifice. A week following the

experience, God spoke to me clearly on this issue and asked if it would have been better if I had not been warned. This brought the dream's true significance to me. Furthermore, God reminded me that it has not happened; rather, in response to my prayers and fasting, He sent me a warning. At this point in time, there was a family issue that I had not taken seriously enough; God was telling me that I needed to pay more attention to it, otherwise the enemy could use this weakness or negligence as a loophole for entry.

#### RESPONDING TO WARNING DREAMS

- Pray about it:

*Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order because you are going to die; you will not recover." Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord...and Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of Lord came to him. "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of My people, this is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: 'I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria'" (2 Kings 20:1-6).*

- Seek help in understanding it. Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar sought help from the God of the Hebrews (through Joseph and Daniel) about warning dreams they received.
- Realize that not every vision is ready for public pronouncement. This is particularly relevant when the warning concerns other people, an organization, or church. Ask God for the opportune time for pronouncement. Know that as the stakes get higher, a

certain level of authority is required to announce the revelation, particularly in the area of warning or a word of direction for people groups.

- Know when a warning revelation has outlived its immediate relevance; do not live in perpetual fear or bondage of a warning. A principle inherent in a spiritual warning can be applicable for life, but the specific danger it warns of is often for a time and a season.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH A DREAM OR VISION YOU DO NOT IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND

- Pray about it.
- Seek help to understand it.
- Receive and keep it in your heart.
- Ponder it in your mind.
- Remain obedient to God in what you do understand.
- Remain spiritually sensitive, but don't over-spiritualize matters in the process; wait on the Holy Spirit.
- Wait for matters to unfold with time.

The process of waiting for circumstances to unfold in time requires certain critical steps. These steps are enunciated in a vision of the apostle Peter, and the unfolding of its revelation that he was to go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel (see Acts 10:11-20). How did Peter unravel the truth of the vision? He waited, stayed spiritually sensitive, and remained obedient to God in what he understood. Then, he approached the situation with an open, teachable spirit. The vision's understanding unfolded to Peter in stages:

1. "But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean":

*Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I*

*should not call any man impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (Acts 10:27-29)*

2. God shows no favoritism:

*Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right..." (Acts 10:34-35).*

3. The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles:

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God (Acts 10:44-46).*

4. No man can stand in the way of God:

*Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have (Acts 10:47-48).*

5. "Who was I to oppose God?" It is futile to oppose God:

*"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as He had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as He gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life" (Acts 11:15-18).*

WAITING FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM OR VISION

*The Principles of Active Waiting*

Waiting does not imply not doing something about the revelation. Rather, it means actively waiting with expectation, while pondering and remaining sensitive in spirit. The principles of active waiting are well enunciated by the prophet Habakkuk regarding what God told him concerning his complaints:

*I will climb my watchtower now and wait to see what answer God will give to my complaint. And the Lord said to me: "Write My answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!"*  
(Habakkuk 2:1-3 TLB)

The following points stand out from the passage:

- The need for prayers: *"climb my watchtower."*
- It is your responsibility to take some form of action on your revelation: Write it *"on a billboard."*
- Seek clear understandings of your dream/vision in order to understand and prioritize your response: *"large and clear."*
- Wait for it; the vision is for an appointed time: *"just be patient."*
- Hold on to your promise: *"Do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass."*
- Dream or vision speaks of the end—it doesn't lie.

Here are five things to remember while waiting for a dream's fulfillment:

1. Do not force the situation.
2. Fulfillment belongs to God. He is more than able to fulfill what He has promised.

3. Do not be weary in doing what is right.
4. Do not neglect fellowship with God. Human counseling is essential, but divine guidance in the form of direct witness from God is even more important.
5. Do not use your personal circumstance to determine the feasibility of the promise.

#### LIFE APPLICATION AND APPROPRIATION OF DREAMS

1. Only confirmed, correctly interpreted dreams should be applied.
2. First, simply apply the dream and its symbols to yourself.
3. Start with simple changes that do not entail major shifts in your circumstances, unless the dream specifically says to do so.
4. Always move according to the proportion of your faith, because without faith it is impossible to please God.
5. Appropriate the dream.

Appropriation is the process by which the dreamer in faith assumes or adopts the promise of the dream. Appropriation consists of:

- Faith.
- Diligent seeking, such as studying relevant Bible passages.
- Preparing the soil of your heart by encouraging yourself in the Lord.
- Paying attention to fine details.



# Chapter 10

## THE DREAMLAND AND THE IMAGE CENTER

### THE DREAMLAND

Dreaming is like experiencing the spiritual atmosphere of the Garden of Eden—back when a person had capabilities of operating in the realm of God. The spiritual atmosphere and abilities in dreams are distinct from our experience in the natural realm. In this spiritual atmosphere, a dreamer can often do what is humanly impossible or beyond the scope of human imagination, such as flying like Superman. Therefore, I will refer to this atmosphere as “dreamland.”

Conceptually, “dreamland” is the land of the spirit, so the man’s mind is almost completely closed and not limited in time; therefore, God can take us backwards or forwards in time. God is supreme in dreamland, and this supremacy is affirmed in Scripture: *“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him”* (Col. 1:16). Other characteristics of dreamland are as follows:

- Evil exists in dreamland just as it did in the Garden of Eden, in spite of the spiritual atmosphere that prevailed in Eden.
- In dreamland, man’s understanding transcends the limits of physical intellect.
- In dreamland, man can be imparted to or receive impartation from God.

- A false dream is a made-up story, so it does not involve dreamland. Such dreams are a product of the dreamer's delusion. Scripture calls any dream not sent by God as false, a made-up story, and a delusion of the human mind.
- In dreamland, much is laid bare before the dreamer more openly than in the natural realm. Therefore, if God allows you the privilege of seeing activities of the evil ones, it is often called a "demonic dream." If God allows a dreamer to see the intent and depths of soul, it is often referred to as a "soul dream." Other dreams can be classified according to God's purpose for giving them, or by what God allowed to dominate in the dream's dramatization.
- The language of dreamland is the parable language of the Spirit. Parable language is the use of symbols to dramatize revelation.

#### IMAGE CENTER

Spiritual revelation is fed into the mind from the human spirit. Functionally, the mind consists of:

- Memory, which is a word depository that deals with issues of the past.
- Contemplation, which deals with current issues as well as being the arena for conceptualization.
- Imagination, which contains the pictorial depository and handles issues of the future, such as planning and conceptualization.

This pictorial depository of our imagination can also be referred to as our mind's image center. As a pictorial language, dreaming must undergo necessary processing. Our image center should be made conducive to receive

pictorial revelations from the spirit, and be made capable of resisting pollution from unholy, worldly images.

Research has found that the human brain has two sides, which function and respond differently to specific types of stimuli:

- The left hemisphere's forte is analysis, reason, and logic.
- The right hemisphere is dominant in visual and other sensory processes, as well as in exercising emotion and recognizing humor and metaphor.
- Conceptual and emotionally neutral words activate the left hemisphere.
- Words that name images and are emotionally laden activate the right hemisphere.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE DYNAMICS OF THE IMAGE CENTER

Our image center needs sanctification on a regular and continuous basis. Sanctifying the image center begins with not using it for evil, unclean images and thoughts. Protecting the image center in this way allows the Holy Spirit to prepare it to more easily receive divine spiritual inspirations. This will open up the dreamer for more spiritual encounters. The dreamer's level of faith and the busyness of his mind influence translation from the spirit of man to his image center.

Dreams translate to our image center more successfully when the mind is still. Spend some quiet time after waking up so that dreams can drift from the spirit into the image center before the day's demands set in. In her book, *Third Heaven, Angels, and Other Stuff*, Patricia King said, "Much of spiritual revelation is fed into our image center (imagination) or our mind."

Most human minds process information in pictures. Images in the pictorial depository have a gripping effect on

a person and are often hard to erase. No wonder we struggle for days, weeks, or even months with persistent recurrences of a single flash of a picture accidentally seen—even if for only a few seconds—on television or in a newspaper. Such is the power that images have in the image center; impressions there are long lasting. As a consequence, addictions such as pornography, or phobias such as the fear of heights, are the most difficult to overcome.

### *Sanctification of Your Image Center*

We must make a conscious effort to prepare our image center to receive divine revelations, for God expresses “spiritual truth in spiritual words.” Practicing holy imagination through meditation on Bible images sanctifies the image center. The Bible states in Psalm 119:27, “*Let me understand the teaching of Your precepts; then I will meditate on Your wonders.*” A conscious effort should be made to override constant bombardment of worldly imagery that pollutes our image center. Sanctify the image center by filling your imagination with images from God’s Word and by reading and visualizing the Scriptures. The power of the Word will transform the soil of your mind. Then, most of our spiritual encounters will begin to become relevant in the realm of our sanctified image center.

Sanctification leads to the spirit of sound mind, “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*” (2 Tim. 1:7 NKJ). A sound mind is one balanced and anchored in God. We use the mind to appreciate and translate divine knowledge into everyday routines of life. Often, God uses routines of life to speak to us. The spirit of a sound mind also enables us to enter into godly liberty. “*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*” (2 Cor. 3:17 NKJ). If you do not feel liberty in your spirit, then you are not released to minister in the Spirit, and, therefore, you cannot operate in

the supernatural. The spirit of a sound mind is a divine insurance that guards against the error of presumption; it helps the delicate balancing of human thought processes so that we may see from God's perspective; and it's also the security that enables us to differentiate between what is of God and what is not.

Revelation can be distorted in an image center that is polluted with unclean and ungodly images. That is why the Bible describes the pure in heart as follows:

*To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted (Titus 1:15).*

Purifying our imagination comes from constant practice of visualizing holy imagery in the Scriptures. Worshiping and listening to anointed Christian teaching can also help to sanctify our minds.

#### *Translation of Dreams to the Image Center*

One place that dreams can be lost, corrupted, or fragmented is in the process of translation to the image center. Factors that adversely affect reception and processing of dreams at the image center are:

- Pollution through constant bombardment by worldly images.
- Busyness with matters of this world, which tends to choke the flourishing of God's Word.
- A mind-set with a product of life experiences, worldly knowledge, and/or prejudice.
- Sins, unforgiveness, and bitterness.

#### COVERT KNOWLEDGE

A dreamer may not have immediate fruitfulness in understanding a dream at the level of human consciousness

—as in the case of Nebuchadnezzar. A dream can remain dormant in the spirit without being fruitful to the mind; that is, until the Holy Spirit releases human understanding through correct interpretation. King Nebuchadnezzar could not remember his dream. The Living Bible rendition of Daniel 2:1-3 says, *“One night in the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had a terrifying nightmare, and awoke trembling with fear. And to make matters worse, he could not remember his dream!”* However, his spirit bore witness to the correct interpretation when it was given to him by Daniel. In the same manner, our spirit knows the meaning of a dream we receive, even though it may be unfruitful to our immediate understanding.

In another instance, King Nebuchadnezzar did not accept the magicians’ interpretation of his dream, but he did acknowledge trustworthiness in Daniel’s interpretation:

*This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy. Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him (Daniel 2:45-46).*

This occurred because Nebuchadnezzar’s spirit recognized the correct interpretation, as given by Daniel. Another example is when Joseph’s spirit was quickened to remember his dream, *“Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them...”* (Gen. 42:8-9). The covert knowledge of a dream’s meaning in the dreamer’s spirit gets quickened upon hearing its correct interpretation. This quickening releases life from the Spirit to the dreamer’s

mind and brings confirmation as to the trustworthiness of such an interpretation.

#### HOW TO PLANT YOUR DREAMS SUCCESSFULLY

If you sow in the spirit, then you will reap in the spirit; if you sow in the soul, then you will reap in the soul. If you plant a good dream promise in the spirit realm, then you will reap the fruit of the spirit. On the other hand, the outcome of planting a dream in the soul realm can include anxiety, worry, anger, bitterness, vengeance, unholy fear, hopelessness, condemnations, and insecurity. Planting your dream in the soul realm happens when your emotions and mind-sets cloud your understanding; so then you become blind as to a dream's real spiritual connotations, which is a problem since some dreams may address blind spots in a dreamer's thinking pattern.

The outcome of planting a dream in the spirit includes peace, love, and self-control, faith in God, drawing closer to God, and trusting that all is well. Planting a dream in the spirit realm means seeing all its elements with an open, sensitive spirit; you truthfully accept when God guides you over its circumstance—even if it runs contrary to your thinking. This also affords you a chance to see the whole picture from God's perspective.

A properly planted dream enables the dreamer to dialogue with God.

#### *My Personal Experience*

I remember a series of dreams that I had many years ago. At the time, I had been voted (in absentia) onto the leadership of an interdenominational Christian fellowship in the city. However, I didn't want this role for many reasons and had decided to decline the position.

In the first dream, I was walking along a pathway in the company of another gentleman. As we were walking along, a third person (unknown) came on the scene and

announced that one of us had failed an examination. On waking up, I prayed about this. At that time, I was not about to make any major decision. After the prayers, I drifted back into sleep. I had another dream in which the same unknown person handed me a letter and said that I was the one out of the two of us who had failed the examination. I was awakened from sleep once again. This time, my wife joined me in prayers. After praying, I drifted back to sleep. I had another dream in which the same gentleman announced to me that I had failed the same test three times in the past.

Over the next few days, I continued to ponder these dreams and seek further understanding. In the second week, I realized that just before I had the first dream, my wife and I had decided that I should not accept the leadership role in the seemingly small fellowship. Immediately, I knew that the dreams referred to this decision. I was quite excited about coming to this understanding. That night I had another dream in which the same gentleman from my previous dreams reappeared to announce that I had scored 105 percent. I believe that the extra mark of five percent was for the diligent search to gain understanding of it.

So, I accepted the leadership role, and God expanded the fellowship in many areas, including an increase in numbers from under 20 families to well over 100 families within two years.

#### ENDNOTE

1. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*.



# Chapter 11

## DEEPER DYNAMICS OF DREAMS

**M**ost people regard dreaming as a passive aspect of their spiritual life. This has not been my experience, as I have found that dreaming can become active as I cooperate and allow God to further His communication with me. No one can initiate a dream discussion with God, but once He begins a conversation in dreams, I believe that you can take it further with Him. Everyone should aim to further his dream communication ability with God, as He rewards every effort we make to get closer to Him.

*In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:12-14).*

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).*

*God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. "For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28).*

If we pay attention to our dreams, respond appropriately, and diligently seek God's face, then our dreams will

increase—with greater detail, more explained mysteries, more impartation of divine power, and greater understanding of our nightly encounters.

#### THE HEART CONNECTION IN DREAMS

From the beginning of time, God's desire has been to enter into the most profound, intimate relationship with us. One of God's primary objectives in communicating in dreams and visions is to establish a heart-to-heart connection. Another aspect of God's desire is for us to experience the realities of who He is, even on our worst day. God also wants us to have a living encounter with His character in an atmosphere uninfluenced by mind-set, so we can imbibe His true attributes.

Dreams are valuable because their visual impact allows a message to linger in our spirit until we are brought to meditate on the dreams and allow thoughts of them to flow into our memory. God may also dramatize His Word in dreams, making certain portions of Scripture come alive to us as real and living. The first step in advancing your dream-life is to ask for more dreams.

#### THE WORD OF GOD AND DREAM COMMUNICATION

The parable language of dreams is similar to the Bible's pattern of speech. Visualizing imagery in the Bible trains our mind to understand the Word of God. On the other hand, the Word of God comes with enough spiritual power to transform our minds for better understanding of His ways. Dreams increase our knowledge of God and His heart, and connect us to His ways. As a dreamer spends more time studying the Word of God, his dream-life will become more clear and rich. The Word of God's lordship over your life reflects the lordship of Jesus Christ over your life, and this relationship determines the height of your dream-life.

#### DREAM PHRASES

Insightful statements are made in dreams. Dream phrases should be recorded exactly as the dreamer has heard them because their divine insights may run far beyond the limits of human reasoning. Dream phrases that run contrary to Scripture are not from God, no matter how smooth, appropriate, alluring, and wise they may sound. Dream phrases from God have the following characteristics: They are often clear, short, and sharp; they may require prompt attention and action; and they usually come with little ambiguity.

Angels are commonly associated with the majority of dream phrases. Sometimes, a spiritual leader or a respected Christian in a dreamer's life can pronounce dream phrases. However, voices in our dreams should be carefully discerned. The voice of God will bear witness with the dreamer's spirit, like a knowing in the inner being that God is stirring something within. The Bible says, *"his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger..."* (John 10:4-5) and *"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth"* (1 John 2:20). We have the Holy Spirit anointing and the seal of God within to tell us the truth. Even statements from angels need to be judged as Galatians 1:8 warns, *"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!"*

Sometimes, phrases from the second heaven—the domain of the devil and his agents—will appear in the dreamer's subconscious. So, what was said will not sit well with the dreamer, or he will have a deep reservation about the information. Every dream phrase needs to be subjected to the following tests. First, does it line up with Scripture? Second, does it pass the love test? And finally, does it pass the wisdom test? The ultimate test for wisdom from God is if the revelation has respect for human lives, no matter whose life is involved.

## EXAGGERATION IN DREAMS

In dreams, God allows us to see the intent of our mind in its truest forms, which means without moderation of earthly precautions. One reason why situations appear exaggerated in dreams is because normal restraints are absent. This is also why most dreamers find themselves doing activities in dreams that they normally would not do in real life. Perhaps what remains hidden is the fact that only societal norms restrain us from such action. When societal influence holds us back long enough from unacceptable behavior, overindulgence, or sinful action, we sometimes assume that the issue is dealt with.

However, desires that could be resurrected when no one else is looking can surface in our dreams; God does this to warn us against such presumption.

Another reason for exaggeration in dreams is that God wants to draw our attention to the severity of an issue that might otherwise look innocuous. Also, God uses exaggeration in dreams to help prioritize our response to a dream's different issues.

## EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF OUR DREAMS

The "scope of our dreams" could be regarded as the overall coverage that gives revelation on other people and does so without any direct relevance to our personal circumstance. The scope of our dreams also includes sensitivity of the information and security of its content. Determine the percentage of your dreams that relate to you, those that relate to others without direct bearing to yourself, and those that jointly relate to you and others. Some estimates state that about 95 percent of a person's dreams relate to his life.

However, people with a watchman anointing have a widened scope that includes their area of calling; if that is the case, then a good percentage of their dreams would normally relate to other people. This point is crucial in

accepting the value of the watchman ministry in our churches. The watchman may need help in managing personal issues, while also dreaming of strategic insights into the enemy's plans and the path lying ahead for the Church. Dreamers who pay attention to others and then intercede for them will naturally have their dream scope widened. When God begins speaking to you in dreams regarding others, it's usually a result of your increasing concern for their welfare. Perhaps, this explains why our immediate family members frequently turn up in our dreams.

#### MANAGING SENSITIVE AND SECURE INFORMATION

The sensitivity and security content of a dream reflects the trust that God has in the dreamer. First off, God will trust the dreamer with sensitive information concerning his life in the following order:

1. Potential events: what is likely to happen, but is not inevitable in the dreamer's life.
2. Decreed events: what God has ordained to happen, no matter what, in the dreamer's life.
3. God's sovereign plan for the dreamer: which is the very reason for his or her life experiences.

Handling sensitive revelation concerning a dreamer's life may seem quite obvious. But many dreamers misuse such privileged revelation and become arrogant about the good promises given by God. Doing so compromises and delays fulfillment of a promise. Public pronouncement of a personal promise must only be for building up the lives of other people. In this regard, we must know that not all revelations are ready for public pronouncement. Timing is a key factor. God Himself told Daniel, *"But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge"* (Dan. 12:4). Also, Nehemiah stated,

*I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate towards the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire (Nehemiah 2:12-13).*

If God can trust you with sensitive information concerning your ministry, then He will progress to trust you with information about other people. He will first begin with potential events; follow with decreed events, and then conclude with His sovereign plans for them. If these levels are well-managed, then God will entrust you with knowledge about other people's weaknesses for the purpose of intercession.

#### RESPONDING TO OTHER PEOPLE'S DREAMS

Divine principles revealed in any true dream—once carefully and prayerfully applied—can become quite helpful. Dreams received by members of the dreamer's family are nearly as valid as if the dreamer had received them personally. Many people have lost valuable wisdom keys by disregarding such true dreams.

*Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed." His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshipped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord*

*has given the Midianite camp into your hands (Judges 7:13-15).*

On this occasion, Gideon won the battle with encouragement he received from a dream of the enemy.

#### CAN A GIFTED PERSON CROSS OVER TO POWER FROM THE DARK SIDE?

The answer is undoubtedly, "Yes!" Sin, disobedience, and wrong motivation have a profound impact on our gifts. For instance, disobedience leads to rebellion; in such a place of darkness, a gifted person can draw power from the satanic network. If giftedness is corrupted, then a gifted person can imperceptibly cross over from operating in divine power to the power of darkness. The dividing line can often be quite fine, both for weary and seasoned believers. Many biblical examples exist of this crossover phenomenon. A classic example is the life of King Saul. Since the gifts of God are irrevocable, it is not uncommon for gifted people to stray into the domain of evil power and still show evidence of giftedness. Saul was once anointed of God:

*As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying. When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" (1 Samuel 10:9-11).*

However, due to disobedience and rebellion, Saul allowed himself to be dragged into a life of bitterness, jealousy, unforgiveness, and vengeance. As a result, God sent into him an evil spirit, which affected his physical life and permeated his spiritual walk with God. Later, God further distanced Himself from Saul, who, in desperation, sought revelation and power from the dark world.

*When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go and enquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said. So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name" (1 Samuel 28:5-8).*

Balaam was gifted by God in prophecy, but his lust for money and things of the world caused him to crossover into divination. He then received a rebuke by a mere donkey.

*They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them (2 Peter 2:15-17).*

Even though gifted to hear from God, Balaam operated in mixture and dabbled in divination and sorcery. To operate in mixture is to use God's gifts both in a godly and ungodly manner.

*Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not resort to sorcery as at other times, but turned his face towards the desert. When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him and he uttered his oracle: "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly, the oracle of one who hears the words of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened..." (Numbers 24:1-4).*



Many people gifted to receive revelation and dreams have unknowingly become corrupted. Rather than receiving revelation from God, they become prone to operating in satanic evil. Many New Age people actually have God’s gifts, but then they crossed over to power from the dark side.

**ALL TRUE DREAMS, VISIONS, AND PROPHECIES SEEM TO CORRELATE**

Over the years, I have noticed that true dreams, visions, and prophecies on the same subject do not contradict one another. Could they, therefore, originate from one single source? Dreams and visions in the Bible follow this pattern, regardless of the time, place, or people group involved. The Bible is clear: All true prophecies correlate and are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*For He [Who is the source of their prophesying] is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order (1 Corinthians 14:33 AMP).*

*The purpose of all prophecy and all that I have shown you is to tell about Jesus (Revelation 19:10b TLB).*

*This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by this testimony of two or three witnesses” (2 Corinthians 13:1).*

*And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19).*

Revelations from the Holy Spirit—whether by means of dreams, visions, or prophecies—do not contradict one another. Below are scriptural examples that lay credence to this observation.

<b>CORNELIUS’ VISION</b>	<b>PETER’S VISION</b>	<b>KINGDOM PURPOSE</b>
<i>The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner,</i>	<i>He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have</i>	<i>To take the gospel to non-Jewish people.</i>

<i>whose house is by the sea” (Acts 10:4-6).</i>	<i>never eaten anything impure or unclean” (Acts 10:11-14).</i>	
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<b>SAUL OF TARSUS’ VISION AND CONVERSION</b>	<b>ANANIAS’ VISION</b>	<b>KINGDOM PURPOSE</b>
<i>As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?” (Acts 9:3-4)</i>	<i>The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight” (Acts 9:10-12).</i>	Conversion of Saul of Tarsus as God’s chosen instrument to take the gospel to the Gentiles.

<b>DREAM/EVENT</b>	<b>DREAM/EVENT</b>	<b>DREAM/EVENT</b>	<b>KINGDOM PURPOSE</b>
Joseph’s dreams. (Genesis 37)	Butler’s dream. (Genesis 40)	Pharaoh’s dreams. (Genesis 41)	For Joseph to become prime minister of Egypt and save the Jews.
Gideon’s lack of faith to obey God’s instruction. (Judges 6)	Midianite dream at the enemy’s camp. (Judges 7)	Interpretation by another Midianite. (Judges 7)	To encourage Gideon to lead the Jews to victory.
Prophecy of large tree. (Ezekiel 31)	Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of large tree. (Daniel 4)	Punishment for disobedience. (Leviticus 26 fulfillment)	That God’s Word must be fulfilled.

In many instances, Ezekiel and John’s visions also spoke of the same subject— despite the disparity in geography, generations, dispensations, and people groups involved. These revelations could only have come from God’s mind, and only the Spirit of God can tell what is on His mind.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EZEKIEL’S VISION</b>	<b>JOHN’S VISION</b>
The gates to the city: these twelve gates, named after the twelve tribes of Israel, are also described in the new Jerusalem.	Ezekiel 48:30	Revelation 21:21
The view from a high mountain.	Ezekiel 40:2	Revelation 21:10
The guide angel.	Ezekiel 40:3	Revelation 21:9-10
The river for the healing of the nations.	Ezekiel 47:12	Revelation 22:1-3
The name of the city.	Ezekiel 48:35: <i>“The Lord is there.”</i>	Revelation 21:3: <i>“Now the dwelling of God is with men and He will live with them.”</i>
The Gog and Magog: battle with God’s people.	Ezekiel 39:1	Revelation 20:8

### DREAM CLUSTERING

There are periods when people connected in some way receive the same message, although dramatized with individual characteristics. For instance, a river bursting its

banks may play up in dreams of many people living within a specific geographical location. This could reflect a divine message in the people's spiritual atmosphere. Scriptural examples include:

- The cupbearer and baker's dreams (see Gen. 40:2-23).
- Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's dreams (see Dan. 2 and Dan. 7).

## Chapter 12

### THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

The gift of interpreting dreams is an offshoot of the spirit of wisdom. This special type of divine wisdom is given to understand God's mind in sending a true dream by the Holy Spirit. The gift of interpretation is often associated with the spirit of counsel and administrative ability. The "power of proclamation" can also be given to a gifted interpreter:

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-8).*

*"We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams" (Genesis 40:8).*

#### THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION AND THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM

The connection between the gift of interpretation and the spirit of wisdom is evident in the following passages:

*In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom (Daniel 1:20).*

*There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. King Nebuchadnezzar your father—*

*your father the king, I say—appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. This man Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means (Daniel 5:11-12).*

*The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems... (Daniel 5:15-16).*

When speaking of Joseph's wisdom and his associated ability to interpret dreams, Pharaoh spoke the following words:

*Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you" (Genesis 41:39-40).*

#### THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION AND THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL

The gift of interpretation is often connected with the spirit of counsel:

*"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine*

*that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.” The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” (Genesis 41:33-38)*

*Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue (Daniel 4:27).*

#### MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

The gift of interpretation is given by the Holy Spirit. It can be enhanced and intensified in a person’s life by studying the Word of God; keeping a pure conscience; laying aside personal agendas; surrendering one’s will; and living in constant communion with God. Bearing this in mind, one can say that eventual proficiency at dream interpretation is a studied art. The more you practice interpreting dreams, the better you become.

Every dreamer can develop and improve skills of interpretation. Joseph took 17 years to become proficient in the interpretation of dreams; he did not handle pronouncement of his first two dreams with much wisdom. However, Joseph’s interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams many years later showed evidence of wisdom. We should all continue to improve our skills.

#### GAINING PROFICIENCY IN INTERPRETING DREAMS

Over the years, I have noticed that only those people who remember dreams on a consistent basis can become proficient at skillfully interpreting dreams. Therefore, the gift of interpretation can be regarded as an offshoot of a prophetic anointing; those individuals who receive dreams and remember them consistently can be called “prophetic.” A dream’s covert meaning actually exists in the dreamer’s spirit, but it may be unfruitful to the dreamer’s mind until a

true interpretation is given. When correct interpretation comes, the dreamer will usually acknowledge trustworthiness of that interpretation.

#### THE POWER OF PROCLAMATION AND THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

Some gifted interpreters have the power of proclamation, which is the divine inspiration to declare an option. This power of proclamation becomes valuable when the dreamer wakes up prior to, or, at a moment of decision in a dream. Under such conditions, God is usually leaving room for the dreamer to intercede and help influence a situation's eventual outcome. A person with the power of proclamation can add his agreement in faith to help a dreamer tilt the balance in the desired direction.

#### INTERPRETATION BY WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

All true interpretation comes with the Holy Spirit's help, although its actual outworking is either through a word of knowledge, a gift of interpretation, or a process of acquired interpretative skills. A word of knowledge is the spiritual gift of knowing information beyond natural means, as through God's revelation: *"To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit..."* (1 Cor. 12:8).

Many prophetic people interpret dreams by a word of knowledge rather than through acquired interpretative skills. Such people often cannot explain how they arrived at an interpretation on the basis of a dream's elements. When God gives interpretation by word of knowledge, He sows its meaning into a person's mind without necessarily expounding on relevance of the dream's elements.

This is also why some people awaken from dreams with a prompting to a specific Bible passage. It's the result of God's sowing the relevant Scripture in the dreamer's mind. Word of knowledge interpretation, however, will usually not explain the relevance of a dream's elements to the life

circumstances of the dreamer; so, in that sense, it is restricted in details. There's enough detail to keep the dreamer from falling into a disastrous mistake, but every word of knowledge interpretation should be complemented with an acquired skill of interpretation.

Word of knowledge interpretation gives only a certain percentage of a dream's full meaning; therefore, it's short on intended keys of wisdom inherent in dreams. However, such interpretation is nearly always the correct essence of its message. Most angelic interpretations in the Bible appear to be word of knowledge interpretations; yet, if asked, the angels usually also gave further exposition on elements of the dreams or visions. Having a word of knowledge is the most common way that dreamers with undeveloped interpretative skills can gain understanding of dreams.

#### BIBLICAL EXAMPLE FOR WORD OF KNOWLEDGE INTERPRETATION

- The Dream

*Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" (Zechariah 4:1-4)*

- The Interpretation

*He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied. So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty..." (Zechariah 4:5-6).*



- My Personal Exposition of Elements in Zechariah's Dream

I believe this probably means that as long as Zerubbabel remains connected to the source of anointing—as symbolized by the two channels connecting the bowl and the two olive trees—then the light (the Spirit) will continue to burn in him. It will not be by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Almighty that Zerubbabel will succeed.

Compare this with the interpretation by skills, as given by Daniel when he reveals the king's dream (in Dan. 2:31-35) and then gives its interpretation (in Dan. 2:36-45). A complementing interpretation by word of knowledge with acquired skill is also demonstrated by Daniel. Review his dream of the four great beasts and the Ancient of Days (see Dan. 7:1-14), his resultant interpretation (see Dan. 7:15-18), and when an angel expounds on the symbol in response to Daniel's request.

#### ACQUIRED SKILLS OF INTERPRETATION

With acquired skills of interpretation, a dreamer applies a correctly derived "personal dictionary" of dream symbols in the interpretative process.

#### HOW MUCH OF THE DREAM MESSAGE IS REVEALED?

A true interpretation will give approximately more than half of a dream message and will also cover the intended reason for its divine selection of elements (such as people, places, and symbolic actions). A truly interpreted dream can be added to by way of further revelation from dream elements. But such interpretations should not be contradicted by further revelation from the dream. As a result of further Holy Spirit prompting, such additions may come from the same (or another) interpreter. A dream should only have one true interpretation. A correctly

interpreted dream, however, can have multiple applications and may unfold its relevance in stages.

#### HOW GOD INTERPRETS DREAMS TO UNBELIEVERS

God gives dreams to unbelievers. When He wishes to give them some understanding, He sows the dream's essence as a thought in the unbeliever's mind. This thought as to what God is saying may come as an impression, a flash of idea, or a knowing in the dreamer's mind. In this way, Pilate's wife had some understanding of her dream, and the Magi understood not to return via their arrival route because of Herod's evil intentions.

#### SUMMARY

Here is a recap of the three main ways that God helps us to interpret our dreams:

1. By giving word of knowledge regarding His mind in sending the dream.
2. By the gift of interpretation.
3. By acquiring the interpretative skills.

There are also various combinations of these three:

- Word of knowledge plus acquired skills is the most common combination. Most people in some form of prophetic ministry will use this mode.
- Gift of interpretation and acquired skills comprises people with a gift of interpretation who have made the effort to develop that gifting. These are people with a Daniel-type anointing. Remember, Daniel was not only gifted, but was also skilled at learning and gaining knowledge (see Dan. 1:17).
- Gift of interpretation without acquiring skills of interpretation applies to people who make no effort to acquire more skills at interpreting dreams.

# Chapter 13

## THE INTERPRETATIVE PROCESS

*“For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not”* (Job 33:14 KJV). The word *perceive* means to achieve understanding of, or to apprehend. Correctly perceiving what God is saying in dreams and visions is not only for prophets, but for all the saints of God. To understand what God is saying in dreams, we need to interpret what we receive from God. Interpretation is a by-product of our relationship with God because it’s achieved through the Holy Spirit’s help. In this regard, the Holy Spirit helps us to draw from the reservoir of God’s Word, which is an incredible revelatory wellspring. Together with biblical imagery, Scripture equips us to understand many forms of spiritual communication from God.

All revelation needs some form of interpretation—whether symbolic or literal, or perhaps a combination of the two. All these forms of interpretation may be applied to a single revelation. However, one must avoid assumption, and only allow logical deduction from what has been revealed. Adding assumption to what has been revealed may confuse the picture.

We should not get bogged down with rigid application of types and symbols, but, instead, practice a broad principle of interpretation. The fact that you have received a revelation does not automatically entitle you to its interpretation, which always comes from the Holy Spirit. One crucial point worth remembering is that interpretation should

come into our mind by a gradual inflow of the Holy Spirit; true interpretation does not come by intensive or rigorous reasoning. After receiving prompting from the Holy Spirit, the interpreter should apply minimal reasoning to elaborate.

#### INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is the deciphering of a parable language. A symbol is an element used to represent another element. After receiving prompting from the Holy Spirit, my first move when interpreting a dream is to bring meaning to its symbols. Deriving meaning for symbols should be predominantly centered on the Word of God. Then, I expound upon the relevance of the symbols to a dreamer's life circumstance.

Exposition brings understanding to these symbols and events as they relate to the dreamer's personal experience. Deriving meaning for symbols must go along with exposition to truly interpret a dream or vision. True and complete interpretation must take the following into consideration:

1. Scripture.
2. The inherent meaning of the symbol.
3. The dreamer's personal experience.
4. The social influences of the dreamer (such as the culture and colloquial expressions that he is used to).

#### STEPS TO CORRECT INTERPRETATION

One should not advocate a formula-based approach to dream interpretation. Reliance on the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity. However, I have found the following to be helpful in my teaching program.

- Wait for the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Correct interpretation does not come by human reasoning, but by an inflow into our hearts or subconscious from God.
- Understand the meaning of the symbols and actions.

- Explain the relevance of events and symbols to the dreamer's circumstance.

Always be sure to always put together a possible storyline for the dream. The plot should assemble the dream's elements and events without any contradiction. What follows is helpful in determining whether the storyline is correct:

- All elements will agree with or fit into the plot.
- All actions will fit into the context of the plot.
- If only one or two elements do not fit with the plot while the majority of others are in agreement, then the derived "meaning" of the symbol is not the appropriate one. Therefore, check other meanings of the symbol. If more than two elements don't fit into the plot, then be sure to review it.
- Proclamation: declaring God's sovereign message in the dream with the Holy Spirit's help. The proclamation must be based on why the interpreter perceives that God sent the message. Therefore, proclamation is more than mere compilation of a correctly derived meaning of symbols; it includes the interpreter's attempt to declare God's mind in sending a vision. Unfortunately, most dreamers are satisfied with just seeing dreams come to pass. But some dreams and visions may be given for the purpose of influencing future events; intercession can avert judgment or bring promises into reality.
- Application: bringing the message and the dream's wisdom to practical usefulness in the dreamer's life.

## SYMBOLS

To interpret a dream, we must think symbolically. A symbol's meaning must be revealed to the dreamer for each dream. The same symbol may be different for distinct

dreams, even though certain symbols may be used more commonly for some people. One meaning of a symbol is not necessarily its meaning for all dreams. Also, do not get fixed on a symbol's single meaning because it may change as you grow in your walk with God. As you study the Word of God, you will draw less on your own life experience and more from a biblical reservoir of examples.

We must interpret symbols from a life with which a dreamer is familiar. Each symbol may have a unique association, as drawn from the

dreamer's own experience. Symbols are not used haphazardly—they are specific and purposeful. In addition, there are particular symbols that cannot represent certain elements; for instance, being enticed by a prostitute could not represent the move of God, as we are *tempted* by the desire of our flesh.

If a symbol's inherent meaning conflicts with a meaning derived from God's Word, then a biblical understanding of symbols takes precedence over any other possible meaning. The scriptural meaning always supersedes. The meaning of symbolic actions is drawn primarily from the dreamer's background, but it should never contradict spiritual principles. Since symbols in dreams are chosen for very specific purposes, you must first identify God's purpose for using a particular symbol.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE COMPONENTS OF A DREAM

A dream's elements are symbolic in most cases, but some of them can be literal. By and large, there is a higher percentage of symbolic dreams than literal dreams. Actions in dreams are typically symbolic as well. *The context of the dream* is the circumstance in which the events occur, or its sequence of events. *The background* is the setting or place in which the dream occurs.

#### THE INTERNAL COMPONENT OF DREAMS

Every dream has an internal component, which is when the dreamer's emotional composure factors into its dramatization. Such depictions usually find expression as excessive anger, excessive insecurity, unwarranted distrustfulness, superstition, excessive crave for worldly pleasures, unfounded fear, or overbearing reactions. God will highlight such reactions amidst a dream message so that it can be addressed. A woman once presented me with this dream:

While she was in the ladies changing room about to go into a public swimming pool, a certain man came to interrupt her preparation on three occasions. The first time he interrupted her, she was just upset about it. On the second occasion, she was really angry. But on the third occasion, she went into a rage and ended up not going for the swimming exercise.

In this dream, God highlighted the lady's inner struggle with temperament, which should be addressed before it hinders her in the future. However, the dream's main message is that some unfair circumstances of life may interfere with her desire to flow in the Holy Spirit. This dream calls for two prayer points: first, her struggle with temperament; and second, to avoid unfair circumstances that could rob her desire to move with God.

#### THE THREE LEVELS OF SKILL IN DREAM INTERPRETATION

Over the years, I have found that human attempts to interpret dreams will fall into one of three categories: Level 0, 1, or 2.

- *Level 0* is the attempt by non-believers to interpret dreams.
- *Level 1* is a believer's compilation of dictionary-derived meanings of symbols, without any prompting of the Holy Spirit.

- *Level 2* is the true interpretation, as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Here are some key Bible texts relevant for this categorization:

*...but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us (1 Corinthians 2:10-12).*

*He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding...’” (Mark 4:11-12).*

The key point in true interpretation is being able to reveal God’s mind in sending the dream. So a true and complete interpretation will always answer this question: “Why did God send the dream?”

<b>NON-BELIEVERS</b>	<b>BELIEVERS</b>	
<b>LEVEL 0</b>	<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b>
“Soulish” emotion based on emotion, sentiment, and feelings.	The mind of God is not usually reflected.	The mind of God is revealed by the Holy Spirit.
Causes strife, always emphasizes the negative and takes away hope.	Misplaced priorities— does not have the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.	The dreamer acknowledges the true worthiness of the interpretation and speaks God’s wisdom into the situation.
Seeks self-interest—no respect for human life, especially the life of an enemy.	Does not lead to a closer walk with God—it may cause confusion.	Speaks God’s mind into the situation and gives clear, unambiguous instruction for the way forward.
Does not speak of love— drives the dreamer from God and seeks vengeance.	The dreamer’s yearning is not satisfied.	Bears relevance to the dreamer’s circumstances.
Leads to bondage.	Creates fear and lack of faith.	Always speaks of love. Leaves the dreamer with hope and builds up faith.



Interpretative attempts are not based on principles, and therefore, are unable to link a series of dreams on the same subject.	May be correct symbol-derived meaning, but relevance to the dreamer's life situation and proclamation are wrong.	It is truthful—even if it's a warning. Correctly links related series of dreams and brings appropriate exposition and proclamation.
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### JOSEPH'S TRACK RECORD OF INTERPRETATION

In the later part of life, Joseph operated at the Level 2 category. But in his younger days, he remained ignorant of the spiritual principle that public pronouncement of divine revelations should only be to bring about change in a positive way; it should never be done for self-aggrandizement. Joseph took 17 years to reach the Level 2 grade.

### JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE CUPBEARER'S AND THE BAKER'S DREAMS

<b>THE CUPBEARER'S DREAM</b> <b>Genesis 40:9-11</b>	Within three days, Pharaoh will lift your head and restore you to your position.
<i>"I saw a vine in front of me..."</i>	A "vine" is life, for Jesus said, "I am the vine, the source of life." "Front of me" means ahead of the dreamer.
<i>"On the vine were three branches..."</i>	Three branches indicate three days. Perhaps the vine tree sprouts one branch per day.
<i>"It budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened with grapes..."</i>	A miraculous and speedy progression of future life events that result in fruitfulness.
<i>"Pharaoh's cup was in my hand and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup..."</i>	"Pharaoh's cup": responsibility in high places. "In my hand": hand is the symbol for service and "my" indicates the dreamer's service.
<i>"Put the cup in his hand..."</i>	A restoration to former position and service.
<b>THE BAKER'S DREAM</b> <b>Genesis 40:16-17</b>	To be held responsible for, or to bear consequences for one's actions.
<i>"On my head were three baskets of bread..."</i>	The baskets indicate judgment. Bread is also a symbol for life, or a source of nourishment for life. Putting the two symbols together refers to judgment.
<i>"Three baskets..."</i>	Indicates three days of baking because there were no means of preservation, thus there was a need for daily baking.
<i>"...basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."</i>	The birds: agents representing leadership. Eating the substance of life from his head: death.

### JACOB'S TRACK RECORD OF INTERPRETATION

Jacob was a dreamer, who, most of the time, operated in the Level 1 category of interpretation. He interpreted "the moon and the sun" of Joseph's dream (see Gen. 37:9-10) to mean himself and Joseph's mother, but we know that

neither of them ever bowed down to Joseph. Jacob also took on surface value his dream of the *“stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and angels of God were ascending and descending on it”* (Gen. 28:12). Yet, it affirmed God’s promises to him by election and the grace of God. This dream also conveyed that he did not need to continue striving or relying solely on human effort. This dream was given within a context of his fleeing from deception, manipulation, family intrigue, and struggles for Esau’s birthright.

<b>THE LADDER TO HEAVEN DREAM Genesis 28:11-13</b>	For Jacob to know that it was all by grace and by election
<i>“A ladder resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven.”</i>	God assured Jacob that he was the carrier of both the seed and the covenant of Abraham and also assured him of personal safety and blessing. But man must reach out to God in Heaven, hence the ladder was from earth reaching to Heaven.
<i>“Angels of God were ascending and descending.”</i>	Twoway relationship between God and man. Angels bringing provisions from God.
<i>“There above it stood the Lord.”</i>	God oversees the plans of men on earth.
Confers the Abrahamic Covenant on Jacob.	Induced Jacob with anointing for the call on his life.
God’s mind in sending the dream.	For Jacob to know that it was all by grace and by election hence he should stop scheming and trust God for the future. Also to establish a personal relationship with Jacob. From this point on God became known as God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

### TRANSITIONING BETWEEN LEVELS

<b>NON-BELIEVERS</b>	<b>BELIEVERS</b>	
<b>LEVEL 0</b>	<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b>
<i>Transition required:</i>	<i>Transition required:</i>	<i>Transition required:</i>
Salvation.	Waiting upon the Lord and allowing the Holy Spirit to take control.	Nothing, except to continuously dwell in God’s presence and allow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to flow into the mind.
Making Jesus Christ the Lord over everything.	Constant study of the Word of God, regular fasting, praise and worship, and obedience to the things of God. Hebrew 5:14 principle <i>“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”</i> Experience counts.	Constant sanctification of the mind with the Word of God, for it has divine substance to continuously transform the soil of the mind to receive from God. At this level there is also divine wisdom to handle and deliver the meaning of the dream or vision to people.

Most believers will recognize when their interpretation is only on a Level 1 because it will not sit well with their consciousness; just as Jacob knew his understanding of Joseph's dream was incomplete: "*His brothers were furious, but his father thought a lot about it and wondered what it all meant*" (Gen. 37:11). Our goal should be to increase percentages of interpretations that fall into a Level 2 category and to possess the grace to know when interpretations only reach a Level 1 category.

#### HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR INTERPRETATIVE SKILLS

##### *General Points*

This is not a *carte blanche* for dream interpretation.

- Interpretation comes from God.
- Commit everything to God in prayer.
- You can receive interpretation instantaneously, through fasting/prayers/meditation, which brings clarity.
- Experience and the degree of interpreter's giftedness can influence how quickly interpretation is received.

##### *Step 1*

##### *Listen in the spirit:*

- Calm your soul in the Lord's presence.
- Use the eyes of your faith.
- Trust that God will give you the understanding.
- Allow the peace of God to rule your mind and heart.
- Wait for prompting of the Holy Spirit.

##### *Put away acts of the soulish realm:*

- Do not allow intellectualism and logic to rule the mind.
- Do not entertain fear and confusion.

- Do not be apprehensive or anxious.
- Do not allow emotions from the dream to cloud your judgment.
- Keep a clear mind.

## *Step 2*

*Allow clues as to the essence of its message to flow into your spirit from God:*

The Holy Spirit lights up an aspect of the dream that grabs your attention or imagination—this could be a symbol or an action in the dream—and the rest of the storyline will hinge upon this. Therefore, be sensitive and see what stands out in the dream or vision. Here are examples of how the Holy Spirit will usually prompt you:

*“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands He has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold” (Daniel 2:36-38).*

*Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully (Daniel 7:19-21).*

*“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before*

*it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully” (Daniel 7:8).*

*“Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire” (Daniel 7:11).*

God prompted Daniel by highlighting the little boastful horn.

I have found the following to be helpful in characterizing a prompting from the Holy Spirit:

- Every element in the dream will agree with this prompting.
- Its context, trends, and background will also line up with the prompting.
- The prompting should be capable of guiding an eventual, logical exposition of the dream’s symbol and events.
- The plot or essence of the dream’s message will hinge on this prompting.

### *Step 3*

#### *Allow minimal logical process:*

After receiving God’s prompting, allow minimal logical deductions to put the entire story into a perspective that fits correctly. Interpretation of a personal dream is often hindered by immediate progression to the logical processing without first receiving God’s prompting through a rhema word. Another problem is the intrusion of mind-set or preconceived ideas, which lead to clouded judgment. Here is an example of permissible logical deduction after receiving prompting from the Holy Spirit:

*After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the*

*whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle (Daniel 2:39-42).*

#### *Step 4*

*Determine who/what the dream is about:*

- A person
- A group of persons
- A place

Determine what aspect of the person's life is referred to in the dream:

From my experience, the aspect of a dreamer's life that is addressed in a dream is usually reflected as its background setting:

- An office background usually represents a secular career.
- A family setting primarily indicates issues in one's personal life, bloodline, or generation.
- Church background relates to dreamer's ministry.
- Money speaks of favor from God, or actual money.

*Determine the timing:*

Unless specified, timing is usually fairly difficult to determine in dreams. Generally, the following will determine if a dream relates to past, present, or future:

- Old house: objects in the past influencing the present.
- Clocks: lateness or presumption, depending on whether it indicates being late or early.
- Dates: as relevant to the actual date.
- Time of day, in terms of morning, afternoon, and evening.

### *Step 5*

*The interpreter intimates with the dreamer:*

The interpreter should also ask the same questions that the sailors put to Jonah: *“So they asked him, ‘...What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?’”* (Jon. 1:8).

*Confirm if there are any preoccupations in the dreamer’s mind.*

### *Step 6*

*Determine the plot of the dream:*

This will lead to the unraveling of the dream’s superior wisdom.

### *Step 7*

*Confirm the interpretation:*

Depending on the circumstance, God may speak confirmation in many ways: an audible voice; a still small voice; dreams and visions; mental pictures; and inner impressions. Confirmation can also happen in other forms of prophecies, through prophets, events (past or ongoing), and other revelatory means from God, including recurring dreams. (See previous section in Chapter 5).

### *Step 8*

*Take responsibility for what is revealed:*

We should take action on the confirmed interpretation, even if it is only to meditate and pray on what has been

revealed.

### *Step 9*

*Above all, let the glory go to God:*

God used Joseph and Daniel to reveal the meaning of dreams to kings. Both were very quick to acknowledge that God alone gave them ability to interpret dreams. They gave Him all the glory.

Joseph's response to Pharaoh: *"I cannot do it [interpret the dream]...but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires"* (see Gen. 41:15-16.)

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar:

*No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about. But there is a God in heaven...As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind"* (Daniel 2:27,30).



Part Three

**SYMBOLS**

# Chapter 14

## UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF SYMBOLS

The language of the spirit is a symbolic language. No other book speaks in symbols more than the Bible. Symbolism is also the language of dreams. In several ways, the language pattern of dreams is similar to the pattern of speech used in the Bible. Because of its extensive symbolism, some people have described the Old Testament as the New Testament concealed.

The language of reason is limited, whereas the language of symbols is infinite. A symbol may be identified by one word, yet, at the same time, may take volumes to be comprehensively described. The language of symbols and symbolic actions has great depth and power. As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Children learn the language of pictures and symbols before learning the language of words and reason. Man thinks and processes information in pictures because the language of symbols is richer than that of words.

God Himself described His pattern of speech to the prophets:

*"When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal Myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. But this is not true of My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"*  
(Numbers 12:6-8)

Key points from the above passage are:

- God does not speak to everyone the same way.
- He speaks in dreams and visions.
- He speaks in clear language.
- He speaks in riddles or parables.
- He speaks in dark speech.
- He speaks in similitude.

He may choose how speak to us because He is God!

Jesus Christ explained why He spoke and taught in parables:

*The disciples came to Him and asked, "Why do You speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand" (Matthew 13:10-13).*

*With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when He was alone with His own disciples, He explained everything (Mark 4:33-34).*

Jesus taught in parables and used symbols to illustrate His message. But He revealed secrets of God's kingdom only to the disciples. The Lord also described the Holy Spirit's role in understanding what God says. The Holy Spirit helps us by explaining God's symbolic language of dark speeches, similitude, and parables. Without this, we will be unable to understand the mind of God on any issue.

#### HOW SYMBOLS DERIVE THEIR MEANING

A message in symbols automatically switches us to symbolic thinking. Every parable needs symbolic

interpretation, with a meaning given for each symbol. To determine a symbol's meaning, do the following: first, consult the reservoir of God's Word; second, ascertain the symbol's inherent meaning; third, determine its association to the dreamer's experience; and lastly, devise a meaning from culture and colloquial expressions in society.

However, a symbol's true meaning does not come from human reasoning, but rather by allowing it to flow into our hearts from the Holy Spirit. This process comes by being quiet and still in the inner self. The choice of symbols in a dream is very specific and purposeful, and is the prerogative of God. A dream is the truest representation of a situation, as it reflects God's perspective; therefore, it addresses the issue more frankly than human illustration.

#### WHY GOD USES SYMBOLS

- It helps us to see the real situation from God's perspective because a symbol shows how He thinks about it.
- Striking features as symbols help impartation and interpretation.
- The hidden meaning of a symbol allows God to give clarification in stages.
- Humility is the key, as it increases your dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- The Lord will relate to a person in symbols that have some personal meaning. Dreams are a form of communication—an intimate language between you and the Lord.
- It secures the message from the enemy.
- It makes you want to search out the meaning.
- The language of symbols is deep and powerful. At the same time, it is the most elementary language of man and, therefore, available to all ages.

- The human mind understands or reads in pictures.

Those who have understood the tremendous power of symbols have gained incredible insights into God's mysteries because His ways are wrapped up in a symbolic language. As human beings tend to think in pictures, people need visual appreciation to truly grasp the essence of a concept. Symbols evoke powerful emotion and elicit strong passion, so much so that generations of politicians, philosophers, and religious

leaders have used them to illustrate points. National commitment is symbolized in the pride and honor accorded to the country's symbol: a flag. Many people would be outraged to see their flag dishonored. Public hatred is often demonstrated by the burning of the enemy's national flag.

#### BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Symbolism brought home the gravity of David's adulterous act to him. God could have chosen to send King David the same message through a dream. However, Nathan narrated the message to David in a dream format—of a parable—to reveal the gravity of his sin.

*The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him." David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as*

*the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity” (2 Samuel 12:1-9).*

At this point, the prophet Nathan reveals to King David that he is the man who has committed the crime, and that God is judging him for the murder of Uriah the Hittite and his adultery with Bathsheba.

#### ANATOMY OF NATHAN'S STATEMENT TO DAVID

<b>SYMBOL / ACTION</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>THE POWER OF IMAGERY</b>
The rich man.	David.	He represents an important personality.
The poor man.	Uriah.	A person who is vulnerable because he lacks the necessities of life.
<b>SYMBOL / ACTION</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>THE POWER OF IMAGERY</b>
A little ewe—like a daughter.	Uriah's wife, who is precious to him.	This represents something precious to the dreamer.
The arrival of traveler.	A need arises.	A potential need is imminent or at hand.
He refrains from using his own.	Selfishness.	A spirit of self-centeredness, or inconsiderate of others.
David's anger burned against the injustice of the man in Nathan's story.	Then David came to the realization that the sin was his. Therefore, he understood the true severity of his sin.	Holy anger stirred by the spirit of righteousness, or coming to one's senses after a period of being attacked with carnality.

#### HOW TO THINK SYMBOLICALLY

A dream is God's picture language interlaced with words. No one can understand dreams in correct perspective without some understanding of the Bible's symbols, metaphors, and speech patterns. Until we can understand symbolic connotations, many elements in dreams will remain unexpressed. This comprehension consists of knowing the symbol's literal meaning and what it evokes in people's minds. Valuable information is lost if we fail to understand the symbolic meaning of elements, persons, and actions in a dream. When one comes across an image and truly switches to symbolic thinking, two questions should arise in the mind:

1. What is the literal meaning of the image? (Usually the most obvious meaning.)

2. What does the image evoke? (These are the overtones.)

If either of these aspects is not well understood, then our comprehension of the pictorial language will be limited.

### *An Example*

Husband:

1. Ordinarily understood to mean male or man.
2. The word also evokes some lateral thinking, of father, head of a home, provider or Jesus Christ.

### SYMBOLS FROM THE PARABLES OF JESUS

#### *The Parable of the Sower*

*Then He told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears let him hear" (Matthew 13:3-9).*

#### *The Interpretation*

*Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among*

*the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown (Matthew 13:18-23).*

### THE ANATOMY OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SYMBOL	MEANING	DERIVED DREAM
Seed.	Word of God.	The Word of God is God's promise, which is capable of multiplication.

SYMBOL/ACTION	MEANING	DERIVED DREAM
Soil.	Heart of Man.	Potential for multiplication either good or bad— the essence of life.
Farmer.	Jesus Christ.	God, pastor, spiritual leader.
"Sown along the path."	No understanding— taken away by the devil.	Unprotected—easily taken by the devil.
"Seeds fell on rocky places."	Receives the Word with joy, but lacks depth and the seed gets stolen by trouble and persecution from the world	"Walking on rocky places," equals times of trouble, persecution, and lack of depth.
"Seeds fell on thorns."	The Word of God is heard, but gets choked by worries of life or the attraction of worldly riches.	Thorns, which mean the worries of life and the distraction of worldly riches.
Seed on good soil.	Hears the word, understands and becomes fruitful.	Well prepared for life expectancy, conducive for growth.

### THE BENEFITS OF A PARABLE LANGUAGE

- Economy—a picture is worth a thousand words.
- The essence is shown, as you apply specifics to your situation. It also gives the principle, so that the essence can be applicable at other times.
- A parable allows God to code messages for the dreamer.
- The promise is protected because the dream hides it from the enemy.
- Allows God to package and unfold His message according to areas of priority. Hosea 12:10 says: *"I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them."*



- The language of pictures and symbols is universal and has no age barrier.
- Allows God to give the best possible picture or truest perspective of a situation.
- A dream parable often shows the present condition, and what will happen if we continue to go in the same direction.

The purpose of a parable language is explained in Proverbs 1:1-6 (AMP):

*The proverbs, (truths obscurely expressed, maxims, and parables) of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: that people may know skillful and godly wisdom and instruction, discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight. Receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, righteousness, justice and integrity. That prudence may be given to the simple, and knowledge, discretion, and discernment to the youth. The wise also will hear and increase in learning, and the person of understanding will acquire skill and attain to sound counsel [so that he may be able to steer his course rightly]. That people may understand a proverb and a figure of speech or an enigma with its interpretation, and the words of the wise and their dark saying or riddles.*

# Chapter 15

## ANGELIC INTERACTIONS IN DREAMS

The Bible is replete with dreams that involve angels. Most dreamers will have encountered angels in their dreams but do not actually realize this. The majority of unknown people in our dreams who were trustworthy, helpful, and protective (and not contrary to divine principles) are usually angels concealed in human form. More commonly, a faceless personality in our dreams may refer to the Holy Spirit. (However, an unknown person who is deceptive, untrustworthy, unreliable, and causes hindrance in a dream is evil and symbolic of a demonic spirit.) Angels are common in twilight dreams and are often associated with clear dream phrases that give unambiguous instructions.

Angels often bring interpretation in our dreams. These interpretations can come in numerous forms, but they are usually literal and do not require further deciphering. Remember, however, that the Bible said, *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned”* (Gal. 1:8). Most interpretations need further study, so we should ask God for understanding of what we receive.

- Most of the time, angels bring interpretation to us in dreams:

*I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. So he told me and*

*gave me the interpretation of these things (Daniel 7:15-16).*

*While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision" (Daniel 8:15-16).*

*I asked, "What are these, my lord?" The angel who was talking with me answered, "I will show you what they are." Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the Lord has sent to go throughout the earth" (Zechariah 1:9-10).*

*I asked, "Where are you going?" He answered me, "To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is." Then the angel who was speaking to me left, and another angel came to meet him and said to him: "Run, tell that young man, 'Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of men and livestock in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, 'and I will be its glory within. Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,' declares the Lord, 'for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,' declares the Lord" (Zechariah 2:2-6).*

- Angels can wake us up to recall and record our dreams:

*Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left (Zechariah 4:1-3).*

*I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling (Daniel 10:7-11).*

- Angels bring impartation in dreams:

*Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings" (Revelation 10:8-11).*

*In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with*

*God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; His kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:26-35).*

- Angels bring knowledge in dreams or visions:

*Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come” (Daniel 10:12-14).*

# Chapter 16

## SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF NUMBERS

**G**od speaks a great a deal through numbers. The Bible is full of evidence of God's arithmetic. Numbers are a high-level form of symbolism. Here I have put together some numbers, along with generally accepted scriptural relevance. The spiritual significance of numbers given is based on the Word of God.

- 1:** Unity; the number of God; the beginning; the first.
- 2:** Union, witnessing, or confirmation. It could also mean division, depending on the general context of the revelation.
- 3:** Resurrection, divine completeness, and perfection; confirmation or the trinity of Godhead.
- 4:** Creation, or rule, or reign. On the fourth day of creation, God made two great lights, the sun and the moon, to rule the day and the night (see Gen. 1:16-19).
- 5:** Grace or the goodness of God.
- 6:** The number of man, weakness of humanity, or the flesh. It could also mean evil or satan.
- 7:** Completeness or spiritual perfection.
- 8:** New birth or new beginning. The circumcision of male children of Israel on the eighth day is a type of new birth.
- 9:** Fruit of the Spirit, harvest, or the fruit of your labor.
- 10:** Law and responsibility. The tithe is a tenth of our earning, which belongs to God. It is also the number of the pastoral.
- 11:** Confusion, judgment, or disorder.
- 12:** Government, or the number of apostleship.

- 13:** Rebellion or spiritual depravity.
- 14:** Deliverance or salvation. The number of double anointing.
- 15:** Rest (see Lev. 23:34-35).
- 16:** Love.
- 17:** Victory; immaturity.
- 18:** Bondage (see Luke 13:16).
- 19:** Faith (19 persons are mentioned in Hebrews 11:1-32).
- 20:** Redemption; fit for battle.
- 30:** Blood of Jesus, and dedication (see Matt. 26:14-15 and 27:5-8).
- 40:** Trial, probation, or testing. Israel was in the wilderness for 40 years. Moses spent 40 years in both Egypt and Midian.
- 50:** The number for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost, which was 50 days after the resurrection of Christ (see Acts 2).
- 60:** Pride or arrogance. The image set up by Nebuchadnezzar was 60 cubits high (see Dan. 3:1 NKJ).
- 70:** Universality or restoration. The Israelites lived in exile for 70 years and were restored 70 years later.
- 80:** Beginning of a high calling or becoming spiritually acceptable. Moses was 80 years old when he started his ministry to deliver the Israelites.
- 90 or 99:** Fruits are ripe and ready. Abraham *“was ninety years and nine when God appeared to him”* (Gen. 17:1 KJV).
- 100:** God’s election of grace, full reward, or children of promise. *“Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac [the child of promise] was born to him”* (Gen. 21:5).
- 100:** The beginning of maturity, mature service, or full status.

For multiples or complex numbers, the meaning lies in the way that the figure is pronounced, rather than as it’s

written. For example, 2872 is pronounced “two thousand eight hundred and seventy two.” The interpretation is as follows: two thousand = confirmed spiritual maturity or mature judgment; eight hundred = new beginning into the promises; seventy-two = confirmed completed and restored.



# Chapter 17

## ANIMALS IN DREAMS

**A**nimals in dreams are mostly symbolic of circumstances, events, personality traits of people, governmental forces, evil spirits, and even the Spirit of God. Answering the following questions will help to understand what they stand for in dreams:

1. What the Bible say about the animal?
2. What is the dreamer's experience with the animal?
3. Other specific attributes ascribable to the spirit symbolize by the animal:
  - a. Can they be eaten?
    - If they can be eaten, then *they represent a source of livelihood, such as cattle.*
      - b. Do they pose danger to people?
    - If they pose danger to people, then *they probably represent impending or existing danger to the dreamer.*
      - c. Do they harm crops?
    - If they harm crops, then *they probably represent limitation to source or income, reduction or destruction of harvestable resources.*
      - d. Are they domesticated?
    - If they can be domesticated, then *they may represent something that can become valuable if properly tamed.*
      - e. Are they tolerant of human presence?
    - If they are tolerant of the presence of human beings, then *they probably represent something that remains innocuous unless provoked.*

### SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES OF ANIMALS IN DREAMS:

Pharaoh had a famous dream of the seven fat cows which came out of the Nile River only to be eaten by seven skinny cows, which also emerged from the waters of the Nile (see Gen. 41:1-4). In his interpretation, Joseph revealed the meaning behind these two sets of cows:

*The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears of corn are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterwards are seven years, and so are the seven worthless ears of corn scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land (Genesis 41:26-30).*

After having been installed into a high position in King Belshazzar's court, Daniel received a rather terrifying vision of four beasts:

*Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it. And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, "Get up and eat your fill of flesh!" After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very*

*powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns (Daniel 7:3-7).*

In the interpretation that Daniel received from an angel, he learned that *“the four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth”* (Dan. 7:17). Each of these creatures represented a future foreign empire: The lion represented the kingdom of Babylon; the beast indicated Medo-Persia; the leopard symbolized Greece, under leadership of Alexander the Great; and the ten-horned beast was the Roman Empire.

John the Beloved experienced a multitude of visions while on the Isle of Patmos, including those displaying vicious beasts of the sea and the earth:

*And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them (Revelation 13:1-7).*

*Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666 (Revelation 13:11-18).*

Interpretations of these visions reveal the beast from the sea as symbolic of an evil governmental force that may arise against the Church of Christ. The beast from the earth represents the evil conspiracy whose main task is to cause deception. This beast stands as an emblem of false religion, false prophets, and false priesthood. The beast of the earth will lead people astray by means of miraculous signs and enforce the worship of satan.

# Chapter 18

## OTHER COMMON OCCURRENCES IN DREAMS

### SUPERIMPOSITIONS IN DREAMS

When an element is superimposed onto another in dream, it usually indicates that the two elements are very similar; they are a continuum of one to another; or they are a natural progression of one another. Superimposition can take various forms:

- When an element you recognize is superimposed onto an element you do not recognize, this indicates similarity.
- When a man and object are superimposed or used interchangeably, it indicates that one is symbolic of the other:

*In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven. He called in a loud voice: "Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze; remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him" (Daniel 4:13-16).*

- If a dreamer's roles of participating and observing in a dream are superimposed, then this indicates action, a consequence, or a natural progression of events.
- When two characters are interchangeably used in a dream—it may start off with one character, but end with the other character—such a situation usually means that what is being revealed is applicable to both characters.
- Seeing fulfillment of an earlier part of a dream in its later part, or seeing your thought dramatized in front of you while still in the same dream, indicates that fulfillment is imminent.
- A strange person acting the role of a known person in a dream may imply an approaching event, circumstance, or person that will bear resemblance to a known person from the past.

#### DREAMING OR RECALLING A PREVIOUS DREAM IN A DREAM

Here is a practical example:

A lady dreamt that she came to me for the interpretation of a dream she had earlier; this was the outer dream. The earlier (inner) dream that she wanted to have interpreted was that she was asked to clean up bird droppings at the corners of our church; that process had become quite laborious and never ending. The interpretation that she said I gave in her dream was that she was going to get a new husband. (In the natural, she is a respectable, married woman, and her husband is my close friend.)

First, we need to interpret the inner dream and its interpretation. Getting a new husband indicates a new, higher level of relationship with Jesus Christ. The inner dream indicates that she will be privileged to see into the spirit realm. But in the process, she will see some unpleasantness that results from weaknesses in the church's leadership. As an intercessor, she will be required

to continuously stand in the gap for them. If she is faithful in this assignment, then she will get a higher and new level of intimacy with Christ. The outer dream—where she sought my interpretation—represents her quest to understand the meaning of what she receives from God. I represent the prophetic ministry in this woman's life. All of this will lead to deeper revelation in the prophetic.

#### BIBLE PASSAGES IN DREAMS

Bible passages that appear in dreams indicate messages from God regarding that Scripture's subject matter. This phenomenon can occur in a number of combinations:

- Not remembering the particular verse of a book on waking up indicates either a need to read the entire book or a faulty reception due to issues of lack of peace, anger, and unforgiveness.
- Not being able to locate a book or verse of the Bible while in a dream indicates a need for the dreamer to spend more time studying the Word in real life.
- Verbal quotes from the Bible that are twisted or controversial in a dream warn of the enemy's impending attempt to cause deception.
- Dramatization of a scriptural scene that is clear and correct is an instance of God's teaching solid, biblical principles to the dreamer.

#### CLOCKS OR WATCHES IN DREAMS

- On its own, a clock or watch indicates the need to be watchful. It's a call to be alert.
- When a time is shown, it often indicates a Bible passage, and commonly refers to the Book of Psalms or Proverbs.

I once had a dream in which I was about to travel. I got to the bus stop, and I noticed that the time was 1:10 p.m. Yet, I was scheduled to travel with the 2:10 p.m. bus. The two buses were going to the same destination. Some people at the bus stop tried to talk me into taking the 1:10 p.m. bus, instead of waiting for the 2:10 p.m. bus. I thought that this was a good idea. However, before I could make up my mind whether or not to do so, the driver of the 1:10 p.m. bus took off in anger, as he apparently did not want me to journey with them. I watched the bus zoom off, and I felt completely embarrassed by the driver's attitude. As I watched, I noticed that the bus simply disappeared into thin air, much to everyone's amazement. No one could tell what had happened to it. The interpretation of this dream is Proverbs 1:10

*("My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them")* and Proverbs 2:10 (*"For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul"*).

- A clock that indicates lateness could mean that you are not quite as ready as you believe yourself to be. It might also mean you are at risk of missing a divine appointment.
- A clock that indicates being early for an appointment may signify a need to guard against being presumptuous. However, it could also be God's reassurance that you are ahead of schedule for a particular task or calling.

#### SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM SCENES IN THE DREAM

A scholastic environment may refer to some form of training. An inability to reach the classroom may mean that the dreamer is not in the right place or of the right attitude for required spiritual equipping. An examination often indicates standing at the verge of promotion.



## SEX IN DREAMS

Sex in a dream suggests that you are probably making, or about to make, decisions based on a carnal nature. In Scripture, God frequently uses sexual immorality as an allegory for unfaithfulness, or deviation from spiritual truth. Frequent experience of sex in dreams speaks of carnality, but it also indicates a hidden, unbroken stronghold of lust. Rape indicates violation of the dreamer's person or integrity, and this must be averted in prayer.

## INABILITY TO LOCATE OTHERWISE FAMILIAR PLACES

Inner indecision, uncertainty, or confusion in a dreamer's life often plays up as an inability to locate your room, house, office, or objects in a familiar environment. God uses this symbolism to draw that indecision and uncertainty to the dreamer's attention, so that it can be addressed.

## PEOPLE IN YOUR DREAM

In the majority of cases, the people in my dreams are symbolic. Therefore, they often represent what I must remember about them.

- A man of God in your life would most probably represent a timely message from God.
- An untrustworthy person in your past could probably indicate an impending situation that should not be trusted.
- A healing evangelist would represent the healing anointing within the dream's context.
- Dreaming of dead people speaks of what the dreamer most remembers about them. Commonly, sentiment is attached to dreaming of deceased loved ones. These are not visitations from the dead.
- A husband in dreams most often represents Jesus Christ or the actual person.

- Getting married in dreams typically speaks of growing intimacy with Jesus Christ because the Bible speaks of Jesus Christ as the bridegroom of all Christians. Avoid the superstition of “spirit marriage.”

In a minority of cases, the people in your dream are literal. If this is case, then the following matters are important:

- The overall context of the dream.
- Your spiritual standing, in terms of the trust that God can place in you with regard to sensitive information about people. Also, how far you can take such information without jeopardizing your spiritual standing; such a dream may be followed by possible emotional backlash.
- An established pattern of dream-language, particularly with those in prophetic ministry.

#### DREAMING OF ONE'S OWN CHILDREN

In these situations, what most often needs to be established is whether the dream literally refers to the child or is symbolic of a precious gift from God. To make that determination, it's worth considering:

- An inner witness from the Holy Spirit.
- What the dreamer's role is in the dream; if observatory, and the child participatory, then the child is more likely to be literal; if participatory, and the child observatory, then the dream is more likely to be symbolic.
- Who is the dream about? If it's about the child, then the child is more likely to be literal.
- What is the child's role in the dream? If the child is “out of character,” then the child is more likely to be

symbolic.

- In the dream, what is the relational interaction between the dreamer and the child? If it's not consistent with a real-life situation, then the child is likely to be symbolic.
- What is the child's age in real life versus in the dream? Most dreamers will find that dreaming of grownup children in their dreams often indicates a literal reference to the children.

# Glossary of Terms

**APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE:** A principle of acceptable beliefs by Christians, as based on teachings of the apostles of Jesus Christ.

**APPARITIONS:** Supernatural happenings in the natural realm as perceptible to the natural eyes.

**BLIND SPOT:** Any part of an issue that a person cannot directly observe with his natural rationalism. An area where perception is weak, or a subject about which one is markedly ignorant or prejudiced.

**CAPTURING YOUR DREAM:** The process of remembering your dreams.

**CARRY-OVER:** A thought pattern carried over into or from a dream.

**CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE:** A system of principles of acceptable beliefs practiced by Christians.

**CLOSED VISION:** A vision perceived by the spiritual eyes while the natural eyes are closed.

**COMMUNION:** Sharing of thoughts, feelings, and close rapport in a spiritual atmosphere.

**CONCEPTUALIZATION:** The process of forming concepts, theories, or ideas.

**CONFIRMATION:** The process of ascertaining a dream's true interpretation that reveals the dream as sent by God.

**CORRECTIVE DREAMS:** Dreams that bring correction to a dreamer's life.

**COVERT KNOWLEDGE:** Knowledge available but concealed to immediate awareness of a person's rational mind.

**DARK SPEECH:** Speeches with concealed meaning.

**DECREED EVENTS:** Events settled in Heaven that will happen in the natural realm despite human effort.

**DEMONIC DREAM:** Dream dominated by demonic activities.

**DIALOGUING DREAMS:** Dreams on the same subject, as separated by an interlude in which the dreamer wakes up and intercedes on the issue.

**DISPENSATIONAL PATTERN:** Divine ordering of worldly affairs, or a system of commands or specific arrangement by which something is administered, and considered to have been divinely revealed or appointed.

**DIVINE INSIGHTS:** An in-depth revelation from God.

**DIVINE MESSENGER:** One who brings a message from God.

**DIVINE PREMIUMS:** The measure of God-given motivation to seek a dream's meaning.

**DIVINE SIGHT:** An open vision where natural surroundings blend into the scene, so one cannot tell if it is real or spiritual.

**DIVINE CODE:** A system of symbols, letters, numbers, or words that conceal the meaning of a message that requires secrecy by God.

**DREAM:** A pictorial revelation received in the spirit when one is sleeping. True dreams are Holy Spirit-inspired.

**DREAM CLUSTERING:** Dreams on related subjects received by different people, either within the same geographic location or in the same field of interest. Usually, this indicates a divine message for the group.

**DREAM ESSENCE:** The quality of a dream's main message that gives it substance.

**DREAM INTERPRETATION:** The study of understanding symbols and elements in dreams for the purpose of interpretation.

**DREAMLAND:** The atmosphere and capabilities under which a dream encounter occurs.

**DREAMLIFE:** The pattern and extent to which the dreamer can receive revelation in dream form.

**DREAM MESSAGE:** The essential message of a dream.

**DREAM PHRASES:** Statements of truth in a dream that are either profound or have relevance to a dreamer's life situation.

**DREAM PROMISE:** A promise revealed in a dream.

**ELEMENTS:** Objects or persons in a dream or vision.

**EMOTIONAL BACKLASH:** A strong and adverse reaction to an occurrence, which is often delayed and was construed as a threat or danger.

**EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE:** The imbibed nature, attributes, or knowledge of God, as derived from direct experience of His presence.

**EXTRA-BIBLICAL EXPERIENCE:** Experience without Bible precedence or example justifying subsequent similar cases.

**FALSE DREAM:** A dream not sent by God—a made-up story or delusion of the person's mind.

**FEELERS IN THE DREAM:** Elements in a dream that God uses to fill gaps in the storyline of a dream message to add to a conclusion.

**FELLOWSHIP:** The condition of being together for sharing similar interests and experiences that leads to mutual concern and trust among Christians.

**HEALING DREAM:** A dream in which healing occurs to the dreamer's physical or soul realm.

**HEART CONNECTION:** The intents or outworking of the dreamer's heart as revealed by the dream.

**HUMANIST IDEOLOGY:** Pertaining to that which concerns the interest and needs of human beings, as opposed to divine or supernatural concerns. Ideology often associated with a belief that man is capable of reaching self-fulfillment without divine aspect.

**HUMAN REASONING:** Reasoning at human level, which is usually not dependent on divine input.

**IMAGE CENTER:** Part of the imagination that handles imagery, pictures, dreams, and visions (memory).

**IMPARTATION:** To bestow anointing upon a person by transference.

**INBUILT DIVINE DRIVE:** Divine motivation to seek the meaning of a dream.

**INNER DREAM:** A dream within a dream.

**INNER VOICE:** The gentle intrusion into your consciousness of birthing within your spirit, or evidence from your inner witness.

**INNER WITNESS:** A verification of truth that arises from within the dream's spirit realm.

**INTERACTIVE DREAM:** A dream encounter that includes exchange between the dreamer and God.

**INTERNAL COMPONENT:** Aspects of a dreamer's emotional make-up that God plays up in dramatization of a dream to bring it to his attention.

**INTERPRETATION:** The process of deciphering symbols within a dream and simplifying the meaning of a parable illustration.

**LOVE TEST:** A test that ascertains the presence or absence of the love of

God. The ultimate love test is the respect for human life.

**MEANING OF A DREAM:** The true meaning as to why God sent the dream.

**MENTAL PICTURES:** Images present in your mind.

**METAPHOR:** A symbol with implied comparison, such as: Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah.

**MIND-SET:** Preconceived ideas, or prejudiced point of view.

**MULTIPLE DREAMS:** More than two dreams in a single night. Each dream often refers to an aspect of the same message. This is a common occurrence in the life of a high-volume dreamer.

**MYSTERIES OF GOD:** Unexplained, inexplicable, or secret truth divinely revealed, which one could not know through reason.

**NATURAL CONSCIOUSNESS:** A critical awareness of one's own identity and situations.

**NIGHTMARE:** A dream arousing feelings of acute fear, dread, or anguish. Nightmare is a subjective term depending on the dreamer's perception.

**NIGHT SEASONS:** Related to nighttime, or periods in life full of difficulties.

**OPEN HEAVEN:** Access between the earth and the third Heaven.

**OPEN VISION:** Vision received with natural eyes wide open, but perceived with spiritual eyes.

**OUTER DREAM:** A dream that contains another dream within it.

**PANORAMIC VISION:** A vision in motion (as in a movie).

**PARABLE:** A story illustrating a lesson by using one element to represent another element.

**PERSONAL TRAITS:** Attributes specific to a person.

**PHYSICAL REALM:** The sphere of the natural.

**PICTORIAL DEPOSITORY:** Center in the mind where issues relating to imagery and pictures are processed.

**PICTORIAL VISION:** A vision of pictures without motion.

**PLANT DREAM IN THE SPIRIT:** Handling a dream's message in accordance with dictates of the Spirit of God and in line with His Word and His manifest presence.

**POTENTIAL EVENT:** Events likely to occur in the future.

**PREDICTIVE DREAM:** A dream that foretells future events.

**PROGRESSIVE REVELATION:** Revelation received in bits and pieces, in an increasingly unfolding manner.

**PROPHET:** A person who speaks by divine inspiration, or as the interpreter through whom divine will is expressed.



**PROPHETIC DECLARATION:** A proclamation under divine inspiration that is supernaturally revealed.

**PURE DREAM:** A dream without a visionary component or superimposition.

**REALM OF THE SPIRIT:** The sphere or arena of the spirit.

**RECURRING DREAMS:** Dreams repeated more than twice over a long period of time. They may indicate issues that need to be resolved or are in the process of being resolved.

**REPEATED DREAMS:** Dreams repeated more than once within a short time, often in one single night. There may be minor variations in elements or symbolic action, but the dream's storylines are essentially the same.

**SECOND HEAVEN:** The abode of spiritual warfare—the zone of conflict between good and evil forces from which satan exerts his influence.

**SECURITY CONTENT:** The measure of sensitivity of information in a dream

as coupled with its liability to cause damage if not maturely handled.

**SEER:** One who sees and receives insights by divine inspiration through pictures, dreams, visions, and utterance on a constant basis.

**SIMILITUDE:** An element that closely resembles another element.

**SLEEP:** A temporary suspension in the exercise of the power of body and soul. **SOUL DREAM:** Dream dominated by issues emanating from a dreamer's soulish realm.

**SOUL REALM:** The sphere of the soul or the act of handling decisions in the realm of emotion, feeling, or will.

**SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE:** Impact or influence of the spirit that envelopes surroundings of an event or occurrence.

**SPIRITUAL CONNOTATIONS:** The reason beyond the obvious, which touches on deeper meanings from a supernatural

point of view.

**SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER:** An experience in the spirit.

**SPIRITUAL IMPARTATION:** To bestow spiritual equipping from God upon a person.

**STRATEGIC INSIGHT:** In-depth revelation that makes for adequate planning of situations.

**SUPERIMPOSITION:** When one object or person is superimposed upon another, such as when a known person gets superimposed upon an unknown person.

**SYMBOL:** An element that represents, stands for, or is thought to typify another element by association, resemblance, or convention. A material object used to represent a concept, such as a dove being a symbol of peace.

**THEOPHANIC DREAMS:** Appearance of God in a dream.

**THIRD HEAVEN:** The highest Heaven and the abode of God.

**TRANSLATIONAL DREAM:** The process of conveying from one form to another, and to make for easier understanding.

**TRUE DREAM:** A dream sent by God.

**VISION:** Supernatural sight perceptible by spiritual eyes, which has variable degrees of involvement of the mind, body, and natural realm.

**VISIONARY ENCOUNTER:** Spiritual experience in a vision.

**VOICE OF AGREEMENT:** Verbal proclamation of Heaven's decrees on earth.

**VOICE OF AN ANGEL:** The voice of proclamation of truth from an angel of God.

**VOICE OF MIND:** Echoes from issues relating to the business, pressures, failures, successes, joys, and depressions of life.

**WARRING WITH A PROMISE:** To confront your life challenges with prophetic promises received from God.

**WISDOM KEYS:** Divine insight or solution into a given situation.

**WISDOM TEST:** A test that ascertains whether or not wisdom is of God.

**WORD DEPOSITORY:** Part of the mind that handles issue of the past.

**WORD OF KNOWLEDGE:** Knowing information beyond what one can know by natural means.

**WORLDLY IMAGES:** Images of worldly nature, or those that evoke worldly desires.

**WORLDLY INTELLECTUALISM:** An exercise of human intellect, especially to the extent of disregarding spiritual factors. Believing that knowledge is a product of pure rationalism. Any experience without the Bible.

# Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols

**ACID:** something that eats from within; keeping offense, hatred, or malice.

**ADULTERY:** unfaithfulness, either in the spirit or in the natural; actual adultery.

**AIRPLANE:** a personal ministry or church; capable of moving in the Holy Spirit; flowing in high spiritual power; Holy Spirit-powered ministry.

*Crashing airplane:* the end of one phase; change of direction.

*High plane:* fully powered in the Spirit.

*Low airplane:* only partially operative in the Spirit.

*Soaring airplane:* deep in the Spirit, or moving in deep things of God.

*War plane:* a call to intercessory ministry; spiritual warfare.

**AIRPORT:** a ministry that sends out missionaries; a high-powered spiritual church capable of equipping and sending out ministries; preparation for ministry/provision, or nourishment in readiness for service.

**ALLIGATOR:** a large-mouthed enemy; verbal attacks.

**ALTAR:** a place set apart for spiritual rituals or prayers/worship, whether good or bad.

**ANCHOR:** the pillar that an object or person hangs on, or builds hope upon.

**ANKLES:** little faith; early stages.

**ANOINT:** equipping with the Holy Spirit for service; the power of Holy Spirit to do a work; sanctification to be set apart.

**ANT:** industrious; ability to plan ahead; conscious of seasons of life; unwanted guest.

ANTIQUES: relating to the past; an inherited object, whether good or bad. APPLES: spiritual fruit; temptation; something precious, like the apple of God's eye.

ARK: an object of strength; relating to God's presence.

ARM: power and strength, whether good or bad.

ARMIES: spiritual warriors, whether good or bad.

ARMOR: spiritual covering that protects against attacks; divine protection; the truth of God.

ARROWS: powerful words, whether good or bad; Word of God; curses from the devil; spiritual children; good or bad intentions.

ASHES: signs of repentance or sorrow.

ATOM BOMB: of great suddenness or quick in occurring; something capable of great destruction.

ATTIC: the mind zone; a thought process; the spirit realm; memories/past issues/stored up materials.

AUTOGRAPH: prominence or fame.

AUTUMN: transition; end of one phase and beginning of another.

AUTOMOBILE: a means of getting to your destination, or achieving your goal.

*Brakes:* slowing down; to stop; compelled to stop; hindrance.

*Convertible:* capable of open heaven ministry; revelatory ministry.

*Four-wheel drive:* a powerful ministry; groundbreaking; capable of global influence.

*Junkyard:* ministries abandoned or in need of repairs.

*Rear-view mirror:* looking back, focusing on the past; warning to look ahead; warning to watch your back.

*Seat belt:* something that ensures safety; fastened (prepared/prayers); unfastened (prayerlessness, carelessness).

*Tires:* symbolic of spiritual conditions in a ministry; flat (needing spiritual enabling, needing more prayers); full (powered by the Spirit).

*Topless van:* not having adequate anointing for an occasion; vulnerable; transparent.

*Van:* goods delivering; group ministering.

*Wreck:* crashing; clash; danger; end of one phase.

**AWAKENING:** to be alert; watchfulness to be stirred into action.

**AXE:** the Word of God; to encourage by kind word; issues that needs to be settled.

**BABY:** new Christians; the beginning of something new; beginning to be productive; something in its infancy or early stages.

**BACK:** pertaining to the past; something behind, concealed, or hidden; out of view.

**BACKSIDE:** something in the past or behind the dreamer; something concealed from view or understanding.

**BAKING:** making provision for feeding people; preparation for welfare ministry; God's provision.

**BALANCES:** something reflecting both sides of the matter; waiting to tilt, one way or the other; judgment.

**BALD HEAD:** lacking wisdom.

**BALM:** healing; anointing; something to relieve pains, stress, or agony.

**BANK:** heavenly account; God's favor for a future season; a place of safety and security; God's provision.

**BANNER (OR FLAG):** the covering to which everyone belongs or is committed to; something that brings unity, love, or purpose; a unifying object or circumstance; victory.

**BANQUET:** God's provision; a full cup; plentiful affluence and abundance; satisfaction; blessing; celebration; structured teaching of the Word of God.

**BAPTIZING:** a change from the natural to the spiritual; dying to self and expression of the new man.

**BARBERSHOP:** a time, place, period of changing beliefs or customs or habits; a church where all such change can take place; depending on emphasis, either a place of vanity or correction.

**BARENESS:** unproductive; a difficult time or period.

**BARN:** a place of provision; a church; stored spiritual wealth.

**BASEMENT:** the unseen part of something; storage zone; related to the foundation; hidden.

**BASKET:** a measure of God's provision; a measure of judgment. **BAT:** creature of darkness; satanic instrument; related to witchcraft. **BATHING:** what you do on the outside to prevent an unclean or unholy attitude; outward repentance.

**BATHROOM:** a period of cleansing/entering a time of repentance; a place of voluntary nakedness or facing reality in individual life.

**BEAM:** power or illumination coming from God or the heavenly; a time of exposure or spotlight.

**BEAR:** danger; wicked person or spirit; vindictiveness; evil; something that is after what you possess.

**BEARD:** to have respect for authority; insanity (if messy); sanity (if trimmed).

**BEAUTY SHOP:** a place of preparation with emphasis on outward appearance; tending towards vanity.

**BED:** revelations; rest; contentment; becoming relaxed or lax.

**BEDROOM:** a place of intimacy; a place of rest, sleep, or dreams; a place of covenant; a place of revelation.

**BEEES:** more noisy than effective; a double-edged situation capable of going bad; producing sweetness.

**BELLS:** call to attention or action; to bring to alertness; to say it loudly; public warning.

**BELLY:** feelings; desires; spiritual well-being; sentiment.

**BICYCLE:** a ministry depending on much human effort; a one-man ministry.

**BINOCULARS:** looking ahead; looking into the future; prophetic ministry.

**BIRD:** symbol of leader, whether evil or good at different levels; Holy Spirit or evil spirit.

*Dove:* Holy Spirit; peace; a seal of approval from Heaven.

*Eagle:* symbol of personality; capable of soaring in the Spirit;

good focus/swiftness; powerful; a prophet of God.

*Feathers:* A protective covering, a shield or instrument for flying or moving in the spirit.

*Fowler:* a person or spirit that entraps; a fowler's net.

*Owl:* An evil eye that monitors; spirit of craftiness.

*Raven:* symbol of unclean spirit.

*Sparrow:* divine provision and food; symbol of God's desire to provide for us.

*Vulture:* evil spirit; opportunistic person; night creature or that which preys on "dead things" (human weaknesses); unclean spirit, a loner.

*Wings:* a protective covering, a shield or instrument for flying or moving in the Spirit; a place of refuge; God's presence; safety/something that provides escape from danger.

**BLACK:** lack; famine; evil; demonic spirit; darkness.

**BLEEDING:** hurting; losing spirituality; verbal accusation; traumatic.

**BLIND:** lack of understanding; ignorance; not able to see into the Spirit world.

**BLOOD:** atonement; to appease; something that testifies.

**BLOOD TRANSFUSION:** getting new life; rescuing situation.

**BLUE:** spiritual; Heaven-related visitation from God or the Holy Spirit.



BOAT: a ministry capable of influencing many people.

BODY ODOR: unclean spirit; aftereffect of fleshy actions.

BONES: the substance of something; the main issue; long lasting; (if a skeleton) something without flesh/substance, or details.

BOOK: gaining understanding/knowledge; Scriptures; revelation; promise from God; message from title of the book.

BOTTLE: relating to the body as the container of anointing.

BOW: source from which attacks come; (if an arrow) the power of a nation or person; verbal attacks; the tongue.

BOWL: a measure of something.

BRACELET: pertaining to pride; valuable, but of the world; identity, if it has a name.

BRANCHES: God's people; churches; church split.

BRASS: strength; hardness; hard covering; judgment, captivity or hard to break out from.

BREAD: Jesus Christ; the bread of life; the Word of God; a source of nourishment; God's provision.  
*Fresh bread*: a new word from God. *Moldy bread*: something that is not new. *Unleavened bread*: purity showing a lack of sin.

BREAST: source of milk for new Christians; source of sustenance; an object of enticement.

BREASTPLATE: God's protective shield; protective of vital issues.

BRICK: something that is manmade; designed to be durable; personality building.

BRIDE: the Church's relationship to Jesus; special to Jesus; covenant or relationship.

BRIDGE: something that takes you across an obstacle, such as faith; a connection between two objects or circumstances; something that holds you up in times of difficulty.

BRIDLE: put control over, such as self-control over using the tongue; something imposed by a higher authority to effect control, for either good or bad.

BRIERS: something “wild and thorny” that needs to be trimmed; some thing uncultivated or false.

BROOK: provision of God; something that brings refreshment; wisdom; prosperity from God; if dirty, it means corrupted or contaminated.

BROOM: in the process of getting rid of sins; a symbol of witchcraft.

BROTHER: a Christian brother or sister (spiritual brother); your own brother, or someone with similar qualities.

BROTHER-IN-LAW: same as a brother, but under special obligation; spiritual brother without in-depth love; a person of another church who is also Christian; actual brother-in-law, or someone with similar qualities.

BROWN/TAN: life; change of season; born again.

BRUISE: an event or circumstance that leaves one with hurt feelings; in need for healing; suffering of Jesus on our behalf.

BUILDING: symbolic of spiritual and emotional being of a place, person, or church; life of a person, church, or office.

BUS: a big ministry; a teaching ministry (for a school bus).

BUTTER: encouragement; something that brings soothing, smooth words.

CAFETERIA: a place or period of spiritual nourishment, whether good or bad; a church; structural teaching of the Word of God; celebration.

CAKE: provision from Heaven.

CAMEL: having a servant heart; capable of bearing other people’s burdens; an intercessory spirit.

CANDLE: Word of God.

*Lamp or electricity:* word of God; symbolic of man’s spirit; a lack of God’s presence when unlit; conscience.

CANDLESTICK: people who carry the light of God; the lamp stand; spirit of God; the Church.

CARPENTER: Jesus; someone who makes or amends things.

CAT: a deceptive situation/person; unclean spirit; craftiness; witchcraft waiting to attack; a precious habit that could be dangerous; a personal pet.

CAVE: safe hiding place; a secret place of encountering God.

CHAIN: symbolic of bondage or captivity; to be bound in the spirit or in the natural.

CHAIR: authority over something; coming to position of authority; throne of God.

CHECK: the seal of promise; promise that is guaranteed.

CHEEK: vulnerable part; beauty.

CHEETAH: unclean spirit.

CHICKEN: an evangelist; gifting; caring spirit; gathering.

CHILDHOOD HOME: influence from the distant past, either good or bad.

CHOKING: biting more than you can chew; too fast; too much in the wrong way.

CHRISTMAS: new thing in Christ; tradition of men; spiritual gift; season of gifts/love; a period of joy and humanitarianism.

CIRCLE (RING OR ROUND): a circumstance that is endless and which signifies agreement or covenant; hunting, if making a circle; relating to the universe.

CIRCUMCISION: cutting off fleshly things; coming to liberty; covenanting with God; blood relationship; new levels of spiritual walk; born again.

CITY: the makeup of a person; all that has been input in a person or people; group; church.

CLASSROOM: a time of spiritual preparation; a person with a gifting to teach others.

CLAY: delicate and fragile; not secure; something that refers to frailty of man.

CLOCK: timing is important in the situation; time to do something revealed; an actual time may refer to Bible passages; running out of time.

CLOSET: hidden, confidential, personal, or exclusive; a place of prayer.

CLOTHING: covering, whether pure or impure; your standing or authority in a situation.

*Tearing clothes:* covering; God is providing; grief and sorrow.

CLOUDS: heavenly manifestation; glory of God's presence; a dark time of travel; fear, trouble, or storms of life.

*Dark clouds:* a time of storm.

*White clouds:* glory of God.

CLOWN: not a serious person; not taking God seriously; childish.

COAT: mantle; protective covering; righteousness (if clean); not righteous or unclean (if dirty).

COLLEGE: promotion in the Spirit.

COLUMNS: a spirit of control and manipulation.

CORD: enhancing unity/love; something that holds things together, such as a three-fold cord.

COUCH: rest and relaxation; peace.

COUNTRYSIDE: a time of peace/tranquillity; a potential that is not yet explored.

COURTHOUSE: a time of being judged or persecution; trial.

COW: food/source of enrichment; a potential source of sin.

CRAWLING: humility or to be humiliated.

CROOKED: distorted; not straight.

CROSSING STREET: changing perspective.

CROSSROADS: vital choice to make or change in position; options.

CROWN: symbol of authority; seal of power; Jesus Christ; to reign; to be honored.

CRYING: actual crying; a period of grief; outburst of sadness; intense emotional expression.

CULTURAL CLOTHES: call to a nation.

CUP: your portion in life; provision.

CYMBALS: an actual object; praise God; without genuine love.

DAM: the power of unity or gathering resources; obstacle to a flow; reserve sustenance; stillness.

DANCING (WORSHIP): worshiping God or an idol; a time of joy or rejoicing.

DARKNESS: lack of light.

DAUGHTER: gift of God; ministry that is your “child” in the spirit; an actual daughter, or someone with similar qualities.

DAYTIME: the opportune time; a time of light; a season of good deeds; a season when matters are revealed or understanding is gained.

DEAF: not spiritually attentive; not paying attention.

DEATH: some measure of dying to self in an area; separation from things of evil; actual physical death.

DEER: Psalm 42; spiritual longing; symbolizes hunger for the things of God; ability to take great strides.

DEN: busy doing the wrong activities.

DESERT: lack; training; or testing; a place reliant on God.

DIAMOND: an object to engrave with; a hard object; an object sharp at cutting.

DIFFICULT WALKING: difficult times of life; facing opposition.

DINING ROOM: feeding on the Word of God; a place of spiritual food; table of the Lord.

DINOSAUR: something in the distant past; something big and terrible, but that God has dealt with.

DIRTY CLOTH: false doctrine.

DIRTY/DRY: impure spiritual things.

DIRTY/NEGLECTED: a place in need of attention.

DISEASE: emotional upset; bondage from the devil.

DITCH: deception; a trap; fleshy desire; to follow into problems; preparation.

DOCTOR: Jesus—the healer; a person with a healing anointing; someone with caring service; a minister; symbolic of a healing anointing.

DOG: a pet sin; a gift that could be harnessed to do good, but should not be trusted too much; something that could be versatile in function but unpredictable.

DONKEY: an enduring spirit; that which God could use, if surrendered to Him.

DOOR: an opening; Jesus Christ; the way; a possibility; grace.

DOWN: spiritual descent or backsliding; falling away; humiliation; failure.

DRAGON: satan; high demonic spirit; great level of wickedness; anti-Christ.

DRAWING: conceptualization.

*Artist's paint*: a means or method of illustration; to be fluent in expression.

*Paint*: doctrine, truth, or deception.

DREAMING: deeply spiritual message; a futuristic message.

DRINKING: receiving from the spiritual realm, whether good or bad; receiving your portion in life; bearing your cross.

DRIVER: the one in command or control; the one who makes decisions.

DRIVING IN REVERSE: not going in a correct direction with anointing.

DROUGHT: a period of lack; without God.

DROWNING: overcome by a situation leading to depression; overwhelmed to the point of self-pity.

DRUGS: medication; illicit drugs equals counterfeit anointing.

DRUNKARD: influenced by counterfeit source of anointing; self-indulgence error; uncontrolled lust.

DUST: temporary nature of humanity; frailty of man; curse.

DYNAMITE: great spiritual power, whether good or bad; Holy Spirit “dynamos.”

EAR: symbolic of the prophet, not the seer; hearing spiritual things that either build up or tear down; lack of hearing, or a need to pay more attention.

EARTHQUAKE: sudden release of great power; judgment; ground-shaking changes; great shock; a time of trial; release from prison.

EAST: God’s glory; the sun rising; east wind brings judgment.

EATING: feeding on something, such as the Word of God or evil; meditation and gaining greater understanding.

ECHO: Word coming back; revealing the Word’s sphere against living; repercussions.

Egg: delicate seed or promise; sustenance; the possibility for growth, potential, and development in any manner; revelation.

EGYPT: bondage or slavery; refuge; old sin; pre-Christian life.

EIGHT: a new beginning; circumcision of flesh.

EIGHTEEN: bondage; God gave the Israelites to Philistine for 18 years.

ELECTRICITY: spiritual power of God; potential for God; flow.

*Electrical outlet:* possibility of being connected into the Holy Spirit’s flow.

*Unplugged cord:* not connected to the Spirit’s power.

ELEMENTARY: the infant stage, not yet mature.

ELEVATOR: moving up and down in levels of godly authority.

ELEVEN: disorder; confusion; lawlessness.

EMPLOYEE/SERVANTS: one who is submitted to authority; the actual person.

EMPLOYER/MASTER: Jesus; the authority, whether good or bad; pastor; evil leadership.

EXPLOSION: quick outburst, generally positive; sudden expansion or increase; quick work or devastating change.

EYES: seer anointing.

*Closed eyes:* ignorance; spiritually blindness, mostly selfimposed.

*Winking eyes:* concealed intention; cunning person.

FACE: identity or characteristics; image expression.

FACTORY: structured service in God's vineyard.

FALLING: loss of support; falling out of favor; entering a time of trial, darkness, and sin.

FAMILY: the Christian or spiritual family; group of people in covenant or spirit of oneness; unified fellowship.

FAN: stirring up of gifting; something that brings relief or comfort; makes fire hotter; increasing air circulation.

FARMER: one who plants, nurtures, cares for new Christians; pastor capable of sowing and reaping harvest; Jesus Christ.

FATHER: Father God; supplier of needs; natural father of the bloodline; one who provides; the head of home or place.

FATHER-IN-LAW: Father figure within the organization; an advisor; spirit of delegation; head of another organization.

FEATHERS: protective spiritual covering; weightless; something with which to move into the spiritual realm; the presence of God.

FEEDING: to partake in a spiritual provision, good or evil.

FEET: a spiritual walk; heart attitude.

*Barefoot:* humble before the presence of God.

*Diseased feet:* spirit of offense.

*Kicking feet:* not under authority, or working against authority. *Lame feet:* crippled with unbelief; a negative stronghold. *Overgrown nails:* lack of care; not in proper order.



*Washing feet:* humble; duty of Christians.

FENCE: protection; security; self-imposed; limitation; stronghold.

FIELD: life situation; things to do and accomplish, all depends on the field and context.

FIFTEEN: mercy; grace; liberty; rest; freedom.

FIFTY: period or time of outpouring such as Pentecost; number of Holy Spirit, Jubilee, freedom and liberty.

FINGER: means of discernment; spiritual sensitivity; feelings.

*Clenched finger:* pride.

*Finger of God:* Work of God, authority of God.

*Index finger:* prophet.

*Middle finger:* evangelist.

*Pointed finger:* accusations, persecution, instructions, direction.

*Small finger:* pastor.

*Thumb:* apostle.

FIRE: God's presence; trial; persecution; burning fervency; emotion; longing, aching, and craving; power; Holy Spirit; anger, judgment, and punishment.

FISH: new converts to the Lord; newly recreated spirit of man; miraculous provision of food.

FIVE: grace related to the five-fold ministry.

FLASH: revelation or insight.

FLEA: not plentiful; inconvenience; subtlety.

FLOOD: judgment on those who use power to inflict violence on others; sin judged; overcome; to be overcome and unable to recover.

FLOWERS: man's glory of the flesh that is passing away; an offering; glory of God; beautiful expression of love; renewal; Spring; Jesus (if a Lily of the Valley); love, courtship, and romance (if a rose).

FLY: evil spirits; evil corruption; to possess by evil spirit; results of unclean actions.

FLYING: highly powered by the Holy Spirit.

FOG: not clear; uncertainty; concealed; vagueness.

FOOD: spiritual and physical nourishment, either good or evil.

FOREIGNER: a person outside the Christian faith (not a citizen of Heaven); someone to be taught, cared for, and brought into the covenant.

FOREHEAD: thought process and reasoning; revelation; retaining and recalling ability; commitment to God.

FOREST: growth in life, as depending on the context; place of danger and darkness where one can be easily lost and harmed; confusion and lack of direction; uncultivated; undeveloped potentials.

FORTY: testing period; season of trial.

FOUR: worldly creation; four corners of the world; four minds; four seasons; global implication of the four Gospels.

FOURTEEN: double anointing; recreation; reproduction; Passover.

FOX: a cunning spirit; craftiness, secretly or counter-productive.

FREEZER: storing spiritual food for future time.

FRIEND: brother or sister in Christ, or showing to have similar qualities; faithful person; yourself.

FROG: an evil spirit; noisy; boastful; sorcery; lying nature; issuing curses.

FRONT SIDE: looking ahead, something in the future.

FURNACE: source of heat; the heart; heated and painful experiences; a period of trial.

GARAGE: symbolic of storage; potential or protection.

GARBAGE: abandoned things; corruption; reprobate; unclean spirit; departure from all that is godly; something

that is thrown away; opinion of life without Jesus.

GARDEN: field of labor in life; a place of increase, fruitfulness, and productivity; a place of rest or romance.

GARDENING: an area of labor; a place of reward, increase, or harvest.

GASOLINE: source of energy; faith-filled prayer; danger; sinful motives.

GATE: doors; opening; salvation.

GIANT: a powerful spiritual being, such as an angel or demon; a challenging situation that needs to be overcome.

GIRDLE: to prepare for use; might potency; to strengthen for readiness; gathering together of the strength within you.

GLOVES: something that fits; protects the means of service or productivity.

GOAT: pertaining to foolishness; carnal; fleshly; not submitting to authority; walking into sin; need for repentance; miscarriage of judgment, such as scapegoat.

GOLD: of God; seal of divinity; God's glory; faithful; endurance; holiness that endures; a symbol of honor; of high valor; a valuable that endures.

GOVERNOR: the person who has power in a place; spiritual leader in the church; leader of a geographical region; evil principality; authority; rulership; reigning.

GRANDCHILD: blessing or spirit passed on from previous generation; generational inheritance, either good or bad; heir; spiritual offspring of your ministry.

GRANDMOTHER: generational authority over a person; spiritual inheritance; past wisdom or gifting.

GRAPES: God's word in seed form; Word of God; fruit of the promised land.

GRASS: life; something meant to be maintained

*Dried grass:* death of the flesh through repentance.

*Mowed grass:* disciplined obedience.

GRASSHOPPER (LOCUST): a devastating situation; an instrument of God's judgment; low self-esteem.

GRAVEYARD/GRAVE: old tradition; cultural reserve; death; demonic influence from the past; buried potential.

GREY: uncertainty; compromise; consisting of good and bad mixture.

GREEN: provision; rest and peace; good or evil life.

GROOM: Christ; marriage; headship.

GUARD: ability to keep on the right path; spirit of protection; to be vigilant.

GUEST: spiritual messenger; an angel or evil presence.

GUN: instrument of demonic affliction; spoken words that wound; power of words in prayer; dominion through speaking the Word of God.

HAIL: means of judgment against God's enemies.

HAIR: cover; something numerous; man's glory.

*Baldness*: grief and shame or lack of wisdom.

*Haircut*: getting something in correct shape; cutting off a good or evil habit or tradition.

*Long hair (maintained)*: covenant and strength.

*Long hair (man)*: rebellious behavior; covenant relationship. *Long hair (woman)*: glory on the woman; church submission; wife.

*Long unkempt hair*: out of control.

*Losing hair*: loss of wisdom, glory.

*Shaving*: getting rid of what hinders or is dirty.

*Short hair (woman)*: manliness; not submitting.

*To shape*: to acquire *wisdom*.

HAMMER: living Word; preaching the Word hard and fast; capable of breaking something to pieces.

HANDS: means of service or expressing strength.

*Clapping*: joy and worship.

*Fist*: pride in one's strength; anger.

*Hands covering face*: guilt or shame.

*Holding hands:* in agreement.

*Left hand:* something spiritual.

*Raised hands:* surrender or worshiping.

*Right hand:* oath of allegiance; means of power and honor; natural strengths.

*Shaking hands:* coming to an agreement.

*Stretched out hands:* surrender.

*Trembling:* to fear; spirit of fear; anxiety; awe at God's presence.

*Under thighs:* in oaths.

*Washing:* declaring innocence; to dissociate oneself.

HARLOT (OR PROSTITUTE): a tempting situation; something that appeals to your flesh. worldly desire; pre-Christian habit that wants to be resurrected; enticement.

HARP: if used for God, praise and worship in Heaven and in the earth; an instrument for praise and worship.

HARVEST: seasons of grace; opportunities to share the gospel; fruitfulness; reward of labor and action.

HAT: covering; protection; mantle; crown; protection of the head.

HEAD: lordship; authority; Jesus/God; husband; master/boss; pastor; mind; thoughts.

*Anointed head:* set apart for God's service.

*Hand covering head:* signifying sorrow.

HEDGE: God's safeguard; security; safety.

HEEL: a crushing power.

HELICOPTER: Spirit-powered for spiritual warfare; a one-man ministry.

HELMET: an awareness and inner assurance of salvation; God's promise.

HIGH SCHOOL: moving into a higher level of walk with God; capable of moving others into a higher walk with God.

HIGHWAY: holy way; the path of life; truth of God; Christ; predetermined path of life, or path of life that enjoys high

volume usage; may lead to good or evil destinations.

*Dead end*: a course of action that will lead to nothing.

*Gravel road*: way; God's Word; stony ground.

*Muddy road*: difficult path; not clear; uncertain path.

*Road with construction*: in preparation, change.

HILLS: a place of exaltation; uplifted high above the natural; the throne of God; Mount Zion.

HIPS: reproduction, or relating to reproduction; supporting structure.

HONEY: sweet; strength; wisdom; Spirit of God; an abiding anointing; the sweet Word of our Lord.

HORNS: the source of anointed power; the power of kings.

HORSE: of great strength; powerful in warfare; a spirit of tenacity, not double-minded; a ministry powerful and capable of competing; strength under control, such as meekness. God is judgment.

*Bay (flame-colored) horse*: power; fire.

*Black horse*: lack.

*Pale horse*: spirit of death.

*Red horse*: danger; passion; the Blood of Jesus.

*White horse*: purity and righteousness.

HOSPITAL: a gift of healing/anointing or caring or love; edifying others.

HOTEL: a place of gathering; a temporary place of meeting; a transit place of meeting; church; a transit situation.

HOUSE: one's spiritual and emotion house; personality; Church.

HUSBAND: the actual husband; Jesus Christ; (if ex-husband) a previous head over you, or something that had control over you in the past.

INCENSE: prayer; worship; praise; acceptable unto God.

IRON: a person or object of strength, powerful; strict rules; powerful strongholds.

**IRONING:** the process of correction by instructions; teaching; to talk matters over; working out problem relationships; turning from sin.

**ISLAND:** something related to the island; what the island is known for, or its name.

**ISRAEL:** the nation of Israel; the Christian community; the redeemed ones; authority that comes from God over men; the people of God.

**JERUSALEM:** the establishment of peace; chosen place by God; the City of God.

**JEWELRY:** valuable possessions; God's people; gifted person who has received abilities from the Lord; a valued object or person.

**JUDGE:** Father God; authority; anointed to make decisions; Jesus Christ.

**KEY:** the authority to something; claim to ownership; prophetic authority; kingdom authority.

**KISS:** coming into agreement; covenant; seductive process; enticement; deception or betrayal; betrayal from a trusted friend or brother/sister in Christ.

**KITCHEN:** a place of preparing spiritual food; hunger for the work of God.

**KNEELING:** surrender; praying; art of submission.

**KNEES:** reverence; prayerfulness; submission.

**KNIVES (OR SWORD):** the Word of God; speaking against someone.

**LADDER:** changing spiritual position; escaping from captivity.

**LAMB/ SHEEP:** Jesus; believer; gentleness; blamelessness.

**LAME:** shortcomings; a flaw in one's walk with God; a limitation.

**LAMP:** a source of light; an inward part of man or spirit; the Holy Spirit.

**LAND:** inheritance; promise given by God.

*Bare earth or dust:* curse; bareness.

*Neglected, unwanted land:* neglected promise or inheritance.

*Newly cleared land:* newly revealed area of God's promise.

*Ripe on the land:* fruitful work of the ministry.

LAUGH: rejoicing; joy; sarcasm.

LAUGHING: an outburst of excitement or joy.

LAVA: enemy.

LAWYER: Jesus Christ; mediator; the accuser of brethren; pertaining to legalism.

LEAD (METAL): heavy burden; heavy object.

LEAVEN: sin that spreads to others; false belief system.

LEAVES: trees with healthy leaves planted by the rivers of life; healing of the nation; (if dry leaves) the pressures of life.

LEFT: that which is of the Spirit; God manifested through the flesh of man.

LEGS: means of support; spiritual strength to walk in life; (if female legs) the power to entice.

LEMON: bitter doctrine; something gone sour.

LEVIATHAN: an ancestral spirit of demonic nature; difficult to eliminate, so only God can deal with it.

LIBRARY: a place of knowledge; schooling; wisdom.

LICE: accusation; shame; a concerted attempt to smear you; (if lice on head) an excessive compulsion to lie.

LIGHT: illumination on the established truth; no longer hidden; to show forth.

*Absence of light:* lack of understanding; absence of God.

*Dim light:* showing a need for fullness of knowledge of the Word.

*Small lamp or flashlight:* walking in partial founding of the Word.



LIGHTNING: God's voice; the Lord interrupting an activity to get man's attention; something happening very quickly.

LIMOUSINE: the call of God; pride.

LION: the conquering nature of Jesus; a powerful spirit, good or bad.

LIPS: Word of God; offering; enticement; a means of testifying; speaking falsehood or accusation.

LIVING ROOM: part of your personality opened for others to see.

LOST (DIRECTION): indicating inner confusion or indecision.

MACHINES: power and mechanism of the spirit.

MAN (UNKNOWN): a spiritual messenger, either God's messenger or evil; Jesus.

MANNA: God's miraculous provision; coming directly from God; glory of God; bread of life.

MAP: Word of God; instruction; direction.

MARBLE: beauty; majesty of God.

MARK: something that distinguishes; symbol; to set apart; mark of God or devil.

MARRIAGE: going deeper into things of God (intimacy); a covenant process; an actual marriage; Jesus Christ's union with the Church.

MEAT: strong doctrine; something meant for spiritually mature people.

MERCY SEAT: God's love; indicating the mercy of God; kingship of the Lord; the throne of God.

MICROPHONE: amplification of the Word of God; preaching; the prophetic ministry; an ability to influence many people.

MICROSCOPE: a need to look more carefully; obtaining clearer vision; to magnify a situation or circumstance, whether good or bad.

MICROWAVE Oven: may indicate lack of patience; looking for an easy option; quick acting process.

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH: medium level equipping by God.

MILK: good nourishment; elementary teaching.

MIRROR: something that enables you to look more closely; reflecting on a situation or circumstance; the Word of God revealing a need for change; self-consciousness; vanity.

MISCARRIAGE: plans aborted; to lose something at the preparatory stage, whether good or bad.

MONEY: God's favor; spiritual and natural wealth; spiritual authority; power; man's strength; greed.

MOON: indicating rulership; to reign in night seasons; light of God at dark season of life.

*Blood-colored*: the church being persecuted; something bright in darkness.

MORNING: the beginning of something; the light of God after a dark season of life; sins being revealed; rejoicing.

MOTHER: the Church; Jerusalem; one's actual mother; a spiritual mother; caregiver/teacher.

MOTHER-IN-LAW: a church that is not your actual church; false teacher; one's actual mother-in-law.

MOTOR (ENGINE OR BATTERY): a source of power and anointing.

MOTORCYCLE: Spirit-powered personal ministry; loner; show-off; pride or exhibitionism.

MOUNTAIN: great power and strength, whether good or bad; a place of revelation or meeting with God and His glory; obstacle; difficulty.

MOUTH: an instrument of witnessing, good or bad; speaking evil or good words; something from which come the issues of life; words coming against you.

MOVING: a change in spiritual and emotional well-being; a changing situation; imminent change.

MUSIC: praise and worship; flowing in spiritual gifts; teaching; admonishing; a message.

MUSTARD SEED: faith; value or power of faith; sowing in faith; the Word of God; God's promise.

NAILS: to make something more permanent; how Jesus dealt with our sins.

NAME: meaning of the name; the identity of something; designate; rank or status.

NATION: could represent characteristics of the nation; a calling related to the nation; the actual nation itself.

NECK: stubborn; strong willed; (if stiff-necked) rebellious.

NEST: security that is not real; God as a place of rest.

NET: to trap or ensnare; the plans of the enemy; to win souls.

NEW: new condition.

NEWSPAPER: proclamation; prophetic utterance; bringing something to the public.

NIGHT: time of trial or difficulty; lack of God's light or understanding;  
without involvement of the Spirit.

NINE: fruit of the Spirit; gift of the spirit; harvest.

NINETEEN: faith; repentance.

NOISE: irritation that is intrusive; sound that draws attention.

NORTH: refers to great powers that will come.

NOSE: discerning spirit; intruding into people's privacy; discernment, whether good or bad; one who gossips.

NOSEBLEED: strife; a need to strengthen your discernment.

OCEAN: masses of people.

OIL: the anointing; medicine; joy; prosperity; the Holy Spirit; grace and mercy of God.

OLD: old ways.

OLD MAN: pre-Christian self; spirit of wisdom.

ONE: new beginning; unity (divinity); deity.

ONE HUNDRED: fullness; 100-fold reward; the promise.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY: the promise and the Holy Spirit.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY: the beginning of the Holy Spirit's work.

ORANGE: warning; danger ahead; caution needed.

OVEN: the heart of the matter; of high intensity; fervency.

OVERSLEEPING: a chance of missing a divine appointment.

PAINTING: creating a new image; renew or revamp.

PARACHUTING: bail out, escape and flee.

PARK: a place of rest, worship, tranquility; a temporary place.

PATH: the path of life; a personal walk with God; directions in life.

PEARL: an object or person of value; an established truth of God; the glory of Heaven.

PEN/PENCIL: pertaining to writing; words that are written; to make permanent.

PERFUME: an aroma; the glory of God; fragrance of the Holy Spirit; anointing.

PICTURE: something relating to images; to keep in memory; to honor.

*Frames*: mind-set; mentality. *Golden frames*: divine seal.

*Old frame*: out-dated.

PIG: an unclean spirit; spirit of religion; caged by one's mind-set; phony and not trustworthy; selfish; hypocritical.

PILLAR: a main support, whether spiritual and natural; foundational truths.

PINK: flesh or natural desire; not showing great passion for the things of God.

PIT: enticement; trap; a hole on the pathway.

PLATTER: something on which to present things.

PLAY: life competition; spiritual warfare/contention.

PLAYING: reflective of a true-life situation; the game of life.

PLOW: preparing the heart to receive the Word of God; cracking fallow grounds hardened by sin.

POISON: evil and deadly teaching or doctrine.

POLICE: spiritual authority; having power to enforce purpose, whether good or bad; pastor or elders; angels or demons; enforcer of a curse of the law.

PORCH: exhibition; public part of a building; easily seen and openly displayed.

POSTAGE STAMP: the seal of authority; authorization; empowered.

POST-MORTEM: examination of what has happened; giving testimony.

POT: a person; the vessel or a container; tradition.

PREGNANCY: in the process of reproducing; preparatory stage; the promise of God; the Word of God as seed; a prophetic word; process of birthing, whether good or bad.

*Labor pains*: final stages of trial or preparation; wilderness period.

PREACHER/PASTOR (PRIEST AND PROPHET): a person who represents God; a timely message from God; spiritual authority.

PRISON: lost souls; bondage; areas of stronghold.

PURPLE: related to royalty; kingly anointing or authority.

PURSE (OR WALLET): treasure; heart; personal identity; precious and valuable; (if empty) bankrupt.

RABBIT: evil spirit; something capable of carnal multiplication.

RADIO: continuous broadcasting of news; prophetic utterance; teaching gospel; nuisance.

RAFT: without purpose or direction.

RAGS: humility; poverty or lack.

RAILROAD TRACK: tradition; unchanging habit; stubborn; caution; danger.

RAIN: blessings; God's Word; outpouring of the Spirit; hindrance; trial or disappointment.

*No rain/drought:* lack of blessing; absence of God's presence.

RAINBOW: a sign of God's covenant; a sign of natural agreement.

RAINING: the blessing from God; testing time or trial.

RAM: satanic occult.

RAT: garbage (sin) left out.

REAP: harvest; reward of effort, whether good or bad.

REAPING: reward of labor.

RED: passion; the Blood of Jesus; strong feeling; danger; anger.

REED: weakness, whether spiritual or natural; too weak to be relied on.

REFRIGERATOR: heart issues; motivation; thoughts; storing up spiritual food for the right time.

*Spoiled food:* to harbor a grudge; unclean thoughts or desires.

*Stored food:* matters stored in the heart.

REFUGE: a place of protection, safety or security.

REINS: a means of control or restraint.

RENDING: repentance; disagreement; to tear apart as a sign of anger; grief or sorrow;

REST: a state of stillness or inactivity; tranquility; a place where you can receive from God; laziness.

RESTAURANT: a place of choice regarding the spiritual food you need; a place where the five-fold ministry is taught.

RESTING: not in activity.

RIGHT: authority or power; natural inclination; what you can do naturally.

RIGHT TURN: natural change.

RING: never-ending, unchanging and uninterrupted; unity of purpose in a place; covenant relationship; relating to

God's authority; symbol of our covenant with God.

*Engagement ring*: promise; sign of commitment.

*Rings as jewelry*: vanity; worldliness.

*Wedding ring*: marriage between man and woman.

RIVER: movement of God; flow of the Spirit; obstacle; trial.

*Deep*: deep things of God.

*Dangerous currents*: difficulty in moving in the flow of the Spirit.

*Dried up*: danger ahead; lack of God's presence; traditions or legalism; empty of spiritual power.

*Muddy*: operating in mixtures, flesh and spirit.

ROBE: righteousness; the true covering from God; right standing with God.

ROCK: Jesus Christ; solid foundation; a place of refuge; an obstacle; a stumbling block.

ROCKET: a ministry or person with great power or potential for deep things of the Spirit; capable of quick take-off and great speed.

ROCKING: reflective.

ROCKING CHAIR: intercession; recollection; prayer; relaxation; long standing in nature; old age.

ROD: staff or scepter of authority; to guard; discipline.

ROLLER COASTER: needing more faith; swings of seasons or moods; a situation or circumstance that moves up and down.

ROLLER SKATES: a skillful walk with God; speedy progress; fast, but possibly dangerous.

ROOF: covering; revelation from above; zone of mind; thinking; meditation; spiritual rather than natural.

ROOT: motives; the origin and source; the heart of a matter, whether good or bad.

ROPE/CORD: in covenant; in binding; used to bind.

ROUND (SHAPE): never-ending; favor, love, or mercy.

ROWBOAT: a ministry that intervenes for others; offering earnest prayers.

ROWING: working at something; to labor in the Spirit; traveling in the Spirit; hard work.

RUG: to cover up a situation or circumstance; protection.

RUNNING: race; hard work; trying to catch up with something.

SACRIFICE: to give up something; to lay down one's life for another; something to cover up or wash away.

SALT: something that adds value, preserves, or purifies; to make lasting.

SALT WATER: to add flavor; to cleanse.

SANCTUARY: a sacred place; a refuge; a place of immunity or rest; a place set apart for spiritual offering and sacrifices.

SAND: numerous; seeds; promises; symbolic of a work of flesh; not suitable for a foundation.

SCEPTER: office (of ministry); a staff of authority or sovereignty.

SCHOOL: training period; a place of teaching; a teaching ministry; anointing.

SCORPION: an evil spirit; poisonous.

SEA: great multitude of people; nations of the world; unsettled as the mark of sea; something by which to reach the nations; a great obstacle.

SEACOAST: a transitional phase; a borderland.

SEAL: confirmation or authenticity or guarantee; God's mark of approval or belonging; a mark of evil.

SEA OF GLASS: peaceful and clear; a symbol of revelation; stillness/transparency.

SEAT: the power base; rulership; authority; coming to rest; a place of mercy.

SEED: the Word of God; a promise; a person or situation capable of giving rise to many or greater things, whether



good or bad.

SERPENT: a symbol of satan; kingdom of the world; an accursed thing; an emblem of Christ on the Cross; cunning; gossip; persecution; spirit of divination.

SEVEN: the number of perfection and completion; finished work; rest.

SEVENTEEN: a spiritual process of maturation; not yet matured.

SEVENTY: impartation of God's spirit; increase; restoration.

SEVENTY-FIVE: a period for purification and separation (Abraham was 75 years old when he separated from Haran).

SEWAGE: something that carries away waste; a good appearance but carrying waste within; waste that could defile flesh.

SEWING: putting together; amendment; union; counseling.

SEXUAL ENCOUNTER: soulish desires; or want to be intimate with other person's gifts; (if with an old lover) a desire for former life.

SHADOW: a reflection of a person or situation; the spiritual cover; a place of safety, security; only partially illuminated; a poor resemblance of something else; delusion or imitation; imperfect or lacking real substance; demons.

SHEPHERD: Jesus Christ or God; a leader, either good or bad; an ability to separate goat from sheep; a selfless person.

SHIELD: a protective substance; God's truth; faith in God.

SHIP: a big ministry capable of influencing large numbers of people.

*Battleship*: built for effective spiritual warfare.

*Crashing*: end of ministry, or end of one phase.

*Fast*: operating in great power.

*Large*: large area of influence.

*On dry ground:* without a move of the Spirit; moving in works of the flesh.

*Sinking:* out of line with God's purpose; losing spiritual control.

*Small:* small or personal.

SHOES: readiness to spread the gospel; knowledge of the Word of God.

*Boots:* equipped for spiritual warfare.

*Does not fit:* walking in what you are not called for.

*Giving away shoes:* depending on its context, equipping others.

*High heels:* seduction or discomfort.

*In need of shoes:* not dwelling on God's Word; in need of comfort or protection.

*New shoes:* getting new understanding of the gospel; a fresh mandate from God.

*Putting on:* preparation for a journey.

*Slippers:* too comfortable.

*Snowshoes:* faith; walking in the spirit; supported by faith in the Word of God.

*Taking off shoes:* honoring God; ministering to the Lord.

*Taking someone else's shoes off:* ; to show respect.

*Tennis shoes:* spiritual giftedness; running the race of life.

SHOPPING CENTER (OR MARKETPLACE): ministry with a multi-faceted gifting; coming to a place of choices that may lead to not being singleminded; could also indicate various methods of the enemy strategies.

SHOULDER: responsibility; authority.

*Bare female shoulders:* enticement.

*Broad shoulders:* capable of handling much responsibility.

*Drooped shoulders:* defeated attitude; overworked, overtired, and burned out.

SHOVEL: digging up something; to smear someone.

SICKLE: reaping; the Word of God; a harvest.

SIEVE: to separate impure from the pure; trial or testing.

SIGN: a witness of something; to foreshadow; to draw attention to a person, place, or circumstance.

*Crossroads/Intersection*: a place for decision; a time for change.

*Stop sign*: to stop and pray for guidance.

*Yield*: a sign of submission.

SIGNATURE: commitment and ownership.

SILVER: a symbol of redemption; understanding; knowledge; an object or person of valor; worldly knowledge; betrayal; a furnace of affliction.

SINGING: the words of the song, equals a message from God; rejoicing; heart overflow.

SISTER: one's actual sister, or her similar qualities in you or someone else; a sister in Jesus Christ.

SISTER-IN-LAW: the same as sister; one's actual sister-in-law, or a person with similar qualities; a Christian in another fellowship; a relationship without much depth.

SITTING: a place of authority; position in power; throne of God; seat of satan.

SIX: the number of man; symbol of satan; pride in the work of man.

SIX-SIX-SIX: number of satan; mark of the beast (see Rev. 13:18); human hubris.

SIXTEEN: set free by love; the power of love or salvation.

SKIING: stepping out in faith; the power of faith; smooth riding in God's provision; making rapid process.

SKINS: a covering.

SKY: above the natural; God's presence; related to God or high things of the Spirit.

SKYSCRAPER: revelation; a ministry or person with a built-up structure to function on a multi-level; a church or person

with prophetic giftedness; a high level of spiritual experience.

SLEEPING: being overtaken; not being conscious; hidden; laziness; state of rest; danger; out of control; (if overslept) in danger of missing a divine appointment.

SMILE: a sign of friendliness; an act of kindness; agreement.

SMILING: a sign of friendship; a seductive process.

SMOKE: praise; worship; the manifested glory of God; prayers of saints; hindrance.

SNAKE: backbiting; divination; false accusations; false prophecies; gossip; long tales; slander.

SNARE: a trap; the fear of man; bringing into bondage.

SNOW: favor of God; totally pure; (if dirty snow) no longer pure.

SOAP: to make clean; forgiveness; interceding for others.

SOCKS: reflective of the state of one's heart as fertile ground for God's Word; peace; protection of the feet.

*Dirty or torn socks:* blemished heart and walk before God.

*White socks:* unblemished heart and walk before God.

SOLDIER: spiritual warfare; a call for more prayers, fasting, and worship; a period of trial or persecution.

SON: a child of God; a ministry or gifting from God; one's actual son, or someone with similar traits.

SOUR: corrupted; false.

SOUTH: a place of peace; a source of refreshment; a natural inclination. SOWING: planning for the future, whether good or bad; spreading the Word of God.

SPEAKING: proclamation; revealing the contents of your heart.

SPEAR: words, whether good or bad; the Word of God; evil words; curses.

SPIDER: an evil spirit that works by entrapping people; false doctrine. SPOT: a fault; contamination; (if without spot) a

glorious church. **SPRINKLING**: spiritual change by washing away dirt; cleansing; purifying; consecrating.

**SQUARE**: tradition; mind-set; worldly and blind to the truth.

**STADIUM**: tremendous impact.

**STAFF**: a symbol or part of authority.

**STAIRS**: means of bringing about changes.  
*Downstairs*: demotion; backslide; failure.  
*Guardrail*: safety; precaution; warning to be careful.

**STANDING**: firmness in faith; committed to the belief; not finished; (if standing straight) no crookedness, but in the correct direction.

**STARS**: important personality; a great number; descendant; supernatural; Jesus Christ; (if falling star) apostate church.

**STONE**: Jesus Christ, as the chief cornerstone; a hard and sturdy foundation; the Word of God; defiance.

**STONING** Someone: involved in malicious accusation of others; unforgiveness.

**STORM**: trial; testing period; satanic attacks.  
*White storm*: God's power; revival.

**STRAIGHT**: to be fixed in attitude; no ambiguity; going in the right direction.

**STUMBLING**: to make mistakes; to fail; to be in error; lack of the truth.

**SUICIDE**: an act of self-destruction; foolishness; sinful behavior; pride; lack of hope.

**SUITCASE**: on the move; transition; a private walk with God.

**SUMMER**: a time of harvest; an opportune time; fruits of the spirit.

**SUN**: the light of God; the truth; the glory of God.

**SUPPER**: the body and blood of Jesus; marriage supper; God's provision; God's enabling power.

**SWEATING**: signs of intense work of the flesh; much work without Holy Spirit; a difficult and agonizing time.

**SWEEPING:** getting rid of sinful things; cleaning a place from evil; the process of making clean; correcting process; repentance.

**SWEET:** something gratifying; reflecting on the Word of God; communion with the Spirit.

**SWIMMING:** moving in spiritual gifts; a prophetic utterance.

**SWIMMING POOL:** Church; a place or provision available for moving in the Spirit; (if dirty) corrupt or apostate.

**SWING:** moving in the ups and downs of life.

**SWINGING:** full flow of peace.

*High swinging:* overindulgence; fake, unnecessary risks.

**SWORD:** the Word of God; a verbal response with the Bible; evil words.

**TABLE:** a place of agreement or covenant; to iron out issues; altar; community; fellowship.

**TAIL:** the end or least of something; the last time.

**TAR:** covering; bitterness.

**TARES:** children of darkness; evil or deceptive ones; degenerates.

**TASTING:** to experience something, whether good or bad; trying something out; judging.

**TEA (ICED TEA):** a place or time of rest; revelation of grace of God; soothing.

**TEACHER:** Jesus Christ; Holy Spirit; a gift of God.

**TEARS:** emotional sowing; mostly distress, but could represent brokenness; joy.

**TEETH:** wisdom; gaining understanding; to work something out.

*Baby teeth:* childish; without wisdom or knowledge; inexperienced.

*Broken teeth:* difficulty in coming to understanding.

*Brushing teeth:* gaining wisdom or understanding.

*False teeth:* full of worldly reasoning, instead of pure spiritual understanding.

*Toothache*: tribulation coming; heartache.

TELEPHONE: spiritual communication, either good or evil; godly counsel.

TELESCOPE: looking or planning for the future; making a problem appear bigger and closer.

TELEVISION: visionary revelation, prophetic dreams, or prophetic utterance.

TEMPLE: a place of meeting with God; a place of refuge; God's habitation; the human body.

TEN: law; governmental order and obligation; testing and trial.

TENT: temporary covering; long-term travel; flexible.

TEN THOUSAND: Army of the Lord; battle readiness.

THIEF: satan; deceiver; secret intruder; unexpected loss.

THIGH: strength; flesh; to entice; oath taken.

THIRTEEN: rebellion; backsliding.

THIRTY: beginning of ministry; maturity for God's work.

THORNS: evil disturbance; curse; gossip.

THOUSANDS: maturity approved.

THREE/THIRD: witness; divine fullness; Godhead; resurrection; conform; triumph over sin.

THREE HUNDRED: chosen by God; reserve of the Lord.

THRONE: a seat of power; a place of authority; God's throne; an evil throne.

THUMB: apostolic; authority; soul power.

THUNDER: God speaking; a loud signal from God; touching; warning; blessing.

TIN: something of low valor; not original, but an imitation.

TITANIC: a big plan that is not going to work out.

TITLE/DEED: ownership seal; potential to possess something.

TONGUE: powerful; spiritual language; national language; something that cannot be tamed.

TORNADO: a distressing situation; great trouble; spiritual warfare.

TOWER: a high spiritual thing; supernatural experience; great strength; pride, as in the Tower of Babel.

TRACTOR: a groundbreaking ministry; prepare the mind to receive.

TRAILER: an equipping ministry; a caring service; a ministry that is migrating.

TRAIN: a large ministry that influences lots of people; to move and send people out; a movement of God.

TREE: leader, whether good or bad; a person or organization; nations or kingdom.

*Christmas tree*: celebrations.

*Evergreen tree*: long-lasting or everlasting.

*Oak tree*: great strength; durable.

*Olive tree*: anointed of God; Israel; the Church; anointing oil.

*Palm tree*: a leader who is fruit producing.

*Tree stump*: tenacity or stubbornness; retaining hope despite circumstances; keeping roots in place.

*Willow tree*: indicating sadness; defeat.

TROPHY: victory.

TRUCK: a personal ministry that brings provision.

TRUMPET: a voice of the prophet; the second coming of Christ; proclaiming the good news; blessing; promise.

TUNNEL: a passage; a time or place of transition; troubled or dark seasons of life.

TWELVE: the government of God; divine order; discipleship; government by election; theocracy.

TWENTY: holiness and redemption; fit for battle.

TWENTY-FOUR: completed order of God; maturity; perfect government; elders in the throne room (see Rev. 4:4).

TWO: witnessing; confirmation; division; whole in marriage.

TWO HUNDRED: fullness confirmed; promise guaranteed.



TWO STORY: multi-level giftedness; symbolic of flesh and spirit; multi-talented church.

UPSTAIRS: pertaining to the Spirit; Pentecost; zone of thought; great balance; spiritual realm.

UPWARD MOTION: moving onto higher spiritual matters.

URINATING: releasing pressure; compelling urge or temptation; repentance. VAN (MOVING VAN): a time or period of change, either in the natural or in the spirit.

VAPOR: a temporary situation or circumstance; the presence of God; evidence of something.

VEIL: to conceal; to hide glory or sin; to deceive; blind to the truth; a lack of understanding.

VESSEL: people as instrument of use, whether for good or bad purposes; Christian believers.

VINE: Jesus Christ; Christian believers.

VINEYARD: harvest; a place of planting; a heavenly kingdom.

VOICE: a message from God or satan; the Word of God; godly instruction.

VOLCANO: unpredictable; unstable and out of control; judgment; a sudden and explosive situation or circumstance.

WALKING: walking the path of life; life or living in the Spirit; progress.

*Difficulty*: trials or opposition; evil opposition to destiny.

*Unable*: hindrance to doing what you are called to do.

WALL: obstacle; barrier; defense; limitation; great hindrance; blocking the view of presenting spiritual signs.

WAR: spiritual warfare.

WASHING: to clean.

WASHBASIN: a means of cleansing; prayers and intercession.

WASHCLOTH: enhancing the cleansing process.

WATCH: a need to be watchful; watching for something to happen; time for an occurrence.

WATERMELON: fruitfulness; a Spirit-ruled soul.

WATERS: the Holy Spirit; a move of the Spirit; nations of the world; instability.

*Stagnant, muddy, or polluted:* corrupted spiritual moves; sin; false doctrine.

*Troubled water:* healing pool; troubled mind.

*Water fountain:* God's Spirit welling up within man; salvation.

*Water well:* revival coming; a time of refreshing.

WEEDS: sinful nature or acts.

WEIGHT: a great responsibility, load, or burden.

WHEEL: pertaining to life cycle; long-lasting; continuously.

WHIRLWIND: a powerful move in the Spirit, whether good or bad.

WHITE: purity; righteousness; innocence; blamelessness; the light and/or glory of God.

WIFE: one's actual wife; someone joined to you in covenant; a spirit of submission; the Church; Israel.

WILDERNESS: hard times; a place of trial/testing; distant from God; a place of training; a place of provision.

WIND: movement of the Spirit, is usually good, but may be evil; disappears quickly; unstable; difficult to understand.

WINDOW: prophetic gifting; revelation knowledge; gaining insight.

WINE: Holy Spirit; communion; teaching; blessing; counterfeit spirit.

WINE PRESS: true doctrine.

WINESKINS: the Body of Christ; the Church.

WINGS: prophetic; under God's protection; period not suitable for work.

WINTER: a season of unfruitfulness; a latent period.

WITCH: a spirit of rebellion; non-submission; a manipulative person; a spirit of control.

WOLF: a tendency to destroy God's work; a false minister; an opportunistic person.

WOMAN (UNKNOWN): a messenger from God or satan; an angel or demonic spirit; a seducing spirit.

WOOD: life; humanity; carnal reasoning; lust; dependence on the flesh.

WORK AREA: the place or time of your service.

WORM: something that eats from the inside, often secretly; not obvious on the surface; disease; filthiness.

WRESTLING: to battle; to contend with; perseverance; a struggling in the spirit or real life.

YARD: the opened part of your personality; (back of the house) behind or past.

YEAR: time of blessing or judgment.

YELLOW: hope; fear; mind.

YOKE: enslaved; bondage; tied to something, usually evil but sometimes good.

ZION: a place of strength and protection; leadership; God's kingdom.

# DREAM COURSES

Dreams are the parable language of God in a world that is spiritually distancing itself from experiencing the reality of His Presence. They are personalized, coded messages from God. Through dreams, God breaks through our thought processes, mindsets, prejudices and emotions to connect with the spirit of man. In this way He shows us what we might have missed or not heard or what our natural mind was incapable of comprehending. We all dream. He speaks to us at our individual levels and leads us further in Christ. God's ultimate purpose in dreams and visions is to align us to His plan and purposes in our lives!

The purpose of these courses is to equip the saints for the end-time move of God by learning the art of hearing Him and understanding how he speaks through dreams at an individual level.

Each dream course builds on the knowledge gained in the previous course. Attendees are strongly encouraged to take the courses in order for maximum effectiveness,

Topics to be covered include

## COURSE 1

- Introduction to dreams and visions.
- Biblical history of dreams and visions.
- How dreams are received.
- Hindrances to receiving and remembering your dreams.
- How to respond to your dreams.
- Differences between dreams and visions.
- Introduction to interpreting your dreams.
- Understanding the ministry of angels.

## COURSE 2

- Introduction to the language of symbols (the language of the spirit).
- Different levels of interpretation of dreams.
- Why we seek the meaning of our dreams.
- What to do with dreams you do not immediately understand.
- Maintaining and developing your dream-life.
- Expanding the scope of your dreams.
- Improving your interpretative skill.
- Visions and the Third Heaven.

## COURSE 3

- Responding to revelations.
- Interpreting the dreams of others.
- Guidelines for setting up a corporate dream group.
- Prophetic symbolism.
- How to organize Dream Workshops.
- The Seer's anointing.
- The ministry of a Watchman.
- Spiritual warfare (fighting the good fight).
- Understanding the roles of angels and the different categories of angelic forces.
- How to work with angels.

## COURSE 4

- Living the supernatural in the natural.
- Understanding the spiritual senses.
- Maintaining balance while blending the natural and the spiritual senses.

- Security and information management in revelatory ministry.
- Understanding the anointing.
- Dialoguing with God.
- An anatomy of Scriptural dreams.

FRIDAY:

#### WEEKEND COURSES

- Registration begins at 5:00 PM.
- Teaching begins at 6:00 PM. SATURDAY:
- Registration begins at 9:00 AM.
- Sessions begin at 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

#### ONE WEEK COURSE (MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

*Courses begin Monday morning and end Friday evening.*

- Registration begins each day at 9:00 AM.
- Sessions begin at 10:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. There are breaks for lunch and tea.

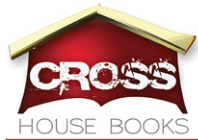
The contents of each Dream Course will be covered in two weekend courses or a single one-week course (Monday to Friday).

To Request a DREAM COURSE in your area, please call to arrange a program to fit your needs:

# Contact Information

For additional copies of this book and other products from Cross House Books, contact: [sales@crosshousebooks.co.uk](mailto:sales@crosshousebooks.co.uk).  
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*"The entrance of Your Word brings light."*

# Ministry Information

Dr. Joe Ibojie is the Senior Pastor of  
THE FATHER'S HOUSE



The Father's House is a family church and a vibrant community of Christians located in Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. The Father's House seeks to build a bridge of hope across generations, racial divides, and gender biases through the ministry of the Word.

You are invited to come and worship if you are in the area.

For location, please visit the church's Website:

[www.the-fathers-house.org.uk](http://www.the-fathers-house.org.uk)

For inquiries:

[info@the-fathers-house.org.uk](mailto:info@the-fathers-house.org.uk)

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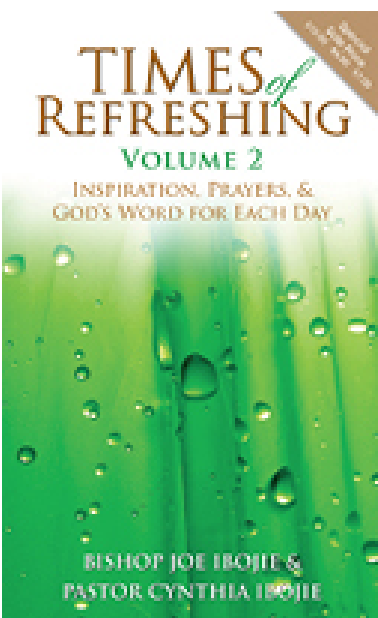
# Additional Titles from Cross House Books

By Dr. Joe Ibojie



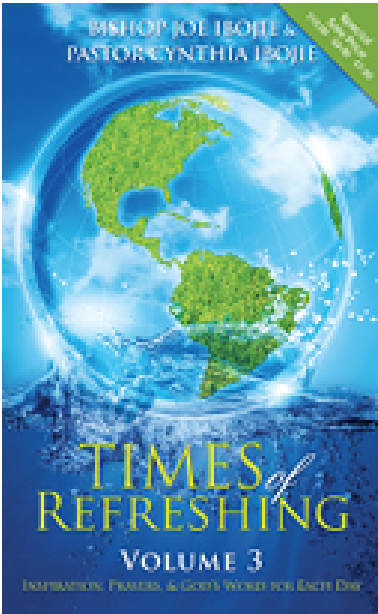
## **Times of Refreshing Volume 1**

*Times of Refreshing* allows you to tap in to daily supernatural experiences! Overflowing with inspiring messages, comforting prayers, and Scriptures that bring His presence to you, these daily boosts of God's love are just what the Doctor ordered for a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Best-selling author and Pastor Bishop Joe Ibojie and Pastor Cynthia Ibojie bring 365 days of hope and refreshment into your personal space.



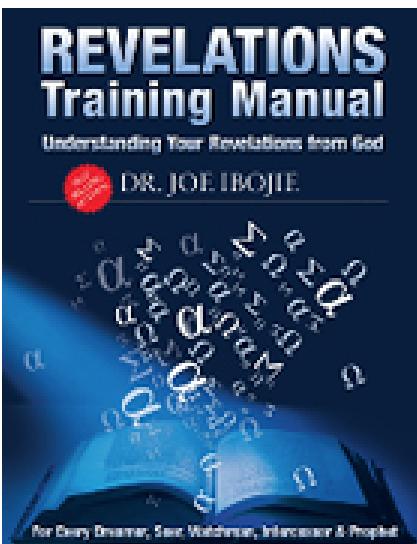
## Times of Refreshing Volume 2

*Times of Refreshing Volume 2* gives readers the ability to tap in to daily supernatural experiences! As with *Times of Refreshing Volume 1*, Volume 2 overflows with inspiring messages, comforting prayers, and Scriptures that bring His presence home. These daily boosts of God's love are just what the Divine Doctor ordered for a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Each page includes a Scripture and God-given message, as well as space for interactive exchanges of the reader's written word with His. An added bonus is a listing of Scriptures to read the Bible in a year. Prophetic Prayer Points conclude this volume of encouraging and motivating messages of daily living the supernatural, victorious life in God's Kingdom.



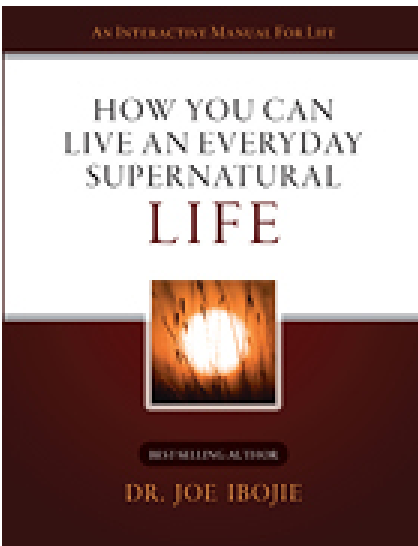
## Times of Refreshing Volume 3

Each volume of *Times of Refreshing* is filled with daily inspiration, love, and hope. Beginning with a Scripture passage and followed with insights straight from the throne of God, readers worldwide have been strengthened and motivated to pursue their daily destiny. A few inspirational questions conclude the day's devotion, prompting a search into the inner being to discover truths from the Lord—nuggets of His devotion and wisdom. And for those who have never read the entire Bible, on every page are Scripture references from the Old and New Testaments so the Bible can be read in a year's time. Pastors Joe and Cynthia Ibojie authored *Times of Refreshing* out of united prayer and compassionate hearts.



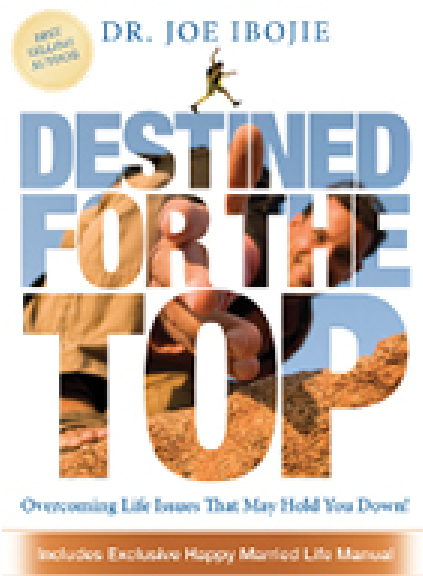
## Revelations Training Manual

*Revelations Training Manual* takes you into the depths of God's holiness and desire to communicate with His children. It is possible to understand your dreams and revelations from God—and with the wisdom shared in this manual, your spiritual questions will be answered.



## How You Can Live an Everyday Supernatural Life

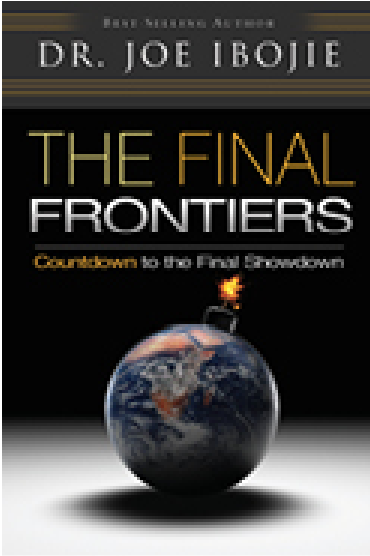
This comprehensive manual is the perfect training ground for every believer! Filled with practical and easy-to-implement ways to achieve a supernatural lifestyle, readers can immediately put into practice the God-given advice, insights, and revelations. Essential keys are presented that open the doors into a realm of divine and intimate relationship with God. He welcomes all to enjoy daily spiritual and physical miracles, signs, and wonders—naturally in the supernatural. Senior Pastor Joe Ibojie is a worldwide Bible and prophetic teacher.



## Destined for the Top

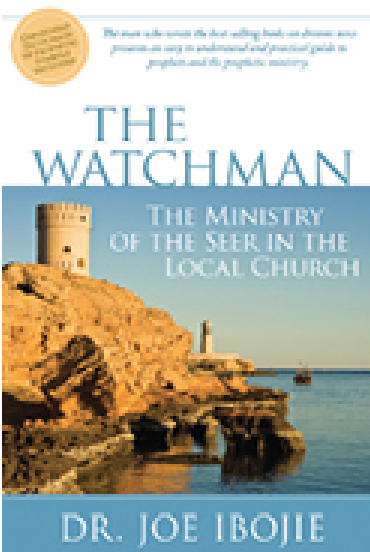
*Destined for the Top* presents simple and proven successful answers to life's most complex questions. Divided into two parts—Life Issues and Family Issues—you can be at the top of your game in every aspect of your life by knowing what and who to avoid during your journey to the top. Through an added feature of thought-provoking questions at the end of each chapter, you will learn how to strengthen

your spirit, invest in your potential, and realize how fickle your feelings really are. You will discover how God's wisdom and love through you propels you toward fulfilling your destiny!



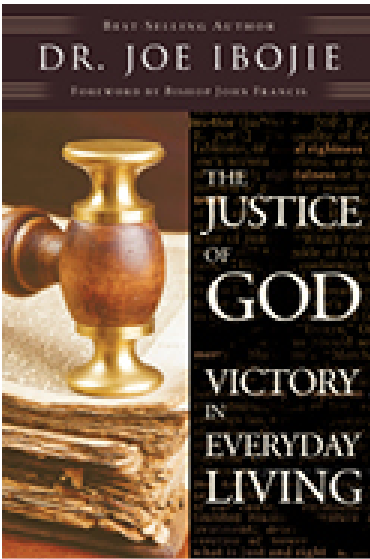
### **The Final Frontiers—Countdown to the Final Showdown**

*The Final Frontiers—Countdown to the Final Showdown* peers profoundly into the future. It expertly explores the emerging cosmic involvement of the seemingly docile elements of nature and their potential to completely alter the ways of warfare. Christians must not allow the things that are supposed to bless them to become instruments of judgment or punishment. *The Final Frontiers* provides you with a practical approach to the changing struggles that confront humanity now and in your future.



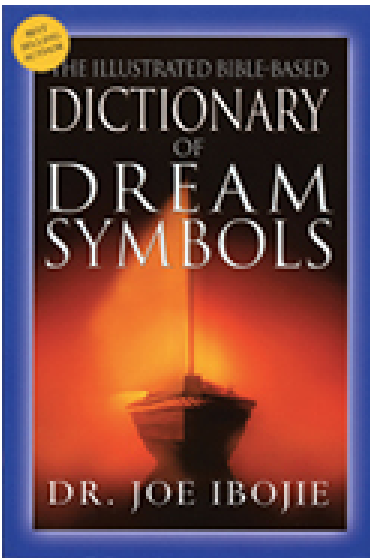
### **The Watchman: The Ministry of the Seer in the Local Church—NEW**

The ministry of the watchman in a local church is possibly one of the most common and yet one of the most misunderstood ministries in the Body of Christ. Over time, the majority of these gifted people have been driven into reclusive lives because of relational issues and confusion surrounding their very vital ministry in the local church.



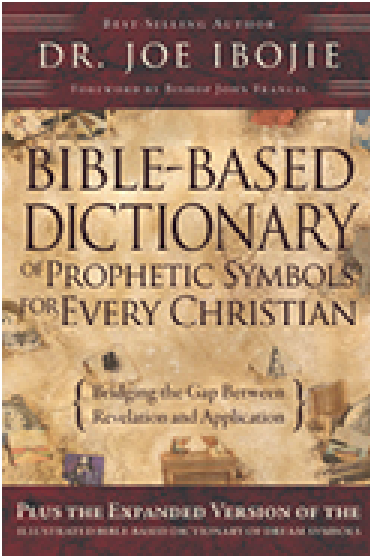
### **The Justice of God: Victory in Everyday Living—NEW**

Only once in awhile does a book bring rare insight and godly illumination to a globally crucial subject. This book is one of them! A seminal work from a true practitioner, best-selling author, and leader of a vibrant church, Dr. Joe Ibojie brings clarity and a hands-on perspective to the Justice of God. *The Justice of God* reveals: How to pull down your blessings; How to work with angels; The power and dangers of prophetic acts and drama.



### **Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols—BEST SELLER**

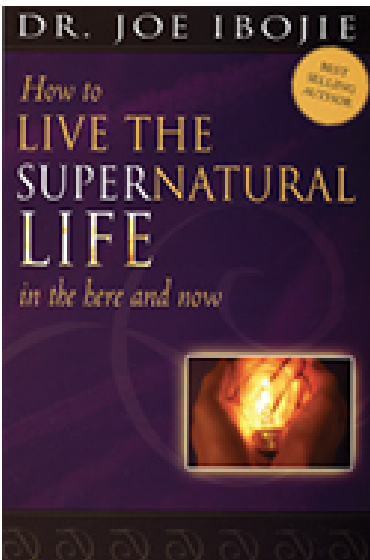
*Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols* is much more than a book of dream symbols. This book is a treasure chest, loaded down with revelation and the hidden mysteries of God that have been waiting since before the foundation of the earth to be uncovered. Whether you use this book to assist in interpreting your dreams or as an additional resource for your study of the Word of God, you will find it a welcome companion.



### **EXPANDED AND ENRICHED WITH EXCITING NEW CONTENT**

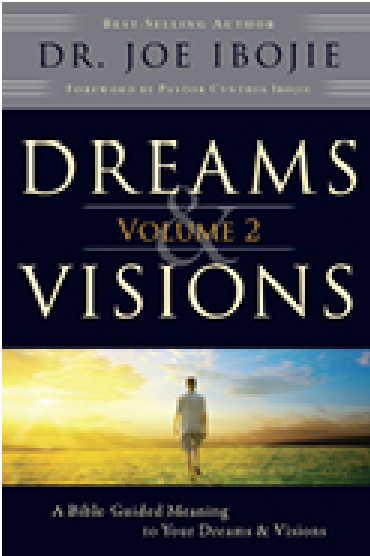
#### **Bible-Based Dictionary of Prophetic Symbols for Every Christian—NEW**

The most comprehensive, illustrated Bible-based dictionary of prophetic and dream symbols ever compiled is contained in this one authoritative book! *The Bible-Based Dictionary of Prophetic Symbols for Every Christian* is a masterpiece that intelligently and understandably bridges the gap between prophetic revelation and application—PLUS it includes the expanded version of the best selling *Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols*.



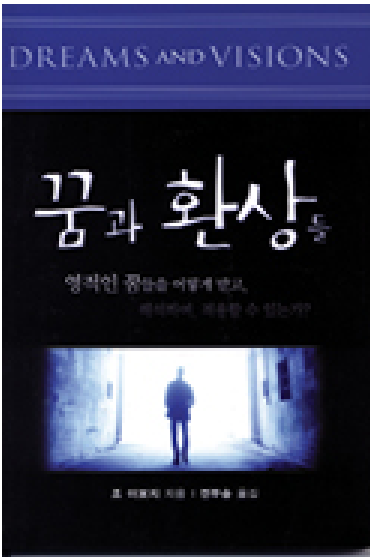
#### **How to Live the Supernatural Life in the Here and Now—BEST SELLER**

Are you ready to stop living an ordinary life? You were meant to live a supernatural life! God intends us to experience His power every day! In *How to Live the Supernatural Life in the Here and Now* you will learn how to bring the supernatural power of God into everyday living. Finding the proper balance for your life allows you to step into the supernatural and to move in power and authority over everything around you. Dr. Joe Ibojie, an experienced pastor and prolific writer, provides practical steps and instruction that will help you live a life of spiritual harmony.



**Dreams and Visions Volume 2—NEW**

God speaks to you through dreams and visions. Do you want to know the meaning of your dreams? Do you want to know what He is telling and showing you? Now you can know! *Dreams and Visions Volume 2* is packed full of exciting and Bible-guided ways to discover the meaning of your God-inspired, dreamy nighttime adventures and your wide-awake supernatural experiences!



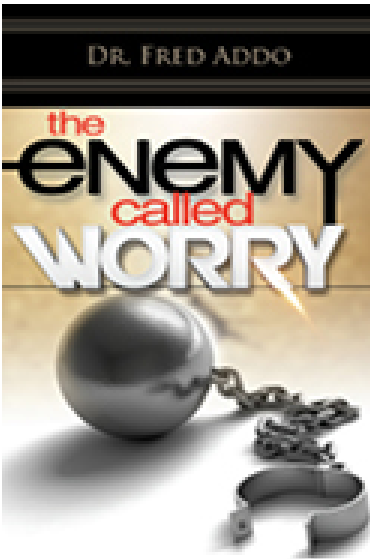
**Korean translations: Dreams and Visions Volume 1**





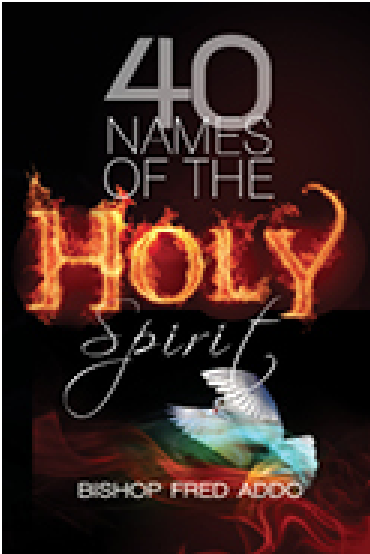
**Italian translation: Dreams and Visions Volume 1**

By Dr. Fred Addo



### **The Enemy Called Worry**

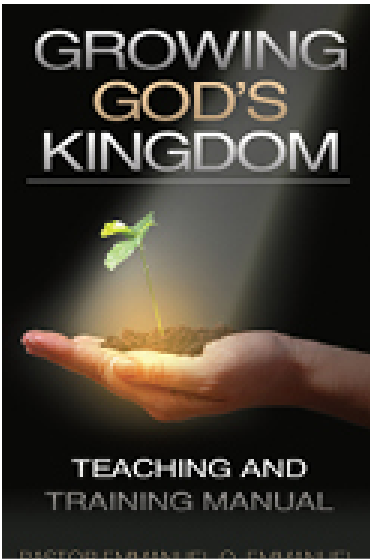
Worry gives birth to many sins and affects a person's spiritual development and physical health. There is a way to eliminate worry from your life and move forward into your God-given destiny. This book gives you every weapon needed to proclaim victory over *The Enemy Called Worry!*



### **40 Names of the Holy Spirit**

The names of God represent a deliberate *invitation to you* to take advantage of what God can and wants to be in your life. Whatever you call Him is what He will become to you. Do you know all of His names? How much deeper would you like to know the Comforter? You will learn: Seven Symbols of the Holy Spirit; Names of the Holy Spirit; Seven Things *Not* to Do to the Holy Spirit; Twentyfold Relationship with the Holy Spirit; Fourfold Presence of the Holy Spirit; Seven Keys to Receiving the Holy Spirit Baptism—and much more!

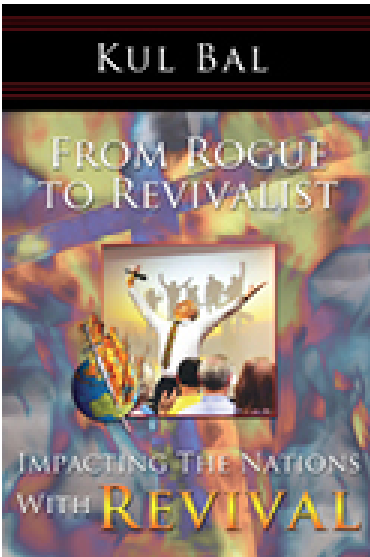
# By Pastor Emmanuel O. Emmanuel



## **Growing God's Kingdom**

Written by an experienced Bible scholar and beloved pastor, the insights and depth of God's word is thoughtfully shared so that newborn Christians and mature believers alike can understand and appreciate. Prefaced with an intriguing prophecy, *Growing God's Kingdom* contains practical principles that reveal the importance of God's mandate to share the gospel. You will learn about being mentored and mentoring those next in line to inherit God's riches.

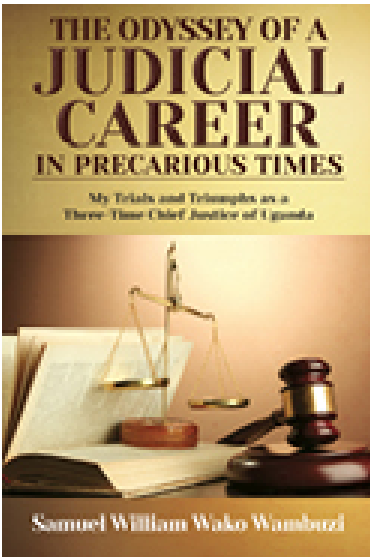
# By Kul Bal



## **From Rogue to Revivalist**

*From Rogue to Revivalist* is the fascinating, true story of a young man whose early life resembles nothing of his later life—although each stage was preparing him for the miracles God performs through him today. Set in exotic and not-so-exotic countries worldwide, the journey leads readers into mesmerizing and shocking scenes that prove God’s ultimate protection for all who call upon His name. Laced with dozens of personal testimonies from people healed by God’s touch, this book is sure to impact every reader.

# By Samuel William Wako Wambuzi



## **The Odyssey of a Judicial Career**

In this comprehensive treatise, three-time Chief Justice Samuel William Wako Wambuzi sets the record straight regarding the events of a country shaken to its cultural, military, political, and legal core. As a distinguished scholar and judicial genius, he presents the facts in a way that people of all walks of life will appreciate the historical significance of Uganda's struggles while enjoying the everyday life of a man with strong family ties.



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