

Job 33:14-18 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, 16 Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction. 17 In order to turn man from his deed, And conceal pride from man, 18 He keeps back his soul from the Pit, And his life from perishing by the sword.

- Just as Samuel had to be taught how to hear the voice of the Lord, we need training and understanding on how to understand how God speaks to us in our dreams (as well as other ways).

INTERESTING FACTS, ANECDOTES & BACKGROUND INFO

- **All mankind dreams** about ____ hours per night in ____ different cycles (unless inhibited by drugs or alcohol).ⁱ
- In your lifetime, you would've spent about _____ of it dreaming. That is more than 2,100 days spent in another world.ⁱⁱ
- Psychological studies have shown that when individuals are _____ of dreaming, serious physiological and mental outcomes occur.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The word dream stems from the Middle English word, “dreme,” which means _____ and _____.^{iv}
- Significant people throughout history have had dreams that changed the world.
 1. **Einstein – Theory of Relativity**
 2. **Paul McCartney - Yesterday**
 3. **John Bunyan – Pilgrim’s Progress**
 4. **Betty Nesmith Graham – White Out**
 5. **Robert Louis Stevenson – Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hide**
 6. **King Solomon – His Destiny (Wisdom, Riches, Honor)**
- The words “**Dream/Dreams/Dreamed**” are mentioned _____ times in the Bible.
- One of the signs of the last days include God pouring out His Spirit on all mankind resulting in people prophesying, seeing visions, and _____ (Acts 2:17).

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS^v

WHAT ARE GOD’S PURPOSES FOR DREAMS?

- To give direction or _____.** Gen. 31:11-13 & 46:2-3 (Jacob), Judges 7:15 (Gideon), Matt. 1:20, 2:13, 2:19-20 (Joseph).
- To bless.** 1 Kings 3:5-15 (Solomon), Gen. 28:10-15 (Jacob)
- To reveal the _____.** Gen. 40 (life/death), Dan. 2:45 (kingdoms), Gen. 37:5-10 & Gen. 42:6,9 (Joseph’s life)
- To warn.** Gen. 20:1-7 (Abimelech), Gen. 31:24 (Laban), Judges 7:13-15 (Midianites), Matt. 2:12 (wise men), Matt. 2:22 (Joseph), Matt. 27:19 (Pilate).
- God instructs us, turns us from evil conduct, keeps us from pride, and turns back our soul from the pit through dreams.** Job 33:14-18.

ARE ALL DREAMS FROM GOD? NO, BUT MANY ARE!

- Some dreams are _____.** They come from anxieties or the busyness of the day. These dreams are from your soul (mind, will, and/or emotions) – Isaiah 29:8, Eccl. 5:3 “For a dream comes through much activity (or concern)” (NKJV) or “Dreams come when there are many cares” (NIV). Some dreams from cares or concerns still have value.

- B. Sometimes people will _____ divine dreams or their interpretations. Jer. 23:25-32, 27:9-10, 29:8-9, Zech. 10:2, Deut. 13:1-5 says even regular “dreamers” can be wrong.
- C. Some dreams are attacks from _____ (i.e., some nightmares).

EXPERIENTIAL FOUNDATIONS^{vi}

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DREAMS?

- A. They give us encouragement, direction, and warning.
- B. They positively impact our _____, actions, and emotions.
- C. They reveal things to us that we would not normally be open to with our _____.
- D. They give us greater _____ and _____ regarding circumstances and people.
- E. They lead to discoveries that impact society (via art, music, medicine, science, technology, etc.).

WHAT KINDS OF DREAMS ARE THERE?

- A. **Intrinsic Dreams** (most common) – have to do with _____ lives and personalities. They can...

Reveal God’s _____ on our lives (Joseph’s two dreams in Gen.37)

Involve _____ issues (Dan. 2:30), personal longings, and/or emotions

Be a healing dream, bringing reconciliation/forgiveness to someone

Describe our present spiritual condition (Neb.’s dream in Dan. 4)

Be _____ (Joseph’s dream about his future or the baker and cupbearer’s dreams)

Be _____ **from the evil one** – accusatory, fearful, or sensual

Be caused by illness, pregnancy, fasting, or different foods

Be “mind dumps” from the activities or concerns of the day

- B. **Extrinsic dreams** – dreams about others (including friends/family/co-workers, or a particular church, city, nation, etc.) Gen. 41

Are often calling us to _____

Are almost always _____ in nature and sometimes need to be shared with leadership or the people in your dream

_____ dreams ordinarily indicate they will happen shortly and are established by God (Gen. 41:32)

HOW CAN WE INTERPRET OUR DREAMS?

- A. **Try to determine if the dream was a “mind dump” or a dream from God.** Nightmares are pretty obvious to detect – leaving you fearful and uneasy. Godly dreams often produce comfort, prayer, repentance, or a desire to interpret the dream.
- B. **Unless you know it is a demonic dream, _____ it down RIGHT AWAY and reduce it to the most important parts.** Ask yourself what the _____ seems to be. Record any feelings or impressions you had in the dream.

- C. **Ask God for the interpretation (Gen. 40:8, Dan. 1:17).** He usually wants to reveal it to you sooner rather than later because we tend to forget things over time. Pray for the fulfillment of the dream if applicable.
- D. _____ **and study the Bible, looking for symbols, clues, and parables that pertain to the dream.** Other reference materials (such as a concordance or Bible software) are often helpful as well. They give insights into names, numbers, colors, symbols, places, etc.
- E. **Consider what reoccurring people or objects appear in your dreams.** These objects/people might very well mean the same thing to you in each of your dreams.
- F. **As a last resort, seek help from those who are known to interpret dreams.** Keep in mind, though, that God wants to speak to you. He will enable you to understand what He wants you to know.

DISCLAIMER - Ecclesiastes 5:7 – don't base your whole life on dreams or look solely to dreams for God to speak. "For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity..."

Aristocrat and Russian academic, Dmitri Mendeleev was investigating the basic elements or building blocks of the universe that combine in various forms to make up all physical matter. He was completely stumped and for the life of him could not explain their seemingly random properties. One day while on vacation with his family, he became tired and excused himself from the room in which his family was playing chamber music. Hearing the strains of their music as he fell off to sleep, Dmitri dreamed that he "saw" the basic elements of the physical universe arrange themselves in an orderly and beautiful pattern like repeating phrases of music. He woke up and outlined from his dream every element in its correct slot and order - what is now known in all chemistry texts as the _____^{vii}.

RESOURCES

[Any Material by John Paul Jackson]

Surprised by the Voice of God by Jack Deere

Parables in the Night Seasons by Joy Parrott

Dream Dreams by Steve & Dianne Bydeley

Elijah Task (and the Sequel) by John & Paula Sanford

Number in Scripture by E.W. Bullinger

A Dream Come True by James Ryle

Dreams: Wisdom Within by Herman Riffel

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery by Leland Ryken, et. al

Understanding the Dreams You Dream by Ira Milligan
