

Are Dreams Real?

Job 33:14-18 states, "*For God speaks - now one way, now another - though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the pit.*"

The greatest book ever written, a book that has sold more copies than any other book in the history of mankind, with the exception of the Bible, is "*Pilgrim's Progress*" and it was given by God in a dream to John Bunyan while he was in prison.

A German chemist, Friedreich Kekule, learned of the solution of the molecular structure of the benzene ring that greatly advanced organic chemistry in a dream.

Otto Loewi dreamed an important discovery about man's nerve action and was awarded the Nobel prize for his discovery

A Pennsylvania archaeologist dreamed of the key to an Assyrian cuneiform inscription . . . [a strange hieroglyphic] . . . that defied translation.

A physician was in an argument about the immortality of man's soul. He was debating his belief that man's soul does not exist after death. However, that night he had a dream about eternity that was so real, he changed his belief and accepted the fact of "*Life after death.*"

A sea captain dreamed one night that some one needed help. The dream was so real the he recognized the place, so he turned his ship around and went to see if, indeed, there was someone needing help. He found a vessel that had run upon rocks while it was headed for West India. It was the same ship which the captain had seen in his dream.

Captain Young of California dreamed of travelers that were lost. The dream seemed so genuine that the next morning he told others about his dream. He told them exactly how the rocky shore line and scenery looked. One man said, "*Oh, I know where that place is!*" It was 150 miles away. The captain felt so strong about it, that he, and the others, went there and found that there were those who were in trouble.

A woman tells how she always had a fear of dying, until God gave her a dream of heaven.

A German immigrant was crossing the Atlantic and dreamed of a man carrying a bouquet of white flowers. When he arrived in New York City, he saw the man he had seen in his dream carrying a bouquet of white flowers. He followed him and the man led him to Fulton Street Mission, where he went in and was saved.

You can't tell me that wasn't God leading him by a dream!

Among the many blessings which God has given during this present age are dreams. Acts 2:17 says, "*It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all*

flesh and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams."

Here is proof that dreams can play an important role in our day!

What About Dreams in the Bible?

Down through the ages, God has honored dreams by making them an avenue through which He can speak to man. One hundred and twenty times in the Bible, dreams are spoken of as a passageway through which God can speak.

God spoke to Abimelech according to Genesis 20:3, "*in a dream by night,*" and warned him against an unlawful marriage.

In Genesis 31:11 God spoke to Jacob, "*in a dream.*"

In Genesis 37:6, "*Joseph dreamed a dream*" concerning what would happen in the future.

In Genesis 40:8, a Butler and a Baker in prison with Joseph, both "*dreamed dreams.*" They asked Joseph to interpret their dreams for them. He did and the dream revealed that the butler would be released from prison, however, Joseph reveals that the Baker would be beheaded - and he was!

In Genesis 41:1 Pharaoh dreamed - and asked Joseph to interpret it for him and the meaning was he saw, "*Seven years of plenty and seven years of famine.*"

In a dream Solomon was given a choice of choosing anything he desired. He chose "*wisdom to judge God's people*" and, because he chose wisdom, God gave him wisdom and, in addition, God promised him riches and honor.

God showed Nebuchadnezzar how he would lose his kingdom in a dream.

Moving into the New Testament, we find in Matthew 1:20, Joseph dreamed and an angel told him "*not to fear to take unto himself Mary as his wife because that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*"

In Matthew 2:12, The wisemen were "*warned in a dream not to return to Herod but to go home another way.*"

In Matthew 2:13, Joseph dreamed and an angel tells him, "*Arise and take the child [Jesus] and flee to Egypt.*"

In Matthew 2:19, the angel appears to Joseph once more and tells Joseph, "*Arise and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for they are dead which sought the young child's life.*"

In Matthew 27:19, Pilate's wife tells him that she had a dream and told him, "*Have nothing to do with that just man [Jesus] for I have suffered many things this night in a dream because of Him.*"

Can Dreams be Trusted?

It is important to remember that those of that day did not have the Word of God, and its revelation, as we do today. God's Word is filled with revelation for our life, if we never receive a dream from God. We have all that we will ever need for life's guidance within the pages of the God's Word, Bible.

Let's say that you were going to go to Paris, Rome, or London, if you were smart, you would buy a guide book about the city you were going to visit. You would study the guide book to find out as much as you could about the city you were going to visit. Would you be disappointed, simply because you didn't have a dream about your trip, as well? The Bible gives us all the information we need about our trip to heaven. A dream would be nice, but, God's Word is enough.

I, certainly, have more faith in decisions I make while I am wide awake than any decisions I may have a dream about.

We must keep in mind that these whom I have mentioned from the Bible did not have the Word of God as we do today.

Does God Speak Through Dreams?

However, the promises of God tells us that God may speak to us in dreams, especially in times of crisis, when the Bible is not specific. When we are praying for special direction, God may choose to speak to us through the avenue of a dream.

The fact of dreams alone teach us some truths. They reveal that we are independent of our body. When the five senses of our body are dull, when we are sound asleep, something is going on. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 speaks of man's "*spirit, soul and body*." There's a part of us that can leap oceans and mingle in scenes a thousand miles away. There's something within us that can take an old man back to his boyhood days. To one's "*soul and spirit*," time and distance have no meaning.

Dreams Tell Us That We Are Eternal!

Since knowing that we are eternal, what about when our "*corruption has put on incorruption*?" That is, when our bodies die and we are totally "*spirit and soul*?" A dream whether it's agreeable, or disagreeable, should remind us **that we are really eternal!** And, when we dream, we ought to rise out of our bed, kneel down, and cry out to God to prepare us for our after-death flight when we will meet Him face to face.

What Brings About Dreams?

Don't misunderstand this message, the vast majority of dreams are not supernatural messages, but are the result of some disturbed condition within our body. Dreams can be caused by physical changes. Physical disturbance can effect a person's dream. Experiences were carried out to find just what effect physical changes would have on a person's dreams. A humming noise caused one person to dream of a plane and, the same noise caused another to dream of an

earthquake.

One person, when an extremely bright light was flashed for just a second, dreamed of fire, another dreamed of lightening and still another dreamed of a shooting star, when this same bright light was flashed while they slept.

While another man was dozing, he was sprayed with water, he woke up dreaming of being at Niagara Falls.

Job was covered with boils when he speaks of having "*terrifying dreams*."

Solomon said, "*Dreams comes because of the mass (or multitude)*" . . . [Of course, he had 700 wives and 300 lady friends, which might explain his dreaming of multitudes].

One person had a hot-water bottle placed on the bottom of his feet and tells of dreaming he was walking in the desert.

Another person's feet got cold during the night and he dreamed of climbing up an Alpine snow-covered peak.

One man, whose wife had protruding buck-teeth, when she thought of her husband, would roll over and kiss him in the night. He said one morning, "*I can't understand it, I often dream of lying on the grass in South Africa and being kissed by a crocodile*."

Most dreams are, as one psychologist who studied dreams for a number of years said, "*They are mostly disorderly carnival of thoughts, distorted, garbled bits of a misshaped puzzle*."

Dreams are mostly like a bird in flight, flitting from here to there with no real direction in mind.

Dreams: Releasing Inner Feelings

One student of dreams feels that "*Dreams are a releasing of our inner feelings*." Those phobias that are hiding inside us, the obsessive and irrational fears that haunts us, the repressed anxieties concealed and buried deep within our subconscious are expressed in our dreams.

Some psychologist's studies suggest that nightly dreaming, in reality, is nature's way of protecting our sanity. They recorded electrical impulses of a person's brain and, whenever, the dreamer was dreaming, an electrical shock was applied, which robbed him of his dream. They found that, afterward, there was an emotional backlash *due to shortage of dreaming*.

Dreams: Result of Eating

However, many dreams are only a person's outraged digestive organs wrestling with food, Don't mistake a nightmare for a heavenly revelation. Pizza with everything on it, including anchovies, with peanut butter and mayonnaise or, frog legs with a hot fudge Sundae at mid-night, instead of opening the door to a revelation, this conglomeration will reveal something entirely different, something more infernal and diabolical.

If your digestive organs are in a fearful struggle with pepperoni, soda and pie ala mode, it is *your own fault*. Don't blame God for it!

Dreams Tells Us Something of Our self

Some psychologists say, "*Dreams can be confrontations with submerged drives which we are reluctant to admit.*" They can be a revelation to us of ourselves. One psychologist writes, "*In dreams we are there by ourselves. The outer world is not there. Outer senses contribute very little. At our disposal is the entire material of our life. We look over the areas of our life and see, what our waking-hours would not dare to scan.*"

Dreams can be echoes of the thoughts and acts of our past. If we fill our life with good thoughts, it will effect our dreams. If we spend the day in greed, grasping for things, we may well dream of bargains that we can never quit acquire. If we rush around all day, always in a hurry, we may dream of being an a high-speed train. If we are suspicious of people in the day time, we may dream of being stabbed by someone with a long knife.

Richard III of England killed thousands of people and he tells of dreaming of all those whom he had murdered staring at him as he was being torn to pieces by demons.

One old hymn states, "*Yet in my dreams, I'd be nearer my God to Thee.*" That hymn was written by a man who lived his life for others. It was said of him that he had a "*heavenly mind.*"

God does speak through dreams.

Any dream that makes us a better person, is good. God sends good dreams, and God warns us in dreams.

Pilate's wife told him when Jesus was on trial, "*I have suffered many things in a dream this night because of Him.*"

How many have dreamed of the Cross of Jesus Christ, or the coming judgment day, or of eternal hell, and it brought them to Christ?

I remember when I was a boy of about 17 years of age, and wasn't living for God as I should, I dreamed one night that the rapture of the church had taken place and I was left behind. I dreamed that I searched for my mother and father, but they were gone. When I woke up, the dream was so real, I had to go and check to see if Mother and Dad were still there. That dream made a difference in my life from that moment on.

Our text tonight says,, "*God speaks, one way and another, though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the hell.*"