

Dreams and Interpretation

Bev Robinson

WHY IS THERE SUCH AN INTEREST IN DREAMS TODAY?

Here is some of what is going on in the world. One only has to go into a bookstore and see the rows of books on the subject of dreams. You will find most of them in the New Age and occult section. There is a national television show on a major network, which shows a man and his audience communicating with the dead. Larry King, on CNN, had a popular woman speaker who has just written a new book on dreams and interpretations on his telecast a few weeks ago. She regularly communicates with the dead.

People hunger for the supernatural and desire to understand what is truly real. The world instinctively knows there is a world beyond what we experience with our five senses. We know someone wants to communicate with us and we want to communicate with the supernatural world around us.

Romans 1:19-22: Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. [20] For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. [21] For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22] Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Invisible attributes are evident. There is an eternal power and divine nature waiting for us to tap into it. People know this deep within their minds, but many do not attribute these attributes to our Jehovah God. Therefore our hearts have become darkened and we have sought after other gods.

WHY IS SO MUCH CONCERNING THE SUBJECT OF DREAMS WRITTEN AND TALKED ABOUT BY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NEW AGE AND OCCULT?

Much of the doctrine of today's Church does not give room for the supernatural or acknowledge that God is still speaking to people in dreams and visions as He did in the Bible. Therefore with the hunger of people, knowing there is reality beyond what we can see and hear in the natural, it will spring up in doctrine somewhere.

The Church needs to reclaim its position of being the place of the supernatural and of seeing beyond the natural. It was prophesied in the Old Testament and repeated in the New Testament that this would be true of the Church and those within it.

Joel 2:28

"And it will come about after this
That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream dreams,
Your young men will see visions.

Acts 2:17

'And it shall be in the last days,' God says,
'That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all MANKIND;
And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
And your young men shall see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams;

In Eccles. 3:1 we read that there is an appointed time for everything, a time for every event under heaven. Now is a time for dreams and visions

HOW GOD OPENED AND DIRECTED ME INTO AN UNDERSTANDING OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

Years ago in Virginia I was teaching a seminar on Healing the Hurts. On the second morning, as I got up to speak I told about a dream I had had the previous night. I said. "I don't exactly know what this means, but I feel it has something to do with what I am teaching. It was so real." I went ahead and taught what God had given me.

After the session, a woman came up and introduced herself as a clinical psychologist and said she taught clinical psychology in the nearby medical school. I stood in amazement as she asked me if I would like her to interpret my dream. I was sufficiently impressed, but also sufficiently suspicious. However, when she interpreted the dream, it immediately made sense and I received it as truth. She also said she was a Spirit-filled Christian and that I should be careful in the study and understanding of dreams. She warned me that there was much wrong information on dreams and their interpretation, and that I should let God teach me. That impressed me. I had her pray for me that God would teach me. That is exactly what He has done and I pray that what He has taught me will bless and help you in your understanding of dreams and visions.

I got further understanding as Ras my husband was speaking in a large conference on the Holy Spirit in New Orleans. He found a book on dreams on a book table and brought it to me. It was titled "YOUR DREAMS: GOD'S NEGLECTED GIFT" by Herman Riffel. I read it with eyes wide open. While I didn't agree with all that was written, it was bringing me expanded understanding. Since then I have read books written by James Ryle, A DREAM COME TRUE (which I highly recommend), Morton Kelsey and attended a seminar taught by John L. Sandford of which part was on dreams. I understand a book on dreams by John Paul Jackson has recently been published. I've learned much from these readings and seminars, but, as true to the prayer I first prayed about the subject, God has taught me through my own dreams. I will later illustrate this. Now let me give a brief Scriptural background for dreams.

IN THE BEGINNING

We should pay close attention to how something was begun. When the seed is good, the fruit will be good and multiplied. Genesis is filled with dreams, dreamers and their interpretations. Throughout the Bible there are dreams, visions and supernatural encounters with God. I want to make some

comments on the dreams and dreamers in the book of Genesis.

In Genesis there are seven dreamers.

1. The first is Abimelech, who was warned by God in a dream that Sarah was Abraham's wife. At the end of the story Abimelech did the right thing, and God immediately blessed Abraham and Sarah greatly with livestock and servant's and their promised son Isaac. Genesis 20-21:2

2. The second dreamer of Genesis is Jacob. His dreams were to foretell future events and give him direction. They too resulted in the blessings of the Lord. His name was changed and blessings came to a family and a nation and throughout the world. (Genesis 28:12-15; 30: 25-31:18)

3. Joseph's father-in-law Laban was recorded as the third dreamer. He was given direction by God not to speak either good or bad to Jacob as Jacob left with his family. (Genesis 31: 24-55)

4-7 There are four dreams and dreamers who are part of the next story of dreams. It starts with Joseph's dream, which foretold the destiny of his life, and continues with the chief cupbearer and chief baker who served the Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the final dreamer. In this series of stories about God and the people, we learn that only God gives the interpretation to dreams. As a result of the dreams God gave Joseph, not only was Joseph blessed as an individual, his family and a whole nation was powerfully blessed as well. Just as with Jacob, it took a lifetime for the promise to be realized, but it was done in a gigantic way. (Genesis 37; Genesis 40; Genesis 41)

THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

Genesis is the beginning of teaching us about dreams and interpretation, but there is much more in the Bible. One third of Scripture is about dreams or the results of dreams. What has been going on in the New Age and occultic movements is a misrepresentation of the real thing, but it shows a need in the hearts of people for supernatural hearing from God through dreams and visions.

Dreams have many functions. We can see many of these in the dreamers of Genesis. They can reveal:

- Our calling or destiny
- Warn us
- Give us direction
- Point to what we do not see in the natural
- Make known God's purposes
- Provide guidance away from wrong behavior
- Make us aware of God's presence
- Heal our hurts

CAN THERE BE FALSE DREAMS?

Yes, and they are dangerous. That is part of what has occurred on the bookshelves of many bookstores. Look at these Scriptures:

Jeremiah 23:16

Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who

are prophesying to you.
They are leading you into futility;
They speak a vision of their own imagination,
Not from the mouth of the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:25-27

I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, "I had a dream, I had a dream!" [26] How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, [27] who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, "Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. [9] For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them," declares the Lord.

These things will eventually be exposed as false, but in the meantime they are misleading many who are looking for the supernatural.

A PERSONAL DREAM, VISIONS AND SOME THINGS GOD HAS TAUGHT ME

I want to share with you an incident which gave me further understanding of dreams and brought much healing and an assurance of the presence of God in my life.

I dreamed I was in a house and heard a loud banging noise. I located the sound in the basement. I walked down the stairs and saw two very large iron doors. They were swinging and banging against a brick wall. The bricks were in uneven rows with excessive and irregular mortar protruding from the bricks and then I woke up.

I had this dream about a month before Ras and I went for some rest, relaxation and quietness to a charismatic Catholic monastery recommended to us by a Spirit-filled psychiatrist friend. From what God had already taught me about dream interpretation, I knew there was something buried deep within me that was walled up and behind a strong door. Interpreting dreams is usually very literal and symbolic.

When we arrived we were told we could have an hour a day to talk with a nun or priest about anything we wanted to talk about. I looked forward to that as a new experience. When I met Sister Therese the next day, she asked me what I was looking for in coming there. I told her I came for rest, quietness, a little trout fishing and to find out what they knew about dreams as I had heard they knew a lot.

She asked me to tell her a recent dream. I related to her the dream I had about the basement, iron doors and brick wall. I began getting very uncomfortable and wished I had never brought up the subject. My body language was showing this. I thought, "I didn't come out here to experience discomfort. I

came for rest, quietness and fishing.” I told her I didn’t want to get into anything heavy.

She smiled as I told her God once had healed me in a dream and that is what I wanted Him to do now. I was a little panicky. Sister Therese in wisdom said. “That’s OK, let me pray for you. Father God, would you heal Beverly in her sleep tonight.” When she began to pray I had a vision of myself back on the same basement stairs. I was a child and Jesus was by me with his arm around my shoulder. He looked down and smiled a warmly reassuring smile. Then the prayer ended.

That night God did not heal me in my sleep, but instead gave me two more dreams. In the first one, Ras was on top of a ladder in the stacks of a library shaking his index finger down at me in a disapproving way. In the second one, I was a child on a boat ride in a theme park. I passed something on my right. After I passed it, I realized it was a snake. The boat backed up. Jesus was there with me smiling the same reassuring smile I had seen when Therese prayed with me the night before. Jesus and I looked at the snake together and I saw not one snake but two. One was a regular snake wrapped around the pole, but the other was large with a hideous triangular head indicating it was poisonous and was irregularly splotched in black and white.

I knew some of the interpretation, but just to make sure the next morning I asked Ras if he disliked me finding out about dreams. He assured me he didn’t and told me to pursue the direction I was going with Therese. God was leading me. I then knew it was not Ras but the logical, analytical part of me that was wondering if I wanted to get into this. I had to deal with myself. This was getting a little strange and uncharted.

The interpretation for dream two was that the Holy Spirit was leading me, and Jesus was with me. One snake was healing as the serpent on the pole was for healing for the children of Israel in the desert. The other was grotesque and devilish. That was the one God wanted to heal.

The next day when I met with Sister Therese, I still didn’t want her to pray for me for healing, as I knew how much time that sometimes takes. Also I often find myself performing for the person doing the praying and don’t receive what God wants to give me. She said that was fine, but that I should go into the chapel and let God’s presence minister to me. She asked me if I knew about “centering prayer” and I did. I still had in mind that I had come for rest, quietness and trout fishing. I told Therese God had shown me there were some things that happened to me as a child and concerns about my relationship with my mother that had not been healed. I knew “centering prayer” meant getting my mind focused on Jesus and when any other thought intrudes, let it roll off my mind. Keeping my eyes on Jesus and off the circumstances would bring powerful results.

That afternoon I did what Sister Therese suggested. I went into the chapel and sat on the floor in the corner away from anyone who might come in. I kept my thoughts and focus on the Lord. I saw Therese come in and sit down to pray. I wondered if she was praying for me and found out later that she wasn’t. She was praying for something that was going on in her own life. But I believe my

seeing her--a woman-- brought me to the place and presence of God who was in control of this whole situation.

Here is where I believe God has shown me I went into a trance. Don't let that freak you out. It almost freaks me out to even write it, but it is scriptural. Peter was in a trance in Acts 10:10 and reported it to the leaders in Jerusalem in Acts 11:5. Paul reported that he went into a trance in Acts 22:17. I saw Jesus standing before me with a reassuring smile on his face. He held my hand and we were back on the stairs going down into the basement. We stood before the iron doors and again He looked down at me reassuringly, as one would a child. The iron doors opened as we stood there. The brick wall crumbled and through the dust of the crumbled wall a bright light shone through. Jesus smiled at me and we walked from the darkness through the dust into the light.

Now let me revert to my growing up. There were 4 or 5 memories when I was real small that were scary to me. They were not a part of my daily thinking, far from it. But apparently they were there and God wanted to reveal His presence to heal me in them because they appeared when I walked through the crumbled brick wall.

As a child I remember being in a bed and crying because I had been left alone. We lived in a rooming house and someone from down the hall came in and said, "You're okay someone will be back soon. You have to go back to sleep." I can remember whimpering myself back to sleep and feeling real alone.

In the trance (Wow that is hard to write, but I realized in my study of dreams and visions that is what happened to me), while in the bed feeling so alone, I saw Jesus sitting in a rocking chair with a comforting look on His face.

In the second scary memory, I was very small. I was in car at night in the back seat going across the Mobile Bay causeway in Alabama. I was frightened. I knew those in the car were drunk. I could see the lights of downtown Mobile. I was sure we would drive off into the water, because there were no rails on the side of the road. In the trance, Jesus was driving the car and I was sitting snug up against Him, even feeling part of His robe covering me. He again looked down and smiled at me. He was there protecting me.

This was a precious experience and I will forever cherish it. God orchestrated it for my healing and well being. I had previously forgiven all involved, but now there was healing in His presence.

PROPHETIC DREAMS FOR OTHERS

The dream I have just written about was for me. The majority of dreams are for the one who dreams them, but sometimes you may have a dream for others. In July I was teaching in a conference and I had a prophetic dream for those I was teaching.

I dreamed someone was going downhill on a bicycle. The tire was flat and the rider was out of control. There were dark figures close to the bottom of the hill, grabbing out at the rider. The bicycle stopped just short of where there was someone to help.

I told this dream as I spoke in the conference that day and had an altar call. Many who were there felt they were going downhill out of control with no one to help. Instead they got help as they received ministry.

DREAMS ON A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCALE

God gives dreams on a large scale for those who will pray. About a year ago I had a dream that I was standing in the country of Chile and there was a bridge going over into Argentina. How do I know I was in Chile? I don't know, but I knew that was where I was. I began to pray for Argentina and the bridge to Chile. In less than a year there was economic collapse in Argentina.

About a year before that, I dreamed of a gas can near a large fire. I knew it was in California. I prayed about that. Who know what lives were saved or whatever God was doing. The important thing was that God showed me and I prayed.

DREAM INTERPRETATION

Scripture tells us only God can interpret dreams, but then Joseph said, "Tell the dreams to me."

Genesis 40:8

"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."

Only God can interpret dreams, but Joseph asked that the men tell their dreams. Interpreting is a gift from God. There are things I have learned about interpretation, which I will write at another time.

Yes, God speaks today in dreams and visions. He wants to speak for personal healing, for ministry to others and through dreams that will affect other countries. He has much to teach us. Join me in learning.

RECOMMENDED READING:

A Dream Come True, James Ryle.

Dreams: A Way to Listen to God, Morton Kelsey

Your Dreams: God's Neglected Gift, Herman Riffel (out of print)

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