

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES

OF DREAMS

By

Grace A. Tuls

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Unlocking the Mysteries of Dreams

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Other Books by the Same Author

The King's Song, a study on the Song of Solomon,
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Joseph's Breakthrough, a study on Joseph's life,
Published by Remote Area Ministries, 2001 and translated into
Karen and Burmese.

*The Scriptures in this book are taken from the **Spirit Filled Life Bible, New King James Version**, Thomas Nelson Inc., 1991, unless otherwise indicated.*

Recommendations

Dr. A.L. Gill, **Gill Ministries**

“Significant truths are revealed in this practical and easy to understand book about dreams. Reading this book can open the door to a whole new avenue of God’s communication. One example related in the pages of this book is how I was warned through a dream that Jack Tuls had and shared with me. He confirmed that I was to cancel my annual trip to Indonesia that year. The day I would have been in the Jakarta airport, a bomb exploded. The revelation that came in this dream quite possibly saved my life.

“Grace Tuls has made an important contribution to God’s people through this important work. I highly recommend it!”

Acknowledgement

Without the help and encouragement of three dear friends who helped in the editing of this book, namely my husband, Dr. Jack D. Tuls, Bob and Reen Keller and Pastor Joyce Gill, this book would not have been birthed. Each of them has also given me wise advice in the content. Another dear friend, Lorna Lovers, has always encouraged me to write. I admire them all greatly. I praise God for their love for me and the Lord.

Some of the dreams are from friends, whose dreams have added another dimension to the book. I thank them for their unselfishness. I trust their examples will be a blessing to many.

Dedication

This book is totally dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, the other person in the Trinity who prompted me to write down the visuals, which He has been giving me in the night seasons. It has been a work of love because He has encouraged me so often by dreams, either before or after events have occurred in my life. May this book be used only for Jesus' honor and glory, and encourage others to ask for dreams from the giver of all good and perfect gifts.

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Introduction

Nowadays, there is a great interest in the supernatural. People want to hear from the spirit world. God is speaking and the devil is speaking, including our flesh, but many of us are hungering to hear and distinguish the voice of God even more than ever before. Many want to fulfill their destiny but are unsure of what their destiny is and how to fulfill it. Dreams are one of the ways God has used, and is using more frequently, to speak to people. In Joel 2:28, He said that in the last day, He would *pour out His Spirit on all mankind and the young men would see visions and the old men would dream dreams*. I firmly believe these are the last days because of what is happening in the world.

Most of us lead very busy lives and even though we read the Word and pray or even fast, we still want to hear more accurately. There are many decisions to be made about our priorities, spending money, job situations, and personal connections. We want to be in the very center of His will. We can know the mind of Christ and know that He is very eager to speak to us. Things sealed up for ages are being revealed as never before. Conflicts will arise that will humble us and cause us to seek Him for new revelation. A new hunger is arising as never before.

However, many of us have had the idea that dreams were “weird” and should not be taken seriously. We have not understood the value or the intent of the Lord who wants to speak secrets, mysteries or even parables to people. Many of us can remember a picture better than words. Dreams will give us word pictures of what will happen or has happened. Then, the Holy Spirit, whose job is to tell us of things to

come, will give us the interpretation. ...*But whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come (John 16:13).*

In this book, I am sharing what the Lord has taught me as a result of my deep desire to know Him more fully through dreams. I feel like I have merely scratched the surface of His wisdom. However, I have read many books from Christian authors, listened to many tapes and have had many dreams, which I have written down through the years. These dreams from the Lord have been very valuable in guiding my husband and me in ministry, assessing spirits in other nations, and helping identify weaknesses in my own character. I trust this book will be of value in motivating you to ask for dreams, to interpret what you have already received, to be changed, and thereby be encouraged to have a more vital part in advancing the kingdom of God in all nations. Dreams can help us find our destiny for we all have a crucial part in the body of Christ.

These last days will be the culmination of all the prophecies in the Word. God is looking for a generation who will seek Him intensely, lead pure lives and thereby receive all the gifts necessary to bring in the last great harvest before the return of the Lord. May we be the ones who will arise to the challenge, be transformed by His grace and show His love to the world.

Chapter 1

New Mysteries Are Being Revealed

Welcome on a new journey with me into uncharted territory. When I was a child I saw a picture of a ship with two children in it sailing off to Never-Never Land. Maybe it was in a book about fairy tales. That's why I will call our ship the Word of God. Our confidence and trust for this journey is in the character of Almighty God who loves us and gave His only begotten Son for us.

Homeland security. National security. Talking about journeys, can we be safe wherever we are?

Let me relate a very exciting dream, which a friend had while she and her family were staying in an area close to a war zone. The day before the dream occurred, early in the morning they heard a noise, which they thought sounded like thunder. They soon realized that the noise was a mortar shell coming into their area and they were told to flee. They gathered up a few belongings and fled into the bush.

The shells continued to come but none did any real damage although one shell landed close to them. Recognizing that fear was a tool of the enemy, my friend began to sing aloud about the blood of Jesus. Her husband prayed confusion over the enemy. They heard gunfire for some time but after a while all became quiet. They later heard that the opposition forces made a hasty retreat.

Their family slept that night in a ravine. The next day they praised the Lord. Toward the end of that day, not hearing

any more gunfire or shelling, they returned to their hut.

Evening came and my friend was uneasy about sleeping there, but being exhausted she laid down. As she drifted off to sleep four military men appeared (in a vision or dream) and spoke in perfect English to her that if she praised the Lord they would sleep under her hut and protect her family. She saw these military men also tell her husband and two boys that they would be protected. She began praising but fell asleep immediately. When she awakened in the morning she was amazed that they were safe for she had not praised the Lord very long at all!

She asked others if they had seen any military men sleep under their hut and they said, "No." She looked under the hut and everything looked the same!

Two weeks later they made plans to leave the area and she had another dream in which an old Asian man came and told her: "Don't go out the same way you came in."

Using his hands, he pointed in the direction they came in and told them to go out the opposite direction. The next morning, a friend came with elephants and said they were to leave in the same direction pointed out by the man in the dream. What a relief it was to my friend that they were given such good instruction in a dream!

Yes, we can trust Him with our lives. He is our refuge and security. We can abide under the shadow of the Almighty! (*Psalm 91:1,2*) He will speak to us in dreams and visions. And He has great things planned for us. He has a destiny for us.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10).

In order to fulfill this destiny, our Father wants to reveal mysteries to us, and we can be stewards of these mysteries. Daniel called dreams “secrets” which the God in heaven has revealed to people.

Even as the Lord Jesus said to His disciples in John 16:12: *I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.* They were not ready at that time to understand mysteries, but after His resurrection, the Holy Spirit began to give them further understanding. May the Spirit give us further understanding of the Word as we seek Him with all our heart.

This is the day that the Holy Spirit is being poured out on all flesh and new things are being revealed. Truths are coming to light, which have been in the Word all the time. The apostle Paul wrote about the mystery, which had been revealed in his time:

He made known to me the mystery...that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel (Eph. 3:3-6).

The Jews did not understand that the Gentiles could receive the same promises they received. This mystery was revealed to Peter earlier when he saw a vision of a sheet filled with all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air (Acts 10:9-16). The Lord showed him that he had to reassess his thinking to include the Gentiles as fellow heirs of the promises in Christ. So also now we need to open up our minds to new avenues of thinking.

I thank God that the teachings concerning healing, finances, the gifts of the Spirit and our authority in Christ have recently been emphasized. The blood of Jesus was always

mentioned in the Word but now we know we must use it every day to cover our family, our ministry and the goods He has entrusted to us.

Now we also know about the power of our words and how they are able to change situations. *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Prov. 18:21)*. That Scripture was written centuries ago but it still applies to today and serves as a reminder to us daily.

I thank God that He is revealing new things to us as we press in to know Him better. It seems as though many truths were kept secret or as “mysteries” for centuries. It is a new day for us.

As an encouragement lately, this Scripture came alive to me:

I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name am the God of Israel (Isa. 45:3).

I used to think this applied to physical riches buried in the ground, only thinking in the natural. Some people groups have riches buried in the ground, which they keep secret. Now I understand that there are different levels of understanding in many Scriptures. I believe these “hidden treasures” are like the “hidden manna” referred to in the book of Revelation (Rev. 2:17), which is given to the one who overcomes. (Yeah, He is going to give us “hidden riches”!).

“Mystery” in Greek is “*musterion*,” pronounced: *moos tay’ ree on*. It comes from a derivative of “*muo*” meaning to shut the mouth, a secret. In the New Testament, its meaning denotes in general something hidden or not fully manifest; or

something hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by revelation of God.

Dreams are the avenue by which God can speak secrets to us. The Lord spoke through Moses about 1,400 B.C. that:

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things, which are revealed, belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law (Deut. 29:29).

The Lord has many secrets, which He wants to reveal to us. He wants to give us new revelation. Through dreams we can know more of His personality, His heart, His plans. His desire is to get closer to us, and reveal Himself to us. There are so many aspects of His personality that we do not understand.

The disciples one time asked the Lord why He spoke in parables.

He answered and said to them "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven but to them it has not been given" (Matt. 13:11).

Now we can say: "We are His disciples and we need to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven." Jesus said to Nicodemus, who came to Him by night, that he could not "see" the kingdom of God, unless he was born again. We need to understand the mysteries so we can **abide** in that kingdom with all its power.

Paul spoke of the *mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:2,3)*. If our desire is to know Him more, we must first read His Word every day, and spend time in prayer and listening.

Our pursuit of dreams is never meant to replace our quiet time with Him. Receiving dreams is only an additional way in which we can get to know Him better and be more effective witnesses to the lost.

Let me relate an exciting dream, which the Lord gave me recently. My husband Jack, was in Swaziland with our friend Corey Lovers, trying to find the man the Lord had picked to start another Bible school. Jack said if they found the man soon, he could come home earlier than planned. That night I dreamed that he was at a construction site, working on a foundation with a younger man who was enthusiastic. Jack asked me for his jacket. That's all there was to the dream.

Interpretation: Jack had found an enthusiastic man to help build a school and wanted my help to throw a "covering" over this man. Covering refers to anointing, prayer covering, and headship. As a result of this dream, I knew my husband would be coming home soon. The next day, I received an email that they had found the new director, and my husband would be coming home immediately! Isn't God good?

Unbelievers Receive Dreams

In the Los Angeles Times December 14, 2001, it was reported that within the Al Qaeda, "the recitation of dreams and visions has become a powerful tool of conspiracy and psychological seduction. For Osama Bin Laden, the dream was a tool to control and seduce. Relating the dream became a ruse intended to elevate him spiritually in the eyes of those outside his inner circle. He could have even invented a dream predicting the very act he was intending to perform. However, none of those in the inner circle claimed to be a prophet, because they

believe Muhammad was the last prophet.” We do know that Satan will use any means possible to deceive people. He has been known to counterfeit the work of God.

The Muslim religion began by a vision, which Muhammad had while in a cave in Mount Hira, Saudi Arabia at the age of 40. He was concerned that he might be hearing from demons but his wife, who was much older, encouraged him to keep reciting what he had seen.¹ Muhammad supposedly heard from the angel Gabriel. These recitations were written down and edited many times and eventually compiled into the Quran.

Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon religion said he was visited by extra terrestrial beings in upstate New York. At age 14, he supposedly discovered records of the last white Nephite buried by the angel Moroni. We know Satan can appear as an angel of light. That’s why we must know our God and His Word intimately to recognize deception. We also thank God for the Holy Spirit who will lead us into all truth.

Patients Ask For Maps, Seek Passports

Just recently, I read a very interesting article in the Los Angeles Times on Monday, June 14, 2004 in which it reports that many near death patients ask for maps and are frustrated because they don’t have a passport. Hospice nurses report that many of the patients who were nearing death talked during moments when awake of their many travels. They try to communicate what is happening to them and ask for maps.

One young man, Kenny Reitman was an avid biker before he died of bone marrow cancer. In his final days, he told his family about his travels and being “stuck in passport control.”

Another patient seemed to have dreams of getting ready to travel and seemed indignant that his family couldn't see what he could. He wanted his green duffel bag in order to pack. Another insisted on having his backpack kept by his bed.

Could this mean that the Lord was warning them that they were on their final journey and the Word was the Road Map? Jesus was the Word made flesh (John 1:14). He is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). The only valid passport to the heavenly kingdom is having a personal relationship with Jesus and having one's sins forgiven. Hopefully some Christian relatives or friends were at the bedside to help interpret the various patients' dreams.

Some unbelievers have received dreams that were used for the good of humanity. It is reported that Elias Howe had a dream that gave him an idea by which he invented the sewing machine. General George Patton received intuitive military guidance from dreams. Albert Einstein had a dream that he was riding on a sled which started going faster and faster until it approached the speed of light. When it got there, the stars broke into fantastic colors. He said that the rest of his life was a meditation on that dream. Dimitri Mendeleev developed the periodic table of elements from one of his dreams.²

Dreams were a means of warning in the past. Julius Caesar's wife received a dream and warned him not to go to the senate the next day. Brutus however, through flattery, convinced Julius to go to the senate and thereby fulfilled the dreadful plan by which he was assassinated.³

Pilate's wife suffered greatly in a dream the night before Jesus was sentenced and warned her husband to "*have nothing to do with that just man*" (Matt. 27:19).

Some people have told me that they never dream but actually when they think about it, they can remember a dream they had. Psychologists, in their study of dreams have found that everyone dreams, which they notice by the brain waves, when monitored and accompanied by the fluttering of the eyelids. When awakened, the person confirms the fact that they were dreaming.

Dreaming is a very natural and necessary phenomenon. If people are repeatedly awakened from sleep, they become very edgy and irritable. The explanation is that they have not been able to fall into a deep sleep and refresh their mind by dreaming. It seems that our mind needs dreaming to refresh itself and be ready for the next day's activities.

Dreams of Another Kind

Dr. Henrietta C. Mears, a single woman, who was director of Christian Education at Hollywood Presbyterian Church, often told her students to "dream big" inspiring them to have a vision for conquering the world for Christ. Her teaching influenced the great Christian leaders of our time namely Dr. Billy Graham, Dr. William R Bright, and Dr. Richard Halverson, the Chaplain for the United States Senate. We don't know if she actually had "visions or dreams in the night" to inspire her, but under her leadership the Sunday school grew from a few hundred to thousands in a short time.

My Search

For a long time I had been dreaming short dreams, which I thought were nonsense dreams when I awakened. However, others have been saying that dreams are the means by

which the Lord is speaking to His children in these last days. I then remembered that I had prayed several months before for dreams and I had received many that I could easily interpret. A few times when I was ministering overseas, I had some outstanding dreams just before I was going to teach or speak to a group. I was delighted at how helpful those dreams were in giving me exact direction. When I returned home from overseas, I continued to receive many dreams.

So, I began research about dreams and their interpretation. I had three excellent materials in our personal library and also the Word of God had many examples. I have included in this book some ideas from the resources listed at the end of this book.

In this book, I will be sharing many personal examples of dreams, which my husband, friends and I have had. Yet, at this point, I want to share a Scripture, which the Lord has given me:

We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (II Cor. 4:7).

I want the reader to understand that I don't want to draw attention to myself but that I want the glory to go to my Lord and Savior. He is the one that has the treasure (mysteries) and the power to give us dreams to help us find our destiny and give us specific directions. My purpose is to encourage you to seek His face. The dreams I have had were birthed out of a deep desire to know Him, hear Him, and obey Him better than ever before. Many came while I was in a remote place and being desperate for Him. I'll just give a few examples from my own life of how helpful dreams can be.

In our ministry my husband and I travel to many nations for the purpose of starting Bible schools, preaching, teaching, and laying hands on the sick for healing. My husband hears from the Lord which country to go to and then we make arrangements to fly even before we have the money. We have done this since 1989 when we birthed Remote Area Ministries. Since then, we have gone overseas more than fifty times. The Lord has supplied our every need and many schools have started. In some of the countries we have no contacts. We have some faithful friends who travel with my husband when I cannot go. It has been miraculous what the Lord has done.

What I have received in dreams has helped us a great deal. For example, when we were in Tahiti, we could not make contact with the pastors whose names we were given, for almost two weeks. We wondered what to do next. I had a dream that I was climbing a hill and ended up on the top of a building. I saw a ladder and climbed down the ladder and met some people. They welcomed me and pointed to a sign that had my name on it with some information about me. I was utterly amazed that I had arrived at the place where the sign was hung. I introduced myself and they said they knew I was coming and knew all about me. (They could have known me by the Spirit, that's all.) Then I awoke.

The next day, we rented a car and drove up a hill on a part of the island that was more remote. Halfway up the hill, we found a church that was just cleaning up following an outside wedding reception. We found a woman who spoke a little English and she introduced us to the pastor, who spoke very little English. The pastor then asked us to return the next day, which was Sunday and he would have an interpreter.

That night I dreamed that my husband was awarded a certificate or diploma.

When we returned, the pastor asked us if we had a word from the Lord. We said, "Yes". After we gave him the "word" he asked us to preach and gave us permission to give the invitation for salvation and healing. There was a tremendous response! Praise God! Then we got to meet other pastors and were invited to speak at various cell groups during the week. We left them a set of A.L. Gill study manuals in French and another set in English. The interpreter then invited us to his house for dinner and we had fellowship with a wonderful Tahitian family. Tahitians are very warm, friendly and generous. When we spoke at the other cell groups and churches, we were given flower leis every time. Many were saved and healed! Because of the dream, we were given direction and were greatly encouraged. Glory to God! He will do the same for you!

Before making this contact in Tahiti, my husband had an interesting dream. He writes: "I was talking to a group of men, who were standing between the front yards of adjacent houses. Suddenly a twin-engine bright green airplane with Swiss markings appeared. It's engines were very quiet and it had bat-shaped wings. As I was considering the strange wing construction, it made a low pass over us. I didn't like the looks of it because it resembled a strafing run. I told the men that I didn't like the looks of this and that I was leaving. I went behind one of the houses and lay down close to the house. The strange airplane made another low pass, this time spraying bullets at the group of men, killing all of them except one man who laid down immediately and feigned death. I heard the bullets whizzing between the houses but none touched me."

Partial interpretation: This is definitely a dream about the spiritual warfare, which was taking place. The bright green color could represent prosperity. The Swiss are known to be neutral, so the men were not alarmed at the threat. Our stealth bomber has somewhat bat-shaped wings. Since my husband was employed by the Air Force for many years, this dream was a warning. Jack's spirit knew that he had to be aware of a battle in the heavenlies. He was safe but others needed to be aware of a real threat to kill which would come from a seemingly neutral source. While we were in Tahiti, we did have some opportunity to tell them of the spiritual battle in the heavenlies. We discovered a spirit of suicide flourishing in a certain area, due to a curse on the land from heathen altars.

One of the first things I recommend is that one write down the night's dreams upon arising. It will mean that we must allot a few minutes of time for this project in the morning. I have found that if I don't write the dream down immediately the details will be lost. Sometimes, I write the dream down in the middle of the night. Other times, I rehearse the dream in my mind, while still in bed, thinking I surely will remember it, but even this method is not reliable. However, if I am really diligent and expect to hear from the Lord, I will write the dream down immediately.

Just recently I had a dream about riding a horse and I was about to ignore it, but on second thought I wrote it down. I examined it later in the day and it was very encouraging. See the explanation in the chapter on kinds of dreams. I have found, the more diligent I am, the more dreams I receive.

Your diligence and hunger to hear from God will result in some very helpful dreams.

God Wants To Talk To Us

God wants to speak to people and especially His children who have prayed and received Jesus as their personal Savior. Dreams bypass the mind and come into the subconscious mind. They are the voice of the Spirit to a Spirit filled believer. Often our lives are so busy that we don't take enough time to listen to the Spirit. Dreams are a language of the Holy Spirit to the heart. God wants to fellowship with us and direct our paths and warn us of dangers to come. He will often use this method of speaking in the night season.

From world events, we see that these are the last days. God is pouring out His Spirit. To name just a few countries, the gospel is spreading in China, Mongolia, and Burma like never before. Switzerland experienced an awesome day in 2004 when thousands gathered in a stadium for prayer, worship, declaration and blessing. Prayer convocations in many nations are breaking the power of evil. Our Presidential election in 2004 and the Presidential election in the Ukraine was swayed because of prayer. God is pouring out His Spirit. Let's believe that He will speak to us in prayer or dreams so that we can do our part in helping our nation change for righteousness.

My Friend's Dream House

God is interested in all the details of our lives. He certainly wants to help us locate a house. Let me relate a dream my friend has written out for me. Because of her dream, she found her "dream" house the minute she walked into the house. She relates that she had never had a dream of this sort before. In her dream God walked her through this house showing her what the

rooms looked like and a long hallway leading to the bedrooms. She was excited about getting a house of her own because she had lived in military base housing for twenty years.

“My husband had planned to retire and move back to our hometown. When I told him about the dream he was not too interested and told me that we could not afford a house like the one in my dream. So I said that we needed to go look at model homes and just have fun. My mom came to visit and she and I went to look at some model homes. When we went through the third model I knew as soon as I saw the long hallway that it was the one in my dream. I was so excited as I walked through the house thinking it was mine!

“In the dream I entered through the garage and all of the bedrooms were right in the same places as they were in real life. So I went to the realtor and began asking questions.

“When I went home I told my husband all about this model home. He was not too excited but he went with me anyway and he actually liked it. Then my husband began seeking God about what He wanted for our life and our family ended up staying in the area. We signed papers on the very home that God gave me in the dream. It was awesome how the Lord also gave us the finances to make upgrades in the house. As the house was being built, we wrote Scriptures on the studs, believing it was dedicated to Him. The house is the Lord’s and He has shown us that when we are obedient to Him, He will reward us.

“My husband retired from the Air Force and was rehired back at his military job as a civilian! God is awesome! It all started with a dream.”

Scholarship Awarded in Dream

A friend's daughter desired to attend a certain seminary and went for an interview in March. The tuition was expensive but the girl thought she could work in the seminary office since she had extensive office experience and this would help defray the cost of the tuition. At the interview she was told that no positions were available and the seminary was cutting back on their funds. However, the girl kept in faith and made plans to attend the college even though she did not have the money.

One night in August, she dreamed that the people she interviewed told her she was awarded a scholarship and could work in the office! The next day, she phoned the school and was told exactly as she dreamed and that all she needed to pay was \$500!

The Source of Dreams

Before we go any further, we need to analyze the source of our dreams. As in all prophecy, **the words we receive in a dream, may originate from our soul, our spirit or the Holy Spirit.** Satan can put thoughts into our soul, depending on what we have been thinking about during the day. Our subconscious mind will remember those thoughts and our dreams will be affected. This is not always a bad thing, as I will give examples later. That's why it is crucial that we are "born again" and have the Holy Spirit living in us. He will guide us into all truth.

A dream is a type of prophecy. In the Old Testament there were many warnings against false prophets. They were to be stoned if they led God's people astray or caused them to sin. God warned Ezekiel concerning the prophets who had been

prophesying out of their own spirit. They did not hear from the Holy Spirit, but wanted to please the hearers.

Ezekiel 13:1-3 And the word of the Lord came to me saying "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart. 'Hear the word of the Lord!'" Thus says the Lord God: "Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!

Jeremiah 23:32, "Therefore, behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the Lord, "and tell them, and cause My people to err in their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them..."

In the Old Testament times, many of the prophets prophesied what they thought the King would like to hear. They prophesied victory when God planned for defeat. The king of Israel planned to conquer Ramoth-Gilead with King Jehoshaphat's help. Only the prophet Micaiah saw a true vision of defeat. He said: *I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd...*(I Kings 22:17).

Another time, before the first destruction of Jerusalem, the false prophets said there would be victory for Israel. Jeremiah however, heard, saw and spoke what the Lord showed him. He said that Jerusalem would be overrun by the Babylonians. Because of this prophesy, he was lowered into a well and later put in prison. Miraculously, his life was spared. Jerusalem was later conquered and burned. The Israelites would not listen to the warning by the true prophets They refused to repent and were consequently taken into captivity.

Since dreams and visions are a form of prophecy, we must be very careful in how we interpret our dreams. It is crucial that we know, obey and hear from the Lord. We can know His character by reading the Word. If we know His Word, we can cast down imaginations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God. We can also speak His precious promises when any conflicting thoughts arise. It is imperative that we feed our “spirit man”. Our mind will then recognize the voice of the Spirit.

As we meditate and renew our mind on Scripture, we will eventually be thrilled to hear our spirit rebuke the plans of the enemy in our dreams. One time my husband awakened me because I was agitated. I was telling the person in my dream to “get out of here!” I knew that person had evil intentions.

We can learn to discern between all these sources. Jesus said that the Comforter would lead us into all truth. John 16:13 says that *He will tell you things to come*. In James 1:5, it says to ask for wisdom and it would be given to us.

It is so very important in these last days, considering the terrorist attacks, that we are listening to the Holy Spirit at all times. Every step we take is important. Every activity is important in God’s plan. We need to be consciously listening to the inner voice of the Holy Spirit always. We can do this often during the day by praying and then pausing to listen.

If you as the reader are not sure that you have heard from the Holy Spirit in your dreams, you can make sure that this Holy Spirit lives in you now. This Holy Spirit will come to indwell you by a simple prayer. In this prayer, you acknowledge that Jesus paid the price for your sins, forgave you, and rose again from the dead. You surrender your life to Him so

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that He will give you power to lead a victorious life. As part of the Triune God, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your mortal flesh. This is the greatest miracle. Your dreams will begin to change because your spirit was born again. As you read the Bible daily, your spirit will grow stronger and you will begin to hear more clearly from God. Your dreams will be greatly affected for you will receive a new joy and peace.

Chapter 2

Dreams Through the Ages

History shows that many ancient cultures placed emphasis on dreams and their analyses. In Egypt there were professional dreamers who were paid to dream because they were thought to receive messages from the gods. These dreams had the value of shaping the destiny of a nation. The Babylonians, the Greeks and the Arabs placed a great emphasis on dreams. The Arabs showed reverence for a man who was sleeping. Primitive people knew that a man could control his thoughts while awake, yet knew he was utterly incapable to control his thoughts while asleep. Therefore they were led to attribute dreams to outside and supernatural agencies. They thought that dreams could come by “incubation” in which a person desiring to hear from a particular god would worship at the temple of the deity, perform some ritual and thereby prove he was worthy to hear from the deity.

The Sphinx Dream

In Egypt, there is an interesting granite pillar between the forelegs of the Sphinx, which recounts a dream Thutmose IV (c.1400-1390 B.C.) had. In this dream, Thutmose was instructed to clear the sand from around the body of the Sphinx (because it was covered by drifting sand). As a reward for this work, Thutmose would be given the kingship.⁴ History records that Thutmose cleared the sand and did become king, but he reigned for only about thirteen years and died at an early age.

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According to history, Plato and Aristotle were of the opinion that dreams indeed were messages from a divine being. Some Greeks thought that the gods would even reveal remedies for sickness in dreams.

Dream interpretation became an art because of the difficulty of interpreting symbols and figures. Eventually, rules were laid down and handbooks compiled for the guidance of the priests in explaining the meaning of the dreams.

One of the first dreams recorded in the Bible, was the one given to King Abimelech of Gerar, in which he was warned not to take Sarah as his wife. God spoke to the king in a dream and told him he was a “dead man” for taking Sarah because she was Abraham’s wife. He was told to return her because Abraham was a prophet. The king even had a conversation with the Lord in which he explained that he took Sarah in the integrity of his heart (Gen. 20:3-7). The king then returned Sarah to Abraham with a gift of sheep, oxen and some servants.

Early Church Fathers had Dreams

Later in history, the early church fathers such as Polycarp, Irenaeus, and Tertullian had vivid dreams, which they recorded. Polycarp (65-155 A.D.) was a pupil of the Apostle John. At one point in his life he knew that his life was in danger, so he stayed in prayer three days and nights praying for all the churches. While he was praying, a vision came to him in which he saw the pillow under his head on fire. He then related to his friends that he would be burned alive which later happened.

During the fourth century, three recognized theologians of the early church arose. They were Ambrose, Augustine, and

Jerome. They all taught that dreams and visions were one of God's methods of revelation to man. Jerome was the great scholar who translated the Greek Septuagint into the Latin Vulgate. Yet, later Jerome mistranslated Leviticus 19:26 and Deuteronomy 18:10 with one word different from other passages: "You shall not practice augury or witchcraft (i.e. soothsaying)" into the prohibition; "You shall not practice augury nor observe dreams." Thus he erroneously linked dreams with soothsaying and other superstitious ideas. This direct mis-translation of the word "anan" was in authoritative use throughout the Middle Ages and it has not even yet been completely eliminated.⁵ In Christianity the prohibition against dreams continued even at the end of the Middle Ages. However, the word "soothsaying" is now correctly used since the New King James Version has been published.

Irenaeus (140-203 A.D.) however, wrote of miraculous healings, and dreams and visions being received by the church scattered throughout the world. Tertullian (160 – 215 A.D.) declared that: "some dreams were of demonic origin but others had their origin from God." He quoted Joel 2:28 and acknowledged "dreams were promised to us since God always carries into effect what He has promised."⁶

Freud and Jung Explore Dreams

Sigmund Freud explored the idea of dreams thinking that dreams would reveal man's submerged personality. He placed great emphasis on sexuality as the key to interpreting dreams. He said all dreams are expressions of the irrational and asocial nature of man. Carl Gustav Jung was not able to swallow Freud's theory of sexual interpretation for everything but

proposed the idea that the unconscious mind thinks symbolically, and metaphorically, in images. So, he said, we must learn the language of symbols. He also believed that dreams were worthy of serious religious consideration.⁷ He came closer to the truth. In this book, we will later explore the idea that dreams are to be interpreted as symbols.

Dreams Recorded in the Old Testament

Continuing now with the history of dreams, we will go back to the time of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (2100 – 1900 B.C.) Abimelech, the king of Gerar had a dream and talked to the Lord about Sarah and Abraham. This was the first mention of the word “dream” in the Bible. It is interesting to note that there are more dreams recorded in the book of Genesis than anywhere else in the Bible.

Jacob is the next one who had an awesome dream. After he fled from his brother Esau, Jacob found a stone to rest his head upon while he slept in the wilderness. Then in a dream he saw the heavens open and a ladder appeared from earth to heaven, with angels going up and down on the ladder. The Lord stood above the ladder and spoke to him.

I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth, you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I

will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you (Gen. 28:13-15).

When Jacob awoke he said: *Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.* He was awed by the fact that the Lord had established an open heaven over that spot. He named the place Bethel meaning “House of God.”

The Lord appeared to Jacob many years later in a dream. Jacob at that time was married with many children and had worked for his uncle Laban for 20 years. Laban had deceived Jacob in wages and withheld his pay but the Lord blessed Jacob exceedingly. The Lord spoke to Jacob in a dream to leave his uncle taking his own wives, children and flocks.

And He said, “Lift up your eyes now and see all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar, and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, and get out of this land, and return to the land of your family” (Gen. 31:12,13).

Jacob then left with his two wives, children and animals. Laban pursued Jacob but received a warning dream before he overtook his nephew. He was warned not to speak good or bad concerning Jacob when he met him during his flight (Gen. 31:24).

The Lord protected Jacob on his return and his life was changed by an encounter and struggle with an angel. He was then renamed Israel. Jacob made many mistakes in his life, but because of covenant promises to his grandfather Abraham, the Lord’s blessing and care was a constant reality in his life. We

too, are covered by covenant promises when we confess our sins and obey what He has told us to do. His desire is to bless us.

Joseph's Dreams

The next person recorded in Genesis who received dreams was Joseph, Jacob's favored son. In his first dream, the sheaves in the field bowed down to Joseph's sheaf. In his next dream, the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to him. When he told his brothers, they hated him. We can learn from this that it is not advisable to tell our dreams unless we hear to do so from the Holy Spirit.

Joseph was later sold into slavery, but prospered and was eventually put in charge of Potiphar's household. While in this position he was falsely accused of enticing Potiphar's wife. As a consequence he was put in prison where he again distinguished himself because the Lord was with him, and his heart was right.

While in prison, Joseph noticed that his fellow prisoners were sad one day and asked the reason why. They explained that they both had dreams and they bemoaned the fact that there was no one able to interpret the dreams. Joseph said: *Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me please (Gen.40:8).*

The first man saw a vine with three branches and clusters of grapes, which he pressed into Pharaoh's cup and placed it into Pharaoh's hand. Joseph said the three branches represented three days, which would elapse until the man would again serve Pharaoh the juice (Gen. 40:12,13).

The second man was encouraged to relate his dream in

which he saw three white baskets on his head. In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on his head. Joseph was again given the interpretation from the Lord. He answered:

“This is the interpretation of it. The three baskets are three days, within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree and the birds will eat your flesh from you (Gen. 40:17-19). Sadly this came true.

In dreams there is the advantage of the Lord using pictures or objects, which symbolize past, present or future events. (We will explore this topic later in this book.) Many of us can remember a visual illustration better than a teaching. The Lord used the visual of seven fat and seven lean cows and seven good and seven thin ears of corn to illustrate to Pharaoh the years of abundance and famine coming upon Egypt (Gen 41: 15-22).

Joseph was given the gift of interpreting dreams even when he was a young man. This gift remained with him because he stayed faithful to the Lord through all his trials and imprisonment. Joseph didn't even have the Holy Spirit in the measure we have Him today! Nor did he have the written Word; he had only stories, which were told to him by his father or other relatives. Thank God, the Holy Spirit has been poured out in these last days and He will help us interpret our dreams.

Gideon Overhears A Dream

In the book of Judges, (Judges 7:9-15) Gideon was fearful of the enemy and took his servant with him while scouting the enemy camp at night and overheard a man's dream. The

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man was relating to his friend that he saw a barley loaf tumbling into their camp. This loaf of bread struck a tent so that the tent fell, turned upside down and lay flat. His friend was able to interpret the dream saying:

This is nothing else than the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp (Judges 7:14).

King Solomon's Dream

When King Solomon was a young man, around 1,000 B.C., after he had offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar, the Lord appeared to him in a dream at night.

And God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" Then Solomon said: " You have shown great mercy to your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth and righteousness, and in uprightness of heart... You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in...therefore give to your servant an understanding heart" (I Kings 3:5-9).

God answered King Solomon's humble request by giving him a wise and understanding heart. There was no one wiser than he before or after his life.

Daniel's Dreams

Daniel's life was similar to Joseph's. He was taken as a prisoner to a foreign land when he was young. He was one of the prisoners taken captive from Israel to Babylon in 605 B.C. He lived 623-536 B.C.

He stayed faithful to the Lord and was rewarded for his excellent spirit. In spite of many death threats and being thrown into the lion's den, the Lord rewarded him with many dreams of the future and the interpretation of many other dreams.

Daniel was able to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's vision of an image with head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet partly of iron and clay. A stone that was cut without hands, came and struck the image and broke it in pieces. This was foretelling the three kingdoms, which would follow Nebuchadnezzar's rule. The stone represented our Lord Jesus. The dreams Daniel interpreted were full of symbolism.

Another one of the king's dreams, which Daniel interpreted, was about a tree, which grew, became strong and was visible to the ends of the earth. However, a holy one descended from heaven and commanded the tree to be chopped down. The tree represented the king who would be driven away into the field. It was a warning. Daniel gave the king this advice:

O king may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness, and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity (Dan. 4:27).

Sadly, the king did not take the warning and was consequently driven out of the palace and forced to live as an animal for seven years. Finally, his reason returned to him and he gave praise to God (Dan. 4:36,37).

Daniel saw world governments coming into and going out of power. One notable dream Daniel had was of four beasts, which represented the present kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar and

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three kingdoms coming in the future (Daniel 7). His most famous dream and revelation was the timing of the coming of the Messiah and the end days (Daniel 9,10). He was a man of great humility, fasting and prayer.

It has been noted that 224 times dreams or visions have been mentioned in the Bible. I will go into more detail later in this book about the significance of objects. One of the primary rules to remember in dream interpretation is that objects and people are symbols.

New Testament Dreams And Visions

Four significant dreams occurred surrounding the birth of Jesus. Joseph received a dream in which an angel appeared to him telling him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife because she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit (Matt.1:20).

Next, the Magi were warned in a dream not to return to their country the same way from which they had come (Matt. 2:12). Later Joseph was told to flee to Egypt to save the life of baby Jesus. Even later Joseph was told to return to Nazareth in a dream (Matt. 2:13,19,20).

As I mentioned before, during the trial of Jesus, Pilate's wife had a dream, in which she related to her husband saying,

“Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him” (Matt. 27:19).

Visions are similar to dreams in that they can come in the night seasons but typically come when we are awake. The apostle Paul saw in a vision a man appealing to him and asking him to come over into Macedonia and help him (Acts 16:9). He

also had an angel speak to him warning him to get out of Jerusalem and later, just before his shipwreck, an angel told him he would stand before Caesar, and all those on the ship would not drown if they stayed with the ship (Acts 22:18, 27:22-25).

Comparison Between Dreams and Visions

John Paul Jackson compares dreams to visions. He says, “Dreams are very symbolic. They are like a caricature. Visions are more literal. Dreams mean tests; visions mean hardship. In either case we must hang on to the dream because most often the dream doesn’t happen immediately. The opposite happens. He always encountered opposition before the dream was fulfilled.”⁸

Dreams occur to the subconscious mind when one is sleeping. Visions generally, occur to the conscious mind when one is awake or in a trance. Yet, in the Scripture the terms are used interchangeably. In Job 33:14,15, it says: *for God may speak in one way or another... in a dream, a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men.* Isaiah 29:7 speaks also of a dream, a vision of the night. In Daniel 7:1,2, *Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote the dream down...I saw in my vision by night.* So we see according to Daniel, there is very little distinction between a dream and a vision. Yet, generally visions are much more distinctive and memorable.

One time my husband was overseas and wondering about which road to take. During early morning prayer he saw a figure with a raised arm and hand and pointing south. He and his friend Corey took the road south, passed up one town by listening to the Holy Spirit, proceeded on their course and then

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stopped to get a soda at a gas station at the next town. This is where they met the man the Lord had prepared to start a new Bible school.

Just recently, I have read a book I highly recommend written by Paul Keith Davis, entitled: *Books of Destiny*. In it he tells of many visions he and other prophets have had relating to the end times and the mysteries, which are being revealed. These mysteries are hidden in Jesus Christ (Col. 2:3). He says that a new generation is arising that will do exploits like never before. “This generation will see the fullness of this profound mystery fully consummated. The Lord has strategically planned for a latter-day consolidation of the sacrificial lives, prayers, and persecutions of these fervent saints and patriarchs” (page 119). Paul Keith says that the Lord is revealing Himself like never before in prophetic words, dreams and visions.

Like many prophetic words, it is very helpful to record our dream. Something happens between the brain and the hand when we write things down. The dream is cemented in our soul and spirit. Things that are written can be remembered much more easily.

Also, it is good to read our written dreams periodically. We may interpret the dream a particular way, and a year later, the dream may have a different meaning. We know in part and prophesy in part. The Holy Spirit may reveal only one part at a time and a new dream may help us interpret an older dream.

One of my friends wrote her dream for me to put in this book. She wrote: “I had prayed and prayed for a job I was pursuing, In fact I think I had prayed for this job more than I had prayed for anything. I had also applied for many jobs, and had quite a few interviews. I kept praying and sometimes just

crying out to God. I prayed. I fasted. This went on for nearly a year and a half. Then one night, I had a dream. I was standing in a room full of chairs. I was giving birth to a baby. It was painless and it was overdue. Approximately three months later, I got my dream job. The job came almost without any effort on my part. In fact, I got a call asking me if I was interested in the job. I've been at my job for a year and a half now. It is a huge blessing.”

Interpretation: the baby was a new job! The chairs referred to the office where the job was located. There will be more examples later.

In summary, dreams and visions are very important. They can be life-changing for others and us. God wants to speak to us in dreams and visions. He wants to encourage us and help us find our destiny.

Chapter Three

The Purpose of Dreams

The words recorded in the book of Job are the earliest recordings on the subject of dreams and their purpose. Scholars believe that Job lived at the time of Abraham, about 2000 B.C. because his life span was a little longer than Abraham's. Also, Job's life was extended 140 years after his trial, which makes his life span typical of the patriarchs. In the book of Job, this is what was recorded:

(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. (Job 33:15-17 AMP).

Dreams Open Our Ears

Because of our current busy lifestyle, many of us have a hard time spending quality time alone with the Lord. We live in a time of instant this and that. Even ministry can put demands upon us to produce. We are in a hurry to accomplish our assignments. Also our intellectual, reasoning, logical mind tends to argue with a commander when instructions are given. Like children, we want explanations. We want to know why we should obey and what is the advantage of obedience. God's instructions often seem so illogical, but that is where trust and

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obedience come in to play. Many of us, if we knew all that is required of each step of obedience would not obey. We need to trust and obey each step of the way.

Dreams will bypass the logical mind and open our ears to God. In Numbers 12:6, the Lord says:

Hear now My words, If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

Dreams Seal God's Instructions

In a previous chapter, I gave the example from Matthew's gospel, how the Lord gave Joseph instructions to marry Mary in a dream, and later after Jesus was born, to flee to Egypt. Our instruction should come primarily from the Word, which we read every day.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons (Psalm 16:7).

By reading the Word every day, we should know the personality of God. We should be assured of His love and that His plans for us are to give us a hope and a future. However, when He speaks to us in a picture, an action, object, color, etc., His instruction is more easily sealed in our mind.

One time I had a dream that I was interviewing a Jew from Jerusalem. I understood that to mean I should learn more about what was going on in Jerusalem directly rather than depend on the newspapers or TV. Now we can access news from the Internet about Jerusalem or a Christian website, which will give me more accurate information. I needed another perspective.

Dreams Withdraw Man From His Purpose

*...That He may withdraw man from his purpose,
(Job 33:17 AMP).*

We think especially of King Abimelech who was warned that he would be a “dead man” if he slept with Abraham’s wife (Gen 20:3). Laban also was warned to “speak neither good nor bad” to Jacob as he was fleeing (Gen. 31:14). We can so easily get off track by making plans without consulting the Lord. Now days it is crucial that we hear from the Lord because of terrorist threats. Since my husband and I travel overseas a great deal, I am always thankful for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and how God speaks to us in dreams to protect us.

Dreams Expose Pride

One of the errors we may give in to is pride. The Amplified Bible reads:

*That He may cut off pride from him (disgusting him with his own disappointing self-sufficiency)
(Job 33:17AMP).*

This means He warns us about pride. In one dream I had, I was sitting in a classroom and had the feeling I knew nothing. I didn’t have a clue about the subject. I thank God for that dream. I took it as a warning to be aware that pride can easily overtake me.

One time I dreamed that two weeds were starting to grow in our yard, two in particular. I then got some weed killer and sprayed them. This dream called for some self examination and examination of our ministry. The Lord is returning for a bride that is spotless and holy. Our goal in life should be to be

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pleasing to Him in all respects. Yet, we are often blind to our own weaknesses or faults. Dreams bypass the mind and expose the issues of the heart. Our soul in its natural state is depraved and needs to be purified. Our heart is deceitful and needs to be exposed.

We need not be confused that God doesn't love us or approve of us, but we need to continually press on to and lay hold of all that Christ laid hold of for us. The apostle Paul said: *I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me (Phil. 3:12)*. I lay hold of His righteousness, His victory, and His wisdom. His Word says that I am a partaker of His divine nature (*II Pet. 1:4*).

When we were born again, we *were born of incorruptible seed through the word of God, which lives and abides forever (I Pet. 1:23)*. If we consider natural seed like tomatoes or flowers, these seeds are programmed to grow if the right conditions are met. So too, we were born again of incorruptible, imperishable seed, which is programmed to succeed, if we feed our spirits on the Word of God. God's intention is for us to succeed. We are programmed to succeed, to produce fruit, if we feast on the ever-living Word. He who began a good work in us will watch over us to complete the work in us if we constantly submit to Him and obey Him without hesitation.

As we examine our dreams, we may be discouraged that we are doing unwholesome things in our dreams. Our heart is in the process of being cleaned up by the Holy Spirit. As we fall in love with Jesus more and more and spend more time in praise, those discouraging dreams will be less frequent.

Also, in our day-to-day activities, "garbage" can creep onto us. Even the ads on TV can pollute our minds. We need to

be so careful. Our mind is prone to think on negative things. An old saying is: “If we don’t keep paddling our canoe upstream, we will drift downstream.” This means that we have to go against the natural tide of unwholesome thoughts.

Natural thinking can also be in need of change. One time I dreamed that my husband and I were in the garage with brooms in our hands getting rid of all the spider webs. An old friend came along and observed us. We killed some insects that were still alive.

Interpretation: The spider webs signified natural, logical thinking, nothing fresh but stale, maybe even deception. The broom is a symbol of sweeping things clean. Because we were in the garage, we took it to mean that our means of travel and method of travel would change. The “old friend” signified the religious friends with whom we grew up. The insects signified some other nuisance, which could bother us. We need to keep the fresh air flowing (the wind of the Spirit) and be aware of any new enemy. However, this doesn’t cause me to fear, for according to *Philippians 1:28*, (I am) *in no way alarmed by your opponents, which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you and that too from God* (NAS).

Some of us may carry “baggage” from years before as a consequence of some bad decisions we made. Satan and our flesh may be most “helpful” in reminding us of these mistakes. A dream may expose some of those bad feelings, hurts, guilt or fears we have not dealt with. Maybe a certain person comes up in a situation that still needs healing. God will expose this to help us clear it up. He wants us to be made whole and prosper in body, soul and spirit. We can pray for the washing by the Blood and His power in us to forgive, and bring blessing on the

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other person that has wronged us. Unforgiveness hurts us more than the one who has offended us. God's purpose in exposing these issues is to draw us closer to Him increasing our dependence on Him. He is always willing to help us when we ask.

Healing By Using Praise

Memorizing and meditating on Scripture or using praise music before bedtime can fill our minds with good things. We need not fear the future concerning finances, our families or health because He has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. In fact, He is the God of abundance. The thief has come to rob, kill, and destroy. Our God is the giver of good gifts and He loves to give to His beloved. King David wrote: *He gives to His beloved even in his sleep* (Psalms 127:2 NAS).

Dreams Will Bond Us to the Father.

John Paul Jackson has given the statistic that sixty percent of all families in the United States will go to bed without a father in the house. Sometimes even if the father is there, he does not bond with the child.⁹ According to Malachi 4:6, the Lord in the last days is going to *turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers*. We can expect our Father to speak to us. This is that day. Our Father wants to bond with us in more ways, even in the night season. He wants to encourage us, reveal the future to us, and how we fit into His plan. By dreams we can get to know Him more completely.

You may observe that often in your dreams, there is a faceless person with you, guiding, instructing you, or helping

you or coming to your defense. Previously, I used to think that was my husband but now I have learned that faceless person most likely is the Holy Spirit or my Heavenly Father. He wants to bond with us. He loves us and wants to help us in every way. His intention is for us to succeed.

Bonding also occurs when we spend time in His presence. Our lives are very busy and it takes commitment and love for Him that will cause us to put time with Him as a higher priority.

Just recently, I attended a conference at which Heidi Baker spoke. She and her husband have laid down their lives for the poor in Mozambique. After a few years they now oversee 6,000 churches in Southern Africa. Heidi helped me understand more about bonding with the Father. She said we were all orphans until “daddy” God adopted us (Gal. 4:5,6). Many are still outside our Father’s house.

My natural father left when I was four years old, so I had a very limited concept of a loving Heavenly Father. This has now been broadened. I know now that I can come to Him like a little child and talk to Him. In fact, I can utter a short prayer to Him as the day goes by. I now appreciate “Abba Father” like never before. He does want to bond with me!

I now realize that I can check with Him on every little activity I have planned. He wants to speak to me during the day by that still small voice of the Holy Spirit to keep me from wasting time, money and ending up tired or confused. I want to bear fruit for His kingdom and walk in love.

Since this new revelation, my husband and I were headed down the highway to meet with a group of Christian friends. It would be a two-hour trip through heavy traffic and

my husband had just returned from the Philippines. Just a short ways down the road, we looked at each other and said: Is this really what the Lord wants?" We didn't feel a peace about it so we turned around and went back home. We called our friends and explained why we were not coming. There would have been a group of us getting together. To our delight they said that they would be in California again in the near future. Bonding with our "daddy" through the Holy Spirit is very important. We can hear from Him about every little thing.

God Wants to Communicate with Us

God has always wanted to communicate with mankind. In the Garden of Eden, God took pleasure in walking and talking with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. Even when He knew they had disobeyed Him, He wanted to meet them in the evening, as was their custom. They could not hide from Him.

Later He spoke to Abraham in dreams and visions. Jacob's life was changed by a dream. Joseph remembered his dreams during and after many trials. During the life of Moses, God spoke with an audible voice from Mt. Sinai and the people were so fearful they requested that God only speak to Moses and that Moses then would relate God's message to them.

God spoke to kings through the prophets. How we thank God that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and many other prophets recorded what the Lord said to them. He spoke to them in dreams and visions. He spoke secrets to them.

Psalm 25:14 says: The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

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Yes, God wants to speak to us. He wants to convey His thoughts to us and the dream is one of His methods. He wants us to discover our life purpose, and dreams can give us a picture of our destiny.

Chapter 4

Types of Dreams

The subject of dreams, their types and their interpretation is an exciting and very interesting subject. Dreams are much more frequent now than ever before. The Lord is pouring out His Spirit.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions (Joel 2:28).

Warning Dreams

This type of dream was explained before in Chapter 2. King Abimelech was warned not to take Sarah as his wife or he would be a “dead man” (Gen. 20:3). Laban, Jacob’s uncle was warned not to speak good or evil to Jacob when he caught up to him when in pursuit (Gen. 31:24).

The Bible records several more instances of warning dreams.. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, which he could not remember. Daniel and his three friends prayed and Daniel received the knowledge of this dream and its interpretation. (Daniel 2:19) The dream was about an image with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and its feet of iron and clay. A stone, which represented Jesus, struck the statue and it disintegrated. The king was warned that his kingdom would perish.

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The magi were warned by God to return by another way to their country after visiting the baby Jesus. Joseph was also warned by the angel to flee to Egypt and later warned to return to Galilee rather than Judea (Matt. 2:19-22).

One of our friends had a dream that she saw an earthquake come to a neighboring town at three o'clock that afternoon. The name of the town began with the letter "A". She was alarmed and phoned my husband for the interpretation. My husband said that the dream was an invitation to intercede for the town. They looked on the map for a nearby town beginning with the letter "A" and found two of them. She prayed and the earthquake never happened. Our prayers are important!

As a word of encouragement, Jane Hamon says, "God will always find a way to speak to us if our hearts are sincerely seeking to do what is right in the sight of the Lord."¹⁰ If we need a warning, He will speak to us because He loves us and does not want us to fail.

Tragedy Averted

My husband writes this dream about a tragedy that was averted: "In my dream, I found myself on a dirt road in the countryside with fields on either side of the road and tropical trees not too far away. Someone was coming toward me on a bicycle, and as the bicycle approached, I saw that it was Joyce Gill. She stopped her bike at my side, and told me sadly that A.L. Gill, her husband, had gone to be with the Lord. Her face looked stunned, and I reached out and hugged her and comforted her for a few moments. I told her that I was going to miss him terribly too, and that he had had a big impact on my life. Then I awoke."

Interpretation: My husband continues: “I recognized that this was a warning dream. The scenery was that of the Southeast Asian countryside, a place where A.L. Gill frequently ministers. The bicycle is the common means of transportation there instead of the car. The message was clear. If A.L.Gill went to some particular place there, he would die. I called A.L. in the morning and discussed the dream with him. He had a trip planned in the next few weeks where he was going to Malaysia and Indonesia, both Southeast Asian nations. The political situation at that time in Indonesia was very bad for Christians. Hundreds had been killed in Central Indonesia by Muslim extremists, and Jemaah Islamiya, the main extremist group, had threatened them on Java. Law enforcement had been questionable in many places in Indonesia at that time, but the situation in Malaysia was entirely different. Malaysia was relatively quiet with good law enforcement to deal with Muslim extremists. Although both nations are Muslim, the danger clearly was in Indonesia.

“A.L.Gill said he had asked two people to pray with him about going to Indonesian as his wife felt uneasy in her spirit about his going there. He said my dream was the second warning he had received that week, and he took it seriously, canceling his trip to Indonesia, but confirming the travel to Malaysia. He had a very successful trip to Malaysia without any incident occurring.”

A bomb did explode in the Jarkarta airport the day A.L. would have arrived.

Our dreams can be a big blessing to our friends. However, pray about whether you should tell them the dream or just

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pray about the situation. It depends on your relationship with the people in your dream. Are they your good friends? Pray about the timing of when to tell them also. I've made a mistake of telling a dream to a friend who then thought I was entirely off base because he didn't believe God spoke in dreams anymore. This person I realized, only symbolized a certain mindset in my dream and not the actual person. More about symbols later.

Dreams of Direction or Instruction

A well-known dream in the New Testament was the one in which Joseph was instructed to take Mary as his wife. In the Old Testament, many prophets had visions and dreams of instruction. The prophet Ezekiel was given instructions repeatedly in dreams. He saw a vision of four living beings and wheels within wheels. Amos saw four visions: one of locusts, one of a plumb line, a basket of summer fruit, and a vision of broken capitals (ornate heading on a pillar) on the door. Habakkuk was encouraged to record his visions on tablets so that he could run with the vision. *Though it tarries, God said, wait for it (Hab. 2:3).*

Another Old Testament prophet Zechariah lifted up his eyes and looked and saw eight visions pertaining to the future. God showed him four horses, four horns and four craftsmen, chariots, a lamp stand, olive trees and a flying scroll. Each of them was a symbol of things to come. Even today we can be encouraged greatly by reading about his visions. Paul, the apostle was given a vision of someone in Macedonia asking him to come over there and help him.

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My husband, Jack, tells a story of how he had a dream of a dazzling light coming toward him. He was aware that Satan can appear as an angel of light, so he was careful, but as it approached he didn't feel fear but only love. At this point, Jack saluted and fell on his face. He felt strong arms lift him up by the shoulders. Then he awakened with a feeling that God was his commander and he would receive instructions for ministry. A month later, the instruction came.

One year when I was in Northern Siberia I dreamed that a black cloud like a ball was hovering over the overhead heating pipes, which were connected to each house from the outside. I knew it was the Spirit of Death, which was waiting to enter each building. Immediately Scripture came into my subconscious mind, which was:

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live... (Deut. 30:19.)

The next day I spoke about that dream to the audience and many received Christ in the days following because of the message in the dream.

I have heard stories of how people who worship other gods have had dreams and visions of Jesus. One story was about a man who had an experience of seeing a kind, bearded man in his dream. After he awakened, this man walked in to see a *Jesus* film and was amazed that the Jesus in the film was the same man he had seen in his dream. He then was eager to learn more about this kind man.

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A couple of months before my husband and I were scheduled to go to Asia, I had a strange dream. In the dream we were traveling through enemy territory and we climbed a mountain. When we got to the top of the mountain, we discovered a village, which looked a lot like a Western village. It was neat and clean and businesses lined the streets. The people greeted us to our surprise. Soon we went to the hills above the village but we quickly noticed a big cat like a panther, which was devouring an orange. After finishing that fruit, he approached us. I was a little apprehensive that the animal might try to eat us. However, I distinctly remember falling asleep and waking up to find the big cat sleeping at my feet.

Interpretation and partial fulfillment: When we traveled to this country, which was in a remote area, and arrived at our destination, we found that the city looked quite prosperous. It reminded me of my dream in which businesses lined the streets. As usual, we visited the museums and historical monuments and employed a woman to help us research the history. When we drove through the city, there were posters of a big cat with an uplifted paw lining the streets. The woman we hired told us that the cat was part of the legend from centuries before the city was settled. This animal blessed the settlers who came to the area by raising its paw. We surmised that the cat represented the occult god, which was worshipped. The color orange in this instance meant the Holy Spirit, which was being quenched by the occult practices. Thankfully, the big cat was lying at my feet in my dream, signifying the body of Christ has authority over the area in the spirit.

At the pastor's leadership meeting we led them in a prayer renouncing the occult. We thought they were not aware

of what had happened in the spiritual realm and how they could be free. Later, we had amazing results with salvations and healings in the meetings where we spoke.

Another time, in another country, I had a dream that some men in the leadership were having a homosexual relationship, and then I saw them red-faced and repenting. I told my husband and our pastor interpreter friend about the strange dream and they confirmed the unusual dream because our interpreter had a similar dream as well. The next day, I preached on holiness and named many unholy practices and had them repent as a group by repeating after me a prayer of repentance. Later I knew that the Lord took care of this problem.

The Lord is so wonderful, marvelous, forgiving and merciful. There but for the grace of God is where we all stand, condemned, guilty and deserving judgment. Yet, He took our sins upon Himself, paid the price and has now given us a new and abundant life.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things (Rom 8:32)?

He shed His blood to atone for all our sins. Since His resurrection, we have His name, His Word, His blood and the word of our testimony to lead us into victory.

Dreams of Encouragement

One of the outstanding dreams of encouragement in the Bible is the dream that Solomon had in which the Lord said to King Solomon: *Ask! What shall I give you?* Because of Solomon's humility in asking for a "hearing heart" the Lord gave him wisdom, riches, and honor. This reminds me of this text:

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Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened (Matt. 7:7,8).

Just recently, while overseas preparing to teach at a leadership conference, the Lord gave me a dream that I was carrying a big bag of fertilizer and I was going about giving a portion of fertilizer to many young plants. The plants were only a few inches tall. That was the end of the dream. The interpretation was that the bag of fertilizer represented the Word of God. The plants represented people who were eager to grow in the Lord. I knew the fertilizer would cause the plants to grow very well. I was merely dispensing what came from heaven. This dream was a big encouragement to me because the trip was quite difficult physically in this developing nation.

Another encouraging dream I had was just before my husband and I were planning to visit a restricted access area. We had to wait for government approval. In the dream I approached the area, which was surrounded by a fence covered with purple flowers. I found a hole in the fence, crawled through and had marvelous fellowship with our friends.

Interpretation: We would be able to enter the area and have the fellowship. The purple flowers represented the authority I must take over the fence since purple represents authority. This dream encouraged me that we would be able to enter the area and have the marvelous fellowship. Within days the government gave us the permission.

One of my friends wrote me about a dream she had when going through a very difficult time. "I was running and

struggling, pushing my way up a hill. I knew I could make it; I was not allowing anything to stop me. My eyes were on the top of that hill. I did reach the top, feeling a relief and accomplishment. I looked and before me were tables, very long tables each with a white linen tablecloth and each set with the finest china. Everything was prepared for a dinner party. The finest of everything, how beautiful the sight! I was then invited into the place and shown to my seat. The Lord approached me and handed me the most beautiful flower. As I reached for the flower, He handed it to me and said, “Debbie, this flower is for you. It is a Morning Glory, because you are my Morning Glory!”

My friend continues: “Two months later I was at the intercessory prayer meeting when a woman from the church approached me and said the Lord had shown her the following for me. She said: ‘I saw you running, running, pushing your way through the brush land which was filled with thorny vines. You kept going, pushing them back, and pushing your way through. You finally arrived into a clearing where a campfire was burning and a dinner was being prepared. The Lord was there and He welcomed you with open arms. He said He had prepared a meal for you and wanted you to come and dine with Him.’”

Interpretation: My friend was climbing over her many difficulties with her eyes placed on a higher level. When she reached the mountaintop, the Lord was waiting for her with a lavish feast (communing with her) loved her and gave her some of His glory which would bloom each morning. Morning Glories have a lovely aroma (prayers are incense), grow on a sturdy vine (strong roots) and look like trumpets when open. Trumpets proclaim the word of the Lord. These flowers climb and bloom

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wherever they are planted. The other friend's vision confirmed what my friend had seen in her dream.

Another encouraging dream I had was just before taking another trip overseas. Our ministry account was very low and we were wondering how to finance this trip. At night I had a dream in which I saw our checkbook bulging. The pages were distended in the middle. Within two days, a good-sized donation came in. Yet, much more will be coming. I have no fear, only excitement and expectancy. We serve an awesome God.

The Aircraft Carrier

My husband had a dream that he was on a huge aircraft carrier at the stern, below the deck, near the water. The carrier was slowly going down a river, which was only a block wide at twilight. Suddenly it accelerated greatly. He said out loud in his dream, "This ship must be going about 50 miles/hour!" The lights along the shore went by very quickly and he thought, I hope the captain doesn't run aground. Then he realized that the captain was very experienced, so he just relaxed and trusted his judgment.

Interpretation: An aircraft carrier launches many aircraft into other lands. It can carry spy planes, fighter-bombers, or whatever to go to other nations possibly doing spiritual warfare or delivering supplies. The carrier is the springboard to set many people free. This carrier represented our ministry. The planes taking off represented different ministries with whom we work which are going to many nations. They shall return after bombing the enemy's strongholds and setting the captives free. Twilight represents the end times. The narrow river may have meant it was a remote area. The lights along the shore are

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different cities. Jack realized the Captain was the Lord and that he was just one of His servants. The rapid acceleration represented the quickening of the pace, which the Captain is doing now. The Lord is in charge and if we stay with Him we will not go aground. We have nothing to fear but must quicken our pace because Jesus is returning soon.

A Horse Dream

Just recently I had a dream that I was riding a horse up a hill and when I reached the top, I waited for my husband to arrive. I waited and waited but he did not arrive. I felt bad because I must have failed to communicate well with him. After waiting a long time, the horse got thirsty and took off down the hill because he spotted some water. The water was a lake, not a stream. I rode the horse down until he walked into the water and got a drink. I remember that I had no saddle and no reins or bit to guide the horse but I didn't fall off or feel apprehensive. After that I spoke to the horse and told him to climb back up the hill. Surprisingly, the horse understood me and I gently patted him on the cheek. We climbed the hill again. I called out my husband's name but there was no response.

Interpretation: To me the dream of the horse back ride was an encouragement that the Lord was carrying me. I could trust His horse to lead me but there were times when I could initiate a change of direction since I knew His will was for me to be on the mountain tops. Since my husband did not answer me, maybe I was too dependant on him to lead the way, (as we usually travel overseas together) but there were times I needed to travel on my own or with other women and be more dependent on His leading. This dream does not minimize my

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husband at all for he is a godly man. I believe more meaning is coming. I only include this dream for your encouragement. A strange dream can be full of meaning.

Since it was strange to me that I was riding a horse, I looked in the Scripture for meanings. The natural horse was used countless times for warfare in the past. The horse I was riding seemed quite different. I found that the Lord used horses in the book of Revelation to announce judgment. My horse was sandy colored not like those mentioned in the book of Revelation. These Scriptures were an encouragement to me:

And Elisha prayed and said; "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (II Kings 6:17).

At this time, a hostile army surrounded Elisha and his attendant. Elisha told the young man not to fear, because *those who are with us are more than those who are with them*. This shows that the Lord has many horses. Another Scripture verifies this fact:

Elisha has become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said: "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" (II Kings 13:14).

The king of Israel had evidently heard from Elisha how Elijah had been taken up to heaven. This king saw the same thing about to happen. Elisha then prophesied that the king of Israel would have three victories over the Assyrians corresponding to how many times the king had struck the ground. Then Elisha died; possibly his spirit was escorted to

heaven by the chariot and the horsemen.

There is another Scripture that speaks of the Lord's horses:

O Lord, were You displeased with the rivers, was Your anger against the rivers, was Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation (Habbukuk 3:8)?

Now if you have horses of your own, this dream might mean something entirely different. The Holy Spirit will help you interpret it.

False Dreams

False dreams are put into the same category as false prophecies. These are spawned from our flesh or the devil. The Lord warned the prophet Jeremiah that there would be false visions.

And the Lord said to me, 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their ear' (Jer. 14:14).

Early in Jeremiah's life, he had heard from the Lord and saw visions. The Lord touched his mouth and put His words in his mouth. After many years of persecution, and rebuking the Israelites for their disobedience, the Lord said that the Babylonians would invade the city of Jerusalem. Yet the false prophets prophesied peace to the city. Some of them even had false dreams. Their intention was to make the people forget God's name. *Jeremiah 23:27 who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams.* The Lord rebuked the false prophets

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by saying: *Jeremiah 23:28 He who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully.* Jeremiah was very bold in proclaiming the word of God and was put in prison and also lowered into a well for speaking what God had said. Jerusalem was invaded by the Babylonians in 605 B.C., many people were taken captive, but Jeremiah's life was spared. What God says will come to pass. He said: *I am watching over My word to perform it (Jer. 1:12).* Also, He will never contradict His Word.

So, if one has a dream which one suspects may be false, check it out with what you know of God's character and what He has written in the Word. If the dream does not pass these standards, it is false.

If it is true, you need not tell it to anyone, just let the Lord confirm the dream by other methods. Remember Joseph told his dream prematurely and caused his brothers to hate him. The Lord did turn it around for good ultimately. If the Holy Spirit leads you, you could tell your dream to a mature, godly person to help in the interpretation.

For example, someone might dream that they are going to marry another person and feel God spoke to them about that. Be very careful. Maybe that dream was birthed out of deep desire of the flesh. It could be witchcraft. God is certainly able to speak to the other party involved without the dreamer saying a word. We can all be deceived, so we are told to test all things and confirm things with the written Word of God.

There are some questions you can ask yourself concerning the dream to know whether the dream might be false or not. Does the dream draw you closer to God? Does it bring a godly fear or just fear? Does it bring peace? Proceed carefully in interpreting your dream. Make no hasty decision. Don't

change your whole life's direction by a single dream. Get confirmation. I will explain more about the subject of interpretation in the next chapter.

A Pizza Dream?

Some people believe that most of their dreams can be put in the category of pizza dreams meaning they are the result of eating pizza or some such thing before going to bed. I asked the Lord about this and found an instance in Scripture where it appears that Peter had an actual dream about food. He was in prayer about noontime, was hungry and smelled the aroma of food cooking.

Acts 10: 9-11 Peter went up on the house top to pray about the sixth hour, then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.

Peter had a vision, and God spoke to him in a powerful way using animals as a symbol. The Lord told him to eat the unclean animals which symbolized the fact that the Lord accepted the Gentiles into the kingdom. This was a total change of thinking

Wouldn't it be great if the Lord would speak to us as clearly as He spoke to Peter? Yet we have His Word the whole Old and New Testaments, which reveal His character and purpose for our lives. The dreams that we receive will always agree with the principles in His Word.

I believe these are the days when the Lord is pouring out more revelation of Himself and He will do it for those who

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are eager to hear from Him and obey when He speaks. So, don't consider your dreams as "pizza" dreams and discount them. Pray for an interpretation.

Flushing Dreams

John Paul Jackson, an authority on dreams, says that some dreams can be classified as flushing dreams, meaning those that one can flush down the toilet. He says that we are in the world but not of it. Soot gets on us. God flushes it down so that it doesn't stain us.¹¹ Some dreams worthy of flushing may be caused by overwork or heat.

For myself, I get dreams almost every night and sometimes more than one. Upon arising or in the middle of the night, I have to decide whether to record the dream or just forget it. Often I say, "Lord, speak to me again about that subject if that is really You. I don't want to miss You."

Chemical Dreams

Prescription drugs, medicine, alcohol, aspirin, ibuprofen or any foreign chemical will alter our normal thought processes and change our subconscious mind while sleeping. I read also that the herb, St. John's Wart, alters the chemicals in the brain. It enhances serotonin transmission. This directly relates to depression because depression is believed to result from faulty neurotransmission. A person will feel relieved when more serotonin is produced.¹²

As a Christian we know that praise, joy and laughter have a healing effect on our brain. It has been noted that certain enzymes are released from the brain when one is praising the Lord. Therefore, it is a good idea to listen to praise music or

meditate on Scripture before going to sleep. Mild exercise is also good before bed and laughter is good for the immune system. Our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made.

I am not against taking herbs to help prevent some sickness or enhance a healing process. In fact, I recommend them. When my husband and I lived in the jungle, our students and foreign director knew of many natural remedies, which we sometimes used along with prayer and the Word.

Spiritual Warfare Dreams

There was a time in my life, when my husband and I were going through some intense spiritual warfare. I saw airplanes, helicopters and guns going off. In my dream I came upon a battle scene in which 6 soldiers were lying down and only one was sitting upright holding a gun. The phrase came to me, "Occupy until I come." It was an encouragement to me to stay alert in intercession because many others are sleeping.

Another time I had a dream that I was using something like a baseball bat to break down a natural wall. I somehow knew there was something valuable behind that wall where superstitious people had deposited their money in various spots all over the incline behind the wall. As I kept hitting the wall, it broke in a small area and I saw beautiful sky and mountains. I marveled at the beauty of God's creation and told others of my discovery. They then started hitting the wall and it broke through in other places. I continued hitting the wall until I had a hole big enough to crawl through. On the other side, I found two \$10 bills, which looked very similar to U.S. bills. Then I noticed a colony of people higher on the mountain. The women in this new place were surprised and happy that I came.

Interpretation: This is a dream of spiritual warfare. I will confront a barrier (maybe overseas) and I know that after breaking through the barrier, the result will be that of finding something beautiful or useful behind it. Others will follow. We know the Lord has good plans for us and that the violent take the kingdom by force. Jesus said:

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force (Matt. 11:12).

There are so many promises in the Kingdom of God for us now. We can take these promises by faith and faith filled words spoken with conviction.

Dreams of Death

Sometimes death may occur in your dreams. Remember dreams are symbolic, so death most likely would refer to spiritual death. Or it could be a warning dream to pray against the spirit of death. I've had dreams in which people were covered with black veils. The veils could be mind-blinding spirits. I've also seen people walking on ice and about to fall through. The ice could represent religious spirits or hardness of heart. The falling through the ice could represent falling into the River of Life. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us interpret these symbols.

A friend of mine had a dream in which she was driving down the road and suddenly observed an accident in which there were a few vehicles, which crashed and burned, with burned bodies strewn all around. In her dream she used her cell phone to call her pastor who was a clergy for the sheriff's department. When she awakened, she remembered that death in a

dream could mean spiritual death. A few days later her daughter and many of the youth went to a youth retreat and their bus broke down on that same highway. The youth had to wait several hours for a replacement bus. She heard about the problem and took some food to the stranded youth. When she arrived at the scene, she remembered her dream and said to the youth pastor, “These young people will all rededicate their lives to Christ.” Two days later her daughter phoned overjoyed saying that all the youth at the camp had done just that! They “died” to their flesh beginning when the bus broke down.

Speaking about death, our dead relatives cannot speak to us in dreams or visions.

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6 says: For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing... nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun.

When we die our spirit immediately goes to either heaven or hell. Jesus told the thief on the cross, after he admitted his sin and asked to be remembered, Jesus said that he would be with Him in Paradise that same day. Paul also said that he desired to remain with the Philippians but he had a *desire to depart and be with Christ (Phil.1:23)*.

If you feel a departed spirit has spoken to you, it is a familiar spirit not the spirit of your dead friend or relative. There are spirits that are aware of our everyday activities. An angel of the Lord encamps round about those that fear God and delivers them (Psalm 34:7). This angel has protected us from many accidents. But there are other spirits, which are called familiar spirits. These familiar spirits are part of Satan’s realm, know all about us and delight in talking to those who are eager to contact the spirit realm. They may bring one comfort for the

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moment, but will eventually lead us into deep deception.

I understand there is a TV program in which a woman is able to tell many secret facts about people. She knows their dead relatives names and many other facts known only to the person she is talking to. This is the world of the occult and can be called necromancy, which is forbidden by the Lord.

Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 20:6). And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people (Leviticus 19:31).

Many people who have been eager to communicate with the spirit world have used a Ouija board or tarot cards. These are not toys as some have thought but are devices to contact the spirit realm of familiar spirits. God does not think lightly of this even though it was done in ignorance. One must renounce and repent of this practice even if it has been in the past. This ignorance could have opened the door for demonic spirits to speak in the future.

Also, those who have consulted astrologers or read their horoscope need to desist and repent. Only the Lord can tell you of your destiny and the good plans He has for you. It's like having other gods before Him and He is a jealous God. Once you have received Jesus as your Savior, you have a new Lord for you are a chosen vessel for His honor and glory. He desires to put His glory on you and will not share His glory with another.

When the Lord God created us He put a hunger in us to contact the spirit realm. It is natural. Yet, we will not find

any genuine peace apart from Him and a close relationship with Him. He does want to talk to us and dreams are one of His ways.

There was a man named William Branham, (1909-1965) who was gifted by God in knowing people's secrets. He heard accurately from the Lord concerning many things. Because of this gift, his humility, and his dedication to the Lord, he saw many unusual healing miracles and gave the glory to God.

People are eager to hear from the spirit world not only in Africa and Asia, but now in America. One way to judge a person operating in this manner is to ask yourself, "Does he or she give the glory to God or are they promoting themselves?"

Man Comes Out of a Coma

One time my husband and I were called to minister to a young man who was in a coma from malaria. The man had been in this coma for a few days and had not spoken to his pregnant wife. The man's father-in-law told us how the younger man had had a dream of his dead mother appearing to him and calling him to be with her. The young man believed that he could go to her and had slipped into the coma. We were thankful for that information, for then we knew how to minister.

Speaking in a loud voice, my husband told the young man that he had believed a lie. Jack held up his Bible and said: "God's Word says, 'You shall live and not die', now wake up and say, 'Thank you Jesus' (in his native language)". Jack felt a spirit of fear pass right by him.

At that point the young man opened his eyes and said,

“Thank you Jesus!” The family was overjoyed.

Enemies of Peaceful Sleep

The enemy of our soul is also able to invade our subconscious mind when we are asleep. Worry and anxiety could very well work itself out in a dream. If you have had a tragic experience in the past, Satan will replay that experience. But as the months and years pass, depending on how diligently you renew your mind in the Word, those recurring dreams will be less and less frequent.

Fear in your life can be played out in your dream and even become deeply embedded if you do not conquer it with the Word of God. This Word needs to be spoken out of your mouth. God loved you enough to send His Son to die for you. God was the example of perfect love. Knowing His perfect love for us will cast out fear.

Just before Jesus died on the cross, He prayed over His disciples and us, this prayer:

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me (John 17:23).

Don't let vain imaginations cause you to have bad dreams. What we think about during the day will come up in our dreams. Therefore it is very important that we watch over our heart with all diligence (Proverbs 4:23). If we are living in the flesh, especially thinking about sexual things, then immoral desires will invade our dream life. God in no way condones sex outside of marriage or even dreaming about a close relationship with the same or opposite sex in an immoral way. These

dreams are definitely Satan-inspired and will leave a God-fearing person feeling dirty or discouraged. Check your thought life.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy... meditate on these things (Philippians 4:8).

Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord...I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety (Psalm 4:4,5,8).

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet (Proverbs 3:24).

The Lord is our Comforter, Peace Giver, Strong Tower, Refuge, Beloved, Advocate, Deliverer, Good Shepherd, Great Physician, Redeemer, Savior, Wisdom, Light, Life and the Mighty One of Israel. Let us be comforted and encouraged by thinking of His names and the power in those names. As we worship Him before falling asleep, our sleep shall be sweet.

Sleep Apnea

In the last few years, I have heard about a phenomenon called "sleep apnea." It's a condition in which there is a malfunction in the brain in which the normal breathing signals to the respiratory system are faulty. A person will not breathe properly but wakes up gasping for breath. The remedy is to be

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hooked up to a machine, which regulates the breathing process. We are all susceptible to sickness and malfunction in our bodies. We know the enemy of our souls will try to change any normal function in our bodies in order to keep us from obeying God and fulfilling our destiny.

God wants to give to us in our sleep. He wants to give us a peaceful sleep as a result of spending our energies to advance His kingdom. If our sleep is not peaceful and we do not receive the normal average of seven or eight hours of sleep a night, our lives will be adversely affected.

Following are some Scriptures, which will help renew one's mind if this condition of "sleep apnea" has affected you.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept, I awoke, for the Lord sustained me (Ps. 3:4,5).

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows for so He gives His beloved sleep (Ps. 127:2).

The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep (Ecc. 5:12).

My son, let them (wisdom, understanding and knowledge) not depart from your eyes, keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble.

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When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet (Prov. 3:21-24).

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart instructs me in the night seasons (Ps. 16:7).

You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night (Ps. 17:3).

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You (Ps. 139:17,18).

Chapter Five

Interpretation and Symbols

Interpretation is a vital part of all dreams. Inaccurate interpretation can lead to much heartache, wasted time, money and loss of credibility if the dream has been told to others. The Holy Spirit and the Word are the main source of reliability. Interpretation and symbolism can be very encouraging.

The Lord often spoke in symbols. In the Old Testament He told Moses that the Israelites would inhabit a land which was *flowing with milk and honey (Deut. 6:3)*. He said He would satisfy them with *honey from the rock (Ps. 81:16)*. He said also that *though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow (Isa.1:18)*. He also said: *He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty... He shall cover you with His feathers and under His wings you shall take refuge. His truth shall be your shield and buckler Psalm 91:11,2,4,5)*. Therefore as we seek to interpret our dreams, we must think symbolically.

After we receive a dream, it is very important to ask the Holy Spirit for the interpretation. Astrologers or soothsayers claim they can interpret dreams, but they must be avoided at all costs. In the Old Testament book of Zechariah, God spoke about these false diviners. He said:

For the idols speak delusion; the diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain, therefore the people wend their way like sheep; they are in trouble because there is no shepherd (Zech. 10:2)

Basic Guidelines in Interpretation

- **Write your dreams down soon after awakening or in the middle of the night.**

This depends on how crucial it is for you to hear from the Lord, especially if you need to make some quality decisions. We forget dreams very easily and God may be speaking. Sometimes I may think that dream wasn't important since I receive so many, so I say, "Lord tell me again if that is important." Write down as many details as you can remember like colors, persons, buildings, mode of transportation, etc.

- **Write down the city, date or circumstances in which you were when the dream occurred.**

Maybe you had been reading the newspaper about a certain event, or seen something on TV or spoken to some friend about a situation. The Lord may use this to trigger something in your dream. Only you will be able to interpret this dream because you know the situation.

One time I received a gift bag with the name Chloe on it (the name for a perfume). I thought nothing of the name but the name came up in my dream. In the morning my husband and I looked up that name in the Bible and found it was the name of a N.T. woman who was a leader in the church. Her household reported to Paul that there were divisions in the church (I Cor. 1:11). The name meant "verdant or green." In my dream, I was approaching an island, which was named Chloe and for some strange reason the island was pink. I had to walk over the ice to get to the island and someone came along to help me. When I arrived at the island, the helper said to me

“Do you want to go downtown?”

I answered, “Yes”. At that point I woke up.

Weeks later my husband and I went to a pastors conference and we were attracted to a couple who was from S. Africa. We introduced ourselves and to my amazement the woman’s name was Chloe. Then I ventured to tell her that I had a dream about an island named Chloe. I told her how I went to that island after walking on ice. Chloe and her husband had just moved to Beverly Hills and started a new work in Hollywood. She told me that she had also had a dream that she was skating on ice. Then I began to think that this pink island in my dream might have symbolized her new ministry in Hollywood. Going downtown in my dream might have symbolized Hollywood. My “Helper” was the one who suggested going to the island and going downtown. Since then, Chloe and I have had many interesting conversations. She is now hosting a TV program on Dreams and Visions. It can be exciting what will happen when God gives you a dream.

- **Use common sense.**

“Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thess 5:21).

Years ago, one of our girl students overseas had a dream that she had to go tell the president to humble himself, and if she did not do this, she would lose her salvation. Many of us were awakened because she was so fearful. When she related her dream to us, we said that that dream did not show the character of God. He does not threaten His children like that. This student was new in the things of God and very eager to please, so the devil took advantage of her. Common sense says that God would not send a teenager to speak to a president nor that

she would lose her salvation.

- **Don't try to fulfill your dreams in your own strength or in your own time.**

Many dreams take years to fulfill. God's purpose is to give us hope and faith for the future. George Whitefield, the great evangelist of America's Great Awakening, saw himself preaching to huge crowds. He was only 9 years old when he received this dream. It was not until many years later that he spoke to thousands. I have a friend who told me he saw himself preaching in Russia and he has not yet done this. But my friend knows that God will open the doors when the time is right.

- **If the dream results in confusion, fear or condemnation, then it is not from God.**

Conviction is from the Holy Spirit, but condemnation is from the enemy. Believe and ask for discernment here.

- **Any dream that encourages you to sin is not from God.**

The Word of God is a standard by which we must interpret dreams. When we know the character and ways of God, we should be able to know the meaning of our dream. We understand His character by reading the Word daily.

- **When God gives you an interpretation, He will confirm it through a godly friend or pastor.**

Confirmation should also come from the Word.

- **Try to find a positive element to your dream rather than accepting a negative interpretation.**

One time I had a dream that I was following my husband on a footpath and he was walking too fast for me to stay with him. I became discouraged and felt rejected. When I awakened, I could have been discouraged but I asked the Lord for the meaning. I believe the Lord said, “Keep your eyes on me and not on your husband. I will guide you hand in hand. I want to be your focus.”

Symbolism

Most incidents, persons and things in your dream will be symbolic of something else. In the Old Testament, Amos had five visions or dreams. He saw locusts eating up all the crops, fire consuming the land, a plumb line, summer fruit and the Lord standing by the altar. All spoke of coming judgment.

Jesus used symbols like a fig tree, a pearl, a coin, lilies of the field, grass, fields, flowers, fish, and white-washed sepulchers. Jesus used metaphors such as “I am the bread of life, the light, the good shepherd, the door, the true vine, the way, the truth and the life.”

The Lord spoke to David in such symbols as refuge, high tower, rock, stronghold, shield, tree planted by the rivers of water, etc. Isaiah said we would be like a watered garden, springs of water. God calls our walls “salvation,” our gates “praise.” God says, “You have a robe of righteousness, and the yoke is broken.” We are warriors. So most often when trying to interpret your dream, remember that most persons, things and incidents are symbolic. They are “word” pictures.

Driving a car can represent your life, as can riding in a boat or airplane. Or being in a car can mean that you are going some place, which is good. None of us want to be stagnant or immobile. Ask yourself, "What was the road like and what lined the road in my dream?" Traveling in a vehicle means you are making progress.

Some time ago, I had a dream that I was at a fruit market with two women pastors from our church. We were collecting fruit to put in our baskets and I remarked, "Oh, look at this fruit. It's from Asia and it's delicious!"

Interpretation: The dream meant that our church's women pastors and myself were working together to gather fruit for the kingdom. We each had some fruit in our lives, but fruit of different flavors. Now this could be the local church or the universal body of Christ. Then I remembered:

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you" (John 15:16).

To me, the fruit symbolized people coming into the kingdom. Each of us was doing our part.

When interpreting a dream, ask yourself many questions. What was the setting? What action was taking place? What was the spiritual state and personality of the other person in the dream? For example, walking will symbolize making progress, forward movement. In one dream I had, I took off my shoes so that I could walk faster. This could have meant that I needed to lay aside any sin that would slow my progress or it could have meant that I was in a hurry, eager to get somewhere.

INTERPRETATION AND SYMBOLS

There may be multiple meanings of objects or actions in your dreams. A house can represent your life. Ask yourself, which room you were in, if it was messy or clean, and if it was upstairs or downstairs. One time I dreamed I was on the top floor of an apartment with the door open talking on the telephone. I was concerned that other people might have listened in but in my dream, my husband said, "Don't worry, we are in the last apartment on the top floor." Then I woke up. When I related the dream to my husband, he helped me interpret it saying, "I probably was talking to the Lord and I should not be concerned about other people hearing our conversation." A trusted friend can help you see different meanings in your dreams.

The people in your dreams are usually symbolic too. Your mother can represent some older teacher or someone whom you consider to be your spiritual mother. A baby can represent a new idea, a new adventure, or a creative idea for business. Relatives can represent the body of Christ. Consider also the personality of the person. Were they "religious," care free, or studious? Also was the person from your childhood? Does this person represent some unresolved problem from the past? What was the occupation of the person?

Most people have had a dream in which they were naked or partially clothed and trying to cover up. This symbolizes that people can see us as we are without the "mask" we try to keep on ourselves. We need to be honest with ourselves. Or it could mean that we have nothing to hide or to be ashamed of in our service to the Lord. So many dreams can be interpreted two ways. The person who has the dream is the one who can interpret it most accurately because that person knows the day-to-

day circumstances. The individual will know the events which have just occurred in his or her life.

Another question to ask ourselves is: “What kind of clothes were we putting on and what was the color? Where were we going? Whom were we with at the time of the dressing?” In one dream, I was putting on a green blouse with green slacks before traveling. To me this meant I would enjoy His provision in every way.

Animals may also appear in your dreams. Ask yourself what is the personality of the animal in the natural. A dog or a lion can be both good and bad. The dog can be your best friend or he can bite you. Even certain species of dogs have their own temperament and personality. The lion can represent the Lion of Judah, authority, power or the devil, who is as a roaring lion. Foxes are smart, cunning but may represent wisdom as the owl or the elephant. Grasshoppers, scorpions, spiders, and all of God’s creatures have their own individual characteristics. Ask the Holy Spirit for the meaning or research how that animal was used in Scripture.

There are certain authority figures, which may manifest in our dreams. We may see policemen, doctors, military men, or politicians. Ira Milligan says: “If God wants to speak to us about our strengths or weaknesses, our power, or lack thereof, He may use one of these four divisions of authority to illustrate His message.”¹²

Pastors can also appear in our dreams. What is our relationship to them? Do we highly respect them in love and honor them so that they can do their job with joy? They hear from the Lord and answer to Him. Do we support them in intercession?

Colors

Colors are symbolic too. I'll just list a few:

Purple represents royalty, majesty.

White stands for purity, light, truth or holiness.

Scarlet represents blood atonement, redemption or salvation. It can also represent sin. *Though your sins be as scarlet (Isa.1:18)*

Red represents war, bloodshed, anger, hatred, lust, sin, or zeal.

Green is the color around the throne. It represents prosperity, eternal life, envy, or the carnal nature.

Blue represents heaven, the Holy Spirit or revelation. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Kohathites to cover the ark, table of showbread, lamp stand, the incense altar and all the utensils of the sanctuary with a cloth of blue in preparation for traveling (Num. 4:5-12). The symbolism was that the articles were heavenly.

Orange can represent fire, power, the Holy Spirit, energy or great danger.

Black would represent something ominous, sin, grief, or mourning. It would be something of an evil nature.

Grey is something undefined, indistinct, hazy, or deceptive.

Tan means death, burned or repentance.

Pink means flesh, women, a female infant, chaste or immoral.

Gold or Yellow represents divinity, glory, a gift, honor or even cowardice.

Silver represents redemption.

As you can see, most of these colors have a double meaning. Maybe you don't remember the colors in your dreams but as you ask the Lord for help, He will show you more colors.

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For a more complete meaning of many symbols in your dreams, I highly recommend Kevin Conner's book *Interpreting Symbols and Types* or Ira Milligan's *Understanding The Dreams You Dream*. See the appendix for the publisher's information. These books also give the meaning of numbers.

In one recent dream, my friends brought me blue placemats to put on my table for they said they matched my blue curtains.

In the first part of this same dream, these friends were also suggesting we plant evergreen trees in our front yard. Trees can symbolize nations, individuals, the church or Jesus Christ.

Interpretation: In interpreting the dream, I was thrilled to understand that blue represented revelation and something heavenly. Placemats meant that we were going to fellowship together or have communion and nourishment.

I saw our friends as being creative in arranging things and the evergreen trees as something always growing, alive and prosperous. The front yard was chosen so all could see. In real life this couple has come into our lives to help design our brochures, newsletters, arrange our books, design the covers and have been a huge blessing. They have creative ability and have helped our ministry prosper.

Dreams may come in pieces with different meanings for the same object. Pray and meditate on the different sections of your dreams. In one dream, I was observing a battle in the heavens, observed a crash and then walked into a terraced rose garden with friends. The rose garden can represent Christ and His church or even death. Terraces represent different levels of faith in the church or different callings.

INTERPRETATION AND SYMBOLS

Sometimes the interpretation you receive will only be in part. When you write the dream down and look at it months later, you may see different things. Whether you have a covenant-reminding dream from God as Jacob did or have a dream giving you encouragement or warning, you can know that the Most Powerful God of the universe wants to communicate with you through dreams. Know too that the Lord loves you and always has good things planned for your future. We can rest in His love and not dread the future. I firmly believe that the best is yet to come if we are following Him with all our heart and walking in love, faith and obedience. His word says that we are more than conquerors through faith. He will purify us and put His glory on us for the end-time battle.

Happy dreaming. May He speak volumes of word pictures to you. Be blessed.

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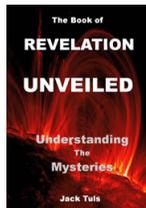
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