

EXAMPLES OF DREAM SYMBOLS

1. Objects
 - a) Rainbow – God’s covenant, promise – Gen. 9:12-17
 - b) Arrows – Bitter words, words of accusation – Psalm 64:3; Isaiah 54:17
 - c) Wine – Activity of the Holy Spirit – Luke 5:37-39
 - d) Clean, pure water – Holy Spirit – Eph. 5:6
 - e) Dirty, murky water – Evil spirit
2. Numbers
 - a) 3 – Unity, God
 - b) 7 – Perfection, completion
3. Colours (If they stand out)
 - a) Blue – Heavenly – Num. 15:23; John 14:26
 - b) Green – New life, new things
 - c) White – Clean, purity
4. Animals
 - a) A Pet – something dear to you
 - b) Biting animal – spiritual attack
 - c) Fat animal – plenty
 - d) Lean animal – famine, poverty
 - e) Rare animal – refers to a region of the world
5. Places
 - a) Kitchen – heart
 - b) Crowded room – church or personal family

DREAMS AND VISIONS RESOURCES

Joel 2:28 Dreams And Visions Logbook (software) – www.joels-journal.com

Streams Ministries International – www.streamsministries.com

Morningstar Fellowship Church – <http://eaglestar.org>

The Elijah List – www.theelijahlist.com

Trumpetblast – www.trumpetblast.org

Friends Of The Bridegroom – www.fotb.com

Lapstone Ministries – www.lapstoneministries.org

Rams Horn Journal – www.ramshornjournal.com

Tehillah Ministries – www.tehillah.org/dreams.shtml

INTRODUCTION TO DREAMS

David Hibbert – Jan. 25/04

GOD’S PROMISE OF DREAMS TODAY

Acts 2:17, NIV – “*In the last days*”, God says, “*I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*”

WHAT IS A DREAM?

1. Dream

- a) Old Testament (Hebrew): Chelem; Chalom – a dream
- b) New Testament: Onar – a dream; Enuption [en = in, on, at, by, with; hupnos = sleep]

2. Vision

- a) Old Testament (Hebrew): Cheza – A vision, appearance
- b) New Testament (Greek): Horasis; Horama – A vision, appearance, that which is seen

3. Definitions

- a) Vision – a visual message received while awake
- b) Dream – a visual message received while asleep

4. Clarifications

- a) Sometimes the words “vision” and “dream” are used interchangeably
Job 33:15, NIV – “*In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds.*”
- b) Sometimes the word “vision” refers to a portion of a dream
Daniel 7:1, NIV – “*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.*”
 Daniel’s “dream” consists of a number of “visions”

WHY WE NEED DREAMS TODAY

Job 33:14-18, NIV – (14) *For God does speak – now one way, now another – though man may not perceive it. (15) In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, (16) he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, (17) to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, (18) to preserve his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.*

FOUR SOURCES OF DREAMS

1. God
2. Satan
3. Circumstances
4. Your Soul

PURPOSES OF DREAMS FROM GOD

1. To Give Direction For Decision-Making

Matthew 1:20, NIV – *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

2. To Warn Against Danger

Matthew 2:12-13, NIV – *(12) And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they [Magi] returned to their country by another route. (13) When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”*

3. To Change An Attitude

Acts 10:9-15, NIV – *(9) About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. (10) He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (11) He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. (12) It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. (13) Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” (14) “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” (15) The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”*

4. To Encourage

Genesis 40:9-13, NIV – *(9) So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, “In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, (10) and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. (11) Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand.” (12) “This is what it means,” Joseph said to him. “The three branches are three days. (13) Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.”*

5. To Bring Revelation Or Interpretation

Daniel 2:16-19, NIV – *(16) At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him. (17) Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (18) He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (19) During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ... (23) I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.*

6. To Reveal Destiny

Genesis 37:5-10, NIV – *(5) Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. (6) He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: (7) We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.” (8) His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. (9) Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” (10) When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?”*

7. To Bring Confirmation

Judges 7:13-15, NIV – *(13) Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.” (14) His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” (15) When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”*

DREAM INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES (Steve Bydeley)

1. Always record your dreams - as soon as possible after you receive them.
2. Ask what your role in the dream was, to determine if the dream is:
 - a) Subjective (personal) – active (for and about yourself only) – approx. 90 to 95 % of our dreams are subjective
 - b) Objective (impersonal) – observing only (for and about others)
 - c) Combination (interpersonal) - initially active and then observing (affecting you, but primarily for and about others)
3. Interpret the dream as follows:
 - a) Subjective Dream
 - i. The symbols in subjective dreams are personal to the dreamer; therefore, the interpretation belongs to the dreamer
 - ii. Make a list of all the symbols in the dream, pray for understanding and search your heart and past experiences for the meaning of the symbols.
 - iii. Find a trusted friend, one who has regard for dreams, and discuss the dream and symbols with them.
 - b) Objective or Combination Dream
 - i. The meaning of the symbols belong to those for whom the dream is given
 - ii. Pray for guidance in determining who the dream is for, and if you received it for intercession or intervention
 - a. If for intercession, then pray - and only pray, for those whom you understand the dream is for, until the burden is lifted
 - b. If for intervention, then pray for God's timing, guidance, and humility in approaching those for whom the dream is given.
 - i. If they are in a church body, meet first with the pastor/leader and receive permission to approach them.
 - ii. If permission is not given then your responsibility in this situation is over. Do nothing more than pray for them.
4. Don't allow frustration to enter the process. If the message of the dream is important, your Father will ensure you receive it. Recurring dreams or recurring themes indicate an important message. Ultimately God holds the interpretation of the dream, stay close to Him if you want understanding.

DREAM EXAMPLE

Genesis 41:1-7, NIV – (1) When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, (2) when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. (3) After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. (4) And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. (5) He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. (6) After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted – thin and scorched by the east wind. (7) The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

- Pharaoh's Role In Dream: Combination / Interpersonal
 - Was standing by the river, then watched what went on
 - Dream concerned others, but because he was involved in dream, it also involved him
- Meaning of symbols
 - Nile – source of life, source of water
 - Fat cows – source of food, fat so well fed and healthy
 - Gaunt cows – sick, mal-nourished
 - Gaunt cows eat fat cows – famine eats up plenty
 - Grain – source of food
 - Scorched – heat, sun, famine
 - 7 cows, 7 heads of grain – 7 years
- For Intercession or Intervention?
 - Since Pharaoh was only person in dream, and a leader, was for intervention

Genesis 41:25-33, NIV – (25) Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. (26) The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. (27) The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. (28) It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. (29) Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, (30) but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. (31) The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. (32) The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon. (33) And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.”