

## 1. The Value of God's Written Word

## 2. The Languages of God

A. The issue of Matthew 1:21-22; Matthew 2:13; Acts 18:9-11

B. Dreams are normal!

**Numbers 12:6 NIV** He said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.

**Joel 2:28-29 NIV** "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

**Acts 2:16-18 NIV** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>"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. <sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

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

## 3. The Purposes of Dreams

A. God uses dreams to warn us.

1. See Job 33:16-18.

2. **Genesis 41:32 NIV** 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.

3. Some trouble can be averted.

See Daniel 4:16, 27, 28ff

B. God uses dreams to encourage us.

**Acts 18:9-10 NIV** One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. <sup>10</sup>For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

C. God uses dreams to provide guidance for us.

1. **Acts 16:9 NIV** During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

2. Joseph and Mary

D. God uses dreams to invite us to enjoy intimacy and communion.

1. Brownsville Dreams

2. The Fire of the Hiding Place

3. **1 Kings 3:5-15 NIV** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." <sup>6</sup> Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. <sup>7</sup> "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>8</sup> Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" <sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. <sup>11</sup> So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, <sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. <sup>13</sup> Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. <sup>14</sup> And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." <sup>15</sup> Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to

Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

E. God uses dreams to reveal the future.

1. Joseph's predicted elevation

2. See Genesis 37:5ff

F. God uses dreams to issue commands to His people.

1. Laban

**Genesis 31:24 NIV** Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

2. Joseph

**Matthew 1:20-21 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. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

**Matthew 2:13 NIV** 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."

**Matthew 2:19-20 NIV** After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup>and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

G. God uses dreams to speak to unbelievers.

1. Abimelech

**Genesis 20:3-7 NIV** But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman." <sup>4</sup> Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? <sup>5</sup> Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is

my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands." <sup>6</sup> Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. <sup>7</sup> Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die."

2. Pharaoh

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

3. Nebuchadnezzar

See Daniel 2:1ff, 4:9ff

4. A Midianite soldier

**Judges 7:13 NIV** 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."

5. Pilate's Wife's warning

**Matthew 27:19 NIV** While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

6. The Magi

**Matthew 2:12 NIV** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.