LESSON SIX

DREAMS

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN YOUR SLEEP

Key Scripture:

“In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.” [Job 33:15-16]

1. Our ears are open [Job: 33:16]
2. Our minds are quieted
3. Our spirits never sleep [Psalm 121:4]
4. Our analytical skepticism is gone
5. To hide mystery for us to seek it out [Proverbs 25:2]

Jim Goll says in his book Dream Language, “Visions reveal God’s nature while dreams often give us direction or reveal some part of God’s plan.”

The Purpose of Dreams

1. It leads to the Heart of the Father- dreams should draw us closer to the Lord as we journal and spend time prayerfully pondering the meaning. When we are asleep, we are free from distractions and our barriers are down. The Lord can speak directly to us through dreams.
2. It awakens our walk with Him
3. It imparts intercessory burdens
4. It launches you into ministry
5. It brings healing
“Hear now my words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.”
(Numbers 12:6)

God speaks to His people in a dream and will make Himself known in a vision. He uses both visions and dreams to draw us to His purposes.

Examples of those God has Communicated to in Dreams:

1. God warned ungodly kings and rulers through dreams:

   “But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, “Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.”
(Genesis 20:3)

   “And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. God I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.”
(Genesis 20:6)

2. God gave Jacob the ability to get wealth in his dream:

   And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have see 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, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.” [Genesis 31:10-13]

3. God warned Laban not to do any harm to Jacob in a dream:

   But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, ‘Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad. [Genesis 31:24]

4. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and imparted wisdom and an understanding heart:

   “At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ’Ask! What shall I give you?’” [1Kings 3:5]

In verses 9-15 of this same chapter, Solomon asks God to give him an understanding heart [hearing ear] to judge God’s people and that he would discern between good and evil. God granted this to Solomon as well as, riches and honor, which he did not ask for. God also gave him a long life. When Solomon woke up, he realized it had been a dream.

5. The birth of Jesus was orchestrated and directed through dreams and visions. Matthew 1:18-25 tells of when Joseph was deciding what to do about Mary, his fiancée. The scripture states that an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary you wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

   Also, the wise men and Joseph were divinely warned in a dream:

   And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.” [Matt 2:12-13]
Types of Dreams

1. **A Simple Message Dream** - no need for interpretation. These dreams are direct and to the point and self-interpreted. Ex; Matt.1-2., Joseph’s dream concerning Mary and Herod.

2. **The Simple Symbolic Dream** - Dreams can be filled with symbols. The symbolism is clear enough that the dreamer and others can understand it without complicated interpretation. Ex: Joseph’s dream in Gen 37.

3. **The Complex Symbolic Dream** - this type of dream needs interpretive skill from someone who has the ability in the gift of interpretation or from someone who knows how to seek God to find revelation. Ex: Daniel 2, 4 and 8.

Recording and Interpreting Your Dreams:

1. Name, date and title your dream, record your waking time. Daniel 7:1,”...Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.”

2. Write or draw your dream out in bullet point, diagram, outline or paragraph form.

3. Record the main facts and eliminate the unnecessary details

4. Ask the Holy Spirit for insight and understanding of the dream.

5. Does the dream symbol appear in the Bible? Search it out in the Word. Dreams from the Lord will never go against His word. *(Prov. 25:2)*
6. Ask questions about what you saw in your dream. What did you sense and feel from the dream? Was it a good or evil presence, fear, love, concern, hopelessness, disappointment? What was the primary emotion? What are the colors? Is everything in black and white or in color? [Zechariah 4]

7. Look for the theme or essence the dream is communicating to you. Relate the dreams to your circumstances and spheres of influence. Consecutive dreams often have the same or similar meaning. [Gen.41:1-7, 25-31]. God will speak the same message more than once.

8. Keeping it simple is better than trying to complicate the dream.

9. Visualize the dream as you recall or rehearse the main symbols in the scenes of the dream.

When understanding and interpreting dreams, remember that our Heavenly Father has given us a Helper and will reveal truth to us. All we have to do is ask.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” [John 14:26]

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.” [1John 16:13-15]

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” [James 1:5-8]
Creating a Culture for Revelation

The following was taken from Jim Golls’ book - Dream Language:

A. Pull out your spiritual antenna- we have to be tuned in and ready to receive God’s transmissions. Get ready and expect to receive.

B. The Power of the Blood – Hebrews 9:12: “and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”

C. Pray in the Spirit- Jude 20: “But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” Praying in the Spirit refreshes us, stirs our faith, and creates an atmosphere where God’s mysteries are spoken and revealed.

D. Meditate on God’s Word - Joshua 1:8: “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

E. Worship and Sing Praises- 2 Chronicles 20:18-22: This scripture talks about the worshippers going ahead of the army and defeating the enemy by their praise.

The Drain to Dreaming

A. Church Culture and Worldview- Wrong traditions and worldview have stolen the relevance of dreaming. There has been no place for dreams in materialistic and logical scientism. We have moved away from our Hebraic foundation and shifted into a Greek mindset. This philosophy produces an analytical mindset.

B. Are you at rest or are you striving? - Isaiah 30:15- “For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, “In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength.”
C. Is your receptor clean? - Ephesians 4:23-27, “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and yet do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

1. Worry - Ps. 37:8
2. Anger - Ephesians 4:26
3. Lust - Romans 13:10-14
4. Bitterness - Hebrews 12:15
   Our spirit must be able to receive. We must be careful what we watch and listen to. We must not give place to the devil. We must not grieve the Holy Spirit.

D. Our Routine - inconsistent schedules can hinder the flow and retention of revelation. A lot of times this is not our fault, just due to the demands of life. Ask the Lord for His grace and to help you work out your schedule and even to alter it, if needed. Set apart times for receiving from the Lord. Sacrifice releases power. Fasting can be used to soften our heart and to put us in a position for heavenly downloads.

E. To Whom Much is Given? Matthew 13:12-16 - “For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore, I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; for the heart of this people has become dull with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears because they hear.” If we do not pay attention to what we have already received, the Holy Spirit is not obligated to give us more. Faithfulness brings reward!
F. **Integrity is a Major Issue**- Both the Holy Spirit and people are drawn to integrity. Tomorrow’s call does not give you authority today. There is a learning process of being called, trained, and commissioned. Don’t distort the meaning of a dream out of your insecurity. Don’t say more than God says or more than God said to say. Learn to pray and hold-wait for more revelation before you speak.

Other things that will hinder our dreams could be:

1. **Distraction** - The scripture says to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things. We need to set aside time to receive revelation away from distractions- cell phone, computer, TV, books, magazines, friends, and family.

2. **Disinformation** - What does God have to say in His Word? God still speaks to us today. Too often, as Christians, we are looking to institutions, denominations and uniformed people to get our theology rather than basing it on the Word of God. Wrong information and lack of information is a culture that allows the doubts of darkness to breed and remain. Hosea 4:6 states:”My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

3. **Disbelief** - Many can’t and will not hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in their lives because they do not believe God wants to speak to them. Disbelief can filter out God’s love, care, revelation and at times His empowering. Remember that we serve an all-powerful, all-knowing God who has spoken, is speaking and will continue to speak to His people. The scripture in Mark 9:23 states, “I do believe, help my unbelief!”

**Things to Remember in Keeping Interpretation Simple**

1. Most of all, dreams should be interpreted on a personal basis first. **Jn. 10:3**
2. Most dreams should not be taken literally. They need to be interpreted. **Dan. 1:17**
3. God will use familiar terms you know. **Matt. 4:19**
4. Ponder on the dream or revelation and ask the Holy Spirit for insight. **Dan. 7:8**
5. Ask the Holy Spirit what the certain thought, word, or issue is in the revelation. Reduce the dream to its simplest form. What is the main thought? What object or thought occurs most often?

6. Search it out in the Word. Dreams from the Lord will never go against His word. **Prov. 25:2**

7. What did you sense and feel from the dream? Was it a good or evil presence, fear, love, concern, hopelessness, disappointment? What was the primary emotion?

8. Relate the dreams to your circumstances and spheres of influence.

9. Consecutive dreams often have the same or similar meaning. **Gen. 41:1-7**

10. What are the colors?

11. Interpretations can be three levels:
   a. Personal
   b. Church - congregation, city church, church in a nation, global body of Christ
   c. National and international, these can be governmental in nature.

12. More than one interpretation can come from one dream. Just like in scripture, there is an historical context as well as the personal, present implication. In dreams, it might be a general word for the church with specific applications for yourself

13. Some dreams may only be understood in the future. They unfold over time. Details will make sense down the road.

14. Write down the summary, date it, where you were, the time, if you woke up from it, the main emotions and a possible interpretation in a journal.

15. The key to proper interpretation is to question, question, and question. See Zech. 4.

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**Activation**

Split up into groups of 3 or 4 and tell of a dream you had recently. Using some of the dream symbols and prayer try to interpret the dream.

**Homework**
Prepare yourself for dreams by surrendering to the Holy Spirit before you go to sleep. Ask the Lord to speak to you in your sleep. When you awake, write down any dreams you have and begin to seek the Lord for the interpretation.

Dictionary of Dream Symbols
Symbols & Interpretation
From the Bethel Community Life School Manual

Colors
Amber – contamination, holiness, idolatry, purity
Black - stability, death
Blue – anxiety, depression, revelation, communion, truth, peace
Brown- Pastor, humanism, compassion, order, earth
Cyan [light blue] - Fasting, will
Gold- contamination, holiness, purity, wealth, prosperity, wisdom
Gray – weak, sorrow, security, maturity
Faded Colors- weakens meaning of color
Green- pride, envy, conscience, life, nature, fertility
Magenta- emotion, giving
Orange- perseverance, stubbornness, vitality
Pink- love, beauty
Purple- authority, royalty, false authority, intercession
Red- anointing, praying, anger, war, wisdom, courage, vitality, action
Silver- redemption
Yellow- fear, hope, mind, joy, happiness
White- purity, cleanliness

Numbers

1- God, unity
2- Division, judgment, multiplication, split, difference, opposition
3- Godhead or triune God, complete
4- God’s creative works
5- Grace, redemption
6- Man
7- Completion, perfection
8- New beginnings, teacher
9- Evangelist, judgment
10- Journey, pastor, wilderness
11- Prophet, revelation, transition
12- Apostle, government
13- Rebellion
14- Double anointing
15- Mercy, pardon, reprieve
16- Established beginnings
17- Election or elect
18- Established blessing
24- elders around the throne
25-begin ministry training
30- begin ministry
40-completed rule, generation
50- freedom, jubilee
111- My beloved Son
120- end of flesh
153- kingdom multiplication
555-triple grace
666- full lawlessness
888- resurrection
1500- authority, light, power

**Animals**

Alligator- bossy spirit, great influencer, big mouth
Ants- irritation, unwanted guests
Armadillo- nuisance, harasser, destroyer
Bat- satanic torment
Bear- demonic force, hungry for something you have
Bee- higher demonic power but less lethal
Birds- kingdom of heaven
Black panther- higher level witchcraft
Cat- a watching demonic spirit, independent thinker
Chicken- being chicken
Cobra- spirit of control and manipulation
Cow- slow laborious change
Crab- hard shell, not easy to approach
Crocodile- big mouth, something that can drag you down, vicious verbal attack
Dog- friend
Donkey- stubborn
Dragon- satan or his plans
Duck- false or quack as in a charlatan
Eagles- prophetic
Elephant- demonic force designed to attack your mind, humanism
Frog- counterfeit of conscience, lust, sexual spirit
Hamster- running around in circles
Hippopotamus- big mouth, bossy spirit, great influencer
Hornet- higher demonic power, less lethal
Horse- power, sometimes major or for movement of God
Ladybugs- eat the harassers
Lion- intimidation, power
Lion attacking you- God coming against you
Lizard- lying (long tale)
Ox- slow laborious change
Panther (black) - high level of witchcraft
Pigs- carriers of demons
Rabbit- sexual torment
Rams- satanic occult
Rat- garbage (sin)
Ravens- soul
Rhinoceros- critical and harsh
Scorpion- someone wanting to do you in, witchcraft
Sharks- vicious or malicious activity by people you know
Snake- backbiting, divination, false accusations, false prophecies, gossip, long tales, slander
Spider- demonic attack, occult
Spider web- demonic network
Tigers- soul power
Zebra- a horse that looks righteous but has soulish issues

**Miscellaneous**

Airplane-church, large corporation
Amphitheater- something is going to be magnified
Angel- good will toward men, messenger
Ann-grace
Arm- strength
Armored car- major protection
Atrium- glass indicates vision
Attic- past history issues, storing things God has given you that get dusty
Autograph- prominence or fame
Back porch- history
Bald head- lacking wisdom
Ball gown- prepared for something that requires elegance
Banner - victory
Basement - hidden or unseen
Bathroom - cleansing
Bed - intimacy
Bent knees - prayer
Big butt - laziness or apathy
Bike - individual ministry or calling
Books - knowledge, preparation time
Braking car - warning to slow down
Breasts - ability to nurse young
Bright from a light - from God
Brothers - the body of Christ
Buckler - protection
Bus - church or ministry
Cafeteria - spiritual food
Candle - impact, influence
Car - job or vocation, personal ministry, small church, small ministry
Car repair - minister/ministry healing
Chariot - major encounter, life destiny
Children - next generation
City - God's inner city, inner city work
Clouds, dark - from the enemy
Clouds, light - from God
Coat - mantle
Columns - foundations people put trust in
Controlled flying - spiritual maturity increasing
Convertible - open heaven
Cracked basement walls - problems in the foundation
Crops - different lengths of time
Crossing street - changing perspective, changing place of operation
Cultural clothes - call to nation
Dart - piercing, penetrating or painful experience
Dead body - being dead in the gifts
Dining room - eating spiritual food
Door - walking through something
Double number - double of what the number means
Dreadlocks - rebellion
Driving in reverse - not going direction should be with the anointing you have
Dusty - neglected, lack of use
Dying - too old to come into what God called you to
Eating - eating spiritual food
Eighteen Wheeler - blessing of ministry, judgment of ministry
Elevator - change in anointing, up = increase, down = decrease
Evening gown - what you are called to requires elegance
Eyeteeth - vision or revelation
Face, dark - demonic
Face, lightened - angelic
Family pictures - family historical issues
Farm - feeding
Fast - easy
Feathers - comfort, confusion, covering
Fingernails - weapons
Fingers - ability to relate, direction, intertwine
Fire, roaring - God devouring His enemy
Flamingo - instruments that carry out the purposed of God
Flash - revelation or insight
Flowers - fragrance
Flying - spiritual advancement
Forehead - peace of mind
Former place - season you are currently in or coming to
Fed Flintstone car - human effort
Freezer - Storing spiritual food for future time
Front porch - vision
Garden - place of growth or intimacy, place of love romance as in Song of Solomon
Gas station - power
Gas station, old - old power
Gun - spiritual authority either good or bad
Gymnasium - great discipline
Hair - wisdom
Hair, long - growing wisdom
Hair, short - cut off wisdom
Hand - direction
Head - mind, intellect
High rise - high spiritual calling, spiritual heights
Hills - elevation
Hole in clothes - worn out or too old
Hospital - healing
Hotel - people come, get touched and move on
House - your church, family, your life
House, live in someone else's - similar anointing
Immobilization of body parts - demonic hindrances to what you are doing in the Lord
Incisor teeth - ability to decide
Index finger - prophetic
Jeans - completing or walking out what you are called to do
Jet - church or large corporation
Kiss - humility
Kitchen - preparing spiritual food
Knee - humility
Knife - holding a knife - protection, verbal responses such as sharp tongue
Lava - enemy, vicious slow attack against people of God
Left - gifts that you were born with
Left side - born with
Limousine - call of God
Lying on stomach - humble
Machine guns - high power weapons
Mall - church, egotism or selfishness
Mickey Mouse car - animated, colorful and entertaining, ideological, theoretical
Mobile Home - going to be changing homes, temporary condition
Money- favor
Money, lost- loss of favor
Mountain- God’s presence, the Lord
Nakedness- nothing hidden, vulnerable, without guile
Names in scripture- to prophesy what’s about to happen to a people
Neck- willingness, stubborn
Nightgown- darkness
Nose- discernment
Ocean- church, masses of people
Ocean liner- church that is mission minded, large movement
Office- calling and gifts
Top of head- indicates position and rank
Outer space- insight into the cosmos
Pants- completing or walking out what you are called to to
Parked Car- ministry on the sideline
Parking lots- short term levels
Picture frames, gold- framed by God for a precious purpose
Pornography- deterioration, soulish desires, you came in contact with this spirit
Private jet- instructions, you and God alone
Property- responsibility
Prophet- represents a prophetic word
For more reading and to study this subject further:

Dream Interpretation Guidelines-Christian Dream Symbols by Brenda McDonald

Dream Language by Jim Goll

Dream Encounters by Barbie Breathitt

Dreams-Divinity Code, The Key to Decoding your Dreams and Visions by Adrian Beale and Adam F. Thompson

Website: [www.dreamlab7.com](http://www.dreamlab7.com) (Mary Ann and Stephen Kotch)

[www.streamsministries.com](http://www.streamsministries.com) (John Paul Jackson)