



DREAMS

1. Introduction

- We are promised that God will use dreams to speak to us – Acts 2:17

2. Seven Foundational Principles for Interpreting Dreams

- 1. Most dreams are symbolic
- 2. The symbols will come from the dreamer's life, so ask, "What does this symbol mean to me?" For example, Joseph was a shepherd, and he dreamed of sheaves and sun, moon and stars bowing down (Gen. 37:1-11). These images surround a shepherd boy who lives in the fields. Nebuchadnezzar, a king, dreamed of statues of gold (Dan 2:31ff), which surround kings who live in palaces.
- 3. The dream generally speaks of the concerns which your heart is currently facing. So ask, "What issues was I processing the day before I had the dream?" For example, Paul was wondering where to go next on his missionary journey and had a dream of a Macedonian man motioning for him to come on over (Acts 16:6-11). Nebuchadnezzar was thinking his kingdom would go on forever (Dan. 4:28-33) and he had a dream of a tree being chopped off at the roots (Dan. 4:9-27). Once you know the thoughts that were on the dreamer's heart when he fell asleep, it is much easier to draw out the meaning of the dream.
- 4. The meaning of the dream must be drawn from the dreamer. Realize you know nothing about the dream, but through dependence upon the Holy Spirit and the skillful use of questions, you can draw the meaning of the dream out from the heart of the dreamer. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams (Dan. 1:17). Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out (Prov. 20:5).
- 5. The dreamer's heart will leap and "witness" and say, "Aha!" when it hears the right interpretation, so never accept an interpretation that does not bear witness in the dreamer's heart.
- 6. Dreams reveal but do not condemn. Their goal is to preserve life, not to destroy it (Job 33:13- 18).
- 7. Never make a major decision in your life based only on a dream without receiving additional confirmation from the other ways that God

speaks to us and guides us (peace in our hearts, the counsel of others, illumined Scriptures, God's still small voice, prophecy, anointed reasoning, etc.).

3. Some general symbols used in dreams

<p>BIRDS - depending on the kind of bird, this is usually a sign of prosperity CATS - an age-old symbol of the Feminine; the elegant and mysterious elements of our lives. DOGS - traditional symbol of the Masculine; courage and loyalty HORSES - a symbol of animal power, strength and energy. INSECTS - usually represent small, nagging worries. RATS - beware of deception! SNAKES - lead us not into temptation. Automobile – Vehicle you are using to move forward in life Baby - may symbolize vulnerability Bath - Dream meaning for bath or bathing usually means a rebirth Blood - always symbolizes caution Clothes - How you look at yourself and how you feel others may see you. Celebrities - Can indicate a profitable new offer will be made. Chase - It is time for you to set out on your destined path. Cheating - May indicate of guilt or compromising your own conscience. Cross - Represents perfect balance Death - Something is coming to an end. Devil - Evil spirits It may represent some repressed emotions that need to be expressed. Earth - News of a sad nature Eyes - Dreaming about eyes very often symbolizes insight and understanding. Falling - Falling in your dream may represent your real life fear of letting go of something</p>	<p>Fire - passion, sexual or extreme emotions; fever, an actual body fever; Flying - The great a symbol of Freedom. Food - Food represents knowledge. Hair - Represents knowledge, most often conscious knowledge (or the lack of). Hands - Symbolize ability, particularly practical and social abilities. House - symbol representing yourself. Insects - Bugs - Usually represent small, nagging worries. Killing - you want or need to kill that part of your personality. Lost - The meaning of this dream is literal. You are lost in your life Marriage - A bridge between the conscious mind and the unconscious self Money - Represents one's values in life. Mountain - Climbing a mountain may symbolize achievements or tasks to be performed. Murder - A need for you to eliminate something of self or repressed anger Naked or Nudity - Symbolize the 'naked truth' about oneself. People - Most often represents the different aspects of oneself Radio - Communication between conscious and unconscious self Roads - Your direction in life School - Lessons in life. Snakes - lead us not into temptation. Spiders - traditionally a sign of good fortune Teacher - A symbol for your higher self (spiritual or creative). Teeth - Symbolizes a fear of getting old. May symbolize aggression. Water - Calm water means good times ahead, Rough waters: caution</p>
---	--

4. Examples of dreams in the Bible

- Gen. 15:1-21 Abraham in interaction with God = dreamt about himself
- Gen. 20:1-18 Abimelech and God in interaction = dreamt about himself
- Gen. 28:10-22 Jacob being spoken to by God = dreamt about himself
- Gen. 31:10-29 Jacob and God in interaction = dreamt about himself
- Gen. 37:1-11 Joseph and brothers in interaction = dreamt about himself
- Gen. 40:1-23 Cupbearer and Baker = dreamt about themselves
- Gen. 41:1-49 Pharaoh's dreamt of 7 cows = dreamt for others

- Gen. 46:1-7 Israel in dialogue with God = dreamt about himself
- Judges 7:9-18 Loaf of bread hitting camp = dreamt about himself
- 1 Kings 3:5-28 God and Solomon interact = dreamt about himself
- Daniel 2:1-49 Statue hit by stone = dreamt about others
- Daniel 7:1-28 Four beasts = dreamt about others
- Daniel 8:1-27 Ram and goat = dreamt about others
- Daniel 10:1-12:13 Terrifying vision = dreamt about others
- Matt. 1:20-25 God spoke to Joseph = dreamt about himself
- Matt. 2:3-15 God spoke to Joseph = dreamt about himself
- Matt. 2:19-23 God spoke to Joseph = dreamt about himself

5. Summary

God speaks to us through dreams