

DREAMS

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1. UNDERSTANDING DREAMS

We want to see what is prophesied about the last days in the book of Acts chapter 2 and this is in line of what the Holy Spirit is going to do in your lives. We have taught on holiness preparing your lives for an increase in the manifestation and leading of the Holy Spirit. We want to understand some of His leadings. For without understanding we cannot receive.

Acts 2:16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And in the last days it shall be God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams: yea, and on my manservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

What we want to focus on is the first part. What is prophesied is that God will pour His Spirit upon His people. And He had specially mentioned sons and daughters, young men and old men. That scripture has always puzzled me. Until recently God began to give more light. It cannot be that God is talking about physical age alone. We know that old men also can prophesy. And here young men see vision old men dream dreams. We know that young men can dream dreams too and old men can see vision. So it is not just some thing to do with physical age. It is some thing more than that.

In I John talks about spiritual age and not natural age. I Jn. 2:12 *I am writing to you, little children because your sins are forgiven for His sake.* Now that's a spiritual age; *little children* are those who have just been born again. *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.* So spiritual fathers are those who have known God from the beginning. Their knowledge of God covers a vast expanse. He has to write *from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.* So he talks about the middle part of nurturing, of overcoming the devil, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. That is growing into the depths of God. We are learning to utilize the weapons of God. This is not referring to physical age but to the spiritual age of children, young men and fathers and old men.

Now using the same analogy we bring you back to Acts chapter two. And notice here that he specially speaks about the three stages, prophesying, visions and dreams. That they begin manifestations of prophesying, visions and dreams. In fact as the last days come we are going to hear and see more people being in the realm of visions, dreams and prophesying. It is going to be more than before. That's what God is going to do in these last days. I am not talking about ordinary spiritual things but about spiritual prophecies, spiritual visions and spiritual dreams.

I had a close look at the word dreams. I was surprised to find that were two Greek words for dreams. One is the word *onar*, which is the ordinary word for dreams. But this word for dreams is only used three times in the bible in the New Testament. And here is Acts chapter 2 where it talks about *old men* he is talking about those spiritually long in the Lord. Old men shall dream dreams. The Greek word here is not the normal word for dream. The word here is *enupnion*. It is more or less an ordinary sleep. It has only been used one more time in the New Testament and used in the negative sense. From the usage of the negative sense you could see the fullness and the meaning in the positive. The negative sense is used in Jude verse 8 when Jude talks about those who were like Sodom and Gomorrah who are being given over to sensuous "dreamings" and so defiling the flesh and going about in their own ways. Now he is not referring to people who are sleeping. He is talking about people just moving along not knowing what they are doing but just moving along by their flesh.

So in this particular area here when he talks about this old men dreaming dreams the Greek word that is used is so special that it refers to a message, a vision or a spiritual conscious experience of a direction and leading of God in the sub-conscious stage. You see in Jude verse 8 this group of people who were led by the flesh, were led not only consciously. They have reached a point where they were led sub-consciously and we know that can happen. Many people do things subconsciously. Our conscious and our subconscious mind need renewal. We need the Word not only in the conscious mind. We need to get it into our subconscious and get it further down into our spirit. Our subconscious mind is not the human spirit. It's a part of our soul. So these people are moving subconsciously and drawing on their own lust. He is talking about being dreamt into something subconsciously.

Apply that meaning positively to the old men dreaming dreams it speaks about the depths of God's leading and spirit in you being received to the extent that it comes to the level of your sub-conscious. You see you can have a vision right now. God can give you a vision but that vision only touches your conscious mind. It is only the beginning. As that vision grows in you, it becomes a part of your subconscious too. That vision usually is a part of your spirit since it comes from your spirit. But what our spirit has does not come out unless it can flow through the soul that is renewed. So the first time we begin to understand and receive a leading in vision it is our conscious mind that receives. Young men see vision old men dream dreams. It's the same vision that is now sunk into the subconscious realm that dream dreams. Spiritually young men who have overcome the devil now receive visions. As they continue walking with God for long, they become spiritually old men whose visions have now sunken into their subconscious so that they now dream dreams.

The actual Greek definition of the word *shall dream dreams* is *enupniazo enupnion*. Its from the word two words combined "en" and "upniazo" which means simply something being presented during your subconscious state, which is usually your sleep. And this is the definition a supernatural suggestion or impression received during sleep or a subconscious state. Old men dream dreams. Let me put that statement into that and see how it goes. Old men shall receive supernatural suggestions and impressions during sleep or a sub-conscious state. These are supernatural leadings of the Lord.

So what we are going to touch first of all on the leadings of the Spirit on dreams. Why talk about dreams? You spend one third of your life sleeping. Two thirds of your life is spent doing all kind of things. We train Christians twenty-four hours. We train Christians to obey God until man could hear God's voice and move in the Spirit of God when they are conscious. All the training is in that area. So we have covered two third of your life. Unless we touch the other one third and tell you how to make use of that part of your life you missed out a lot of your life. We spent one third of our life sleeping so we want to know how we can be sensitive to God during those times. In that way you could be twenty-four hours knowing the knowledge of God. God speaks to us when we are awake. God speaks to us when we are asleep. So we learn to understand dreams as well as visions.

We look into that area to bring understanding in our lives. God incidentally have given many of you dreams. So here is where God wants to teach us the things that happen in our subconscious life when we are sleeping.

Dreams can come from three sources. We need to discern between them and have some keys to understand what God is doing in our dream life. To understand what God is doing in our conscious and thought life. But in order to be full-fledged Christians for God and let God live in our lives twenty-four hours we have to understand what God is doing while we are asleep.

Job 33:14-16 *For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon man, while they slumber on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and terrifies them with warnings.* This is the first time I teach on this area publicly. The only time I teach on dreams was during the overnight meeting. So we realize that when he talks about old men dream dreams it is not just an ordinary dream. That's what people think. Its not the ordinary word for dream like *onar*. It's a special word *enupnion*. So that word talks about some thing received from the Lord supernaturally in the subconscious state. This is the impartation that comes from God when we are sleeping.

Here it says that God speaks to people in dreams.

And if you think that dreams are not important I want you to know that the life of our Lord Jesus Christ was perfected by dreams. When He was in Mary's womb God spoke to Joseph in Matthew chapter one in a dream. Joseph in Matthew one was praying whether he wants to believe Mary or not. Mary gave an extraordinary story about how she met an angel and the child that she is carrying is the Messiah. And here is Joseph engaged to her wondering whether this is true or not. And being a righteous man he was seeking to put her away, thinking that she was lying. While he was thinking about this thing the bible tells us that while Joseph was asleep an angel of God came and said take Mary as your wife and call her child Jesus. The next chapter in Matthew tells us that the wise men were warned in a dream to go back by a different way. So if people didn't listen to their dreams they will miss God. You can listen to God in your conscious state and hear the voice of God and miss the other one third. If we miss what God is saying to us in our dreams we may miss God. And in Matthew chapter two Joseph was warned by a dream to go to Egypt. And when he came back he was warned in a dream not to go back to the place where he was but go to Nazareth. Dreams perfected Joseph, perfected Mary, perfected baby Jesus. Dreams are important. The bible people don't regard dreams lightly. The New Testament people don't regard dreams lightly. Jesus does not regard dreams lightly. The Word of God speaks so much about dreams.

Its only modern man, intellectual, logical, who don't believe that dreams can mean anything more. The bible is clear dreams are important to give direction. They are part of the means of the leadings of God in our lives today. So it says God does seals instructions to our lives. My life has been affected by many dreams. I have recorded them down. They changed my life. It is dreams that gave me directions many times over and over again. Some times we cannot hear God clearly in our working hours He tries to emphasize it again in our dream life. So that you don't miss Him, He seals His instructions in our life. Any man or woman of God any child of God who desires to walk closely with God cannot afford to leave the area of dream life out. They must learn to consecrate their dream life to God.

Dreams can come from three sources. They can come from God. They can come from the devil. Or they can come from your own self. See the devil can interfere in your subconscious if there is sin. Sin will open the door for the enemy to disturb you. It is the only door by the way. He has no other door. If you choose not to sin and choose to be under the blood there is no door for him to enter. The only door he has is sin. So remember to always be in the blood. If you are not sure just thank Jesus. As you kneel down besides your bed say, "Lord Jesus if I failed you in any way today, if I missed you in my works in my attitudes in my actions Jesus forgive me. Cleanse me with your precious blood. Continue to speak to me even in my sleep." Many Christians think that their lives for the day end when they sleep. They haven't its only the beginning of the next part of God working in their lives. You pray for the day when you wake up. How about preparing yourself for your sleep? We need to learn that. Many people are not receiving because they are not cleansed under the blood.

One of the reasons Satan tries to block your life at night is also because God is trying to bring something to you there. Incidentally if it is a frightening nightmare then that's not from God. Sin is the only door that opens. So put yourself under the blood of Jesus. Sin opens the door and it blocks God working in your life when you sleep.

Ecclesiastes 5: 3, *for a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.* I remember in the early days of my ministry, we used to drive down in our little Dahatsu Charade from Penang to Kuala Lumpur and back to Penang. We would drive down to preach and minister and drive back again. Many times we would drive into the night after our fellowshiping. We could see the car lights and when I reach home and sleep I still could see those lights. So dreams come through many activities. It can come from your own life. We have to discern dreams that come from God, dreams that come from the enemy or through our own self. If the blood of Jesus covers you then it is only between God and your own dreams.

But there are some principles that are involved in dreams that are very vital that we need to see and understand from the Word of God. This is why we need to see some principles of interpretation of dream. To a certain extent all of us dream dreams. Throughout your life you do have dreams. What do they mean?

What are they saying? We have to understand what they say so that we could determine the message of God. Do you know that there are three types of dreams from God? A dream from God can come in three ways. A dream can come as No. 1 symbolic dreams. No. 2 as actual dreams. No. 3 as a message dream. The easiest is the second type. Let me give examples of the first, second and the third types.

The first type is symbolic dream. In Genesis 40 Pharaoh had a dream in fact he had two dreams. Remember when a dream occurs twice it shows the urgency of something. Joseph through the wisdom of God says to Pharaoh the dream occurs twice because it is sure to come and there is urgency involved. So if you have a particular dream that come forth several times, God is trying to tell you that it surely is and there is an urgency involved. Pharaoh had a dream. This was his dream. He says he saw the seven ears of corn and fat ones and seven lean ones ate them up. He woke up and he went back to sleep. Then he saw seven fat cows and suddenly come seven skinny cows. And the amazing thing was the seven skinny cows ate up the seven fat cows. And he said this after the seven skinny cows ate up the seven fat cows, the seven skinny cows were still skinny. That is a symbolic dream.

Later Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and Daniel interpreted. These dreams are called symbolic dreams. The reason I mentioned this is because there are some people teaching out there, they teach only the second part of the dream is from God. That is unscriptural. They say if God gives you a dream it will be real and there is no need to interpret any more. It will be just as it is. What about the bible? What about the symbolic dreams? Are they not from God? See what you believe must be in line with the Word. So No. 1 there are symbolic dreams. Symbols are involved. In Gen. 39 how Joseph interpreted the dream of the baker and the butler. Who would have interpreted that the baker has those loaves of bread on his head it means that his head is coming off. There is no natural way that we could have gone into that kind of interpretation. So the first type of dream is symbolic - it needs interpretation. They are the most difficult dreams to handle. They are easily misinterpreted. If you have a dream that is symbolical you go to 20 people you will get 20 interpretations.

The second type of dream is the real life situation dreams. Dreams are one of the leadings of the Spirit an important leading. Matt. 1:24 *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. When did the angel spoke look at verse 20 But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.* In a dream he saw an angel coming to him giving him a message. In chapter two we see the same thing in verse 13. The angel appeared again in a dream gave a different message. Then in verse 19 the same angel came and told him to leave Egypt. And in verse 22 God warned him in a dream and he turn aside and went to Galilee. It is dreams that have led Joseph and Mary. And that protected Jesus. These second type of dreams are real life situation dreams. They don't need interpretation. It is a direct dream a real life situation dream. And some times some of your dreams that God sent to you are real life situation. Where you may actually see yourself in a place where you have never been before.

The third type of dream is the message dream. Where there are a lot of things here and there but there is only one message. Example in Matt. 2 verse 12 the wise men were told not to return to Herod. So some times your dreams can be that way. There are a lot of things that happened in a dream and when you get up you forgot everything but you only got one message. The reason we teach on this area is Christians are learning to obey God and be led by the Spirit. But they are still not sensitive to God when it comes to dreams. They take them lightly. They don't record them down. When some one prophesies, thus says the Lord, our ears prick up like a dog. But when we have a dream from God we say, "That's only a dream. I wonder what it means," and afterwards you forgot it. We took it too lightly and we missed the fact the Holy Spirit is working in our lives even when we are asleep. One of the majors leading of the Spirit is through dreams. It is even prophesized in the last days God will lead His people in dreams. Old men shall dream dreams. These are supernatural impartation of wisdom that comes to them when they are asleep.

So there are three types of dreams and these are the rules that you apply when you interpret dreams. I give you four rules to apply for the interpretation of dreams. Rule No. 1 is that the symbolic dreams must be interpreted. The second type of dreams needs no interpretation. The third type needs no interpretation. It's the first one that is quite difficult. No. 1 the symbols in your dreams must be the same meaning and symbols as in the bible. They must be biblical symbols in your interpretation. For example if in your sleep you dream about a dog, a dog in the bible symbolizes Judaizers. Paul was fighting with those people called the Judaizers and he called them dogs. There is only one statement in the bible where Paul

says beware of dogs. Dogs also refer to people outside the covenant of God. When the Canaanite woman came Jesus said the bread is for the children and not for the dogs. She was outside of the covenant of God. So you can see that dogs represent things that are outside the covenant. They don't represent things that are good. And so even if in your dream you had a white dog or even a golden dog, when you get up, you thought that's a good dream. I wonder what the dog represents? Blessings? A dog in whatever color of the rainbow in your dream still represents some thing not good.

You can see obviously that the more Word you have in your life and the more understanding you have of the bible the greater your ability to interpret dreams. If you understand the bible and the symbols that are in the bible, it will help you to interpret dreams. Because you know what the symbols represent. If you see a snake whether it is a white snake, black snake, even they sing some nice songs in your dreams they still represent evil and deception. So there are many symbols lands, gold all kind of things in the bible. When you get a dream and you don't understand the symbol search the Word. Don't try to interpret some thing outside the Word. Your symbol must be in line with the bible. That's the first rule when it comes to dream and how to understand and interpret them.

The second for us to realize is in Ecclesiastes 5:3 it tells us that dreams come through much activities. In your dream your personal attitudes and feelings can affect the accuracy of it. Remember this rule otherwise you will misinterpret. If some one tells me a dream and ask for an interpretation, one of the first thing is that I must apply these four rules. Then the second rule is this. As the person share I must discern what kind of spirit this person has. The kind of attitude this person has so that I could interpret the type of dream he has. If for example he is a person filled with hate. And he has a dream that some body is angry with him. It may not necessary that, that person is angry. But he always sees people to be angry with him. See his own attitude colored his dreams. So that his dream didn't become the color God wants it to be, it added, polluted, and blurred the vision. Just like in our waking hours when we are awake you hear God's voice. But some times God's voice feel like an inner thought and you wonder, "Did I think about that or is it really the Holy Spirit?" And some times those dreams reveal your inner most feeling. That means your dreams come from your daily activities.

Some dreams come from your inner subconscious thinking and they need to be dealt with. They are not a message from God but yourself. Your own dreams that come forth. Its funny you cannot lie to yourself in your dream. Your conscience affects it. Your feelings, your personal attitudes color your dreams. So to interpret dreams check the people attitudes that received the dream. Whether the receiving station is in functioning order, the transmitter is in order heaven never breaks down. But it is our receiving station that breaks down. Sometimes the battery water needs to be changed. What is that? The Holy Spirit is not there, the prayer life is not there and the Word is not enough. The voltage has gone so low and the attitudes are wrong it colored our dreams. So the second rule is remember in whatever the three types of dreams to check your personal attitude and feeling whether they are coloring the dreams. In helping another person to understand their dreams check their attitude too. Discern it by the Holy Spirit in order to get the accurate picture of what God is saying. So the bible says in Jude 33 that God speaks to us.

Lets look at the third key in interpreting of dreams. In the book of Genesis chapter 41 and look at how Joseph interpreted the dreams and have the third key coming forward. Here we have Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream. In verse 28 that's where the interpretation starts. *It is as I told Pharaoh, God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. There will come seven years of great supply throughout all the land of Egypt.* Imagine if they missed the dream. They will be finished. The whole nation will be famished if they didn't pay attention to the dream. *But after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land, and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of that famine which will follow, for it will be very grievous.* And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice. Because God establishes the thing, God will shortly bring it to pass. Notice you have a key there. If a dream is repeated it is established that there is a sureness about it. It is urgent and it is coming to pass shortly. Notice a few things here. It is a dream that is not good. If you have a dream about seven lorries coming to your house, bringing all kind of goodies and emptying them in your front yard. Then after the seven lorries came the seven tractors came and flatten your house. By the time the seventh one passed by there is nothing remaining of your house. What would be your feeling? When a dream is like a warning its not supposed to come to pass. It is supposed to be prevented. If you have a dream of your daughter drowning, you are not going to say bless God. You are not going to do that. First of all you are going to check whether this is the enemy coming. Whether you live in fear so much it comes out in your dream.

Then secondly you have to check whether it is from your own life. Recently you have been swimming for seven days. Then after you have checked these areas if you finally feel that is a warning from God, all you have to do is to pray against that fear. And it will never come to pass. Most of the time this type of dreams come from the enemy. Some times from our own life, our own fear brought the dreams. For this reason those of you who just fall in love and you are praying to God, "God is that man (or woman) Your will for me?" And then you dream about you and her or him in a wedding. You cannot trust that dream. You know why? Your feelings are involved. It is very hard to hear God's dream when your own feelings are involved. Those are the times where you should trust your dreams least, especially dreams in the area of marriage and life partners. Your own feelings, your own desires are coming out. You got to examine them. So you cannot say after you wake up from that dream, "Bless God, I have the confirmation." So when your feelings come into play it is not necessarily that the Lord has sent you that dream.

God never send a warning like this type in order for it to come to pass. And some of you businessmen you are so rational. You have been hearing from God in dreams but you are not paying attention to it. God warns you in your dreams some times in your business. He warns you. He gives you direction. He tells you of situations not to enter. In your dream you could be dreaming about certain partnership that you are praying about. And here in your dream you saw some thing happening that you never saw in your conscious state. You wake up and ask, "Is it going to come to pass? Is this going to happen?" No, it should not happen. It's a warning to prevent you from allowing that event to happen. It must always be positive. The interpretation must always be positive. It must not bring fear, grief into people's life.

So here is Joseph interpreting the dream and did you know his interpretation stops in verse 32. Verse 33 onwards is not an interpretation. The interpretation has finished there is nothing more to interpret. But verse 33 is the application, the wisdom and that is the third key. In order to apply dreams in our lives you will need No. 3 the wisdom of God for two areas, the wisdom of God to interpret and the wisdom of God to apply. The third key is the wisdom of God for interpretation and application. Now Joseph was not applying the dream. It has nothing to do with Pharaoh's dream. This is from Joseph's spirit. He says, "Pharaoh this is going to happen. Choose a man who is wise. And gather all the abundant of grain in the first seven years, so that the next seven years we will excess and extra." That is wisdom. It is not the gift of the word of wisdom. That is a revelation of the future. But it's a gift a spiritual wisdom an application. It's the same kind of wisdom that Solomon asked. It's the same type of wisdom that James tells us to ask. If any lack wisdom let him ask from God. So the third key to interpret dreams is wisdom.

The fourth key is important to understand that there is timing for interpretation at times. Some dreams may be shut up until its time to be opened. So what we have to do is record them down. And the Holy Spirit will bring it to mind even though you may consciously forget it. The Holy Spirit will remind you when its time to open it up. A similar type of situation can be seen in Daniel's life. Daniel had a lot of vision some of them in the night dreams. And he did not understand them because the time was not ripe to unfold them to him. But through his prayers he was able to understand some. Towards the end of the book of Daniel the angel told him, "Go thy way. These things are shut up for the end of time." So the full understanding did not come to Daniel. But some times the fourth key is to remember if the Holy Spirit did not give an interpretation don't try to put your own. Don't try to get into human rationalizing or human intellectualism. If you sense that there is nothing in the Spirit write it down. If you are a growing Christian you should have kept three books. One book to record dreams and visions and prophecies. One book to record your bible studies, notes that you have from your bible study so that you continue to grow. The third book to record your prayer items. Note down all those things you are believing God for. So that when they are answered you can note when they are answered. So we need to record them down for the time that the Holy Spirit determines for the interpretation to come forth.

We are going to conclude with how to receive the gift of interpretation. In the book of Daniel chapter one. There are two things that are similar between Joseph and Daniel. Daniel was a man of dreams and also visions. Joseph was a man of dreams. You notice Joseph in the book of Genesis and Daniel in the book of Daniel both were similar characters. Both were faithful to the Lord when they were young. Both sought to do the right ways of the Lord. So you will find these three keys to receive the gift of interpretation in both their lives. Some times these keys were developed in the silent years in Joseph's life but its clear cut in Daniel's life. I believe it also was in Joseph's life. So here in Daniel chapter one verse 17 *As for these four youths,*

God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom and dreams. Look at it there is such a special gift. And notice some thing about Joseph somewhere between the time he was in Potiphar's house to the time that he was in prison he received the gift of interpretation. He interpreted the butler's and the baker's dream. And he interpreted Pharaoh's dream. Somewhere along the line Joseph received the gift of interpretation of dreams. And it is available for every one of you here.

If you develop the first four keys you have already moved in that direction to understand and interpret dreams. Here we see in Daniel's life, he was given a special gift. Daniel when he was brought to Babylon together with all his other three friends. They were with many other young men. If you were chosen as the cream of the flock to be brought to the king's table, a lot of people will start breaking their principles and compromising their principles. But not these four young men. They kept strictly to the Jewish covenant. While the other young men said look at the food, the promotion, the learning and they gave up whatever Jewish covenant they have and they join the Gentiles. But these four men said no. We don't want to partake all these idols worship. We want to partake of the things of the Lord. Joseph was the same. Potiphar's wife came told him to sin. He said, "No, the master has given me everything except you. And I cannot sin against God." Even though he was alone he knew God was with him. If you are conscious of God you find it very hard to sin. If you are not conscious of God its easy to sin. People sin because they are not conscious of God. Develop the consciousness of God and you find it hard to sin.

Joseph made a choice to choose the path or righteousness. Daniel also made that choice. What did you see in common about them? Faithfulness. So the first requirement is faithfulness to the Lord, to His Word, faithfulness to His covenant, faithfulness to keep yourself for Him. Many people don't realize that the Lord has more to give you than the devil. The devil shows the carrot in your eyes and then say, "Donkey come on." He says taste the pleasures of sin for a short time and we say no to it. You become a Christian don't sin, you don't commit adultery, you don't smoke, you don't drink, you don't do this you don't do that. It's a miserable life. I don't want to become a Christian. I will miss all these things they say. They don't realize what God has. They have only been experiencing what the devil is tempting them with. Its temporary and he is going to collect them afterwards. What they don't realize is what God has. If any one of you dedicate yourself to the Lord let me express the help of our Father. I have never known our Father not to give you a gift. I have never known our Father not to reward faithfulness. He has always.

One of the things that Gordon Lindsey mentioned was that he realize that in the ministry he spent so much time with the Lord that some times his family pay a heavy price because their father and husband is a man of God. But then as he looked back, he found that God gave special grace to his family for the sacrifice that was made. God gave different types of gifts to them. See God never robs you. He is a Father. When you dedicate yourself to Him first you will have the opportunity to choose. During the time of choosing you may not see God's reward. I am not making it up. James chapter one says when you endure temptation you are rewarded. When you choose no I don't want these things of the devil. No I don't want the things of the world. I want the will of God. It looks like you are giving up everything. But later you find that you found everything. God begins to start giving you things. God begins to bless you financially. It is God Himself who say I will add this to you. All these things in Matt. 6:33 I will add to you. Plus you will have spiritual graces.

And among them as his case and in Daniel and in Joseph He added that remarkable ability to interpret dreams. Do you know that it was that gift that promoted Joseph to Prime Minister? If Joseph did not interpret dreams he could be a good man. He could be a hard worker. He would never made it to be Prime Minister. He made it to be Prime Minister because he interpreted dreams. The gift of God was on his life. When God gives you a gift that gift promotes you. The gift of God promotes you. Promotion comes not from the East or from the West it comes out from God. It was the gift of God that Joseph developed that promoted him. Do you realize in Daniel's life it's the gift of interpretation that promoted him? Doesn't that weigh more than money? Worth more than anything in the world can buy. We don't realize it. When we choose the ways of the Lord it looks like as if we are loosing everything. You are not. You are going to gain many things. In fact it does not pay not to obey God. It will cost you more. Sin will bring you to a position where you will go further than you want to go and it will cost you more than you can take. It is important for us to understand faithfulness to the things of the Lord. Faithfulness to say I don't want any thing else in the world but the Lord. I only want my Lord and keep making this you will be rewarded. So one of the first keys to receive the gift of interpretation is faithfulness.

The second key after that an incident occurred in which Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 2 gave a command for all the wise people to be slaughtered because they could not interpret a dream. And when they wanted to interpret his dream he said, "I forgot the dream. You all have to tell me the dream and then tell me the interpretation." And they could not. He said, "Off with their heads." So the word got to Daniel. Daniel asked why this urgency to kill everybody. And when he heard what it was in Daniel chapter verse 16 *And Daniel went in and besought the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the king the interpretation.* Do you notice Daniel in chapter one he already had the interpretation but it was not fully operating yet. He was not in the same position like Joseph. In Joseph's time the king gave the dream and he gave the interpretation. Here Daniel had to give the dream and the interpretation. That is harder still. But Daniel said give us time. In verse 18 *And told them to seek mercy of the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.* This is important: how did Daniel get it? Prayer. Daniel told his friends in verse 17 he says pray together. It is in time of prayer that the gift comes. So the second key is to live a life of prayer. Some of you don't realize what has happened to your life when the gift of the Spirit has been dropped into your spirit in seed form when you went to the overnight prayer. But I could pick it up with my spirit. And some of those seeds start growing you can point it out through an overnight prayer. In the time of prayer with the Lord the seeds of God's gift drop into your life. We know not what is going to happen in praise and worship. So it is important to spend time with God. Because it is in those times that God drops things into our spirits.

The third key to receive wisdom, understanding and interpretation of dreams. Daniel chapter 10 Notice some thing here in verse 3 it says Daniel was fasting and in verse 11 it tells us the reason why he fasted but the answer came *O Daniel, man greatly beloved, give heed to the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.* While he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, *Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to understand.* Do you know why one of the reasons for his 21 days fast, is to seek revelation, is to seek understanding. So fasting brings revelations. It puts you in a position to receive revelations. And you could put one of the objectives of the fast to receive revelations to understand some thing. It may not come during your fast. But the answer may come some time after your fast. But the answer is traced to your fasting. One of the things I constantly do in my fasting is I fast for revelations. If I don't understand the passage in the bible I will bring it before God and fast and pray. During the time that I fast revelation may not come but at least I have the satisfaction to know that I fasted over it and I committed it to the Lord. And God in His timing will bring it back to me. And He does, some times one year later, some times two years later He says, "This is the answer son that you prayed two years ago." I said, "Thank you Lord." I will not say, "Why did You take two years to answer me?" because I know the answer. He will say, "You were not ready two years ago." So the third key is to live a life of fasting and prayer.

2. DIFFERENT TYPES OF DREAMS

Genesis chapter 37:6-10 *He said to them, "Hear this dream which I have dreamed, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold. Your sheaves gathered round it, and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him yet more for his dream and for his words. Then he dreamed another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream; and behold, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars were bowing down to me." But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"*

Here are two dreams that Joseph had in his early life about seventeen years old. Apparently it's a very simple dream that they understood. In the last message we saw how that when we have dreams God will take from the background that we had to speak to us. God will also speak to us dreams that concern our life in some ways. Although you may dream of some area that is further from your life yet in some way your life will be connected to that. He won't just suddenly give you a dream about something taking place in the North Pole where you have no involvement at all. If you have never hunted polar bears before, never seen what a polar bear is like it would be very exceptional for you to suddenly have a dream about polar bear. God doesn't do that He usually takes from our resources that is within us.

Let me illustrate something like prophecy. God can give a word of prophecy and the instrument or the vessel that delivers that prophecy will be limited by the vessel's vocabulary and language. If for example you find that your vocabulary is very small and limited, then when God speaks something using whatever word you have to describe what God is seeking to say to you or through you to somebody else, God will make use of all that is within you to bring forth a message.

When the Holy Spirit gives a dream it will be so clear cut its different from the dreams that you have by your soul or your spirit. Those are from the different category. We are talking about dreams from the Holy Spirit and how to interpret them. Notice that the dreams that Joseph dreamt he had a part involved in the dreams. We realize that it took many years for the dreams to come to pass. But those dreams concerned himself. Although he dreamt about his brothers and his father it concern himself. One of the things that Joseph dreamt in the first dream was about sheaves. That is something that Joseph and his brothers are working on all the time. It was an incident taken from his daily life. It was something that he was familiar with. Apparently they worked at the farm and they constantly have been doing that. So the Holy Spirit took something from his life to illustrate and to give him a word of wisdom in a dream regarding his future. It is very clear-cut because there were the number of sheaves there and the fact that they bowed to him signifies that he had the lordship or some measure of authority over them.

Now the second dream where he dreamt about the sun, the moon and the eleven stars speaks of a greater realm of authority. Joseph's father seems to understand that the sun and moon represent him and the mother. Obviously they knew the interpretation of the dream. Thus he says, "Will you really reign and rule over us?"

Lets show again Genesis chapter 40 and 41 that in the butler's dream it was something from his own life too. In chapter 40 verse 9 the butler dreamt about the vine and the cup and they were things he was familiar with. The baker dreamt about baskets and bread, which again were things that he was familiar with. Pharaoh in chapter 41 dreamt about cows and river and there was a message in regard to his rule and reign. It affected his life.

We saw in the last message how in the book of Job chapter 33 that God in a dream will reveal and will show forth things to come. In verse 11 and 12 how God hid the hidden mysteries of things to come. And all these in regard to the dreams that come forth.

So lets lay down some rules of this interpretation of dreams. Usually a person who dreams a dream, after isolating all those dreams that came from his soul and spirit would find that some dreams are from the Holy Spirit. The dreams would usually have something to do with your life. God will not reveal something way out. It would be something that you are acquainted with that you may be directly or indirectly involved. And that being the case the best interpreter of that dream would be yourself with the Lord's help of course.

Let me just give one more illustration so that it will seal into your life. Take Daniel for example. Bear in mind that Daniel was at the peak of the political system in his days. Daniel was a man acquainted with the change and coming of kingdoms. God in His time shows forth visions and dreams. The incident is about Nebuchadnezzar who had a dream. But when Nebuchadnezzar woke up he forgot his dream. And what was required was that the wise men were to not only interpret his dream they must tell him what the dream was. Nobody could do it but Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 verse 24-28 *Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and said thus to him, "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation." Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus to him, "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who can make known the king the interpretation." The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" Daniel answered the king, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians or astrologers can show to the king the mystery which the king as asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the later days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these; To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be hereafter, and He who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.*

Daniel proceeded to describe the dream. Basically the dream about the statue of Nebuchadnezzar in gold, silver and bronze and clay and iron that went down was basically talking about the four kingdoms. Daniel himself was involved. He was involved in the first kingdom in the Babylonian kingdom. In the end he was promoted to be the Prime Minister over the whole entire empire. In the kingdom of the Medes and the Persian, Daniel again continued in the high position. So he was involved in some ways with that dream. Later on in his life notice that the visions that he received that were symbolic about all the animals related to him being in that position. So in other words when God gives you a dream if it is from the Lord it would directly or indirectly but in a closely knitted way have to do with your involvement in it. A dream is not only just given for your entertainment.

We talked about three types of dreams and we are only concerned with the parabolic dream. The other two types of dreams don't need any interpretation. But parabolic dreams are dreams that are in symbols. So symbolic dreams are the hardest to interpret that is why we are teaching on those symbolic dreams. So the first thing we mentioned that God will use something. In the last message we talked about how God will use symbols in society to speak onto us. Like in Pharaoh's time in Genesis 41 cows and cattle are the symbol of prosperity in their days. So God use those symbols to speak to Pharaoh. Today cows are not necessarily symbols of prosperity any more. There are other symbols of prosperity and God will use the symbols that we understand today. Remember that symbols change with time. Something that is symbol of prosperity long ago may no longer be a symbol of prosperity today. God will speak to us something current that we can understand. So the interpretation of dreams is not so way out that we have to go back into long historical time. But it is always in terms of something we understand today.

What we are bringing forth here is the other factors. The first factor is that the dreams that we receive from the Holy Spirit has to do with our life and our position and what we are involved with. Sometimes it could be like Joseph a seventeen boy and you never understand how that will one day his dreams will come to pass. There is no natural way he could think of. He was only seventeen years old having such a dream. That is why the father scolded him. There is no natural way that Joseph could know how that could come to pass. But yet when God gives a dream it was because he was directly going to be involved in that. Those dreams were going to come to pass in his life. So when God gives a dream it would involve you directly. So the next time you have a dream don't come and say to somebody else and say I dreamed about you and it involved you. If you dream about somebody else then perhaps you may have something to do with that. God is not going to just give you a dream so that you know about a person that's all. God doesn't waste time like that. When He gives a dream you are directly or indirectly involved maybe through prayer, maybe through an active role like Daniel was involved in those kingdoms that he dreamt about. He had a very active role in the rule and reign of those kingdoms. So when you have dreams from the Holy Spirit there will always be a direct involvement with you.

I was thinking of not sharing these other areas but I felt in my spirit that I must touch a little bit on that too just to make it clear. The dreams from the Holy Spirit are clear-cut and they follow the same rules that we talked about in hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. The voice of the Holy Spirit, the voice of the human spirit and the inward witness are different. There are five inward witnesses, and the voice of the human spirit is in a category by itself and it is just like the normal flow of things. Remember one of the rules of the voice of the Holy Spirit is that before the Holy Spirit speaks, it is always accompanied by His presence. See God speaks all the time through our human spirit. Our human spirit can pick up all kind of things. But when the Holy Spirit speaks there is a presence that comes with it. You know that His presence is there. In the same way dreams of the Holy Spirit carries that same kind of presence. You may wake up immediately after the dream although its 3 a.m. or it will be distinct in you that you will remember. Sometimes like Nebuchadnezzar's case he forgot about it but he knew that it was important.

Dreams can be caused as you see in the book of Ecclesiastes from our daily activities. That is from our soul or from our human spirit. Dreams from the soul realm are more the daily activities of things as well as what I call soul contact. Dreams from our soul can come from our daily activities or from sensitivity to various things around us. One time when I was sharing that in our overnight prayer somebody mistook that and took it in a wrong way. So it is very dangerous sometimes when I share some of these things. Anything you take out of context you can make some heresy out of it. Please take it contextually. If I take somebody's shirt or personal belonging and put it under my pillow and I sleep on it, I would be able to pick up a person's

strength, weaknesses and characteristics from that person's shirt or belonging. It has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit or the human spirit in that sense. But it has to do with what I call soul contact. For example if that person is a person full of fear or perhaps that person is an orphan, and insecurity, and loneliness are there. And I take that person's shirt and put it under my pillow and sleep on it, in my dreams under normal circumstances I would pick up loneliness, fear and insecurity. These are things that I may not be involved with directly. How it comes in a dream would be what I call a mirror effect of the soul. Like I would feel myself in a situation in that dream I would be lonely, in despair, which is never a part of my experience at all. How did I pick up from the soul?

To help you understand the scientific application of this, let us take our body odor. The dogs can pick it up in the natural. You sit in your seat and I bring a trained dog and that dog can pick up where you sat. With our nose we cannot pick that up. Now there is a sort of body odor in the soul. If you enter a home the atmosphere of the soul is there in objects and in that person's place. That doesn't mean that when you take secondhand objects you say O dear what kind of soul that person has. Thank God for the blood of Jesus it can cleanse all influences. The blood of Jesus can cleanse all soul influences. The reason I say this is because it's a possibility of that affecting dreams. In the dream realm in the soul you could pick that up. Even if somebody comes and stay in my house I could pick up everything from him. Or perhaps I go and stay in your house I could pick up everything in the house. At first I was wondering why I was so sensitive to all these things.

Recently there is this book called "Thundered" about the K.C.F. or the Kansas City fellowship of prophets. It began to give me some understanding when I read that. The book says that some of them were natural prophets; they were born, bred and called to be prophets and they have openness and a very great sensitivity to things like that. Not everybody may be like that. Some people you put them anywhere in the world and they sleep like a log. They don't seem to pick up all these things at all. But there are those that the bible calls "*If there arises those among you a dreamer of dreams,*" who seems to have an inclination towards that according to their call. So it may not apply to everybody but I sense and think in my spirit that it is possibly a development in our lives. The more we grow in God the more sensitive enough we become to things like that. But not everybody could be sensitive in that area. Others could sleep like a log and their field and ministry are in a totally different area. It doesn't concern that area. But those who move in the Spirit in that realm you seem to have an openness that you pick up everything.

Then you could have dreams that come from your spirit man. Dreams caused by your spirit are different. Dreams that are caused by your spirit are self-analytical. In other words your spirit man will expose you. You could wear a mask in front of people and hide and put a good front. For example if you have an inner insecurity about something, you will always find it recurring in your dream. It is a self-analytical dream. Your spirit man judges you. Your spirit man points the weaknesses in your own character in order to help you. I won't call those dreams from the Holy Spirit not directly but maybe indirectly. But directly they are not from the Holy Spirit. They are not dreams that are the voice and the Word of God from the Holy Spirit. They are just your human spirit picking things up. In a normal way as in your conscious life your human spirit picks up things and your soul picks up things in your conscious mind. How much more in the sub-conscious life the soul picks up things and our spirit picks up things. So those are what we mean by spirit and soul caused dreams. They are totally different category.

I am talking about dreams from the Holy Spirit. Those are word and a message from God. When God specially give a word or a message usually it is in regard to things to come in the future. Notice that dreams from the human spirit tends to be self-revealing of your present and your past. It gives you a better analysis than your mind no matter how great your I.Q is. Dreams caused from the soul tend to be more exterior stimuli caused from the exterior realm. So dreams directly from the Holy Spirit would still be limited to draw illustrations from your life. If you have been a farmer there is a possibility that He would draw that from your experience to speak about an area in your life in the future. He would possibly and definitely not suddenly draw an illustration from fishing. He draws illustration from your life to speak to you in those areas. If you have been brought up in the city like my children to see a cow is a joy. You are used to buses and noises God will pull it up from your life to make a message out of that in regard to you. He will usually give you dreams from your background.

The other point there is such a thing as a gift of interpretation. There is such a thing as a sensitivity

to the dream realm and the spirit realm. Some people are born with an inherent sensitivity to that. Usually those who are called to be prophets, those who are called to the ministry have a tendency and inborn sensitivity to that kind of realm. So there is such a thing as a gift of dream a dreamer of dreams. And some people have inherent abilities to flow in visions and dreams. Then on the other hand there is also the gift of the interpretation of dreams.

Lets look at the book of Daniel chapter 1:17 *As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.* Notice he had a specific gift in that area. It is interesting to note that even Joseph in the book of Genesis had that same gift. It's a gift for the interpretation of dreams. That means that we could pray for God to give us that gift. We have not because we ask not. You could pray and ask God for that special gift to interpret dreams and visions. Not just to receive. It's a gift also to receive it. It is another separate gift to interpret those dreams. Joseph perfected the interpretation of dreams in his life. During his days in prison he could just pick up the interpretation straight away when the butler and the baker called him. And it is because of the gift of the interpretation of dreams that he was brought before Pharaoh. Your gift makes room for you. You have to perfect your gift before your gift makes room for you. So the ability to receive dreams is one. The ability to interpret dreams is another.

And thirdly the ability to apply interpretation is a different category. You may have the ability to interpret but you may not have the wisdom to apply them. That's a different category altogether.

In Genesis chapter 41 after the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream in verse 33 *Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.* Now this is not part of the interpretation. He had actually completed the interpretation. The interpretation of Pharaoh's dream means seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of famine. He need not have to apply further than the interpretation. But here he moved into what I call application. He says let Pharaoh select a wise man set him over the land of Egypt. Verse 34-36 *Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take the fifth part of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grains under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine which are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine,"*

What would you have done if you have a dream? In the dream you see your friend getting into an airplane. And the airplane takes off. Then halfway along its flight the airplane knocks into a high mountain and crashes. You see your friend parachuting down safe and sound. What would have been your interpretation? Secondly, what would have been your application? Most people react to dreams like that with shock and they get in a state of stupor. Most people will take it as the actual type of dream, meaning it will be actually happen.

There are three types of dreams. The first thing you have to do is to determine what classification. Is it parabolic, is it message or is it an actual? Actual means that it will actually happen. Message means that whatever the dream is there is only one key message. Parabolic means everything is in symbols. Most people will come to that friend and ask, "Are you about to fly in an airplane?" If his answer is yes, they will say to him, "Please don't go." They are interpreting it as an actuality, which may not be the case. Or perhaps somebody has a vision and in that vision they see failure all over. Perhaps they see themselves launching into this boat to go fishing. There they are with three fellows. Those three fellows happen to be the exact three fellows in their business relationship. So they see four of them getting into the boat into the Straits of Malacca. He sees the four of them letting out the net. Then as they pull the net halfway here comes a shark. The shark comes and cuts out a big hole in the net. They pull out the net and there was nothing left in the net. Then they say therefore that is saying to them not to go into business together. That's what normally people take. They take the simplified application. That may not be the case. See the yes and no is not there. It is only what will happen.

In a similar way as Acts 21 when Agabus the prophet came and prophesy over Paul, he took his belt tied himself and says this thing will happen to this man. He did not say yes or no to go. All he said was what

will happen. But most people take dreams to be simplified yes or no. It is not the way to apply dreams. So you cannot take dreams to be simplified things yes or no. That's not the way to interpret dreams. What about Pharaoh since he saw those things that happened? He saw the seven fat cows and seven lean cows. What does he do? Get into a frenzy and say, "O no this is going to happen," and just leave it there? No, it is not the simplified yes-no situation.

That's where the application of the interpretation comes in. The interpretation may be for example if a person has a dream about those four fellows going out and pulling out the net and the net got cut off. It is not yes or no. Maybe that God is telling them about dangers that are coming ahead. It may be God wants them to continue. See in the dream they didn't disperse yet. God is warning them about danger that may be coming and that they must be ready to face it. And possibly they could apply in the same way like Pharaoh. Perhaps right now the four partners in their business are doing very well that they got surplus in their bank accounts. Perhaps what God is telling them is a warning. Not that they are supposed to call it quits.

See a dream is sometimes vision and prophecy as such that is so easy to misinterpret and misapply the whole thing altogether contrary to what God intended. A person could take it and say God wants me to get out of this business quickly. Sell all his shares and get out of the business, which God may not want or intended in that dream. That's what I call people who take dreams to be in guesswork, a yes no situation. It is not that way. But what God could be warning regarding a shark that is coming. Who knows it could be a loan shark. God may be just speaking about an area to say not to go into that area. Not to go into an area is different from not going into the business altogether. You have to isolate areas from the whole business altogether.

Let say the dream about this friend of ours who is going on a flight. The most probable person who can have that kind of dream is his wife. It is very unlikely that a stranger would come and say that I had this dream about you. It is different from a person who is in the five-fold office as a prophet. That may be different. Usually they may see vision of that. But then even if they see those visions, God may want them to do something with that person. See there is always a relationship. Let's say there is such a thing as the mountain and the plane. If it is perhaps a symbolic dream, God may be just speaking to him about the impending danger that is coming. Just to be aware of those dangers, that's all.

When you have a dream you must first of all discern whether it's from the spirit, soul or Holy Spirit. If you miss out on that you are going to miss out on the rest.

Like one day many years ago before we started this church, we were up in Genting Highlands for a retreat. I had a very funny dream. It's a dream about failure. I dreamt about all those things. In those days I did not quite understand about dreams. I dreamt about failures here and there. I dreamt about going to meeting where nobody is there but myself. And I got up in the middle of the night. I said this couldn't be from the Lord. And I said whatsoever my hand shall put upon should prosper. There is no such thing as failure in God. Subsequently I found out that the owner of that particular apartment was a failure. So I classify it under soul. I picked it up from the soul realm. The first thing you do is the classification. If you classify that dream as from the Holy Spirit you will be having a hard time trying to interpret it. You classify it from the soul then you know that is a revelation of external stimuli, the area around you where you are. And God will use situations in your life to illustrate that also. So when I understood that matter, in Australia we were staying with this person. And we picked up all kind of things. At that time I didn't understand it. We all were wondering why are these funny dreams occurring every night. Every night I was ministering with the power of God, anointing of God but the dreams were funny. Then I realized that ninety-five percent of those dreams was picking up from that house where we were staying. As I said when you are opened to certain thing you have an extra sensitivity. Just like if you have a good pair of ears that is very sharp and good in music, your ears are also very sensitive to noise. You can't help it. To be good in that area you end up very sensitive to other areas. If your ears are very sharp in music you could pick up a note very easily. That very sharpness is a handicap in other areas where you are very sensitive to noise. You need that sensitivity to be good in that area. So that was when I understood that classification is important. Now when you experienced it, it becomes very easy. You could straight away pick it up in this category. When you wake up your spirit man will be able to classify it for you.

So the first thing when you have a dream classify it as to whether it came from your spirit, soul or Holy Spirit. After you classified it, if it is in the category of Holy Spirit or human spirit then you can continue to take notice. If it is in the category of the soul you could still use it to your advantage. You could reveal the things that are in the other person. I remember in those days in Penang when we started the ministry, we have this triple bunk bed. I was sleeping in the middle bunk and another brother was sleeping in the other bunk. His toes were facing me and my toes were facing him. Somehow in the middle of the night his toes and mine made contact. And I had dreams that were not peculiar to anything I experienced neither in my childhood nor in my present experience. When I woke up in the morning I was wondering what was all these dreams. As I was examining it I found my toes were contacting this person. I found out that I was picking up everything of that person's soul. So I waited till the other brother woke up. I sat him in the chair and say these are all the weaknesses in your life. He says, "Yes how do you know?" That is what I call soul influence. So if you classify correctly you could use all these things to your advantage.

Then after you classified it you could now analyze it. If it were from the Holy Spirit then you would be able to put the laws of interpretation to it. If it is from the Holy Spirit there are the most important. Write down the dreams the Holy Spirit gives to you. If it is dreams from the Holy Spirit apply the laws of interpretation. You realize that whatever it is you will be directly involved with it. So you must write it down. Usually there is a message and then the three areas. Then even after you have the interpretation you need the application, which is a different thing. You got to pray for this area. Some times you have the right interpretation but no application. You are still left hanging. Notice that when Joseph applied the dreams that Pharaoh had, he was not asked to do it. But the wisdom of God in his life caused him to apply. If it were a dream from the soul it is more revelation that you know that you picked up something in the soul realm from the other person. But if it is in the realm of the human spirit it is for you to analyze yourself.

In the early days of my ministry and my spirit man was still being strengthened and developed there were several dreams that I had have to do more with my human spirit revealing myself. There were some particular dreams that were from my human spirit. I saw in the dream how I lost my teeth. I have never lost my teeth at all. But in that dream I lost about half of that. But the dreams were revealing to me things in my life that were defective. Things like the character in my life that God still had to mould. How God is going to mould. You see teeth symbolize things in your character are supposed to be foundational. So God was revealing things in my life that were lacking. That was from my human spirit. My human spirit was analyzing me. So I got to go through them and get over them. Then through time the human spirit gave me a dream I saw myself flying. Human spirit dreams as I have said are self-analytical. Soul dreams are external revelatory. Holy Spirit dreams are the most important. They are the keys to your future. When God gives them for a purpose you must write them down. They could be the making or the breaking of your own future. That is why we must not neglect what the Holy Spirit speaks to us in dreams.

3. THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS

I Cor. 12:7 *To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.* All the nine gifts of the spirit are divided into three categories, the revelation gifts, the power gifts and the vocal gifts. We saw how the revelation gifts and the vocal gifts are some times used by God through the Holy Spirit manifestation to lead and to guide. This morning we want to see about spectacular guidance and we will consider them one by one. Some of these things we have shared during the overnight prayer. So some times when we repeat certain materials those of you who were attending the overnight prayer just bear with me for some time because there are others who didn't attend and get to hear this message. If I just go straight to the substance of the message they may not be able to follow along.

We are talking about how to be led by the Spirit. How the voice of the Holy Spirit is like. And we spoke about how the Holy Spirit can use manifestations. That is the Holy Spirit directly involve in certain activities. It is not only the voice of the human spirit but the voice of the Holy Spirit. This morning we are going to consider dreams as a channel for the Holy Spirit leading and guidance in our lives.

Lets look at Job 33:14-17 *For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while they slumber on their beds, then*

he opens the ears of me, and terrifies them with warnings, that he may turn man aside from his deed, and cut off pride from man. He says that the Lord speaks onto each one of us. Bear in mind that what we are teaching is a further development of what we taught on the gift of discerning of spirits. We classify that there are three types of visions and dreams. There is a parabolic type of visions and dreams, which means that they are symbols. Then the second type where we call the message dream or vision where it only carries a message. And the third type where we call an actual dream and vision which means actually as you see it, it comes to pass. A parabolic one is symbols. Like Daniel saw a symbol of animals that were coming and going, the rams and the goats in the book of Daniel. Those animals represent kingdoms. Pharaoh had a dream. And in his dream he saw seven fat cows and seven thin calves. Those cows represent seven years of prosperity and seven years of famine. Those are symbolic or parabolic dreams. They are like parables.

The second type of dreams or visions is what we call a message type. We don't have any examples of dreams in the bible of that category. But we have a vision like in the book of Acts 16 Paul saw a Macedonian man and it was a message vision. In other words the details of the dreams are not so important as the message it carries. It carries only one message "Come over here to Macedonia". How do we know that dream of Paul was a message dream and not an actual dream? It is because when Paul went over to Macedonia he didn't look for the man. In fact the first people that he met in Acts 16 were women.

The third category of dream is what we call the actual where exactly as you see it, it comes to pass, every details of it. We know that Paul's Macedonian vision cannot be that category. Because if Paul considered it as the third category when he reached Macedonia he should have looked for that man. But he did not. He understood that it is just a message. It is not important whether it's a Macedonian or woman wearing a Macedonian garment calling him. Now the third category of dream is the actual. Like for example Joseph in the gospel of Matthew had a dream of an angel coming to him and telling him to go to Egypt. Then he had a dream to come back. Then he had a dream to tell him where to go and stay. And in the dream he saw an angel. It was an actual vision that came when a person is subconscious. So it was an actual dream; everything came exactly to pass. There is no necessity of an interpretation.

In the category of dream please note the difference between what I call natural dream and a spiritual dream. The third category of dreams we leave out. See dreams can be caused from your daily activities or they can be caused from the spirit realm. If you are a born again believer you ought not to have any dreams from the enemy. The enemy can give you dreams; we do not call them dreams we call them nightmares. It is very common for people who is half asleep who sense a spiritual force that comes and presses on the top of them. It is not from the Lord. When you are in the Lord the blood of Jesus covers you. If you don't have open doors you ought not to have those kinds of nightmares.

As is mentioned here in the book of Job 33 that God does speak through dreams. And dreams are one of the most primary easy modes for God to operate and lead and guide our life. My life has been led by dreams all along the way. Dreams play the first category and open way where God communicate to us, even to some unbelievers who have not come to know God yet. This is a general statement in Job 33. It's a general statement that says that God in His mercy, God in His compassion does guide and lead believers and unbelievers through dreams. We can classify dreams as one of the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It's the working of the Holy Spirit. Like Pharaoh king of Egypt was led and guided by a dream. He had a dream that was important but he did not understand what it means.

So many times there are people who had dreams that they don't understand what it means. And I know that in the world there are some psychological teachings on interpretation of dreams. I am not ignorant of them; I am aware of them. Some of the interpretations are way out and they are not scriptural. If you are an intellectual and you have gone through Sigmund Freud's theories, you will find that he is a psychoanalyst. The problem with Freud is that he only has a natural interpretation of all dreams. In fact he thinks that all dreams flow from mainly the erotic realm. If we put him to the test in Job 33 he would fail the test because he completely excludes the fact that there is a spirit realm. And God communicate in the spirit realm to us. So that is also another wrong understanding of dreams in this natural world.

The other is what I call the occultist. Dreams can come from the natural realm or the spiritual realm.

Now dreams can come from the natural realm tend to be a working of your human spirit and soul. I am excluding dreams that come from the demonic realm. Its not supposed to be a part of the Christian life. If it is ever in our life then it is easily dealt with by confessing to God and a short prayer and meditation on the Word before you sleep will do. Understand your authority as a believer and the power of the blood of Jesus. Jesus promised His beloved sleep. That's in the book of Proverbs. He gave His beloved sleep Proverbs chapter 3. Prov. 3:24 *When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.* So we rule out the demonic realm if the blood of Jesus covers us. The demonic realm has no interference.

So the only two realms that we have time to deal with is what we call natural dreams and spiritual dreams. Natural dreams come from your daily activities. Everyday when you have activity your subconscious mind and your spirit re-arranges it. The microprocessor keeps rearranging and putting it into the right slot. That is what I call a natural activity. In the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 5:3 *For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.* Notice that a dream comes through much activity. Verse 7 says *For when dreams increase, empty words grow many; but do you fear God?* This is by Solomon one of the wisest man in the East in his days. He understood the significance of dreams that they come through much activities. This explains that even if you have had dreams, that won't increase your fear of God. Such dreams come from soulish and physical activity and will have little bearing on your spiritual life. They could not be from God since they do not increase the fear of God in you.

There are dreams that come from our subconscious and spirit man aligning together. The language of the spirit man is in visions and dreams, and both are in picture forms. You arrange that in your life every time you go through activities. That form of dream is more for your private edification. It exposes you. For example, you could put up a front in your conscious life, where outwardly you are very outgoing and very sociable and cheerful and you put on a front; in front of people you wear a mask. We all know how to do that. Our conscious mind is very clever to put our image before people. But you have what I call a dual life. Behind inside your conscience and inside your heart you feel lonely, you feel inferior, and you feel dejected and rejected inside your heart and inside your life your true self is hidden from people.

The interesting thing about your dreams is that you cannot hide your true self from yourself. In your dreams who you really are stands out. If outwardly you look like a brave man, in your dreams you are actually afraid. Every single dream you have is one of your inner fears. If outwardly you look like a very upright person with good social life and no apparent weakness in your life but inwardly you know you have. In your dreams you are exposed - it comes out. You cannot hide from yourself in your dream. Who you really are what you really are comes forth and stands out. That's what I call a natural dream. They are useful to a certain extend. They are not used for leading. They are useful to understand your inner self. We must understand our inner self. We must understand what our main weaknesses and strong points are. Your dreams will expose them to you so that you are aware of them and you could deal with them.

Each time as you grow and your character develops your dreams also improve. So the dreams come through much activity in your life. Every time when you sleep it has to process the whole thing. What you experienced consciously has to be processed everyday. Although some people say they never have dreams, yet they do but they don't remember them. Every person has dreams. And of course unless it is important you would remember them. Otherwise it is not quite so important. So everyone practically has dreams. But there are some who don't remember anything. Those are what I call natural dreams.

Natural dreams are useful for self-analysis. Only the spirit of man will know what is in the man. Even our conscious mind does not know what your true self is. Our conscious mind can be so trained to ignore certain things. But the bible says in I Cor. 2 that the spirit of a man within him knows what is inside the person. So your spirit has the most accurate perception of yourself. Each one of you right now has a perception of yourself in your conscious mind. But the most true and accurate perception is in your spirit man. As we renew our mind what our spirit man perceive is translated into our conscious mind. Then you have a true estimation and judgment of yourself, where you are heading, where you are right now, where you have been. We must live our lives in such a way that what is inside and outside is one and not be a double character.

Having seen what a natural dream and activity is like we want to see what a spiritual dream and activity is like. Those are what we classify as messages from God. The Holy Spirit speaks to us. Its just like in the conscious realm we all have thoughts all the time. Some of our thoughts come from our soul; some of our thoughts come from our spirit man. Other thoughts do some times come from the enemy. But there are some thoughts that are strong and clear with a ring of authority and presence of God which are the thoughts of the Holy Spirit. That's the conscious realm.

In the subconscious realm there are dreams that are the result of the activity of the soul and there are dreams that are the result of the activity of the spirit and both are linked together. But there are some dreams that are very authoritative with a measure of God's presence involved. Usually you will remember those dreams. You may even get right immediately after those dreams for no apparent reason. Only those dreams are classified as leadings of the Holy Spirit. Dreams directly instigated by the Holy Spirit with a message. Why does God speak in dreams? There are many things that God could not convey to our conscious mind while we are awake. As a result God has to wait until we are asleep then He speaks to us in a dream. That is one of the major ways that God communicate. Don't neglect that.

You should keep a dream book where you record important dreams. If you are new in all these you may not be able to differentiate dreams that are from your human spirit and from the Spirit of God. It is just like people having difficulty differentiating their own thoughts and the spirit man thought and the Holy Spirit thought. It's the same progress that you got to go through and grow and learn. Just record dreams that you could remember. Then as you study them as you grow in God you could began to categorize this dream as a natural dream; that dream is from the spirit man; and these dreams are from the Spirit of God. Some are so clear-cut that you cannot miss it. Some you cannot classify them immediately.

So having seen that there are dreams that are from God, lets look at some bible examples of dreams and their interpretations. And how to interpret dreams and what are the major principles. There are these three categories of dreams, the symbolic or parabolic dream, the actual dream and the message dream. The second two categories don't need much teaching. Like the clear-cut actual dreams, they are just like it is. The clear-cut actual dream or vision does not need interpretation. The message one usually is clear-cut also. There is a very strong message that comes with it. The details of the dream are not important but the major message of the dream is. The interesting thing is that a major portion of most of dreams is in the symbolic realm. In the first category it is called the parabolic dream. And those are the most difficult to deal with and almost 95 percent of the dreams are in that category.

Lets look at the book of Genesis 41:17. Remember that all the wise men and magicians could not interpret this dream. Verse 17 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile; and seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass; and seven other cows came up after them, poor and very gaunt and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. And the thin and gaunt cows ate up the first seven fat cows, but when they had eaten them no one could have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as gaunt as at the beginning. Then I awoke. I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good; and seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."*

A lot of people are in Pharaoh's dilemma where they have some message from God but they have no interpretations. Notice that Pharaoh was standing on the riverbank. A river always symbolizes life of people in a dream. And suddenly there were these fat cows that come from the river. Not along the river but from the river which is interesting because cows don't swim. But as I said that dreams doesn't quite work in the same realm as our natural realm. I mean you see very odd things. Then these seven lean cows came up and ate the seven fat cows, and still they remained thin as ever. We know that cows don't eat cows. Immediately we realize that Joseph has a tremendous interpretation and he said that the seven cows and the seven stalks of grain are one. This is reasonable easy because the stalks talk about harvest.

You must look at the context of the people in those days. See in those days wealth is measured in cows and grain. If you are rich the way you show that you are rich is your possession of grain and cows.

Understand the context of those people. Today in the natural realm if some one is rich they show their prosperity by the cars they drive, by their dressing and by their usage of things or by the house they live in. This is not important as a Christian. It doesn't matter what kind of house you live in. The most important to remember is that you got a mansion in heaven. But we need to understand our daily context so that we could interpret the dreams. In those days cows and grains symbolize wealth. Today if God is speaking to you about a famine coming, He may not use cows and grains because they don't mean anything to you now. In our days the symbols have changed. And so don't think that when God speaks to you and suppose that you are a person of authority that when God speaks to you about a famine coming, He is going to use cows again. He will use other symbols that we understand today. The first major principle about parabolic dreams and messages from God is the representation of the symbols that are important. What do the symbols in the dream represent today? See each symbol that is used in a dream represents one major principle or point.

Let me give a little illustration. One day there was this brother whom I knew. He has already fulfilled part of his dream. He was praying because God was speaking to him about going to New Zealand to do some ministry work. He prayed very much and he found out all the sources he could to get a visa to enter China. He shared with me how God called him to China to minister. There is no legal way he could get a visa to enter that country from Malaysia. (At that time there were governmental restrictions, which have since been lifted up.) So God spoke to him and impressed upon his heart and life that he has to be a citizen of another country before he could go to China.

So finally he realized that God was speaking to him about New Zealand. As he was praying and contemplating he had this dream. He had a good job drawing a good salary and a high position in the company. He says why doesn't God speak to him through other ways. In his dream he sees himself driving this car and this car went to a certain place. After driving the car for sometime he ended up in this place. He knew it was a different country. Then he got up. He was praying about getting a visa and there is no way in the natural that he seems to be able to get what he wanted. He had done his best. Then he had this dream. In the end this is the interpretation of the dream that he got.

That car he drove was a means of conveyance to and fro. He was praying about a visa, which was his main concern. A visa is a legal mean that allows you to enter in and out of a foreign country. In that particular dream his car meant getting the visa. You see he never had a dream. He never had that kind of car before. And then he got this car in the dream. It was given to him. So in that dream the car represented the visa. The keys that were given to him represented a way that God will reveal to him to get it. I won't go into details today he is in New Zealand. And he is preparing for his next stage. It was not an actual dream because he didn't get any car. In fact he sold his car. But he knew that dream was important because the moment he finished that dream he woke up. He woke up and it was so strong in his life that God says that what He told him will come to pass. He knew that it was a dream from God.

So before we can interpret dreams we need to understand what those symbols are in our life. The reason I point to it is there is such a difference in the meanings of symbols in different people's lives. There is no natural way to say car equals visa. So you got to understand his context and where God is speaking to him from.

So here we have Pharaoh's dreams. Cows and stalks represent money and prosperity. And so you got the first part of the interpretation. You know that God is speaking about prosperity. And Pharaoh was standing at the riverbank pointing to his position of authority. Then the number seven will leave only the other interpretation of years. A river and a mountain in the context of God symbolize in the bible time span. That's how Joseph understood that to be years. If you have dreams about yourself walking through a path or mountain, today modern concept you see yourself standing by the highway. Remember roads and paths and things that flow like a river or perhaps like yourself going up a mountain symbolize time span or a period of time in the Word of God. And that's where the time span is emphasized. The cows came from the river. In that dream the river symbolize time. Some times the river symbolizes the Holy Spirit. So from that time span that Pharaoh was standing by comes these seven cows representing seven years. Seven fat years followed by seven lean years. Joseph has his dream interpreted.

Lets look at the other two dreams he interpreted. In the book of Genesis chapter 40, there was the baker and the butler. Verse 9 *So the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, and on the vine there were three branches; as soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's hand.* That was a positive dream. Vine, blossoms, a cup and grapes are all positive representation.

Let me explain a little bit. In the scriptures the winepress can symbolize judgment. One of the laws to interpretation of dreams is consistency with God's Word. Whatever is represented in the Word must be consistent with your dream and interpretation. In other words if in the bible a snake represent evil then however you interpret your dream if you see a snake it is evil; if it's a black snake of course its evil even if it's a white snake it still is evil. It must be consistent. Dogs in the bible are bad symbols. And all the unclean animals in the bible symbolize things that are not good. So your interpretation of symbols must be consistent. But there are a lot of grounds for variations. A winepress some times symbolizes a judgment. Then you must take into context the symbol in his days.

To the butler that cup represents his employment. All the time he was employed as a cupbearer. That was his basic employment. If you were employed in an accountancy firm all the time you are looking at are facts and figures. And that is your expertise. Then you went for some unrelated courses and you resigned from your accountancy profession. Three four years later you came and then you sort of in a dream see those facts and figures and yourself sitting at the table. You know what those represent? Employment. Because to you that is the way God speaks to you in facts and figures that is your field of work. As for the case of the butler that cup was his work. The cup represented his employment.

Then we have the vine symbolizing a time span or something that is growing. And blossoms symbolize something new. We are talking about the vine. Any flowers or things that blossom represent something new. Either it's a resurrection or restoration. And for his case since he is still alive it represented restoration. And interpreting those three branches, it means three days. Why not three years? It is because flowers have a shorter span of time of life. Flowers don't last many years it come and go in short season. For him he interpreted straight away as three days. He understands that flowers can last only a few days so the measurement is three days.

Now for his interpretations of the second dream that the baker had. Verse 16 *When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream; there were three white (now normally white symbolizes good) baskets on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."*

Now white normally symbolizes good but it depends on what it is combined with. If it's a white snake it doesn't symbolize something good. It symbolizes deception. But in his context and in his day when somebody dies they are embalmed in white linen. So white is a possible symbol of death in their time. Today funeral services people usually wear black or sack clothes but some times they still wear white. But it's a clear-cut thing in those days in the Judaism custom when somebody dies white was used.

Then those three white baskets with loaves of bread on them since he was a baker. Isn't it interesting the butler dreamt about wine? The baker was baking bread and seeing bread for many years so God use bread in his dream. So you see there is no such thing as a universal context. There are what I call some biblical principles but the symbols God use to speak to your life will be in the context of your profession, your knowledge, your background. And God will use a totally different symbol for you that He uses for me. Because of your background, your education, your natural knowledge, your profession, He will use a totally different background to speak about the same.

But there is a part of the dream where the birds of the air came. Those are bad symbols. Now in the context of those days, when a criminal is judged and the death sentence is pronounced, they would let the birds of the air get on that person. Joseph was familiar with that because he was a prisoner. And there are

some prisoners who had the death sentence over their life who have died. He knew what happened to them - the birds of the air came and picked the flesh off their bodies. So it was related to the symbols of those days. And Joseph understood that it speaks about death.

It is emphasized about three times. The baskets being taken meant something being removed. The whiteness of the baskets points to the white linen cloth that was used in funerals. And the birds that came and picked on those things. When God emphasize a message in a symbolic dream there is always the same recurring theme.

Do you remember when we were teaching about how to study the bible, we said that when we were studying contextually we look for recurring phrases or words? Now if you have a parabolic dream, look for recurring words and recurring symbols. That means the symbols will recur three four times to give you the main message and how to interpret it. In this dream there is always one recurring symbol or message. That means that one message is repeated three four times in various symbols so that it stands out as a stronger key to the interpretation. In the baker's dream the strongest symbol that stood up was death. Those three loaves of bread, how long can loaves of bread last? Bread lasts for a few days and not weeks or months or years. So he took them to represent days. That's how he interpreted those symbols.

Remember that ninety five percent of our dreams is in this category. And that is one of the major ways the Holy Spirit leads us through our dreams. So your interpretation of symbols must be scriptural. Secondly the interpretation of the symbols will be something that is understandable in the culture and the context that we live in. Wealth today is represented differently from in the bible. Then the thirdly the interpretation of the symbols are affected by your individual understanding and profession. God will use whatever that is in your background in the dream. See the Holy Spirit is a master of languages. What He cannot say to this person in a certain symbol He will put symbols that are related to that person because certain symbols may not be present in that person's life. That person is not acquainted with those symbols. He won't take symbols that are strange to that person. You never have a dream where there are symbols that you are not aware of. He chose the limitation of our symbols to illustrate and to give a coded message. Dreams are the coded message of the Holy Spirit. Our conscious mind got to decode them.

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMS - Part One

Acts 2 as Peter speaks regarding the out pouring of the Spirit he says in verse 16 onwards. *This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel; And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yes, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

We are going to look at dreams and visions that God has placed in our lives. And especially we want to focus on fulfilling our dreams that God has given to each one of us. I guess that all of us have dreams to a certain extend. In fact we all dream every night. But we don't remember the dreams. Sometimes we remember the dreams when we wake up. We say, "I had a dream." Dreams are an important part of our lives. It is just like thinking. It is interesting to know that all of us do dream. Even though some of you say you don't dream at all you do dream except that you forgot your dreams. We advise people that if you really want to remember your dream especially those that are from God, then spend some time with the Lord before you sleep, especially praying in the Spirit. Usually those dreams that you could remember have a significant message in your life. As we see the beginning of this New Year we realize that there could be dreams in some of our lives that you may see fulfilled this year. Perhaps some of your dreams were fulfilled last year but other dreams were not fulfilled yet that you thought would have been fulfilled last year. There is a great possibility that perhaps one or two or more of your dreams may be fulfilled this year. But whether they are fulfilled this year or not we must always develop a quality to be a dreamer of dreams. Dreams are the fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to work and move in our lives. However we know that there are dreams that are caused from daily activities,

dreams that are brought forth from God and there are some that are infiltrated from the enemy.

Why is it important to dream? In our modern world dreams have been pushed aside where we don't give them a much emphasis. Do you realize that just maybe several thousand years ago dreams were considered important? In our modern society we put it to the side as something insignificant and unimportant.

God wants us to be dreamers. This is not to mean dreamers in the sense of someone who is of no earthly good or who does not know how to be practical in his life. We are not talking about that definition. But there is a necessity to be one who dream dreams if you want to reach into the height and greatness of God's plan for your life.

One of the reasons why we want to dream dreams is usually in a dream you are not limited by what you are limited by in the natural. For example in the natural your income may be lets say about seven hundred dollars a month. And you are just struggling to live by. Do you know all you have to do is just close your eyes and dream? And in your dream or imagination you could be living in a farm with lots of hills to meditate. In your dream, you are not limited by your income. Then in that dream you are not limited by education or ability. Some of you could never play any musical instrument. All you have to do is close your eyes and dream. And you could see yourself playing the musical instrument. Don't you think that's a powerful tool that God has given to us? You are not limited in your dreams. Whether by your financial standing or by your education or by anything at all in your dream there is a fertile ground for anything to happen.

In a dream strange things happen. You could be for example driving in a car and suddenly your car turns into a truck. Or going by a hill and suddenly the hill turns to a diamond hill. Anything can happen in a dream. There are no limitations, as we know it in this natural world. And what we want to stir in your life is the importance of dreams. And how we need to cultivate ourselves so that we become dreamers of dreams. And that's where faith can began to take hold of some of the things you dream about.

Let me read a few scriptures to show how important dreams are. The book of Job 33:14 *For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.* Now God speaks to us all the time. Sometimes through the soft inner voice, sometimes through people, sometimes when we are really hard of hearing then through circumstances.

Verse 15 *In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while they slumber on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and terrifies them with warnings, that He may turn men aside from his deed, and cut off pride from man; he keeps back his soul from the Pit, his life from perishing by the sword.*

God speaks through dreams. In verse 15 it tells when those dreams occur, in deep sleep. The dreams only occur when you enter into very deep sleep. Even according to modern dream research, our night sleeping hours are in cycles. As you fall into sleep in the first phase of your sleep there is no dream. Then in the second phase of your sleep dreams occur. They know when dreams occur because of your REM sleep or rapid eye movement sleep. The first part there is no REM. The first part possibly has to do with the physical body resting. But they have not fully understood why we should dream dreams.

Dream researchers noticed that if a person is prevented from dreaming, their creativity during the day is diminished. When you fall asleep your body is actually resting. But when you are dreaming all the biological activity in your body functions as if you are awake. It consumes much energy in your dream state. The eyes move and the body is activated but its like you are in a different realm. You are not conscious. Then whenever the subjects under study fall asleep and just as they are about to dream when their eyes movement becomes rapid, they are woken up. The researchers try to stop the subjects from dreaming. Every time they dream they wake them up. Then they fall asleep again and then they wake them up. They found that these people became less and less creative. Creativity is an important part of our lives. Those people become reduced to almost mere robots or zombies in their waking state. So there is something about the

ability to dream, which must be cultivated in our lives. Now here it speaks about a dream that comes when you are asleep.

In the book of Acts chapter 2 it is not necessarily speaking about a dream that occurs when you are asleep. In Acts 2:17 it says *your old men shall dream dreams*. The word *dream dreams* is the word *enupnizomai enupnion*. The normal Greek word for dream is the word *onar*, which is used in the book of Matthew when Joseph had a dream. Here in Acts 2 he is talking about a dream state not necessary a sleep state dream. The word *enupnion* speaks about a kind of dreaminess. It is almost like what we use in the English word *dreamy*. Like some one sitting quietly in a corner and they are like in a world of themselves dreaming. This is from the special Greek word for dreams *enupnion* and not from the ordinary Greek word for dreams *onar*.

And this word *enupnion* has been used of people who are dreamers in their waking state. Job 33 is referring to those in their sleeping state. It had been used in the negative sense in the book of Jude verse 8 *Yet in like manner these men in their dreamings defile the flesh, reject authority, and revile the glorious ones*. He is talking about those who in a negative sense dream of the wrong things. They are not asleep they are awake. We immediately see that there is such a thing as a dreamlike state while conscious and a full dream state while in deep sleep.

Today modern psychologists tell you that there are different states of consciousness. Some try to tap into the sub consciousness as deep as possible. Actually our brain waves have two to three different patterns. Some psychologists try to get people into some of these patterns. But they are doing it without Jesus. They don't understand how dangerous it can be. If there were no devils and no demons it would be fine. But because the other realm is full of demonic activities and power we need a source of protection, which is the blood of Jesus. Which is why people who go deep into transcendental meditation without Jesus many of them end up inviting demonic activities into their lives unknowingly. They don't have the protection of the Lord.

So the ability to dream is an important one. It does occur even in your waking moment and as well as in your deep sleep. What we encourage you to do is to dream dreams and go beyond those areas that have limited you. If you could dream of things that are impossible to you, you can move into that realm. Is your mind limited by only what you think is possible? You refuse to think of things that are impossible. You dare not even think of such things. Perhaps the attitude is wrong. You need to think of things that you never thought before. It may not be God's will for you to go into the ministry and preach to millions of people. But yet in your dream you could do it. You could see your life affecting others. It may not be God's will for you to handle millions of dollars but yet in your dream you can do so.

Why must I dream of things that are not of God's will for me but still in line with the Word? Because faith is the substance of things hoped for. Dreams are the seeds of hope. Sometimes when I fellowship with people and we sit around, we talk about the many things we could do for the Lord. Not that we want to do them. But we said we are just dreaming dreams. I said how wonderful if we could just hold healing services for multitudes in our own premises instead of renting stadiums. As we walk through town we see these multimillion-dollar buildings owned by unbelievers. I said how nice if we could get a whole floor just for Christian entrepreneurs. Some of these things may materialize and some may not. But its fertile ground to dream dreams. Some of your dreams may travel along and somebody else picks it up and actualized it. And we will just sit down and dream dreams. I remember some time back and we were talking about how Christian entrepreneurs will own a whole building and Christian music is played all the time.

How wonderful if we have a Christian hospital that applies not only the laws of natural healing and medicine but incorporate prayers and the Leviticus laws to bring about healing. I tell you we could have more people healed than other hospitals in the world. I may not be the one who fulfill that vision. I may not be the one who do it. But if I dream dreams one day somebody will catch hold of that dream. I could dream dreams I could see Christian doctors get together perhaps one day they would open a hospital that is based on God's healing principles. They not only dispense medicine they will give their best and the most modern technological medicine but on the top of that they will pray. Some thing will happen. I believe that somebody

somewhere had that dream that they will fulfill. But yet I could have that dream too. Because if I were to have that dream too and he would have that dream whoever he is, where two or three agree on earth although we don't know each other, it is going to cause something to start happening. That's why we need to dream dreams. We need to talk about dreams since it is the fertile ground for faith to take place.

Heb. 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* I could phrase it in another way. Faith depends on hope to bring a substance of reality. Without hope there is no faith. Dreaming dreams is like doing weight lifting in your spirit. If you have ever lift weights before you know what its like. You stretch your muscles beyond its normal usage. And unless you stretch your muscles the muscles will not grow. Muscles need constant stretching to grow. Dreams are the weight lifting of the creative part of your soul and of your spirit. When you are dreaming dreams you are weight lifting. And you stretch your imagination. Not a hundred percent of your dreams may come to pass but they keep your muscles healthy. I lift weights not to enter the contest. I lift weights to keep myself healthy. In the same way we need to lift dreams in our lives. Sometimes I used to share with those in the ministry and say how wonderful if we just have a place for Christian retreat. For some others they have already actualized that vision. We could just call all those five-fold ministries in, accommodate them and say lets have a time of praying together. It's a dream and we need to dream in order for it to come to pass one day either in our life or somebody else's life to bring it to pass.

Dreams are the fertile ground of faith to take root. As we stretch our muscles of dreams some of them may be God's destiny for our life. Some of them may be for another people's lives to fulfill. I may not own a Christian hospital with all the Christian doctors, but if I dream it and share my dreams somebody else who is in the medical profession may catch hold of that dream. And for them that dream becomes a vision. Which is why the bible calls it *old men dream dreams and young men see vision*, because the old would have finished their work and their call. But they continue to produce seeds that the young men could take hold of and become their visions. The vision of their life becomes their destiny.

It is good to be a dreamer of dreams. Strangely it's the dreamer of dreams that contact the prophetic realm. In Acts 2 we see that out pouring of the Spirit, dreaming dreams and seeing visions are all in line with the prophetic realm. It didn't say that only prophets will move in prophecy. It says young men, young women. Menservants, maidservants they shall prophesy. They shall contact the prophetic realm. And the testimony of Jesus Christ is a spirit of prophecy. What is prophetic realm? The realm of things to come.

God calls prophets dreamer of dreams. Turn to Deut. 13:1 *If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams.* The way he classify it a dreamer of dreams is equivalent to a prophet. Not all dreamers of dreams may be prophets. But all prophets are dreamers of dreams. A dreamer of dreams reaches a realm that is equivalent to the realm that a prophet moves in. It is on a higher level of consciousness. Most of us in the modern world are trained and educated to function only on the intellectual realm. We rationalize and think but there is a higher level that we could move into. It is a level of consciousness beyond our intellectual mind. It's a level of dreaming dreams and seeing visions. It is not just rationalizing something.

Today they have discovered that people can develop ability to control things that are beyond what they thought possible. I have a book on quantum fitness and there is a research on the latest scientific application in the area of physical development. Long ago they tell you that the physical body has two sets of actions one voluntary and one involuntary. One is a reflex action where you don't think before executing an action. If you have to think you may die due to the slowness of your actions. Lets take for example a hot pan or fire touches a part of your body, and you didn't feel your flesh burning immediately. You rationalize and say, "Now a smell is coming from here, I feel pain in my arm, there is burning, this pan is hot, I know I should move away from that pan." You don't think you immediately say "ouch." Reflex action. If you have to think that there is danger here you may die. Our heartbeat is involuntary. We don't have to make our heart beat. You should thank God for that. Otherwise the day you stop thinking, you will drop dead. We don't have to tell ourselves to breathe. If so many of our physical body have to come under voluntary action, our minds would be so exhausted doing all the thinking that you got no time left for other things. So God places a portion of our body into involuntary area.

And the other part voluntary for example you choose to sit, you choose to stand. You don't sit involuntarily. They have discovered that there is a way which people can affect even their involuntary reflexes. They have analyzed some of those people who did it. Like some gurus who could even stop their heart beat. And they have an experiment where for a moment of time they stop their heart and restart it again. The scientists were amazed but some of them may use demonic power. But there is some aspects of what I call latent soul power. And there is this person who sits on a chair full of nails and there were holes poked into his skin all over the back. On one of the holes there was blood coming out. And he did something and it stopped. How could they do such things? There is only one thing that they did. They controlled their involuntary action through visualizing. Today it is documented scientifically that there is a certain extend by which we control our involuntary action through vision. Even out in the secular world people are healed of cancer by visualizing their white blood cells killing the cancer cells. They discovered the door into the involuntary area of a person's life. Vision. What does that person do? They visualize the very part of the body and in that vision they make it to work they want it to. Not by the rational thinking but by something deeper than that.

So there is a consciousness that is very deep that God wants us to enter into. To dream dreams. I dream dreams and I could see a building that sits a hundred thousand people. The engineers will be scratching their heads and asking how are they going to build that kind of building? I know that in our dream we defy a lot of natural laws. It is not so much that we want to do so. But because we could see in our dream we would discover natural laws and principles and engineering abilities to do what we dream about. We need to dream dreams to keep our faith healthy. If you stop dreaming dreams your faith has very little catalyst to work with. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Who knows one day we may be able to build a canopy that covers a million people before Jesus comes. Could you dream it? In a dream all things are possible. These kind of dreams cause our faith muscles to stretch all the time. Say I love to dream dreams they are important for my faith.

Perhaps you are in the business world and you are struggling. You are living by your rational intellectual mind. You are always seeing what can be done that is not impossible. You are not a dreamer of dreams. You are a calculator. You calculate over the possibility. You dare not even think of things that are impossible. For a moment of time put aside those little things that are limiting you. Take time to go aside and just dream dreams. See your business grow. See yourself owning your own business premises. And dream dreams of the day that you own your own premises and your business going nation-wide and worldwide. You could dream dreams of things nobody dream about. Dream dreams may not be God's will for you but you need to stretch your muscles. Then after you dream of dreams you come back into reality and you find yourself refreshed. Then you began to look at some of your problems about planning to own your own business premises they don't look so impossible any more. You have been weight lifting with 45 pounds and you come back and you take the 25 pounds, no sweat. It becomes easier for your muscles have been stretched. And we need the stretching of our imagination of our dreams, especially in this New Year because this year is a year of great possibility. This is a year of power I would call it. It is a year of impossibilities becoming possible. This is the year where your dreams can be fulfilled.

How do we stimulate those dreams? What are those things that will help us to stimulate those dreams?

Lets look in the book of Daniel. In Daniel chapter two Nebuchadnezzar had a dream; Daniel received an interpretation for Nebuchadnezzar's dream and brought to Nebuchadnezzar some of the reasons of those dreams and why they occur. As he brought forth the dream he gave some background in verse 28-29 *But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.* Now Nebuchadnezzar was only the first part of the dream the golden head the others had nothing to do with him, the Middle Persian Empire etc. But yet in his dream he could contact areas that go beyond his life span. *Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these; To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be hereafter, and He who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.*

No. 1 we need to think in the general area of those dreams for those specific visions of your life to come to pass. For example, if you are in the business world your mind needs to hang loose what will become of your business, what is God's will for you. As your thoughts revolve around in the area of wondering, you are hanging loose you are not limiting yourself to what you know or what you have. You are just wondering.

In a state of mind of wondering what is to come to pass, the answer may come to you in your dreams.

Here is king Nebuchadnezzar he is a mighty king. One day before he slept he wondered what would come to pass after his kingdom. What is the end of all these things? And with all these thoughts coming strong on him, it brought him into a position where God gave him a dream. The question we ask is if Nebuchadnezzar did not wonder about what is to come would he have that dream? The answer is no. Which explain why many people do not allow their consciousness to rise beyond their natural ability of what they have. God never could reveal to them what is to come in that area because they never let go of their limitations. They began to wonder what goes beyond their limitations what will come to pass.

Daniel does it in a different way. In the book of Daniel chapter seven verse one *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon. Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, and told the sum of the matter.* Apparently Daniel who serve in the kingdom was wondering what is to come to pass too. And in seeking after God's best for his life, he had this strange dream. Now that dream that he had in chapter seven there are several verses that he mentioned. In verse eight he says *I was considering the horns.* Verse nine *As I looked.* Verse eleven *I looked.* Verse fifteen *As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head alarmed me.* He didn't understand but it did disturb him. Daniel was like a watcher. One who considers. One who seeks God's understanding. Look at chapter ten verse one *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was reveled to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.* Daniel was a seeker after truth and after things to come. And there is something about people who long to know the future, long to know what is to come. Right now in God's book everything written about your life is already there. Everything written about what you are to do is already in God's book. And if we desire after it God will reveal and bring it forth into your life. So one of the first keys is to be able to dream dreams in the category or have thoughts in your mind in the area that you would like to move into. It can get beyond these areas but it is the same general vicinity and it will stimulate those dreams in our life that is your destiny and vision for your life.

Turn over to the book of Genesis chapter 41 in Pharaoh's dream. We see Joseph coming to interpret Pharaoh's dream. There are some statements that he made as an introduction to his dreams. In verse 25 *Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dream of Pharaoh is one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do."* Now there is no record of what is the condition of Pharaoh before he slept and had the dream. But he had two dreams occurring in the same night. When he woke up and he slept he had a second dream. Two dreams that took place one after the other. Joseph said God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. Doesn't that sound like Job 33? God seals it upon our lives what He is about to do.

No. 2 the dreams that God gives to you relate to the area in which you either have something to do with it or some influence in that area. Pharaoh had the ability to protect all these millions of people from staving. God was not concerned just for Pharaoh. God was concerned for all human kind. So God gave a dream to Pharaoh so that through Pharaoh He will do something to protect His innocent people from dying. The dreams that you have relate to the position you are in. And by position here in Pharaoh it has to do with the area where he was supposed to do something about. See God does not simply gives dreams. Dreams have a purpose in our lives. We saw in our earlier areas how it stimulates faith. Now we are looking at areas that could stir up more dreams in our lives.

If God place you into business world, let go and let God dream dreams through you. And cause dreams to come in that area of your life. Don't stop those dreams. If you are in the ministry let go and let those dreams of your ministry come forth. Don't stop there. Those dreams may save other lives and help other lives. Do you notice something about those dreams? Pharaoh didn't have the interpretation. It was Joseph who having the interpretation helped to fulfill that dream. That doesn't take place necessary all the time. But we cannot understand fully some of our dreams until we come up together with people who are a part of the fulfillment of that dream. Perhaps you dreamt of something in the business world or something in the ministry. And you cannot fully comprehend that dream. But one day when you are with the people, who become a part of that dream, the interpretation becomes clear both to that person and to you. And together as a team you will be able to fulfill and bring that dream to pass. So write down those dreams even if you don't understand them or even if they look ridiculous to you. They are the fertile ground of your faith working in those areas.

By positioning yourself you stir up those dreams. You see if Joseph were anywhere else, he would not have the interpretation of dream. By position we are saying be in the right place at the right time and doing the right thing. When you are in the correct place dreams will come. Some are in the wrong place and the dreams are not coming forth. You need to be in the right place for those dreams to come forth in your life.

No. 1 you need to be filled with thoughts in regards to those areas of your dream. You need to be always wondering about things to come.

No. 2 being in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. Joseph was in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. Pharaoh was in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. And the dreams just came to pass. If you are in the wrong place doing the wrong thing, something stops your dream and it just won't come to pass.

One more example of that. Paul and Silas were traveling from place to place seeking to preach the gospel. No matter where they go they seemed to be in the wrong place doing the right thing. So in Acts 16:6 *And they went through the region of Phrygia Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word in Asia. And when they had come opposite Mysia they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.* It seems that they were just knocking on blank walls. *So passing by Mysia they went down to Troas.* Troas was a seaside town. Only when they came to a place where they could take a boat did the vision occur. But he knew that he was in the wrong place doing the right thing preaching the gospel. And he had to get into the right position for the dream to come forth. And Troas was the right place because God wanted them to take a boat. Troas was a seaside town and when he went there he had a Macedonian vision that began his second missionary journey. Do you know what the second missionary journey was? He had to go into areas he had never gone before. You see Paul tried to go into areas that he had gone before. God wants him to totally make a break and just go by boat and go forth into areas he had never gone before. He tried to stick around areas where Jews congregate and not in Gentiles areas. And so the vision may not come.

Why did they go to Troas? I believe that there was some how an inner inclination to go there perhaps something more will come from there. It is just like going and lying down at the airport. You know that God called you somewhere some place but you don't know where. So you go to the airport and just look at the planes and dream. And then God speaks in your heart, "Go to Macedonia." It doesn't mean that after this a few of you are going to gather in the airport and dream. But you need to be in a place where you could make a move to fulfill that dream. Are you in the right place doing the right thing at the right time? If you are those dreams will keep bubbling out into your life. If you are not, then get into position.

Sometimes God call you out of your home into a mountain into another place so that there He can give you that dream. Why is that so because there is a multitude of others things that prevent that dream from getting in your life. Ecclesiastes 5:3 says a dream comes through much activities. He is talking about the type of dreams that come from your daily life. It is like a noise that continues from your daily life. You need to get out from those activities and get into position. So that God could cause you to dream dreams. The basis of this message is to bring you to this point to face your life to ask, "Have the dreams in your life stopped?" Because the day it does creativity stops. It's the hassles of this New Year. Do you know something about being dreamy? You have to somehow detach yourself from this world and its activities. It is really hard to get dreamy while you are in the peak of activities. It is just impossible. You can only do it when you get out of these activities into the right position. Then those dreams will come. Sometimes it means just getting out to a hillside by our home and just looking over the whole place dreamy.

All the great men of God who have done great things are dreamer of dreams. Cho Yonggi's biography is a dream comes true. He is a dreamer of dreams. In his recent biography he showed a place where he likes to go and it was like a little kind of garden. That's where he likes to go to dream dreams. Get into position. By position it could be physical, it could be social, it could be geographical.

Let me give one last point on things that stimulate our dream life. I Sam.10:5 *After that you shall come to Gibeathelohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines; and there, as you come to the city, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with harps, tambourine, flute and lyre before them, prophesying.* No. 3 music stimulates the dream. God has put a song in our heart to sing to Him. Eph. 5:19 tells us *be filled with the Spirit speaking to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.* If the melody and music in your life die the dreams will stop. The music needs to continue. And sometimes we need external help. If you are not a dreamer of dreams possibly you are also someone who seldom hear music. Perhaps you are so engrossed in other things, in study, in research and you are not one who just listens to music. I am not talking about music while you are in our beehive of activities. If you just put on good Christian music and you just sit and allow the music to take your spirit off into a dreamy state, you will once again stir the ability to dream in your life. All of us before we became adults we were dreamers of dreams. Somehow as we get educated as we get into a profession we get into the beehive of earthly worldly activities we lost the ability to dream. We need to put that music back into your life so that we could dream dreams again. Learn to wait on God. Do you notice that the greatest period of mankind has been the period when great music came forth? In the Renaissance period that's when the great classical music all came forth. And people took time to just listen to music. Their ability in the natural even rises. By all means have music in your life 24 hours while you are in activity. But learn to just be still and let the music take you off. And you will be able to dream dreams again.

5. THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMS - Part Two

We are talking about the importance of dreams and why we need to develop the ability to dream dreams. But we tend to lose them when we are adults. If we have lost that ability to dream, then we need to get it back so that we can develop our spiritual, soul and physical life more fully.

We have mentioned how there are two categories of dreaming dreams - one is while awake and the other is while asleep. Using the Greek word *enupnion* we consider its usage in the book of Jude and realize that it speaks about a dream like state while conscious and it can be also in total deep sleep like in Job 33. In addition to that we also spoke about how in dreams there is no limitation to the physical areas of our life. In a dream anything can happen. It's important for us to allow our dreams to soar to the heights ordained by God because dreams relate to hope.

Dreams and hope are almost synonymous. If you lose your dreams you lose your hope. Hope is different from faith. But yet faith is built on hope. In Heb. 11:1 *faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.* If there is no hope there is no environment and no atmosphere for faith to grow and for hope to develop. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Hope comes by dreaming and dreaming the things of God. When we dream our hope increases. No matter how sore or how depressed you are if you have a good dream it encourages you. When your dreams die your courage dies. We need an environment of dreams.

I dream dreams. Some of those dreams may not be for me to fulfill. I said about how in dreams we can go beyond our ability like you could not sing before you can sing in your dreams. And who knows one day it may become a reality. As you keep dreaming and you cannot sing maybe your voice is like a frog but in your dream you dream how you are turned into a singer and you are singing with a lovely angelic voice. And one day who knows that can turn into a reality if you dream it often enough and long enough. Perhaps you could never play a musical instrument but in your dreams you could do it. Perhaps you have never own any house. You could hardly make your payment even for your rental. But in your dream you could live in a mansion. So don't limit your dreams. Not that all your dreams may come true. But they are the fertile ground by which faith can take root. And some of your dreams may materialize.

Other times some of your dreams could be other people's dream. Like for example I dream of a day

that medical doctors could come together and set up a Christian medical specialist center where they incorporate the principles of prayers and all the best medicine and technology could offer. Who knows it could bring healing to people who have no more hope. That dream belongs to somebody but I could see that dream. Even up to this time Pastor Cho Yonggi still dreams of building his hundred thousand sitting capacity church building. He spoke of it some years ago. His dream hasn't materialized yet. Who knows one day God may send all the expertise and all the finances to build the building. One of the reasons why we are looking into our new place is so that we can have all our services co-coordinated in Tamil, Chinese, Malay as well as in English. We could have most of the Sunday evenings free. One Sunday nights we can have an orchestra presentation and the next Sunday night we can have a drama. Then the next Sunday night we can have a musical presentation.

Dreams are the spices in which faith builds up. Faith takes from your dreams. Faith takes from your hope and builds it into reality. And we need to dream because in dream we contact the great things and the wonderful things of God. We all know the scripture Isa. 64:4 and I Cor. 2 eyes have not seen nor ears heard the things that God has in store for those who love Him and for those who wait on Him. But in our dreams we contact those realms. I could dream of a Christian hotel and we could use it for conventions. We could bring all the ministers in and feed and house them. We tell them just say just come in you don't have to pay a cent. You just come in here and just fellowship and pray together. How wonderful the five-fold ministry will impact all the nations that come from. When they pray together I wonder whether we will have another Acts 2 experience or an Acts 4 experience. Will God shake the place and pour out His Spirit again like in Azusa Street?

I dream of a scenic place in the mountain or by the seaside where we can have our prayer house. There would be people who like Anna the prophetess, loves to pray and wants to give the rest of their life through prayer. We would provide the accommodation for them. We could provide the food for them and have one or two vans for them to drive around. All they do is give their lives to prayer. These are possibilities. One day God will help us to bring it into reality. But we need to dream dreams. Great faith comes from great hope. Great hope comes from great dreams. And we must dream dreams to keep ourselves growing. When our dreams stop our faith will stop down the line. Some of those could be your dreams.

I dream for the businessmen. I could see some of them rising up to be multimillionaires. To them a million dollars mean nothing. They could just build a whole building and they look for Christian entrepreneurs and they say, "Look since you are starting out in your business, here is a place rent free for you to start off." The whole place is for all Christian businessmen, selling all kinds of Christian products. Can you see it? It's possible. These are dreams and if your dream is big enough your dream can contain other people's dreams. When something strikes you as a great dream let it flow. You may not materialize it but it is the muscles of your spirit and your inner resources exercising so that one day some of those things that are similar are achieved.

The reasons for this two part message is to stir up your desire and your ability to dream dreams. We close in the last message with three points. How to bring about those dreams? More often your dreams are in the area or field that you want to dream. Secondly is in the area of position. You must be in the right position to dream those dreams. Thirdly we talk about music in bringing about those dreams. If you sleep with music there will be a tendency to stir up some of those dreams. Or sometimes in the conscious state while listening to music it can bring you to dream dreams of the areas that God wants to build in your life.

There is another fourth little thing that you could do. If you really want to dream dreams the last fifteen minutes or half an hour before you sleep is important. Spend sometime with God pray in tongues and you will notice that there is a greater frequency of dreams that come from God.

We see the role of dreams in the life of Joseph. In Matthew 1:19 *And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered (notice the first principle operating, he slept with this thought.) this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."* Verse 24 *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded*

him.

Now he had a dream and the word *dream* here is different from the Greek word in Acts 2. The word in Acts 2 where it says that *old men dream dreams* is the word *enupnizomai enupnion* and here the word in Matthew 1 the word *dream* is the word *onar*, which is the actual Greek word for dream. Joseph was moved by the dream and in the dream he had an angelic encounter. It was almost like a vision except that he was asleep. This is not his first encounter. In Matt. 2:13 *Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.* This is his second recorded dream. So God continues to speak to Joseph. Dream No. 3 in verse 19 *But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.* See the right place, the right time, the right position, he dreamt. All his dreams were directional and God met with him in a dream.

This morning we talk about the importance of a dream. Dreams are the inner workings of the spirit man and of the inner resources of our soul. Once upon a time before Adam and Eve fell into sin, Man had an ability to see into the spirit realm. That spirit realm was something very visible to them. They don't have such thing like II Cor. 4 where there are things invisible and visible. Both eternal and temporal are both visible. And if an angel came to the Garden of Eden Adam will see it. He doesn't need the gift of the Spirit to operate because he knows all things. He was made perfect in God. He doesn't need the word of wisdom because he lives in that wisdom. He doesn't need the word of knowledge because he lives in the knowledge of God. He doesn't need the discerning of spirit because he could see what is in the spirit world. He doesn't need the gift of healing because he is in health. He doesn't need the working of miracle because miracles are part and parcel of divine life. See all the gifts of the Spirit are necessary only in the fallen state of man. Man in the perfect state has more than just the gifts. Man lives in those gifts as a part and parcel of their nature. The gifts of the Spirit in the book of Hebrews chapter 6 are called *the powers of the age to come*. The age of perfection the heavenly age which we only partake of while in this life. Once upon it was always a part of our nature and not just a gift that operates as the Spirit wills. But when sin came the part in man's life that was affected was the area of the eye of the spirit.

Turn to the book of Ephesians chapter one verse 18 *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened.* He is not talking about physical eyes. He is talking about the eyes of our inner soul. There are inner eyes that we need to train and have them enlightened. Now these same eyes were darkened when man fell into sin in Ephesians 4:17-18 *Now this I affirm and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentile do, in the futility of their minds; they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God.*

So something took place in Adam's life when he fell into sin. There was a darkness that came on his inside that prevented him from contacting a part of his soul and a part of his spirit. It was cut off from the life of God. And from that day onwards man begins to have dreams. The conscious mind of man and the sub-conscious mind of man and the spirit of man are now all separated. We use only between five to ten percent of the ability of our mind and our brain and the only contact that we have with the inner recesses of our mind is in the area of visions and dreams. I shared in the last message how some people have discovered how to control the involuntary actions of their bodies through visualizing. We all know that in our body there are voluntary and involuntary actions. Like your breathing, your heart beat and when you step on something painful you automatically withdraw your foot. That is an automatic involuntary action caused by your nerves reflexes.

Today as man discover the mysteries of the mind, man discovered that there is a way they could affect even the involuntary area. And the key they found was through visualizing. There are people who are healed of cancer by visualizing their white blood cells destroying the cancer cells. Scientists have documented such healings. These are areas that are beyond the control of our conscious minds and the keys into these areas are visions and dreams. All these belong to the inner part of our soul that we have lost contact with. For most of us we only contact the part in our sleeping time. When we are in deep sleep the other part of our mind began to work. In fact when you are in deep sleep and you are dreaming, your biological physical activity is equivalent to being wide-awake. They have hooked up instruments onto sleeping subjects under study and found these electrical instruments responding in a way as if they are awake although they are asleep. It's like a thick line that is drawn. When you are awake all these biological functions are going on. Then as you fall into sleep there is a period where there is just stillness. Then you seem to enter into a different realm. It's as if a different part of your mind is working. And it's called REM

(rapid eye movement) sleep. Your eyes move as if you are awake. That's when you are dreaming.

What are we saying No. 1 it is in dreams and visions that we contact the spirit world. I don't know why God has to contact Joseph through a dream. But possibly when he is awake he could be quite a rational intellectual man. You could tell that by the way he keeps thinking how to put Mary away. He couldn't understand this virgin birth concept. See he was a rational man. As he thinks rationally how could he believe Mary? It's very hard to believe. Here was his beloved coming and saying that she is pregnant with the Holy Ghost child. He can't compute intellectually. And in fact he has already rejected her. You look at Matthew chapter one he has already rejected her. He was already making a decision that he was not going to take her neither does he believe her. What would Mary have told Joseph? Mary would have reported everything. If you know the great abilities of ladies they will report everything to you. Usually when ladies tell a story they will go to the details. We men will say please summarize. I believe Mary would have told him how she saw this angel but Joseph was a rational man. He was definitely not given to this thing of the spirit. Not all men are that way. Matthew 1: 19 *being a just man not wanting to make her a public example was minded.* Past tense he was minded. He has already made up his mind, past tense, *to put her away.* He has already rejected the facts, the evidences, and the testimony of Mary. And because of his state of mind God cannot speak to him directly. His mind was turned to a different direction. When he was asleep, when his conscious mind was knocked out an angel came and spoke to him.

It's in our dreams that we encounter the spirit world. Every time you are asleep you encounter the spirit world. Now we encounter it when we are conscious too. But if your life is filled with the hustle and bustle of activities, you probably just encounter the physical world (although the spiritual atmosphere around you was influencing you). But it's in your dream that you cannot run from the spirit world. You were made to contact the spirit world all the time. That is why no matter who you are even if you are not born again you still dream. Because there is a latent power of the soul and of the spirit of man that is till there. We still dream and in our dreams spiritual encounter takes place.

Matthew 27 verse 19 records an encounter of the spirit realm by a different person and the most unlikely person, Pontius Pilate's wife. *While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream."*

In a book by Mariette Davis "Within the Gates" Mariette Davis went to heaven and she visited children's paradise. While she was in children's paradise she saw a replay of Jesus being betrayed, judged and crucified and resurrected. She saw the whole scene and she even saw the part that the angel coming to Pontius Pilate's wife and opening the spirit realm to her. She saw what took place in the spirit world happening on that very day that Jesus was on trial. That is a particular dream that Pontius Pilate's wife had. She was disturbed; she was troubled because the spirit had contacted the natural in a dream. And she warned Pilate to be careful what he is doing because this man Jesus is holy and just.

In Jewish history and tradition there is a story recorded about Alexander the Great going forth conquering and conquering. He proceeded to the nation of Israel to also conquer that land. The night just before he entered Israel, he had a dream and in the dream he saw the high priest in his full robe coming to him. That very day that he entered into Jerusalem, the Lord spoke to the high priest to wear his full garment, take the scroll of Daniel and walk up to greet Alexander the Great and show Alexander the Great that the Lord had already prophesied of His coming. It can be frightening to have some of these dreams. But dreams are real.

Jacob was running away from his father-in-law Laban, who was seething with anger. Now in that state of mind there is no direct contact you can have with the things of the spirit. And Laban was determined to give Jacob a piece of his mind. But that night after much chasing, that very night before he met Jacob God came to Laban in a dream. Laban is a crafty sly shrewd man. God said to him not to speak evil against Jacob. The very next day when he saw Jacob he didn't do anything because the dream had warned him. The story of Jacob and Laban is found in the book of Genesis chapter 31:24 *But God came to Laban the Aramaean in a dream by night, and said to him, "Take heed that you say not a word to Jacob, either good or bad."* That was the very night before he was to meet Jacob and God warned him in a dream.

Then God warned Abimelech in a dream in regard to Abraham and said to Abimelech, "You will die." It is always in a dream that you encounter with the spirit world. That is our first consideration. Don't take dreams lightly. In fact when you lose your ability to dream it's either your spirit is either malnourished or there is too much pollution of this world in your soul and too much worldly activities that you don't have enough spiritual activity. Some of you who are so busy in your life say that you hardly dream. In fact all of us dream everyday except we don't remember. And you say you hardly dream. You know why? Once upon a time when you were young you have dreams. But as you got into the cares and concerns of this life that suck the energy of your soul, your spirit is malnourished and your soul is underdeveloped. That most important area of your life I call the creative part of your soul is left in a very weak state and the ability to dream disappears. No matter what kind of background you come from even if you are forty years old you never remember a single dream in your life. Very strange thing takes place when you are born again and baptized in the Spirit. When you began to spend time in the Word and in prayer a very strange thing takes place. You suddenly begin to dream again. It is like the fountains of creativity are opened once again. And in actual fact if you lose the ability to dream you are like a cripple in your soul and a cripple in your spirit. There is a part of you that has not been developed that God wants to develop.

Because our dreams are our contact with the spirit world, they can be so powerful that you actually receive things in your dream. In the book of I Kings 3:5 *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you."* Please bear in mind that it was a dream. It was not even a vision. God Himself came and said, "Solomon, ask what you want." In the dream Solomon replied to God, "I want wisdom to rule your people." God said, "It is done and I will give you riches and honor too." And that very morning when he woke up there was something deposited in his life because of that dream.

I remember when I was in the third year of seminary I was fasting for three days and three nights without food and water. It was on the third night that I saw that building that was being built and the two mountains between the buildings. There was another part of the dream. The other part of the dream was I saw myself in an old house where I used to live when I was small. And my father who has gone to be with the Lord came and he represented like Father God. He brought a pile of white-looking pieces of pancakes. I ate one piece, two pieces and then slowly until I finished them all. That was the end of my three-day fasting. That was in the dream just before the vision. I knew on that day that I had received something during that fast. Some gifting, some grace was deposited in my spirit when I ate those things in the dream and it felt so real. And possibly today I am receiving the benefit or seeing the materialization of what I received in my dreams back then. My friends, dreams are real. We contact the spirit world in our dreams that some times its so hard to contact in our conscious state. That's why we need to pay heed to our dreams. And if you lose that ability to dream you may be losing like your right arm or your right leg. Please get it back restored in God. It's highly important that you be a dreamer of dreams.

No. 2 dreams being in the spirit world are in what I call a timeless zone. You see God is, was and is to come. It is just like imagining a bicycle wheel. God is in the center of that wheel. Where God is, there is no time. Time doesn't exist. Yesterday, today forever is the same. He pushes out that life and creative force from Him. And He created the universe and all creation around Him. All creation in the universe around Him was functioning in time. So at the center of the wheel time doesn't exist where heaven and the spirit world is. But as God created the material world, we live in the outer spokes of the wheel. That's where time exists. When time began functioning there is a beginning and there is an end. When we dream we come out away from the outer spokes of the wheel and we enter into the area where time doesn't exist. In that timeless zone we sometimes see the future things in our dreams, sometimes the present and some times our past. Time doesn't exist in our dream in a sense.

And the second area why dreams are important is this. In our dream if we are not progressing out of the time span of our physical life then our dreams are too bounded by the physical forces of this life instead of by spiritual forces. For example if you have lived in four houses from the time when you were born until the time when you were fifty, and if in your dream as an adult you still always go back to the first house you lived when you were a child. Always all your dreams keep going back there. Then God is telling you that there is something in your life that is being dominated by forces from the past that you haven't let go yet. And interestingly when we progress in our life and we grow, you will notice even in your dream that you move from one house to the other house and you could in the end be dreaming that you are staying in the house where you are presently staying. Don't you know that your dreams have caught up with you? See dreams are supposed to be timeless. They are not supposed to be affected by time. But in some of us, we keep

being affected by time and by something in the past. We keep dreaming of the old wooden house that we lived in when we were young. It has to do with an underdevelopment of a part of our life that was stunted from the day that we were in that house. We have to grow out from that.

Why must we shake off our past from our dreams? So that your dreams can begin to reveal what you are designed to do. Dreams are designed to reveal your future and not your past. Job 33 tells us that God speaks once and twice in a dream in the vision of the night, to warn us and to keep us from evil and to keep us from wrong decisions. Dreams are designed to help us handle the future. To handle the things that is to come. But for many people's life their dreams are bounded by their physical circumstances or their past.

Turn to Ecclesiastes chapter 5 The reason we are teaching on dreams is because this year will be a year fantastic things will happen. A year of power, a year of great things being done in the Lord in each one of your lives. And if you were to allow God to dream dreams in your life and remember those dreams God gave to you, this year may be the fulfillment of the dream that you have always dreamt.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 *For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words. When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it; for He has no pleasure in fools. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.* Verse 7 *For when dreams increase, empty words grow many; but do you fear God?* The context of the multitude of dreams he is talking about is in verse three where in the multitude of dreams that has to do with your daily life. And if all your dreams are just concerned with your past and your daily life and your activity and they have nothing to do with the spirit realm, somehow you are in a dangerous realm. Your dreams that are supposed to contact the spirit realm are no more contacting the spirit realm. It becomes just a hibernation ground of activities from your daily life. That's not what God wants and designed your dream realm to be. It was designed as a contact with God. Angels could appear in your dreams. God could speak to you or God could reveal things to come. It is dangerous ground to fill your dream realm with so many sensory stimuli from your so many worldly activities that you cloud out God's voice and message from contacting you there. The bible calls it vanity. Waste of energy, waste of spiritual energy, waste of soul energy that God could use to His glory.

Turn to the book of Genesis chapter 37:5 *Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they only hated him the more. He said to them, "Hear this dream which I have dreamed, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, (Notice the dream came from his daily activity. But it was not limited by that) and lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold, your sheaves gathered round it, and bowed down before my sheaf.* Now the binding of sheaves is something they do everyday. His dream was not bounded by the past. It used the illustration of the present to point to things in the future that God wants to do. So in a dream it is all right to see yourself as you are but you will find an added thing that you never experienced before. There may be dreams of great and hidden things that you have not comprehended before or seen before. Have your dreams moved up to the house where you are living in. Or are your dreams still stuck somewhere behind. You need God to break it and to shake off that past.

That past is like the dirt and dust that gather onto us when we go out. If you go out in a country road and as you walk and explore, you will find the dirty dust and mud sticking to your shoes and your pants. You are not going to leave the dirt there. If it was a raining day there will be mud all over your shoes. Are you going to leave it there? Most of us will clean it up. But for many people in their soul they never clean up their dreams. When their dreams had the past sticking to them they never clean it up. They go around accumulating more and more dirt until it is so thick that they completely lose the blessings of dreams. Remember when your dreams die your hope dies. Interestingly it's the same type of people who get depressed easily. It's the same type of people who lose their hope easily. It's the same type of people who lose their courage easily.

You see the relationship. If you stop dreaming you stop hope, you stop faith and you stop courage. In each one of us is a driving desire to live life to the fullest. Sadly for some they are just getting by and by. Some others really want to do something about their lives. Some others just live by. Some others have given up on their life and waiting for it to close. Once again my friends old man shall dream dreams. When you have reached the peak of your maturity you thought you have done it all. They tell you today that it is not

retirement that kills people. It is inactivity and the lack of zeal in life that kills people. But people who are active in life and who have something always to do tend to live longer and reach ninety, hundred and twenty and they are still full of energy. But when they just sit and watch everything go by with nothing to do, something inside them die.

This is why God said *old men shall dream dreams*. The word *old men* here may not be physically old men. That old man could represent people who have reached the zenith of their lives. Or you thought you have tasted everything you could have. Maybe you have reach your highest point and you could see no way out. You know what you should do. Dream dreams again. Because when you dream dreams again your youth is renewed like the eagle. You are charged up once again, and you will have great things to do. The future looks as if you are a teenager again. For teenagers their future looks bright I mean those in the Lord. And they are looking forward to growing up in life. Many wonders and many things they haven't seen and tasted in life. And you will put fire back into your soul. Old man dream dreams that the fire in you will come again alive. No matter how old you are you have to remain young by dreaming dreams. They will keep the fire in you alive. Renew your youth like an eagle because you are always seeing more things to do in the Lord.

Lets look at another dream in the book of Genesis 40:5 *And one night they both dreamed, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, each his own dream, and each dream with its own meaning.* The butler's dream is in verse 9 *So the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, and on the vine, there were three branches; as soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.*

Now the butler has always been serving Pharaoh. So his dreams had caught up with him. It was right where he was. For some people maybe right now you are an engineer or a businessman. But if you are always dreaming of your student days, then that dirt from that past is still not wiped out. As long as that is happening you will not see the future. You must be dreaming right where you are and then from there you can see the future. We need a platform to see the future that God is revealing in our dreams. As long as your platform is somewhere in the past you can only look from your past into the present. But if you stand on the platform on your present then you can look into the past and you can look into the future. The butler was right where he was. He was still a butler in his dreams.

The baker had a different kind of dream, but he was still a baker in the dream. The baker dreamt he was a baker. The baker didn't dream that he was an apprentice in a baker's shop. He dreamt he was a baker. The butler dreamt he was a butler. It is important to see that your dreams must catch up with the present to see the future. Because both butler and baker dreamt of their present, their dreams could show their future.

So we need to examine our lives where we are. We could say where are you in your life. Where are you in your spiritual life? Adam, Adam where art thou? "Where art thou?" could be asked in many ways. Where are thou physically. Where are thou spiritually. And this morning we ask you a new question, "Where are you in your dream life?" If you are constantly dreaming of your past, there is something in your past that you must resolve and clear before you get into the will of God for your present. If you are constantly dreaming of your present, then you should look for indications for the future in your dreams.

One more little passage – Pharaoh's dream. Gen. 41:17 *Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile; and seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the Nile and they fed in the reed grass.* I have done a little research there. Do you know where Pharaoh's house was? Next to the river. So that river represents many things. But just to let you know that in the custom of those days in Egypt, Pharaoh's house was the best house. The Nile River was of course the source of everything and Pharaoh's house was right there. Pharaoh could take a walk by the riverbanks, which he possibly may have done many times. Pharaoh was right where he was in his house. Pharaoh didn't dream about the time when he was in school. What would have happened if you were dreaming of something in your past? You were still in your past although you are now in a different area in the present. It is because there is a

blockage in your soul that your dream is revealing. The dream is revealing something blocking your life from progressing that you need to remove. If you remove it the dream will shift forward in time to your present to get into the future. That's the second area that has to do with our dreams that we need to look at.

The third area in regards to our dreams and the dreams that God gives us in our life. Lets look at the book of Daniel 7: 1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, and told the sum of the matter.* Then verse 15 *As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head alarmed me.* The question we ask here is this. By verse 15 was Daniel still in a dream or has he woken up? He says in verse one that he had a dream, visions in his head while on his bed. And he wrote down all the main facts. And in verse 15 he suddenly says I Daniel was grieved in my spirit within my body and the visions of my head troubled me. It is very obvious that in verse 15 he was already outside of his dream. Because he says in verse 15 the dream or vision of his head disturbed him like the way Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar were disturbed in their dreams. Apparently there was a continuation to the dream but it came to him possibly in a vision or another dream.

Let me show Pharaoh's dream. In Gen.41:1 *After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows sleek and fat, and they fed in the reed grass. And behold, seven other cows, gaunt and thin, came up out of the Nile after them. And stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. And the gaunt and thin cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. And Pharaoh awoke.* So he must have wakened up in the middle of the night. Then verse 5 *And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time.* So in between the two dreams he woke up and he slept again.

Now here is Daniel in chapter 7 he had a dream. And in verse one he was writing about the dream. That tells you there must be some time that has taken place. And by verse 15 he was still disturbed about the dream. So we know one thing. Either his second part after verse 15 was in a vision or in a second dream. But definitely there was a break point between verse 1 and verse 15 onwards. The third point is important. Dreams can be continued or repeated in a person's life. And even if you were woken up halfway in your dream and when you get to sleep again you will get the same contact. Here we are talking about dreams as if it's a real spiritual contact. If you contacted the spirit realm and something was broken in the contact, there will be a continuation.

And these are the things that you can learn. When you wake up from a bad dream, you could tell yourself what to do and sleep again. Start the show by seeing the last part of the old dream. And then continue with something good like for example in your dream there was this hairy monster that came and grabbed you by your neck. You feel yourself shaking and you woke up with cold sweat. You look at the time it was 3 a.m. So you are not sure what to do now. You spend some time in prayer. But do you know what you could do? You could pray and you could cause that same dream to reverse provided you have the Word of God inside you. It is only possible through the Word of God and through faith and you don't allow fear to come in your life. You could say no that is not going to happen. And you just began to get into *enupnion* in a dream like state see the whole thing but see yourself chasing that demon. See yourself grabbing that hairy fellow and kicking it away and then go back to sleep and dream what you have premeditated. Part two of your dream continues. Is that possible? Yes, because part of our dream is the inner healing of our self. Some of us have uncompleted dreams. And we get frightened and disturbed by them. We need to have completed dream. Sometimes your dreams can be completed over three or four nights and some times over many months. We need to learn that dreams are not beyond the area of control like what we think. You could actually control them to a certain extent. Remember what the key to control that area of the deep recess of spirit is – vision. What you see will enter into the recesses of your spirit. If you see the right things it will enter in and bring a conquest into that.

Lets look at Daniel 7:15 *As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head alarmed me.* Here we are not sure whether in a vision or in a dream possibly vision. *I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told, and made known to me the interpretation of the things.* So apparently Daniel had a vision. And he asked for the interpretation of the dream and he got the complete interpretation that God gave to him.

In chapter 8 verse one he had another dream. *In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first.* What does he mean by *after that which appeared to me the first time*? The word *after* could mean many things. No. 1 it could be in a similar form or similar manner. Or it could be something that he knows it is related. But in Daniel 7: 1 the dream happened in the first year of King Belshazzar's reign and in Daniel 8: 1 it was in the third year of King Belshazzar's reign. So what does he mean by *after that which appeared to me the first time*? It was nearly between two to three years in chronology. I mean he had a second dream and the second dream was like a continuation of the first dream and the first dream happened two or three years ago. I am sure he had many dreams between those times. But this was so significant that he knows that the second dream was related to the first.

This is why in our teaching on dreams and interpretation we tell people please write down your dream like Daniel did in Daniel 7: 1. It is because some of your dreams could develop in different areas. When you are here in the outer spokes of the circle, and as you dream you enter into the area into the spirit realm which is a very interesting unique realm – timeless. And in timelessness sometimes some portion of your dreams could be speaking of your future five years down the road. If you notice some of your dreams do not continue in the same night. Some dreams continue over the years like Daniel's.

But how would you know the continuations of your dreams if you didn't write them down? How did Daniel remember? Because in Daniel 7: 1, it says, *Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.* He knew this was different and special. Do your dreams have parts? Yes. Unless we are aware of the messages that are coming in parts and we keep a record of them, you will not be able to interpret that dream properly. That is the third area that we bring forth in the importance of dreams. And because it is so important we need to write down our dreams. If you find it difficult to write everything and every day, at least write down the most impressive dream you have had. The most remarkable one that stayed with you and that sort of stirred your spirit, grieved your spirit or troubled your spirit. Write them down for there may be a next one that will bring meaning to this one. Most of us forget our dreams after two to three years. Let me tell you the most significant dream in my life I have never forgotten even up all these years. We need to always learn that there is significance in dreams and they could be different in time. Therefore it's important to note them down.

The fourth point dreams are so powerful that they can change your life and your personality. In fact if you really allow them to minister to you your whole personality and life can change. You notice in the bible that dreams had come at critical points in people's life and at critical points of a nation. Joseph received a dream when he was very young because he would need that dream to keep him for the rest of his life. And that was the dream that kept him alive through those years of rejection. When he went through all those sufferings, all those misunderstanding, he held on to that dream. If you don't let your dream die your life will not die. It came at a very important point. Have you notice in Genesis 37 that the dream that came to Joseph's life was just before he was sold to some passing merchants. God could have given him the dream when he was 12 years old. But God gave the dream at the most important point in his life. Two dreams that the bible records. He may have dreamt many other dreams but these two stand up above the others. And they came just before he was to go through the hardest time in his life: to be sold by his own brothers. What did God give him to last for his whole life? Nothing but two dreams. Yet those two dreams will last for his entire life. What did God give to Pharaoh at the most critical point of his nation? After all they were just at the edge of a great harvest of seven years of plenty. But after that came the seven years of famine. They were at the edge of something great happening and God gave a dream for them to act on that dream. In the book of Matthew, dreams came at the most critical point in Joseph's life. If he had not listened to his dreams he would have died; Jesus would have died and Mary too may have died. If Pharaoh and Joseph did not hearken to those dreams that were given in Genesis millions would have died.

6. PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING DREAMS

Lets look at the book of Job 33:14-18 a statement made by Elihu. If you remember there were three friends who came and then the fourth was mentioned later in the book of Job. Towards the end of the book of Job God rebukes the first three friends but not the fourth, implying that the statements made by the fourth (who happened to be Elihu) were acceptable to God and were prophetic.

In Job 33 is a statement made by Elihu, which carries a lot of truth. Verse 14-18 *For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while they slumber on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and terrifies them with warnings that He may turn man aside from his deed, and cut off pride from man.* Dreams in general sense is part of the series on how to be led by the Spirit. We mentioned that dreams are also referred to as a vision of the night. We can see here that dreams and vision of the night are dual phrases referring to the same thing. A dream to the Hebrew mind is a vision of the night. It is a vision that you see in your sub-conscious state.

We have also mentioned how there are three types of dreams and visions. There is a direct or clear dream or vision that does not need any interpretation. It means what it is. For example we find that Joseph the husband of Mary who was carrying Jesus in the womb being directed by an angel in a dream. Angels do appear directly in people's dream. An angel led him to go into Egypt and then to come back to Israel and settle down in Nazareth where the boy Jesus grew up. So there is a clear cut direct dream or vision.

Then we have the second category that we called the message type where you could have the whole series of dreams but there is only one main message. We have illustrated with Acts 16 Paul before his Macedonian journey he was in Troas waiting. After he was told by the Spirit not to go to Bithynia or Mysia he waited at Troas. Then he had a night vision. If you take the Hebrew meaning he possibly had a dream. To them it was the same; dreams and visions are similar and can be regarded as one. Although he saw the Macedonian man he took it as a message and not as a parable. When he went to Philippi, which was the capital of Macedonia, Paul did not look for a man although he saw a man in a vision. The first people he encountered were women. So we know that it was a kind of message dream or vision.

Then the third category is like parable, where each picture in a vision or dream has a symbolic meaning. Daniel had dreams and visions in the night. He saw animals in his dreams. Each animal represents a nation. So these are symbolic visions or dreams.

We have also mentioned how Joseph and Daniel got into interpretation of dreams and some of the requirements that were given. And we have given some rules and guidelines on how to interpret dreams in a general form. We have mentioned how that in the parable kind of vision or dream every symbol has to be scriptural. In other words if a snake in the bible represents something evil whatever sort of snake you saw in a dream it still symbolizes evil. Even if the snake is white in color it still is evil. The symbols have to be scriptural. That is what we call the underlining guidelines.

As I meditate over dreams and visions I realize that there is a whole part in the leading of the Spirit through dreams. Apparently from this scripture in Job 33 a dream plays a significant part in the life of every one of us. Even if you sit right here this morning and you said I didn't have any dream, there is no such thing. Every one of us dreams. But we do not remember our dream. According to the biological analysis of a person's sleep you go through different stages. There is a stage of sleep where your eyes do not move. According to their study today they recognized that the first stage of sleep is for your body. Your body is having a rest. So there is no dream. Your eyes do not move. But there is a stage of dream where they call the R.E.M. sleep, which stands for rapid eye movement. Why do the eyes move? For in a dream it is as if you are watching a movie. And the eyes move and respond as if you are watching a big screen movie accordingly. But it's an internal movie. It's something that only you see. Today scientists who study sleep think an R.E.M sleep has something to do with the mind. There is a necessity for the mind to analyze whatever that thing it was. The activities of the day rearrange information, process the information that has been received thus far throughout the day. They have tested people. And whenever a person goes to sleep and whenever the R.E.M sleep starts they would purposely wake that person up. In other words they only allow the person to sleep without R.E.M., which is a dream stage. They found that even though a person may have had some sleep but no R.E.M. sleep that his or her mental faculty is affected. A person's ability to concentrate and focus becomes affected when he or she is deprived of dreaming.

As we analyze this thing from the bible concept R.E.M. sleep is a dream stage and it's at that stage that the bible says in Job. 33 God places His instructions. God places things that would lead us and guide

us. We have actually a large portion of the leading of the Spirit in our dream life. But just as in a conscious stage so it is in the sub-conscious stage. That is when we are in our conscious stage about 90 or 95 percent of the leading we receive in our life is through the human spirit. It's the human spirit that instructs us and tells us things that are right or wrong; this is the inward witness and the inward voice. The other 5 percent or 10 percent is what we call the spectacular leading like visions, prophecies and even angelic visitations. But the main primary leading is our inward spirit or the human spirit. This is the inward witness and the inward voice that we hear.

As I analyze this area here I realize that the direction we receive from our dream life is 90 or 95 percent from our human spirit. Deep in the corridor of our spirit are the instructions that are given to us. Then there are some dreams that are from God. Dreams can come from three sources just as thoughts can come from three sources. It can come from God; it can come from demonic activity or it can come from our self. And our thoughts can also come from three realms. They can come from God; it can come from our self or it can come from the enemy. As we work with we realize that most of our thoughts are either from God or within us. Our spirit searches within us. In a dream state if we walk with God and the blood of Jesus covers us, there is no open door for the enemy to come in our dream life. That leaves two categories; from God or from our human spirit. About 5 percent or 10 percent of our dreams may be from God. Once in a while you have a dream that is a message direct from God.

What do we mean by dreams that are from God and from our human spirit? Why do we make a differentiation between the two of them? If you understand how to be led by the Spirit, you must learn to differentiate the voice of the human spirit from the voice of the Holy Spirit. We mentioned that when it is God that says something we say, "Thus says the Lord." By if have our human spirit is instructing us you have what Paul says, "I perceived in my spirit." It's a world of a difference. When we say, "I perceived," we are saying we have only one small part and it is changeable. And the instructions may need more verification and clarification. Whereas when we have a "Thus says the Lord" there is nothing more you can change; there is nothing more you can add; there is nothing except to obey.

In a similar way in dreams there are certain ways that are clear-cut "Thus says the Lord." There is nothing else you can do about it except pray to God that He will reveal to you fully what He is instructing you. There are certain dreams you notice that are authoritative. They carry a direct message from God like Pharaoh's dream in the Old Testament. Here is a clear-cut dream for his whole nation. If he did not understand that dream and interpret it his whole nation may perish. Those are important dreams. Those are direct messages from God. The two dreams of Joseph that were recorded were direct messages from God. He may have other dreams too but only two were recorded because those instituted messages from God. But these types of dreams only occur in about 5 to 10 percent of our dreams. The vast majority of our dreams come from the realm of our human spirit or our human soul. They interlinked together. And they constitute direction in our life.

Our human spirit can lead us as much as the Holy Spirit. And we are to train our human spirit with the Word of God so that we could be sensitive to our human spirit and do things according to what God wants. Why does God do it that way? God doesn't want us to be robots where we always say, "Thus says the Lord, turn right;" "Thus says the Lord, take your coffee now." We are not robots. So God leads us by the human spirit. And when He does it through the human spirit He demands that we grow. And when we are led by human spirit and human spirit is trained in Him not only are we obedient to God we have become like God because our human spirit has taken the nature and maturity of God.

In about 90 percent of our dreams our human spirit is indirectly picking up God's instructions to you. The other 5 to 10 percent of our dreams are God's direct messages to us. Either way, that is a vast amount of dreams and we need to understand them. That is the reason for this series so that we could understand and interpret our dreams.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 *For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.* According to his understanding a dream comes through much activity. We realize that king Solomon is the wisest men during his time. And he had some understanding here about dreams. He says a dream comes

through much activity. He is indirectly saying that the activities of our life would be related to the dream that we have.

A symbolic dream from God is always in the context of the Bible. In other words symbols in a dream like a snake represents evil; sheep represents something good; goat represents something religious. There are fixed symbols in the bible that are unchangeable. But besides that there are other symbols that are changeable. That can represent something in a person's life and another thing in another person's life. That is why the interpretation of dreams is not as easy as you look at it from the outside.

The reason why we teach on this area is because I sensed that in the secular world there will be a gathering interest in this kind of occultist thing. And there are several worldly books on that. Reader Digest has a little mini book on dreams. The Buddhists and Taoists have a little book on that. And Carl Jung the psychologist based in Europe has something to say about dreams. Christians like Mark Wrinkler has a book on dreams in one of his courses, written not by him but by another author. I have read these books on dreams carefully and found that except for the Christian book, which has a higher accuracy, the others are completely inaccurate. The non-Christian books on dreams have a dictionary of dreams that explains the symbols. What they have is they say this symbol represents that. A house represents this. Its fixed and they say when you have a dream refer to that dictionary. It's too rigid. It's so easy to misinterpret a dream if you use those books. That is the weakness in these books since they have fixed the meanings of these symbols.

I wanted to see what some of their interpretation were. They interpret a snake as something good. So obviously they don't have a ruler to measure what is good and evil. So for them everything look quite O.K. Now we have a rulebook called the bible that classifies major symbols. You cannot change them. They will remain as defined in the bible; for example a serpent represents evil etc. But outside of symbols found in the Bible, there are other areas that need interpretation. What does a house represent in the bible? Its quite neutral a house represents a dwelling place. It can be a dwelling place for good or for evil. Things like that where the bible has no direct specifics of good and evil. A house just represents a dwelling place. So because of that the interpretation of dreams is not as simple as that.

Then I read the book "Dreams and its Interpretation". Now this author is a pastor. He shared several dreams that he had in his life. At a certain stage in his ministry he even attended courses on Carl Jung's theories. Carl Jung has died but his teachings have many followers. He has come up with some conclusions but I have reservations in some areas. Almost all of the dreams he had are in the category of personal interpretation. In other word it only refers to himself. He completely excluded the 5 percent or the 10 percent of dreams that comes from God directly. Like in that book if he dreams something about his father or his mother it means something about his soul from his father or his soul quality from his mother. Or if he dreams about animals they represent different emotions. In a sense it has some truth but it is not absolute. For example if he dream of a squirrel, to him that squirrel would represent a particular emotion of his. Or if he dreams of a tiger then that represents his emotion of fearlessness. So all the animals represent different emotions in his soul. Basically about 99.9 percent of his interpretations have to do with his soul. There is some truth in it but not always. And he interprets death as having a different meaning also.

As I read that book up to certain point I could discern that demonic powers have entered into his life because he has opened himself to that kind of interpretation where everything is good. I could see that there were some representations that represent demonic powers trying to come into his life that he is not shutting off from. For example you dream of going into the jungle and in the jungle you meet some wild animals. And if you read that book and interpret solely by that book, it would mean the jungle represents the jungle of your emotion. And the wild animal represents a part of your nature that is wild. Then the tiger represents a part of you that is bold. And you are learning how to balance your emotions.

You could interpret differently for example wild things and tigers represent demonic power. And they could represent you are going to a certain stage where they are lurking in the dark. Perhaps you are entering into a stage in your life where it's the unknown, the jungle means something unknown. Then hiding in the unknown are all these demonic powers in different forms. Tigers could represent things that try to put fear into your life.

So you see that the same dream if you have a different perspective can be interpreted two ways. You could interpret a hundred percent as from the soul. Or you interpret it as a hundred percent has to do with some spiritual message. You could see how interpretation is not as easy as it seems even though you understand the symbols.

That's why we want to teach a little bit in detail on the interpretation on dreams. I realize that a lot of the leadings in our life that we tend to miss in our conscious life are repeated in our dreams. And if you would pay attention to some of the messages that are coming in our dreams you will not go astray out of God's perfect will. There are warnings as mentioned. God places dreams in our lives to direct our lives to keep us from the path leading to the pit. I encourage you to write down your dreams even the most insignificant ones. You will be surprised that many of your dreams tell you about your job, your career, your business decision, your ministry and all the things that are missed.

As I pray in this area that's why the Holy Spirit impressed me to teach on this series. He says my people are missing what I am telling them. They are missing what I am telling them in their dream life because they regard it the way the westernized educational system regarded it. Just for some background the world philosophy today and humanism is greatly affected by Aristotle. Before Aristotle was Plato. These two great scholars and philosophers have affected the educational system of the whole world. Plato taught that you could receive knowledge through three areas: the physical world, the intellect and through what he would call divine activity. To us we understand it to be spirit realm. But when Aristotle came he only accepted that knowledge could come only through the senses and through the intellect. And today the world system and education is based on the fact that knowledge can come through sense knowledge and the intellect. They ignored completely the spirit realm. And that is why the average educated person regards dreams as something wishy-washy that is nothing significant. They totally ignored the aspect of the spiritual, which is unknown as far as the intellectual man is concerned.

How do we interpret our dreams? What is the basis of such interpretation? We have the bible that tells us symbols. What about things that are more detailed? So there are certain rules that we want to look at.

No. 1 we look at some basic rules first. Dreams should be taken in the context of the Bible and in the dreamer's personal life. It is easier to interpret your dreams in some ways but sometimes harder. Let me explain it before you can actually interpret somebody's dream. I must understand what those symbols mean to him. There are certain quote unquote that we call international symbols. Snake represents evil but there are others that are not directly covered in the bible. So to interpret a person's dream I will need to understand what the symbols mean to him. If to that person the squirrels have some significance, then besides the bible interpretation I will also need some details to interpret his dream and find out what squirrels mean to him. Perhaps when he was small he had a squirrel as a pet. It was something so precious to him that when that squirrel was taken away he cried very much. Then it has some different meaning besides the general meaning that represents unclean animal. It takes on an extra meaning for him in his dream.

Lets take something more common like cats. Let says A loves cats. He has a cat that he kept all his life when he was a young little boy. This cat means everything to him. So the cat represents to him something of love. It represents companionship and affection. So now when he dreams of cat I can have the general interpretation that a cat is an unclean animal. But that doesn't help me in explaining some of the details of his dream. I would need details of what cat represents to him. I need to know a person's life to help to interpret that.

Then for example a cat to another person B could represents witchcraft. Perhaps his only experience of cats has to do with witchcraft. Then when A dreams of a cat and B dreams of a cat, there are two different interpretations for the same cat. Cat to A means something nice, to B means something evil. So I interpret their dreams I have to pick up what that person's understanding is. So you can see why it is sometimes easier to interpret somebody else's dream that you know than whom you do not know. If you take that statement by itself then the other side logically means it is easier to interpret your own dreams because you

know yourself. In a sense it is true but in another sense its not true. Our dreams sometimes reveal our blind spots that we cannot see. And because we cannot see that and the dreams try to tell us of our blind spots we find it difficult to interpret them.

With all these in mind we look at the book of Genesis chapter 40 the baker and the butler. A dream is No. 1 contextual. In verse 9 it says *So the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, and on the vine there were three branches; as soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.*

In order to interpret the butler's dream we need to know what those symbols mean to the butler. So Joseph has wisdom that is why in the bible the great interpreters of dreams are those who are wise. Joseph has God's wisdom. Daniel too has God's wisdom. When you are wise you understand another person's life besides your own. So Joseph must understand what those symbols mean. What does the vine means to the butler?

A vine can means different things to different people. If you take that word generally it means something good. The word vine in the bible also represents the church. Of course in the butler's dream it has nothing to do with the church. To the butler the vine tree produces grapes. In the dreams he was taking that cup and taking the grapes and squeezing the grapes juice and giving it to Pharaoh. Remember this was something he used to do when he worked. All the time when he was serving Pharaoh that was what he was doing. It would have been if you are an accountant and in your dream you dream about yourself doing accounts. Do you know what that means? That dream is talking about your job. You don't need to dream about vine to know about your job because that vine has nothing to do with you. So the symbols are contextual. Joseph understood that handling cups was what the butler normally does in his job, so the dream has to do with his job. And there was the number three, which is important. That's why don't forget details. He mentioned that there were three branches. So that three was significant for it tells three days.

And for the baker he had a different dream. It says here in verse 16 *When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream; there were three cake baskets on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the baskets on my head." And Joseph answered, "This is its interpretation; the three baskets are three days; within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat the flesh from you."*

If you study it carefully it's a very different interpretation from the normal dream. So we have to look at the context of the baker. The baker dreamt about bread but the butler dreamt about grapes. To the accountant he dreams about accounts. To the engineer he dreams about engineering projects. To the minister he dreams about preaching. You know what it means when you dream about preaching your ministry. So dream is contextual; we got to understand the context.

Besides that we just add another point that the context is limited by your work. Its very unlikely if your work is on a national basis for your dream to have an international basis. If your work has to do only with a local district, it is very unlikely that your dream has to do with international things. In other words its contextual to the size of your job or your ministry. For Pharaoh he was governing over a whole nation. So he dreams about things that have national perspective. It wan not just a personal soul dream. For Daniel who had an international perspective his dreams were international. In one dream he has four nations. He was functioning in an international perspective. He was the key leader and minister over two three nations. So his dreams took on an international perspective.

So to interpret a dream we also need to understand not only what the symbols mean to a person but the level that person is functioning in. If a person is called to be a soul winner but not directly called to the ministry, it is very unlikely that the dream would have significance in an international perspective. That is why we got a lot of misinterpretations. A soul winner who had a certain dream may misinterpret that he will have

an international ministry that will impact the body of Christ. I heard people who were not called to the ministry and they interpret their dreams in terms of what their ministry will have internationally. It is very unlikely. For example a soul winner's dream may look like he will have an international ministry. He may interpret it as a worldwide ministry that is going to happen. When I heard it and not only judging the dream but also judging from what I am hearing from the Spirit I know that he is hearing the wrong thing. Or rather he has picked it up with a wrong interpretation with the right dream. You could have the right dream with the wrong interpretation and wrong application. So it is contextual to a person's life.

Now to the baker here bread and carrying bread is something that he does all the time. How did Joseph refer it to death? It looks like he is just losing his job from the description of the three baskets and the birds eating the bread off the baskets. Since Joseph was in charge of the prison, he knew what happens when a death sentence is pronounced. There were many others before the baker who were sentenced to death. He must have seen them hanging on a tree and the birds pecking on the flesh. That was the concept of judgment and death in those days. So based on that he understood that birds pecking equals death, he interpreted that the baker would die. Today birds pecking may not equal death. But in those days when a prisoner is sentenced and condemned to death, there would be birds pecking the flesh of the corpse. Pharaoh didn't mete out such a punishment just because it was the baker. It was something common to see criminals sentenced to death by hanging in Egypt. So with that understanding of what that symbol means in those days he understood that there was a picture of death.

The second difficulty that we need to understand is symbols in a dream can change even within one person's sphere of meaning, let alone a different person. In the first point a same symbol to "A" and a symbol to "B" means two different things. But the other difficulty is that even within one person the same symbol can change. In other words it was this symbol that represents something at a certain point of time and at another point of time the symbol represents something else. The same symbol changed with time.

Lets look at Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter two the dream that Nebuchadnezzar forgot. Verse 31 and 32 *You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze.* Now verse 36-38 *"This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the sons of men, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, making you rule over them all – you are the head of gold.*

So in the first dream that Nebuchadnezzar had the head of gold represents himself. Second dream that he had in chapter four verse 10 *The vision of my head as I lay in bed were these; I saw and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth; and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its leaves were fair and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the air dwelt in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. verse 15 but leave the stump. Verse 19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a moment and his thoughts alarmed him.*

That means Daniel instantly understood what the dream is. The moment he heard it he was filled with shock because he knew what it meant. And it says in verse 22 *It is you, O king, who have grown and become strong.* In other words the tree represents Nebuchadnezzar. If you analyze it, Nebuchadnezzar had two dreams. In the first dream the head of gold represent himself. In the second dream the tree represent himself. The two different symbols referred to the same man.

It is possible that in different dreams at different times you have different symbols that represent the same thing. We want to recall Pharaoh's dream of the seven thin cows and the seven fat cows. The seven sheaves of grain and the seven lean sheaves of grain. Two different symbols represent the same thing even in one dream. In two different dreams two symbols represent the same thing. In a single dream two different symbols represent the same thing. That's why interpretation of dream is not as easy as you see it. But if you understand these points you can make it easy.

If you remember your dreams you know how dreams change and have different parts. You could be in a certain place in your dream and suddenly you were at a different place. Usually it means it is the same thing in different symbols. For example in Pharaoh's dream about the seven fat cows, seven thin cows, Seven fat sheaves of grain and seven thin ones. The two different symbols were two different parts of a dream. It is the same thing referred to. The next time you have a dream that has three parts, scene one, scene two, scene three, all those scenes can represent one message given in different forms. Although you are there watching the dream the dream itself can represent you. It doesn't necessarily mean that it represents somebody else. Even though Nebuchadnezzar was there and he was looking at the tree, he was right there in the dream himself. He was right there separate from the tree in his dream. The tree was the tree and he was himself. He was a separate person in the dream from the tree. But that tree was him. It was not even referring to the empire. He didn't lose his empire. It was him who was judged. His empire continued to exist possibly because Daniel held it together. During those years when he was cast out as a beast who took control of his empire? If you look at it very carefully the empire didn't collapse it was Nebuchadnezzar who collapsed.

Even in the other dream the one where he was the golden head, that represents both him and his empire, even though he was standing there and the statue was separate from him. So remember when you have a dream it does not mean that you have to be there to represent you. In your dream you could be there watching something that represents you. It could be a tree, or it could even be a person. In the dream it was another person but in the end it was you. Perhaps in a dream you see a little kid experiencing all kind of things. You cannot recognize the kid. You were wondering whether God is telling you about somebody else's kid. No, most probably God is talking about you. That small little kid represents you. In the second point here symbols changed but the meanings are the same.

In the third category as we look and study the interpretation of dreams we are just introducing basic principles. Lets look at the book of Genesis chapter 37:3 *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him more than all his brothers, and could not speak peaceably to him. Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they only hated him the more. He said to them, "Hear this dream which I have dreamed; behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold, your sheaves gathered round it, and bowed down to my sheaf.*

That made his brothers hated him more. Now although he was there and his brothers' sheaves were there, his sheaf in his dream represented him. But the other thing here is his sheaf represented his job and his call. In those days they were agricultural based. It was a common thing for them to go out and harvest. So something from their work was brought into Joseph's dream but an additional thing happened. When they put the sheaves together all the other sheaves bowed down to Joseph. It is saying that Joseph's job or vocation or call will be higher than his brothers. See it is referring to his call. Not just to his present position it was a prediction that was to come.

His second dream is recorded in verse 9. *Then he dreamed another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream; and behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." But when he told it to his father and his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"*

Apparently Jacob understood dream. He knew that the sun was him and the moon was the mother, eleven stars were the children. So he rebuked Joseph. So in that dream an inanimate object, sun represent papa, moon is mama. Now it is not always that way. Isn't it strange how symbols are that way? We must realize that the language of the spirit world is symbolic. It's just like I want to convey with my intellect a description to you I have to use phrases that you understand. We cannot use language which none of us understand to convey something. So for example there are a lot of debate over Charismatic terms like infilling of the Spirit, baptism in the Spirit. People quarrel because of that definition. To them the different terms could mean the same thing. But churches have fought and split because of definition. So when one person stands up and say something the other person understood it to mean something else. Misunderstanding, hurt, grievances has come because somebody said something that they don't mean it.

They mean it something in their context and somebody understood it to something else because of their background and they quarrel. That happens in communication.

Now as our human spirit wants to communicate to us it will take from within our experience. It will take symbols that mean something to us in order to convey a message to us in a picture form. So the spirit wants to warn you about danger. It will draw from your life things that represent danger to you. But it is difficult for our intellect to interpret because we may not understand that those symbols represent that. Because the same symbols that the spirit draw from our experience may represent something in the natural world. And when we wake up we tend to move into the natural world and look at that from that context rather than its actual meaning.

So the third in regard to dream and its interpretation is chronological context or time frame. A dream has a time frame. It may no more be applicable after some time. Time frame in what sense for example, we want to understand what a person is going through at the time that they have the dream. To interpret dreams you must understand not only what the symbols mean to that person, you must also try to pick up what that person is going through. Because what they are going through will have an effect on that dream. If you have been going through a time of difficulty, like perhaps you have just lost your job. You have been applying for job after job. The dreams you have will have to do with the chronology context of what you are going through. If I did not pick up that you have just lost your job I may interpret the dream differently. But if I have the chronological context of what you are going through I could interpret the dream better. Those dreams may have a message about your job. It may even tell you when you will get that job. Dreams can tell the time.

Joseph told the baker in three days you will be hanging on a tree. So a dream has its chronological context in the sense of what the person is going through at that time. Whether a person is fearful, happy, sad, anxious, all these things must be taken into account before you can interpret a dream. In this third point let me share a little bit further.

Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 5:3 that a dream comes through much activity. The word activity not only refers to physical activity. Behind it also it conveys a meaning of your soul state, whether you were fearful or anxious and all these. So it is important to see when that person has a dream chronologically what context are they going through? We apply that knowledge when we interpret our dreams. That means like David it is important to search our hearts before we sleep. If you sleep in a state of anxiety and fear that has not been removed or state of unforgiveness or state of anger let me tell you those will come out in the dream and it will color your dreams. And that prevents an accurate reception from God because our dreams are colored by our emotions. It is important to have emotions of love, joy and peace in the presence of God before we sleep in order to receive accurate messages from our dreams. Otherwise all the dreams do is just to reveal our soul's condition and what we need to do to deal with it.

I know people who sleep in a state of anger and judgmental things and in their dreams their anger and judgmental attitudes come up. The dreams confirm their suspicion. They suspect this and they suspect that and it comes out in the dream. It is a projection. What you believe what you feel is projected into the dream. It will be the same like negative confession. People say this is going to happen. Later it happened then they say, "There I told you - prophecy fulfilled." It is not prophecy; they just got what they said in the negative realm. So it is a kind of projection of their negativities, which materialized because they spoke out their negativities and they dreamed out their negativities.

It is quite similar to the conscious state. For example it is very hard to hear from God when you are anxious, when you are fearful, when something is troubling your mind. It hinders the accuracy of hearing the voice of God and the voice of your human spirit. The best place to hear from God is a place of rest, love, peace and joy in the kingdom of God. If you are filled with anxiety your thoughts are troubled. And it tends to magnetize and pull towards the wrong direction so your receiving is colored. That is why it is sometimes difficult to tell things about yourself. If you are praying about a job and you really want it very much. In the natural state when you are awake you keep hearing, "This is God, this is God." Because of your strong desires 95 percent of your dreams are affected by the magnetic pull of your emotions. Your activity colors

your dream that's what Solomon is saying in Ecclesiastes 5:3. In order for accurate interpretation you need what this third point says: know the chronological context or emotion or spiritual context of the person.

Interpreting two dreams from the audience. Dream No. 1 She just dream she didn't get the wake up call in the hotel and she was late for church by two hours. That dreams doesn't tells me much. It only tells me the state in which she slept in. She was very concerned that she doesn't want to be late. So that came out in a dream. You see the third point is affecting her dream life. It tells me several areas about her life. Like to her it is important to get ready for the church. A normal person may not have that kind of anxiety.

Dream No. 2 She has a dream that she is swimming in the water and then she has it again she was walking on the water. Now before we interpret the dream remember the other context that we mentioned. You have to understand what these symbols mean to her. Walking on water and walking through water are found in the bible. Walking on water or going through water symbolize spiritual movement. We all remember Moses crossing the Red Sea. That was like darkness and light moving from Egyptian land into the Promised Land. We also remember Joshua and the Israelites. They crossed the Jordan and it was like going from one aspect into something new. So this is the scriptural context.

Then we have other areas, which are important to interpret the dream. Because she is in the ministry, then the chronological context is important. She doesn't know how to swim in the natural. That plays an important role in interpreting the dream. God specially use something that she cannot do in the natural and the Spirit use something that she cannot do in the natural to show her something that she is doing in a dream. General interpretation would mean that it is talking about some aspect of ministry that she is going to move in to. Something that is different for example crossing the Jordan to the land of Canaan. Something that is vitally important. Then the interpretation is affected by our own knowledge of what she is going through in her ministry. I understand that at certain points in her dreams it represents a crossover point from one phase of ministry to another phase. So that helps me to interpret her dream too.

Because she does not swim in the natural and yet she has those dreams, it would mean that there is something that she had never done before in the Spirit. Something that she has never done before that is new in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit brought up things that she could never do. That points to things in the Spirit that she has no experience before that God is preparing her for.

Then twice the dream occurs. Once when she was within the water the other when she was above the water. It depends now on when she had that dream. She had it twice means that she would have two different experience of what God will do in that phase of ministry. In the first phase she will be handling those things that she had never done before. As she moves into it she will get fully involved with it. The second dream means that she is going to dedicate whatever she has done there. She will move into some sort of ministry and going to establish it. See when she walks on water she is no more in it. She is above it.

7. PURPOSE OF DREAMS

Job 33:14 For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while they slumber on their beds, then he opens the ears of men, and terrifies them with warnings, that He may turn man aside from his deed, and cut off pride from man; He keeps back his soul from the Pit, his life from perishing by the sword.

Notice in this passage here that it says that a dream is God's second means of communication to us. In verse 14 implies that God has spoken in other ways before He speaks in a dream. There are two major ways in which God speaks to us about our life. One is the conscience that God has placed in our spirit. This is a general scripture. In other words it is not especially applying to the believers in the new covenant. It is a statement of fact made that this is God's direction to every man born on this planet earth whether they know God or not; whether they have a personal relationship; whether they have come into the covenant relationship with God or not; whether they have been born again. This is not a verse that applies only to the

covenant. It applies to all men and women in general. Of course those who have come into the covenant have more extra special leadings. Here is a verse that applies in general to all men.

And it says that God has spoken in some ways to all men. We can tie that to No. 1 the conscience. Every man and woman born upon this earth has a conscience. And through the conscience God seeks to direct our lives in the right path. Every one of us is born into a pathway of life. From the time we grow we are supposed to walk in the pathway. Sometimes people have said that if God only directs us if God only leads us. The thing that we need to realize is that God has placed a lot of roadblocks to prevent us from going out of the way. Two major ones, the first one is the conscience. Every time you move outside of the way that God wants you to move, the roadblock of your conscience screams. But of course if you persistently go against that roadblock that roadblock becomes dismantled.

The second major method in which God directs our lives is through dreams. Every one who is born into this planet earth has dreams whether they know God or not. Notice the purpose for this. The purpose for dreams is to turn us from pride, turn us from destruction. There are several things mentioned here in Job 33: 14 No. 1 pride, No. 2 destruction, No. 3 from perishing from the sword or from circumstances that will destroy you. Sword symbolizes war or circumstances that destroy people's life. From going to the Pit means eternal condemnation. So God directs men in dreams to prevent them from being destroyed or destroying themselves.

No. 1 a dream signifies a warning to our life. I was just reading one book by one Christian and he came back from missionary journey. He understood the interpretation of dreams. He was in the missionary journey for about a year going from place to place. When he got back from his missionary he had a dream. In the dream he was approaching a little plane. And as he approached the plane the pilot was in a sort of a coma. Then he woke up. Because he understood the interpretation of dreams he was frightened. Because the interpretation is that the pilot represented him. He was seeing himself. And the pilot represented a part of him that was sensitive to the direction of God. The dream was telling him that he is being too busy, been too occupied, he has not taken time to nurture that part of himself. So he really started spending more time with God.

Then he had a second dream. In the second dream he saw a whole team of doctors and nurses. They were all rushing to minister medical treatment to a man. That man was on the lower floor of the house. And they were all administering medicine and they are going to perform an operation. Just as they were going to do that he was there. The man's condition was quite critical. Then suddenly the man woke up. Just as the man woke up he woke up from his dream. He was quite frightened from that dream because he understood the interpretation. The lower floor represents his physical man in his dream. God was trying to tell him through that dream and warn him that if he doesn't change his way and his path, he will open himself for physical sicknesses. In other words he is heading towards that road. His body was falling sick. And through that dream God was warning him. He had several other missionary trips that were lined up and he quickly canceled them. He had a medical check-up and the doctors confirmed that his whole body system was suffering from exhaustion and had he pursued on he would have fallen sick.

It is amazing that dreams are a warning. Dreams are a secondary warning. When we are awake our primary warning comes from our conscience and the voice of our human spirit teaching us and telling us what is right and wrong. If we obey it our dreams won't have to warn us in that area. But when it is ignored the urgency increases so the dream is the second line of defense for us that God has implanted for us.

The emphasis in Job 33 is that a dream consists of a warning. As we have explained 95 percent of the dreams possibly is subjective. If you see somebody in your dream it doesn't mean that God has something to say in your dream about that person. Only 5 percent of your dreams are objective. Objective means that if you see Tom, Dick and Harry in your dream then God is trying to tell you something about Tom, Dick and Harry. That will be the five percent. But 95 percent of dreams are subjective. That means that if you see Tom, Dick and Harry in your dream, it's a subjective dream that refers to what Tom, Dick and Harry represent to you. So when you wake up it doesn't mean that you call Tom and you call Dick and then you call Harry and say I had a dream about you. Your dreams did not necessarily reveal something about them to

you; your dreams may use Tom, Dick and Harry to reveal something about yourself.

Lets take an example of another person who had this dream. In the dream he saw one of his old classmates whom he had never seen for years. And he woke up suddenly. He is asking himself, "What is God telling me about this old classmate? As he prayed the Lord began to show what this old classmate represent. It was not an objective dream it's a subjective. This old classmate he remembered was a dogmatic and argumentative person. Why did he remember it? As he pondered over it, he remembered that just a week before he had a strong argument with one of his friends. And that dream was trying to tell him that the dogmatic nature in his life was coming up and it had to be dealt with. See it was not an objective dream about his friends. But it is funny how our human spirit uses images to try to communicate to our soul. That friend that represented something was communicated in a picture form. See dreams are picture communication. We have to understand what they represent.

Last week we talked about how each symbol is different to different people. So we want to focus that a dream carries a warning. That is why we are teaching this series for God's Spirit is saying that there are those who are ignoring their conscience and their human spirit. And God is bringing alive the secondary line of defense for their life in their dreams before they go outside His will. You can be sure that if they ignore the secondary line defense they will move out of God's will completely. Then they will taste the consequences of the sword or the Pit or the pride of life that brings sorrows before the attention comes to them. Not all sicknesses are caused by sins or disobedience; there are natural causes too. But we do realize that some times a person falls sick because they are going on the wrong direction. And they have open doors to devils and natural circumstances and their sickness brings them to the attention that they have to re-examine what they are doing. But they don't have to go to that stage. You don't have to go to that stage where you lose your leg before you say, "What am I doing with my life?" We don't have to reach that stage. But it is sad that some will allow that. See God places roadblocks; evil doesn't come from God, it comes from the devil. God has His road of His inward voice, in the conscience and dream. We have to pay attention to the dream. These are the sessions where we want to teach you how to interpret your own dream.

The first area that we looked at is dream carries a warning; the second is that before you interpret a dream you must understand the circumstances that took place before the dream. In other words if you are writing a dream for us to interpret in this session if possible write down what is occurring in your life at that time. In other words write down what was going on in your life about that time. It will give us an accuracy of interpretation to 100 percent. If you don't put that down the accuracy may be reduced to 80 percent. So to interpret a dream the best person is yourself except where it shows a blind spot. In order to accurately interpret a dream we need to note down what took place.

Lets look at the book of Daniel. Dan. 2:29 *To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be hereafter and He who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.* In Nebuchadnezzar's life that night before he had that dream he was thinking about what is going to come in the next kingdom. What will take place after he died and his kingdom passes away. And he slept with that thought in his mind. That was important for the dream reveals his thought. So the background for the dream it could be things that took place a week or it could be things that dominate your life.

For example there was another dream I read about. It was a lady. This lady has a tremendous pressure in her family life. He husband was not fully in the Lord although he was supposed to be in the Lord and she had a very unhappy family life. She had been in a sense abused physically. This was the dream that she had. She dreamt that she was in this hospital. And it seems that there were musicians who were sick. The doctor was running around trying to minister to these musicians. She was one of the nurses. And in the dream there was this one doctor who was gently firm and kind, whom she liked very much in the dream. She remembers in that dream the kindness. And then as she was arranging these beds this doctor comes and tells her to hurry up. And for the first time between she and the doctor she feels a bit hurt. Because she feels that she wants to make it very clean and make sure there were no germs. Then suddenly the scene changed. Although in the first part of the dream she had sort of she really loved the doctor, then the dream changed. She was on the phone. And she was talking to this doctor. This doctor was about to fly somewhere on an airplane. But somehow in that dream she knew that the plane was going to crash because there is something wrong with the engine. And so over the phone she was saying to the doctor, "I love you. Do you love Jesus too?" The doctor says, "Yes I do. I know Jesus as you do know Jesus." Just as she was saying

that the plane crashed and the doctor died. Then subsequently she woke up.

With that understanding of her background this was what the Lord was saying through that dream. Her relationship with the husband was such that the music in her life has died. And the husband was killing that music in her life and taking the joy and the music out of her life. That doctor represents a part of her life the firm but gentle part that were dying. And somehow in her circumstances she was allowing that part of her to die. The part of her that was creative, that was firm but gentle. And the dream was warning her that if she allows that part of her to die, in the end it would destroy her marriage. That was an important dream. And throughout the dream, which I did not mention, she was afraid that her husband would find out about the doctor. Actually the dream was revealing that the firm gentle nature in that doctor was a part of her. We may not realize it but our emotions and our will, our intellect, our soul and our spirit have many intricate parts.

Can you imagine in your physical body you have the heart, the liver and all the intricate organs within us? And they all must function in balance. If there is something wrong in your heart it will affect all the other organs. Something wrong in your liver will affect all your physical organs. All our physical organs must function in balance for optimum physical health.

Do not think that your spirit and soul have only one part? There are a lot of attributes of our soul and spirit. We have to balance for example between authority and gentleness. We have to balance so many of these forces. We have to balance between being tender hearted and easy to cry and weep and the ability not to be emotional. Can you see the balance there? Everything within us must be held in balance. So sometimes in a dreams they are in subjective areas they are revealing imbalances in your soul, imbalances in your personality.

For example in the book on dreams written by Mark Wrinkler's friend, he saw this policeman. This policeman illegally entered the house with a gun. In the dream he saw it and he phoned the police station. And in the dream another person came a policewoman. Then the dream was such that the policeman and the policewoman were facing each other with the gun. Suddenly the scene changed. He was now in the house and he was facing his mother. His mother was holding a gun; he was holding a gun and he shot his mother. And he woke up. What was the interpretation? A few days before this dream, he had a quarrel with his son. His son was being educated in the university and came back with all kind of doubts and all kind of questions on the Christian faith. He scolded his son and the son in a temper walked out on him. Then he had that dream. See the background is important. He did not understand the interpretation for sometime until slowly it dawned on him.

You notice in that dream there were two authoritative figures, the policeman and the policewoman. They symbolize the authority that has been built into him. His background was that a very strict father and a very gentle mother had brought him up. In his life the dream was revealing that gentle part of him. See his mother in the dream, it was not that he killed his mother, but it was revealing that motherly part of him that was influencing his soul was dying. And somehow the dream revealed that this harmony between his authoritative part and his gentle part was being threatened. The conflict in his own soul was resulting in the conflict with his own son. If he had been in harmony with his own being where he knows how to be firm but gentle he may never had that quarrel with his son. The dream was trying to show that the problem he was having outside externally in his family was the result of his own inner conflict. It is his own soul that was in disharmony.

So dreams are important, they are warnings, they tell us things that are not whole in our life. Just as if your physical body is sick; you may have fever, you may have all kind of symptoms, running nose etc. your body gives you symptoms. Your soul gives you symptoms in your dream. Your dreams reveal problems in your soul; disharmony in your soul. And if we pay attention to what God is saying through our dreams warning us of extremes in our life we will have wholeness.

In interpretation of dreams we have to look at the background. What was the background of your dreams? What did you go through during that time? What were the things facing you? These are important

for an accurate interpretation of dreams.

This is a dream which one of you had. I could interpret this about 80 percent because the background is not given. Here is the dream. It says: I dreamt of a place where there was a party. In this party a vampire was on the loose. After a few victims I knew who he was. The dream was strange because there was a swimming pool at the party. I was swimming with a girl who could be a future victim. After the swim I told some people that I knew who he was and that we needed a plan to trap him. Then the scene changed. The vampire is now at the side of the pool sitting down. And I told a pastor who was there by eye contact that he was the one. Third scene, new dream related to my work. The person who dreams was making phone calls mostly from public booths to my clients as my friends waited for me in my car parked at the side of the road.

Now the interpretation: Notice there are three scenes in that dream. The key to the interpretation is the last scene. They are all one dream. The dream is the Lord through that dream was trying to tell this brother about his job. It is important to have certain details in your dream because those details are the key to the interpretation.

You notice in Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's second dream. The tree and some of the descriptions of the tree apply directly to Nebuchadnezzar. Of course the tree is Nebuchadnezzar. Those details help you to link them together. So the third scene tells us that these three dreams are the same.

Just like Pharaoh's dream interpreted by Joseph. They were two separate dreams; two different scenes but they have the same message. The second dream is a clearer direct application. Because he sees the sheaves of corn it applies to famine.

So the third scene is the key to the interpretation. All three scenes refer to the work. In that first dream here the swimming pool and the party represent a public place. The vampire symbolizes evil that is there but hidden. But somehow in this dream that person recognized it. So it has reference to that person's work; that person's job; that person project; that person's business. That somehow as he is right now in whatever job, this person recognizes that there is a person who will in the end destroy the whole business. It's the image coming out.

The girl in this dream represents the new business and the new project that this person has launched into. See he was swimming with the girl. That was important key to show that this picture of a girl is not a prophecy that he was going to find a wife. But it is speaking about one of his businesses at the time he is involved with. Another he is now involved in that very business in which this vampire or something that he knows is going to destroy that whole business is still there.

In the second scene it tells that this person has sought spiritual help either through counsel or in prayer. The pastor represents spiritual help. And through that spiritual help he is able to detect and he could pinpoint exactly what is the thing that will destroy that business.

Now the third scene. Notice that there is an emphasis on him using the public booth. There are a few details missing. He says there are people waiting in the car. I am not sure from this dream whether they were the driver and he was the passenger and they were waiting for him. Or he was the driver and left them in the back seat. And he was phoning and they were waiting. He was the driver of the car. Those details are missing here. Without that we attempt to give some understanding and interpretation. It is speaking about how he is launching into this other project. All these other friends of his we do not know what friends: business friends or people involved in his business. In other words they will be directly involved with his business. But it seems that he is the one who has to move out. And the public phone represents a public place.

This dream is a warning as well as a certain direction. Not all dreams have direction. Usually dreams have warning. The direction would come from our spiritual walk with God. This dream is saying that he is involved in a business at the moment and is in danger from certain areas. And the dream is warning him that there is danger. He has picked it up from his normal Christian life and his inward voice and his conscience. Notice in the dream nothing is done. There is nothing done about the danger yet. So the dream is revealing a danger in a realm of his business. That danger is such it can destroy his whole business.

The third scene is to reveal what the other two scenes were trying to say. It gives a clearer picture form but the direction is not so clear except it is saying that he has to do something about that. What he has to do about that goes back to the Word. As we see here how a dream is a warning. It could be a warning about your personal life where perhaps you are neglecting one area. We have to balance between spirit, soul and body. When you begin to neglect one area of your soul, one area of your physical life, your dream will warn you. If you are sensitive to your mind, your conscience and your inward voice will warn. You could hear it in your conscious state. But if you ignore it as we usually do because when you are not sensitive to certain things then it comes up in your dream. The secondary line of defense is activated through your dreams. So that dream is a warning about dangers in that person's business and project. And he has to take note of and deals with it before it happens.

So that confirms the two points we have covered so far. No. 1 the dream is a warning. And secondly, check the background. The background is vitally important. If another person with a different background dreams that same dream we may have a totally different interpretation.

As we see here Nebuchadnezzar was lying down thinking about the things of the future. Then he had a dream. So that helps us to streamline the interpretation to one area about those things that were disturbing him and troubling his thoughts. And that dream carries a revelation in those areas. Notice here in the book of Daniel chapter 4 in Nebuchadnezzar's second dream.

Just to cover a point we touched on but just note it down that is point No. 3. We are seeking to teach how to interpret dreams. As we say dreams carry a warning. No. 2 the background before the dream is important. The background could be something that troubled your life for years but its still there. In that case you may have recurring dreams in the same area. So remember recurring dreams can tell you about certain things have been really deep rooted in your life that you have to deal with it. If you don't deal with it, it is going to endanger your life. Before it takes place your dreams are warning you.

Third area: details. Do not neglect the details of dreams. If you have dreams about car and you are inside, it is important to find out whether you are in front or at the back. Details like for example the clothes you wear. Like in the dream that I talked to you about the woman and the doctor who crashed in an airplane. In that dream she remembered she was in her normal clothes not in her work clothes. That was important because the dream was trying to reveal a defect in her life not in her working life but in her normal daily life. Even children's dream are very important; like one child dreamt of how he was on a railway track and he was lying on the railway track and the train was coming. That dream is telling us that kind of strict rigid training that child was having. The train was coming and the child was on the track. It tells that in the upbringing of the child there is no wholeness. Somehow the parents were too strict. And that strictness and rigid military discipline in the home was destroying that child's wholeness. And if nothing is done that child's soul will be damaged and the child will have problems in his later life. See we influence the personality of children. And when children have those dreams its important to understand the interpretation because it may reveal things that we are putting wrongly into their life. When that boy had that dream it is telling us something about the family. Something needs to be done. We need to talk to the parents and say your bringing up of the child is too strict. The child needs to learn gentleness for his soul to be formed properly. So dreams are important. Details are important what they represent.

Here in the book of Daniel chapter 4 notice that the tree in verse 11 *The tree grew and became strong, and its top reach to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its leaves were fair and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it.* Notice that while Nebuchadnezzar had that dream, suddenly the tree becomes a he in verse 14 and 15. *He cried aloud and*

said thus, *“Hew down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven; let his lot be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.”*

Notice the sudden change: the tree becomes a him. Details like these we must not miss. Then there are other details. Like verse 17 *The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom He will, and sets over it the lowliest of men.* Now the final part becomes important in the interpretation because it talks about a king. A ruler and Nebuchadnezzar was the one who had the dream logically it points straight to him. The moment Daniel heard it he knew the interpretation. It was quite a simple interpretation for this. Such is the skill that we could train ourselves in interpretation. When we hear a dream we could sense what it is talking about and the warning it carries. Now that dream was not supposed to take place. That dream was just a warning saying Nebuchadnezzar if you don't change your direction that's how you will end up. It was not supposed to take place at all. As a result for one year he changed a little bit. He walked humbly. But he forgot after a year. His old self came back and he fell. He got into this judgment. Nebuchadnezzar was not one who knew what to do.

And that is the fourth part where the dream alone doesn't give you enough direction. Daniel with his spiritual experience, his spiritual principles, was able to tell Nebuchadnezzar what to do. In verse 27 now verse 27 is not from the dream. Verse 27 is the advice and verse 27 came directly from Daniel's life. *Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you; break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of our tranquility.* He was saying unless you break off those things yourself you yourself would be broken. Daniel counseled the king, “O king break off those sins, remove those sins in your life.” Then he advised him the wisdom that only the bible can give, “Be righteous, be merciful, and these things won't happen.”

Dream is a warning but the direction we still need to get from the Word of the living God and our walk with God. The first time Nebuchadnezzar also didn't pay much heed to his first dream. In Daniel chapter 2 in his first dream after Daniel interpreted the dream which represent all the different Empires that will follow after Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar did not apply that dream for himself. Because that dream was so frightening he must have woken up and forgotten it. He saw this huge big statue. In the dream it zoomed on the head and he saw that it was made of gold; slowly the focus came down to silver and then bronze and then iron and clay. Then just as he was looking at the feet he saw this huge stone coming and knocking the statue's feet and in the dream the stone expand and coming nearer and nearer to Nebuchadnezzar he got up.

Now that stone represents the kingdom of God, the reign and rule of the Lord Jesus Christ to come. And it did not humble Nebuchadnezzar. In fact immediately after that in chapter 3 because of that dream he built that golden statue of himself. That dream didn't help him at all. In fact he made use of that dream in a wrong way. He built that big huge golden statue and asked everybody to bow down before it. These are called blind spots. Had he took that dream correctly that dream would have humbled him. He would have known that his kingdom was nothing compared to the kingdom of God. But he took that dream the wrong way. Just like many people when they go to a place or when they meet people they always seek to hear what they want not what they actually need that will change their life. Sometimes people go to other people for advice. They are not really going to seek advice. They only want to hear what the person says that they can agree with, they can confirm what they want to do themselves. Not really what God wants of them.

Many years ago before we started this church as we fellowship with many Christian leaders I knew a businessman who always didn't believe in large churches. He says what is the necessity of big churches; all these work and all these administration and he gave all kind of reasons. Of course you could always intellectualize everything you want. You could give reason pro and con for everything. That is why we cannot rule our life with our intellect. We only rule our life through the Spirit. Because with the intellect you will find equal points here and equal points there. But the funny thing is that this person visited Cho Yonggi's church in South Korea. After that visit he came back and said, “Even Cho Yonggi confirms that this large church is not the way it should be.” I presume that when he was there he must have been hearing all these problems that Cho Yonggi was sharing. And he took what he wants that already confirmed his predisposed conclusion.

He took what he wanted to strengthen his points with more facts. So he was not going out to learn. He was going out to look for facts to strengthen his conclusions. Another different person who went to the same church who was more open minded came back and said Cho Yonggi is now seeking to build a hundred thousand sitting capacity auditorium. How is it possible that two different persons go to the same place and come back with different conclusions? The difference is their inward inclinations. One who is more balance who hears things exactly as it is and reports exactly without any predisposed conclusion. The other already has a mind frame. So narrow mindedness their eyes are so narrow that they could only see what they want to see. And so anything that fits into that frame, they claim it as "That's mine," and they are not willing to change.

And there is a danger as we look into dreams and interpretations. The greatest danger that we have is blind spots. Things we do not see. Which is why dreams are sometimes useful. If we come with an open heart to God and say, "God teach me, mould me as you will," God will teach. We have to be pliable to God so that God could mould our lives. Nebuchadnezzar never had that. He had to have the second dream and he had to have a terrible experience before he learned. He took that dream and said, "Good I am the head of gold." He forgot the ending of that dream. He only took the first part. Head of gold that means his Empire is the best. All these others are silver, bronze, iron, clay lesser than him. He must have felt proud. That dream he took it wrongly to built his ego bigger. His ego expanded until he built that huge statue. He never changed. He only came to acknowledge the Lord after the judgment in his second dream.

So dreams alone do not constitute direction. Direction comes from the Word of God. There is no short cut. You cannot say dreams are so powerful I will spend my whole life dreaming and getting all my directions from dreams. Dreams do not direct so much; they only warn what may happen. That is why a dream projects to you what your road leads you. In other word you could be walking in this direction and you cannot see that path there. In your dream it shows you what will happen at the end of the road. Whether it's a dead end street or it's a street that leads anywhere else while you are still here in your daily life. If you turn the wrong way it shows you that way so you could turn back. To turn as the book of Job 33 tells us, to turn us into the path of God. To humble us, to remove pride from us so that we realize we need to walk humbly with God daily. To turn us from the Pit. To turn us from the destruction by the sword. That is what dreams are for.

Lets look at the book of Genesis chapter 41:21 *But when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as gaunt as at the beginning. Then I woke up, I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good; and seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them.* Now Pharaoh had actually two dreams. The fifth area as we look at interpretation why the second point, the background, is important. This is because dreams tend to have a continual story. We can actually have repeated dreams but repeated in a different way.

The author of this book "Dreams and Interpretation" had an interesting dream where he had just left the church because he started teaching in that area. And his church was not opened to it. In the end the church voted him out. So there was one dream where he saw a flood then he returned to his house in a dream and he saw it empty. That dream confirmed that there was nothing more for him in that place and he was to move on. Then subsequently he had this other dream - he was pushing a little pram. And there was a little baby in that pram. And he pushed this pram to a house and there was a wall there. And he pushed this pram right up to the house through the roof of the house. That dream was telling him of his new discovery and the new truth of his understanding on the interpretation of dreams. That baby represents the new things that God was doing in his life. The new spiritual truth and it was just like a little baby. Sometime after that because he got to support his family he took a position in South America where he forgot about all these things. And he worked with some missionary groups for about a year or so. He completely neglected and didn't look into this area of dreams any more. Then he had a dream. It was actually part two. And in that dream he was in this boat. And there was a girl there in that dream. Then the young girl fell down into the water and was drowning. He reached down and he saved this girl. Then he woke and when he woke up the immediate recognition was this. He realized that girl was the same baby that has grown up. That girl represented the truth that he had discovered on dreams and interpretations. And he was neglecting it to the extent that the whole revelation of God almost died. That dream was a warning. Notice that in his dreams there were two parts. The little baby had grown up now.

So as you notice in Pharaoh's dream there was a repetition. So we note here the sequence of

dreams. Repetition of dreams means seriousness. Something deeply rooted you better deal with it. If you have series of dreams that repeat themselves please note it down. Its important very important. You must take note of that otherwise it won't repeat so many times. Then dreams can have progression. There is a progression in the author's life from the baby to the girl. So that is why you need to keep a dream book because our dreams progress with us. And some of your dreams are continuation of stories that were in the past. So if you once in a while record your dreams you may not get the full picture of your life from the spirit realm.

As I mentioned this author dreamt about his old school mate. That was just one isolated incident. It was trying to show him this is how you look to others. So in that dream he saw his old school mate was very dogmatic which he never saw himself to be that. He thought he was gentle, kind, understanding and one who hears others. That is how he sees himself. That dream was telling him, "This is how you look." He was seeing a mirror of himself. If not for that dream he will not take note that he is getting too dogmatic. Now because of that dream, he tells himself, "Better deal with this area in my life because that is how others are looking at me now." So that is a different type of dream an isolated kind of dream that reveals your circumstances as it is. But there are other dreams that are progressive, sequence of dreams. So in the fifth point we see that repetition and progression of dreams needs to be taken note of. The moment you have become aware and sensitive to these areas of dreams then you will have a richer life. Areas that your conscious mind neglect that your sub-conscious mind brings to you. Your life becomes whole and more balanced. You sense an inner peace all the time.

This is the second dream that was submitted.

In the dream there was a lot of chaos. Three men came to burn the place where I was. They managed to burn the place and things around. Then the men took a piece of burning wood and tried to hurt me, which he succeeded. When he succeeded he placed the burning wood on my shoulder. But there was no pain. The wood became soft and gave a feeling of softness.

Some details are missing here. What kind of the clothes was that person wearing? In this dream if the person is in clothes where you normally wear in your daily life, it tells you whether your dream is revealing about your personal life or your work in your office.

There are three people; notice the number three and there was chaos. Some of this is in the past. Although I do not have the background what the person was going through before this dream, I could discern from this dream that something has occurred. Because that person didn't mention what kind of dress, then it is either in the home life, work life or personal life. There are some circumstances that have taken place that have been completely destroyed.

But here the wood touching the person's shoulder is important. A shoulder is where a person carries responsibility. So it is speaking about a person's responsibility. Whether this is a family obligation or work obligation, it is something that the person has a duty in. So it is in reference to obligations and duties that the person has.

The dream here is a slight warning. There are some obligations and duties that the person is avoiding because of the confusion that prevail in that situation. So the dream is trying to say don't run from that chaos. Perhaps in the conscious state the person wants to run from the chaos. She is thinking of running from that duty and obligation. But the dream is trying to say, "Don't run and don't be afraid of facing that chaos. You have a duty to perform." Because the end of the dream says, "If you take it, it will be pleasant to you."

Gathering from this dream that the person wants to run to flee from that chaos. The natural instinct when you look at chaos and fire and people burning your place is to flee and run. If you face those things in your dream they change. Those who are growing up sometimes there is a biological effect and there is a

soul effect. Sometimes when you sleep you have a falling sensation. Now if it's a falling sensation without a dream then it is biologically caused. Your blood pressure drops so the sensation of falling is interpreted. But if in your dream you fall in some way, it is revealing that your foundations are collapsing. Those who are growing up into adulthood tends to have a lot of that because it is telling them that the physiological framework of their life is weak. In other words they don't have a foundation in their life. All of us have life principles. Principles of how we behave. What happens when a person going into adult life is those life principles sometimes are not formed yet. So they are going through life without any life principle; they feel very aimless. And usually you will have dreams of falling. Your dream is telling you, you don't have a foundation.

8. TWO DIMENSIONS OF DREAMS

Job. 33: 14-18 For God may speak in one way, or in another; yet man does not perceive it. 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. In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man, He keeps back his soul from the Pit and his life from perishing by the sword.

Notice here that it says God speaks once then twice. In other words He speaks many times to us. But here he talks about God's system of speaking. I believe we could divide all the various messages into two major areas. One while we are conscious and second while we are sub-conscious. While we are conscious we can hear God speaks through our inward voice of our human spirit, the voice of the Holy Spirit and all supernatural leadings. While we are sub-conscious or while we are asleep God still continue to speak through dreams. But here the Bible calls it the visions of the night. We have considered different types of dreams.

Here we are looking into greater details. So here it says God speaks once then twice we can divide it into sub-conscious and conscious. When we are neglecting the direction we have received when we are conscious, then He brings to us the secondary line of defense. That will prevent us from going astray. He mentioned three purposes of dreams here: that He is to conceal pride from our life, to keep us from the Pit and to preserve us from perishing by the sword. So He talks about protecting like the second line of defense. God puts roadblocks to preventing us from falling into evil. The devil's roadblocks and God's roadblocks are different. The devil's roadblocks are to block you from the right way. God's roadblocks are to block you from the wrong way. It's not that easy to fall away from God if you understand God's grace.

Look at the story of Adam and Eve, the story of mankind. Though man has chosen to disobey God yet God's hand keeps reaching down to man. He places road blocks that the moment you go against one there is a signal in the spirit realm and as you keep going against it you will notice that there are many, many warnings along the way before you reached a point when God says that's enough. So God does place roadblocks and lines of defense to prevent us from going out of His ways. These are the negative aspects of Job 33: 14- 18, which we covered in our earlier messages.

Lets take the positive side this morning. What happens when you are sensitive in your conscious life to God's direction? We have considered the other aspects when you are disobedient to God's direction while we are awake then the dreams are important. But the opposite side of it is that when we obeying God in our conscious life in the voice of the Holy Spirit. When we are obeying God in all these areas what happens during the dream life? Your dream life takes on a greater dimension. It is almost like that there are two dimensions to our dream life. One when we are disobedient they serve as lines of defense, roadblocks to prevent us from falling deeper into the wrong areas. The other dimension seems to be what I call an avenue of spiritual fellowship and relationship with God when we are obeying God in our conscious life.

Lets first look at the gospel of Matthew. There are three separate incidences that we will consider. Matt. 1 the story of Jesus Christ our Lord is marked by dreams from its very inception. Matt. 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

If you remember what we said that it's important to understand the context of the dream: the

situations, the circumstances and the situations that precede it in order to have for a proper interpretation. Now here is also an incident where Joseph the night before he slept was thinking about something. And that something which he thought about was affecting his life so much that in a dream God had to speak to him about his last thought before he slept.

It is the same with Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel said, "O king, you were thinking about what will come to pass after your kingdom before you slept." Then God spoke to him and gave him the marvelous dream about that statue that represents the four Empires and all the other sub-Empires. So the thoughts that we sleep with are important. In case you are first time here we also mentioned about how there are laws of the interpretation of dreams. Symbols that are scriptural must be following their meaning in the bible. Then there is difference in symbols. Symbols that mean something to you will mean something different to me. Then before I interpret I must know what those symbols mean to you. Otherwise if I interpret the symbols what it means to me it may give you a percentage of error.

Now here is Joseph who is about to sleep. There is a difference here. He was thinking about putting away Mary. I would think that any ordinary righteous man would think about that. I mean who will believe a story like that? But Joseph had a thought over inside him. He loved her. And then suddenly he knew this faint bible prophecy about some Messiah but he would never expect it to come that way. I mean it's not clear to a Hebrew mind that the Messiah would come through a virgin birth. But the truth of the virgin birth was obscure to them. Before he slept he was thinking what to do. One side he was saying that he loves her and wants to keep her. The other side of him was saying that no she could be lying. So he is wrestling within himself. And in that kind of condition he managed to sleep.

And in that dream it was not a figurative symbolic dream it was a direct dialog. He saw an angel; the angel just told him this is of God. There was no need for interpretation since this was a direct dialog. That is what I call the other second dimension of dream. It says here in verse 19 *Joseph was a righteous man*. He always sought to obey God in his conscious life. It says he was just, he was righteous, and he always sought to do the right thing. That is the reason why he was thinking of those things.

It's just like the story of Jonah. Some people think that Jonah ran away from God because he did not believe God. It was not so. He believes what God said. And a lot of people are running away from God and they say, "I am like Jonah I am just running away from God." They are frightened of circumstances; they are frightened of this and that. Jonah went away because he believes God. He believes that God was going to send judgment on Nineveh. He ran away because he knew that. He knew that God was going to send judgment. He ran away because he wanted that judgment to happen. Towards the end of the book of Jonah after the judgment didn't come, he got angry with God. So when God says I am going to judge Nineveh, he said, "Good Lord." But then when God says now you go and tell them that judgment is coming and warn them, he said, "No Lord." He believed God that is why he ran away.

So Joseph was thinking what he was thinking because of the commandments of God's Word. Never before had he had heard such a thing. All the righteous training within him and the just training within him rose up. He would seemingly go against what he is hearing from Mary. And because of his righteous state and in a sense his righteous thought God spoke to him. He was seeking to obey God all he knew how. In his conscious state he was seeking to obey God as much as he knew how to. Therefore the second dimension of dream took place. It is a dimension that I call a direct line with God even in a dream state.

The angel appeared to him. The word *appeared* comes from the word that talks about a light that comes to shine so clearly. And in that context the spiritual realm was real to Joseph. This is not the first time. In chapter 2 verse 13 same angel *Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him."*

Third dream after Herod died in verse 19 *But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."*

Then in verse 22 *And when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.* Fourth dream.

If Joseph had not believe in dreams the whole New Testament story would have been different. In most books on dreams today because of humanism they believe that dreams are just what Ecclesiastes says

activity of life. I was reading one of the most brilliant brain experts. He wrote a book on how the mind thinks from the biological aspects. Human beings go through different stages of sleep. The first stage is there are certain sleep patterns that they could measure by electrical activities in the brain. Then there is another stage that is deep sleep. Then there is also another stage called the R.E.M. stage or rapid eye movement stage. And it is at R.E.M. sleep that a person has dreams. And it seems that it is repeated about three or four times during a sleep. And there is a difference in that level of R.E.M. sleep. It reached a stage of brain activity where it's the same brain activity as if you are awake. Just judging by the graph that the brain scan records, they would have judged that the person was awake. But yet that person is asleep. But the brain activity was that much. So their theory is that it is just the brain analyzing or going through the motions of experiencing the dream as if it is happening in real life.

These doctors and physiologists know that R.E.M. is more prominent even in unborn child. Before a child is born, before a child even experience human activity, the child in the womb has a high level of R.E.M. higher than adults. Then after a certain stage in the child development, the fetus slowly before birth reaches the normal human stage of R.E.M. But the major development of a fetus is R.E.M. So most of these physiologists could not explained the brain activity of a fetus because they are humanist and their theory was that this R.E.M. sleep comes from your daily activity and the brain is just re-organizing the data that you input everyday. But they couldn't explain the little baby because that little baby doesn't have much data input at all but it does so much R.E.M. These so-called brilliant physiologists have this theory from the humanist point of view. This theory was that the R.E.M. sleep is just the brain testing all its circuits. Just like when you build a computer before you market it you test it. So from this point of view they say that as the brain of the fetus is being formed that the body is testing the whole system. As each part is being made so the body goes through all these tests before the child is born.

But from God's Word we have a different understanding. My understanding is there is a certain level that R.E.M. sleep depending on the spiritual state of a person that you relate to the spirit world. Children and babies before the age of accountability are saved. Their spirits are alive. Their spirits have not died yet because they do not know sin. They are innocent. There are enough scripture in the bible to tell us that babies are saved. John the Baptist in the womb was filled with the Spirit. He can't be filled with the Spirit unless he was saved. David when his child died said that he cannot come to me but "I go to him," implying that the child was saved. There are other passages in Psalms too. We know that a fetus and a baby who has not done one single act in life yet is saved. Because the child is saved the spirit of the child is alive. Before a child is born from our Christian viewpoint the R.E.M. sleep relates to the spirit world. A major portion of the R.E.M. sleep relate to the spirit world.

But when the child grows into an adult and lives a life of sin and is disobedient to God, the second dimension is restricted and he or she would just have the first dimension of dreams that just warn them all the time. So all the dreams are reduced to what I call the superficial level of just warning. But there is a higher level of dream life that you move into. This is what we call a spiritual dialog, a spiritual fellowship and a spiritual relationship with God where you directly contact the spirit world. Just like the angel contacted Joseph through his dreams four times to protect the life of Jesus. Joseph could never have seen the angel with his eyes.

In fact in the New Testament there are two major Greek words for the word *appear*. One is from the Greek word *optomai* and it means to see with the physical eyes. The other is the word *phaino* where you see it like just a light coming to you. And of course it ties back to spiritual life. It is from the word that is sometimes called *manifest*. It could be a manifestation in the spirit realm. Right now there are angels around but we don't see them.

But as we have taught how to be led by the Spirit you can train your conscious state to be conscious of them. In the same way in the dream life there is a stage where in the second dimension you can have a deeper dimension dream that is God's original dimension. This is where you contact the spirit world all the time. In your dream state the higher level of your mind is working. Your conscious mind is only about 5 to 10 percent of your mind. But when you are asleep it goes into deeper levels of your brain.

As we have understood from God's Word the mind of man originally was able with its physical senses to see the spiritual world as the natural world. Before the fall Adam and Eve could see the spirit world and the natural world. If an angel was there they saw the angel. Something happened after the fall. Their physical eyes were still opened but their spiritual eyes were closed. Before the fall, all the time they were physically naked, but they were not conscious of their nakedness. It was because all the time their spiritual eyes were opened and they only saw the spiritual garment over their physical bodies. But when they sinned, their spirit man died and their spiritual eyes were closed; hence they could not see any more spiritual clothing

over their bodies, and that was why suddenly they saw themselves naked.

That is why in the fallen state where our bodies are not redeemed yet we naturally cannot see the spirit world. But that is not the way God made man. Our minds were not made to see natural things only. Our minds were originally created to be able to contact the spirit world just as easily as reaching out to touch the one next to you. Somehow that remnant of that mind that God made is still functioning in our dream state. When we are asleep the mind goes into its lower deeper consciousness and there is a point where it is contacting the spirit realm good or evil. For Joseph four times he contacted that angel. These were not the only times in the bible.

Lets look at the book of Genesis chapter 15 the life of Abraham. Abraham received a powerful prophecy regarding his descendants; that nations that will arise after him. In Genesis chapter 15 here is an important situation where God cut a covenant with him. But if you study it very deeply you will notice that the whole thing took place while he was asleep. Gen. 15:12 *As the sun was going down, a deep sleep,* interestingly today sleep researchers consider R.E.M. sleep as deep sleep. Abraham was in deep sleep. *And behold horror and great darkness fell upon him.* It looks like a nightmare but it was not because God was showing him the future. And God here was speaking with him and cutting a covenant with him.

In verse 13 He said to Abraham, *Know of a surety that your descendants will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs, and will be slaves there, and they will be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation which they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete. When the sun had gone down and was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.*

All these happened when Abraham was sleeping. It's a powerful promise that he received. That is the same category as we classify as second dimension. How did Abraham get into the second dimension? We are beginning to see some of the laws involved. We must be obedient to God as far as we know how in our conscious life. If we are not obedient to God as we know how in our conscious life the second dimension doesn't operate. Your dream stage is in the first dimension, which is covered in the last two teachings. The second dimension does not operate yet if you do not have obedience in the conscious state. What kind of obedience? Obedience to the inward witness of your spirit, obedience to the inward voice of your human spirit, obedience to the voice to the Holy Spirit who instructs you from time to time. When you are obedient in that area then you reach to the second dimension of dreams. And of course you also reject, renounce, and flee from keep away from sin and anything of the devil, even things that may not be categorized as sin but may nurture desires for sin. Apparently Joseph was a righteous man and that would mean he also kept away from appearances of evil.

In our modern culture and civilization today, watching a movie may not be classified as sin but it is one of those things that may lead to sin. In movies there may be tendencies and inclinations towards sin that the average Christian may not consider as sin. But if we occupy our minds with these thoughts and images from these movies, it may prevent us from going to the second dimension of dream. This is why there are few today in our modern world that goes into the second dimension of dream. Of course even in the conscious state we know that not all Christians are led by the Spirit, they move in and out of the Spirit into the flesh realm. Not all Christians are obedient to their inward witness and to the inward voice of the human spirit that is instructing them in the affairs of life. I would say that they are in the minority today. For one thing if you have walked along with God you would have noticed that being led by the Spirit many times means that you do things that you cannot justify, you cannot explain, although you could in the natural but you are not allowed to. And you could be led by God to do things that are contrary to human experience. You would be misunderstood and that is your cross that you will have to carry. Being led by the Spirit is not easy in the natural although it's easy in the spirit. For that reason people rather go the easy way rather than the difficult road. Being led by the Spirit requires faith because we depend on God not on the things that we experience. We don't have to depend on those five senses.

So here notice Abraham had to chase away the vultures. Now that is the symbol of driving away those things that would come against the sacrifices. There is an effort made in the conscious state. In other words if God has spoken to you in the conscious level and you are obeying God as best you know how, and yet you are still hitting a wall. Believe me, God will do all He can to get through to you. If there are just a few minor tuning that you need it will come in your conscious state and in your dream state.

So here the background of what we have read was the Lord has spoken to him in verse 8 - 11 *But*

he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him. "Bring me a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." And he brought him all these, cut them in two and laid each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

I want you to know that that's a lot of work. Don't think that all he has to do is sit down and when vultures came he just shoo them away. No those vultures are vicious birds. He would have to take a stick and hit them. Finally after many hits he was tired. And he fell into deep sleep. Then God spoke. He made a conscious effort to keep those things for God. God told him to get Him the sacrifice. Now if God told him to get these sacrifices ready then Abraham would keep them for God and no vulture is going to get them. They are for God. He won't let anything else touch it. If God says your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit don't let any demon or devil touch it. If God says that something belongs to Him your zeal in protecting it must be demonstrated.

I am sure you remember the story in Moses' time when the Israelites were sinning and the others were crying in repentance and in the midst of the cry then comes one Israelite with his Midianite woman. Phinehas was so filled with zeal that he went straight to the tent and pierced the two of them with a spear and killed them instantly. (This story is taken from Nu. 25) Surprising God said, "Well done Phinehas." God is delighted with people who have zeal. This is not just Old Testament truth. This is also the New Testament in the book of Revelations. God said I rather you be rather hot or cold not in between. If you want to do something for God do it with all your heart. Don't do it half-heartedly.

The second point in getting into the second dimension of dreams is when we have shown zeal in our conscious state. People who are lackadaisical about their Christian life will never get into the second dimension. Why, they are just plain lazy in the things of God. So why should God give additional revelation and spur them on? God has a way of encouraging us. When you have done all you can and put all that you have into obeying Him the world may be against you, everything in life could be against you and you need some encouragement, and no human come and encourage you God Himself will encourage you.

So Abraham has zeal in chasing away the wrong things. One of the things that is prophesied about the Lord Jesus in the book of Hebrews 1:9 is *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness*. It is not good enough to just turn a blind eye to evil. It's a different thing to feel emotions against sin and evil and to eradicate it. Most people are complacent and in the state of apathy. They have no zeal for God, no anger for the devil and they are just nothing. Today if you want to be a bible-believing Christian who really wants to serve God and live all you know how to please God the world calls you a fanatic. Don't be so serious with God. Don't go that far with God. People want to pull you down when you want to reach further onto God.

There is one more case here we want to consider in the book of I Kings. All these are dreams in the second dimension. I Kg. 3:3 *Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father; only he sacrificed and burnt incense at the high places*. This is not speaking about those sacrifices offered to idols made of stone. Solomon was offering animal sacrifices to God on high places as were the custom of the Jews at that time since the Temple was not built yet. In verse 4 *And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was a great high place*; that confirms it. There were various places where they offer those animals as sacrifices to God. Because the Temple was not built yet only the ark was brought in. After the temple was built all sacrifices was supposed to be centered in Jerusalem. But before that only the ark was brought in. So they have several places that represented like the brazen altar. So here is one place at Gibeon and at Gibeon he sacrificed onto the Lord in verse 4 *Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings upon the altar*.

One thousand animals were sacrificed and that's a lot of work. Many people would have to help. A lot of blood was shed. That was a long worship service. Imagine one thousand animals, just to slaughter one takes quite some time. In those days you don't just kill the animals. You have to take out the parts of the animals, separate the fat from the kidney, and then burn only certain parts of each animal and you have to do it one thousand times. It takes a long time. After those sacrifices there was what we will call great effort. Solomon had not fallen away from God yet.

He was No. 1 obedient doing all that he knows how. He did all that he knows how to please God according to the law and according to the standards of those times. The temple was not built yet. It was acceptable to offer in those high places that were there. Secondly there was great effort made. If it says Solomon sacrifice that means Solomon paid for it. When those two things had taken place his obedience was implicit to all that he knew how. And secondly he had a great zeal for God; when he did something he

did it well. That was before he grew old. When he was young he sought the Lord. He said when you want to do something for God do it well. If you want to build a temple lets get the best carpenters. Lets get the best wood. That was ingrained when he want to do something he did it well for God. The second point is definitely clear. He had a zeal for God. What's the different between zeal and just plain service? A plain service says as long as it is done its O.K. But it takes zeal is to do it to the best that you can. A normal service may not be your best. You know you could have done it better. But zeal comes when you give your best. Based on that I would reckon that there are very few Christians who have zeal.

Remember zeal is not just attending church service seven days a week. It is also your attitude in life in your work place. To me attending church service is very easy. Just sit, open your eyes, close your mouth and open your ears. Don't misunderstand me I have attended church seven days a week I know what it is like to have seven days of meeting on seven days. And go that way for years and years sometimes never having a break. I know that there is some element of zeal that is necessary too. There are some who only attend church services three times a year: Easter, Christmas and maybe a nephew's wedding. Some Christians may be attending church services seven days a week but when it comes to doing church work they have no zeal. In modern Christianity you could have seminars going on all the time. You could be a Seminar Christian, cruising from one seminar to another but never doing anything for God. If you have an assignment from God you do it and you have to pick your seminars carefully. The most important is be where God wants you to be and do it with all your heart. Zeal is doing your best for God and that's where the second dimension of dream comes.

In verse 5 *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you."* I want you to realize that is a dream. It's a dream where Solomon is relating to the spirit world. It is not just re-arranging data that has been implanted during the day. Solomon didn't receive his wisdom when a prophet laid hands on him. Solomon didn't receive his wisdom through David who laid hands on him although David would naturally have blessed him. Solomon didn't receive his wisdom through an angel appearing in a vision to him like the angel appearing to Mary. He received it in what human being would call the simplest of things in life in a dream. But it was real. That morning when he woke up there was something that was implanted into his life. Imagine going to sleep at night perhaps with an I.Q of 150 and waking up with an I.Q of 400. All because of one dream.

We may receive impartation from God in dreams when we have fulfilled the requirements in our conscious state. As we consider this dream in the second dimension, we realize now that besides interpretation of the first dimension dreams we have certain dreams that are actually of the second dimension. Although they may not be so frequent but they are there and we need to be aware of that. Some dreams are a direct spiritual dialog. They are not symbolic at all. In no way is the angel symbolic. When Joseph woke up from the dream he did not wonder what that angel symbolize. If Joseph had interpreted Egypt as a symbol of the world and he took it that the dream merely warned him not to be so worldly, he would have stayed back where he was and die at the hands of Herod and his cohorts. It was no symbol. It was a real spiritual dialog with the spirit realm. So understand that there is an aspect of dreams in that category. And when it does occur we need to recognize them. If those things are symbolic and you don't interpret them as symbolic you may get a wrong interpretation. If those things are not symbolic and you interpret them as symbolic you also mess it up.

We have some dreams submitted by some members of this congregation that we want to illustrate through interpretation. This particular dream is of the first dimension dream but it relates to a person's life. It says:

I was at a well near my house. The well has a rope. The rope looks like an ordinary rope and was not too thin or too thick. There was plenty of water in the well. But the water level was about 13 to 15 feet from the mouth of the well. It looks like a very deep well that will never run dry. In this dream I had already drawn out a big bucket of water. The bucket, which was red in color, had water to its brim and it was besides me. Yet I was not satisfied. I let down another big bucket and was filling it up to the brim again. Strange in the natural I know I could have easily taken half a bucket at a time. However in this dream I seem to be greedy and quite unreasonable. I could see myself causing the bucket to fill up and overflow with water. So of course I had real problem getting the bucket up. It seems to be a struggle. Each time I managed to bring the bucket of water up to the mouth of the well. My greatest struggle was getting a hold of the bucket and holding the rope at the same time. I had used all my strength and energy in pulling up the bucket of water but was unable to reach out to the bucket without falling into the well. I have tried so many times with one hand holding the rope and the other hand holding the bucket. Then in the dream there was someone near the bathroom nearby. And I heard the voice of the person inside. It sounded like my mother. So I called out to her to come and help me to pull the bucket of water out. But she was not able to. I cannot remember what

she said. Then I tried to call to someone else for help. But it looks like there was no one around. I knew I could easily pull the bucket by causing it to be half filled. But strangely I was not satisfied or reasonable. I wanted to fill it up right to overflowing. I saw myself giving it another try. Looks like I wanted as much water as I could from the well. I found myself in the sea-saw position desperately trying to reach the pail of water. I looked frustrated desperately clinging to the rope and no one to help me to hold to the pail and then suddenly I woke up.

This dream is speaking about the person's ministry. You notice the depth of the well was about 13 to 15 feet. That was roughly the time that person has come to know the Lord. At the age of 13 to 15 years she really knew the Lord and sensed the Lord's call to the ministry. There was a pail of water that has already been drawn up. That represent the person has already moved into the ministry. Secondly the person is drawing another aspect of ministry. See there are different phases of ministry. So the struggle that this person is having is with another phase of ministry that is coming up. But that phase can only be done half of it. The person wants all of it. So there is a spiritual struggle. This happened after the person moved into the measure of the second phase of ministry. So just after the person did that there was this dream. So this dream is in reference to the second phase of the person's ministry that she is struggling with. The mother represents some abilities within her. But all the natural abilities could not cope up with this new thing that is happening. And in this dream the person is being told to slow down. Don't do so many things; don't take so many things, slow down. Go slower and let it grow out of the person. If you are called to the ministry or you are called into the secular realm to function as some sort of a ministry, know that a ministry must grow out rather than forced out. And there is a time and pattern for it to flow out in our lives. You cannot hasten it because it would be like harvesting green apples. You have to let it ripe of its own accord. So here is a dream that is tell the person to slow down. What happen if that person doesn't slow down? The person will begin to feel naturally frustrated and have all kind of problems that would occur.

Now here is another dream, there are two occurred in mid June and one last year. Three dreams, first the whole family was in a van.

We are in the palace ground. There is a road leading to the palace. As we drew nearer to the palace about five huge dogs surrounded the van. Nothing happened to any of us as we were still in the van.

A van or a car always talks about the direction of your life. If you ever have a dream about car, van and you are inside it is talking about the direction of your life and the road of life that you are heading. If there are people in the car like your family, then it depends on who were in the car. Last week we interpreted a dream of a car and the clients were in the back. So that car represents his work life not his home life or his personal life. Now here is the whole family so it represents the family life. If you are alone then it is about your personal life.

Now those dogs represent opposition. The palace ground represents something spiritual. It's the spiritual walk in the family. And the whole family is going on into a higher realm of the kingly ministry, a higher realm of the kingly and priestly ministry. In other words, the palace represents the realm of the kingdom of God and all the promises of Jesus Christ. They are moving into a higher dimension that exercises the kingdom and authority of God. But there are opposition represented by these five dogs. The whole family wants to move into the higher dimension. But there are oppositions represented by the dogs. Dogs in the bible represent religious folks who oppose the things of the spirit. Remember Paul call the Judaizers dogs. He says, "Beware of dogs," he is referring to the Jewish folks who have come to know the Lord but still follows Jewish ways. But most of them don't know the Lord and just wanting to follow Jewish customs. But apparently some of them must have absorbed some Christian values. They are not plain Jews. They call themselves Christians but they want all Christians to follow the Jewish customs. That is why Paul calls them Judaizers. They came to trouble the Christians and said you all must be circumcised too. So these five dogs represent to a certain extend five people or five different situations where they are religious people. They may be Christians who are moving in the flesh and not moving in the Spirit. As they move in the flesh, they are hindering this family from moving on into the spiritual level. The dream is saying forget about them. Don't be affected by the words they say or by the things they do.

The second dream is also related.

An armored truck with two heavily armed American soldiers. The back of the truck was all covered with canvas. Through a small hole in the canvas came the head of a huge snake. And the snake was yawning. Soon it withdrew itself into the canvas.

Now it depends what America and American soldiers symbolize to this person. But a dream about war zone or soldiers speaks about struggles. As far as I see and interpret this dream the fact that the truck was covered with canvas and the fact that the soldiers are American symbolizes foreigners coming in. Here I would say that it would refer to a situation in their life which has to do with their family members or the whole family having some event to do with a foreign country; like perhaps sending their children over there for education. Or some sort of relationship they have with a foreign country that has not taken place yet. Here it is covered with canvas. Could be anything but a matter that relates to a foreign country. Not necessary America but that is a symbol of a foreign country.

The snake represented spiritual opposition. Whether it could be anything that they need a breakthrough either in communication or some realm that relates to a foreign country. And there was a barrier. Now the canvas shows that it was not fully timed yet but there was also a barrier. It means that they need to have some authority taken over demon power. This dream is revealing the difficulty they are experiencing in process whatever it is that has to do with a foreign country. It is not natural but there are demonic powers that are involved. And they need to take spiritual authority. It is not just natural circumstances. It is revealing that hiding behind the natural circumstances are spiritual opposition.

The third dream says: *I got up in the middle of the night and found my husband sleeping without a pillow. I found the pillow on the floor and a huge black frog sitting on the pillow. I woke up my husband and in the meanwhile the sun was already there. The black frog tried to fly out and come to rest on my pillow. I took a piece of tissue and chased the frog away. The frog turned into a fly and flew out.*

So this is a dream about waking up. This dream actually talks about the financial situation. Because I know the background so I know the interpretation. The husband was going through some financial need. Then the financial difficulty was going to affect also the wife. So in the dream it was showing that as they were taking authority and chasing all these demonic powers out of their life their financial difficulty is growing smaller and smaller. And it will go out of the window. That is the interpretation for that dream.

Here is another one and it says:

I dreamt of an adventure. The adventurer was about to go to a place across the sea. I asked the adventurer if I could follow. But he said no. Then when he went to buy some food, I tied my boat to his boat. When he came back he did not know that my boat was with his boat. So when he went I followed.

From the beginning you know that adventurer was somebody in the person's life. Another interpretation is that adventurer is the person himself or possibly a spiritual aspect of a person.

Then finally we reached an island. As he was coming to the shore I was on the beach with two friends. The island looks deserted. When I looked behind I saw a woodpecker. It looked normal but when it pecked on the tree the tree fell. At the same time while lying on the beach there was a dead fish ashore. And when my friend wanted to eat the fish I knew that it was poisonous. So I told him not to. At the same time the adventurer reached the shore and knocked the fish out of my friend's hand. The next thing that happened was the woodpecker came near me. I put my hand to touch its bill to see what kind of bill it has whether it was made of iron. The adventurer pulled my hand away and said it was dangerous. Then the dream changed and this time it was in a camp like a detention camp. While we were having our food in the hall the warden chased a few naughty boys away. When he chased them away he found a pair of slippers. This pair of slippers belonged to one of my friends. The warden was angry I told my friend not to worry because the warden was also my friend. When he came into the hall and asked whose slippers it was, I heard the name of my friend called out. When the name of my friend was called up I woke up.

Now here the second part of the dream gives the first part the interpretation. The second part apparently refers to the person's fellowship and friendship in the realm of the gospel. Shoes and slippers as you know in the bible represent the gospel. So it is an aspect of spiritual life, soul winning, and testimony. So somehow in this dream the person seems to have some sort of a struggle in the testimony life. It may not be a revelation about the other friend. But this dream could represent the aspect of the other friend's life that may affect his testimony to him. It ties back to the adventurer. The adventurer is the spiritual life of this person. The woodpecker symbolizes something that was effective but dangerous that takes place and relates to something that happens in this person's testimony. It is effective but dangerous. It could be a spiritual truth or spiritual aspect that must be handled carefully. If its not handled carefully it would be harmful. If handled correctly it would be a blessing. It could be a spiritual truth that this person has come across. It could be a revelation, a truth, a principle, could have been prophecy that is dangerous and yet can

be a blessing.

Now this dream also has a poison fish. You know fish is a good symbol in the bible. But here is a poisonous fish. So it talks about a spiritual principle that has been misapplied that this other friend of his had. So it talks about the person's relationship with his Christian friends. And some of his Christian friends are having spiritual truth but they don't see it and they are using it in the wrong way. This dream is sort of telling the person to watch out for the person is telling this principle but the principle is not fully correct. See it goes back to the slippers. Slippers represent the witness. The witness was not so strong because of the misapplication of spiritual truth.

Last one. *I dreamt that I was visiting my sister. She took me around the place where she stayed. We came to a squatter house. I said no you don't stay here. So she took me behind. We passed by broken doors. Behind was a house that was quite clean. It was a long house with many rooms. In front of every room was a tap. I was surprised and said why was this tap in front? And she did not answer me. I did not remember going into her room. When I came back my slippers were gone. And instead of the slipper I found two slippers that don't match. On the side of one shoe there was a scratch and it very dirty. The other shoe was different and it was dusty and dirty too. I had no choice but to wear those slippers. They were too big for me. I was dragging them as I walked. All of a sudden my nephew was waiting in the car. How he came I do not know. He asked us to get into the car. When I went into the car my brother was in front of the car. And he turned the seat completely around. I got a shock. And I turn to see my sister-in-law she also was about to sit together with us. But she got in before us. I woke up.*

I know this person's background. This dream is talking about the person's ministry. There are actually two dreams here. The two different types of slippers represent two ministries that people offered to the sister. And she had accepted that offer. And she has moved into the aspect of ministry that doesn't fit the person. And the person is struggling in those ministries. Its dusty and old represent that it is steeped in traditions. It could be a church work it could be a ministry work but the people involved who had opened the door for her are stiff in tradition. So the person is dragging in the ministry and found it difficult because the person is not flowing fully a hundred percent in the exact ministry God wanted that person to be in. The second part of the dream confirms it. Because the person was in the car and in the car she was not the driver. Here in this car there is the nephew and the brother. Now whatever they represent to her, if you have a dream of one of your relations who symbolize a strong religious tradition and those are the things that are directing her life right now. So this dream is sort of a warning. There are other people directing her life. There are other people telling her what to do. There are other people telling her this is what God wants you to do and they are opening the door and letting her go in. The dream is telling the person to wake up and find your own ministry. Get your own slipper. Get your own ministry. Find your own place in the ministry. Don't do what somebody tells you. Do what you know what the Lord tells you to.

9. PROPHETIC DREAMS

Deut. 13:1-5 *"If a prophet arises among you, or dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, "Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them, you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and cleave to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from the midst of you.*

What we want to consider in this passage is prophetic dream. The word *dreamer* or the phrase *dreamer of dreams* is used together with the word *prophet*. When this passage speaks about a prophet or dreamer of dreams who gives you a sign or wonder, it is speaking of a different level of dream altogether. We have first considered soulish dream that results from much activity of life and the inner dream from your spirit that reveal about yourself. Secondly, we have considered the two dimensions of dream where in the first dimension, dreams are used to warn you if you are not heeding your conscience and you are heading the wrong way; and where in the second dimension, if you have been heeding your conscience, then the dream will give you directions in life and it is a spiritual encounter.

Now in this third area here we see that there is such a thing as prophetic dreams, dreams that are on par with the prophet's ministry. Notice that a dreamer of dreams is equal in this passage to a prophet's ministry. He is talking about dreams as a vehicle of prophecy; they are prophetic dreams. These are dreams that carry a prophecy as if a prophet himself were prophesying. In regard to prophetic dream we need to consider that a dream is a vision of the night and it goes beyond the second dimension of spiritual encounter.

Now sometimes there is a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge that comes from the dream. Not all dreams are in that category. Most of it is in the first dimension of giving you a warning. From time to time it is in the second dimension of giving you a direction in life. But if you have a call to a prophet's office or you have the gift of prophecy operating in your life that same anointing that helps you to prophesy while you are awake, while you are in your conscious state, that same anointing while you are asleep makes you a dreamer of prophetic dreams. In other words now you prophesy in your dreams. That same anointing works whether you are asleep or you are awake. So prophetic dreams come because of the anointing upon. The anointing within covers the first two dimensions of dreams. But prophetic dreams come because of the anointing upon. Sometimes when you sleep under an anointing you have prophetic dreams. I remember the three day fast that I went through in the second year of my seminary. I had many prophetic dreams. Prophetic dreams come through an anointing.

Lets look at Acts chapter 2. We must consider in Acts chapter 2 the prophecy in regard to the Holy Spirit coming down has to do with prophetic dream. It is not ordinary dream of either the first dimension or the second dimension. We can call it third dimension. We can say there are the first dimension, second dimension and third dimension of dreams. How do we analyze that? Compare it with the conscious state. Most of the time the Holy Spirit leads us by the inward witness and by the inward voice. That is the first dimension of the leading of the Holy Spirit. Then you would have the voice of the Holy Spirit and supernatural leading. That would be the second dimension in the conscious state.

Then there is the third dimension where you are in a ministry or you are operating a gift. It's a different thing when you are hearing God under an anointing and without an anointing. When the anointing is upon you the voice of God sounds clearer than when it is not upon you. When an anointing comes upon your life in ministry in your conscious state, whether through a gift or an office that you are functioning in, the voice of God and even the voice of your spirit man is amplified. It takes on a different dimension. I will call it the third dimension. It's a deeper level. It's as if you are hearing God from the outside but it's not; it is still from the inside. But because of the anointing upon you what you hear inside your spirit comes from the anointing that is upon you and you are hearing it on the outside. It's loud and it's clear. It's easier to hear God when the anointing is upon you than when it is not upon you. For that reason sometimes people under the anointing say something and predict something accurately. But outside of the anointing, outside of the ministry, outside of the gift, in the normal state they will predict something that will really go off the mark.

Although Eli was not a very dedicated priest, but his position as a priest was still there. The anointing of a priest was still on him. When Hannah was praying for a child Eli said, "Go your way the Lord has heard your prayer." That was a statement made under an anointing. See the anointing works in spite of and despite his life. But in the end a careless person will lose the anointing completely. So that is an example that what was said under the anointing has power. But outside of his office there is no power. It's a different thing when the anointing is upon and a different thing when the anointing is not upon.

In a similar way in dreams there is a third dimension, where there is an anointing upon that comes upon you when you are asleep.

Lets look at Acts 2:17 *And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yes, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.*

The whole context talks about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The word translated as *dream* here is not the ordinary Greek word for dream. The ordinary Greek word for dream as used in Matthew chapter one and chapter two in the life of Joseph and in the wise men life is the word *onar*, which is the official Greek word for the word dream. Notice that *onar* has been used for the first dimension and second dimension. The word *onar* in Matthew one and two refers to Joseph having a dream about this angel coming to him and talking to him. *Onar* is used even in the second dimension of dreams.

But in Acts 2 the word dream is not the word *onar* but is the word *enupnion*. What he is saying here is that root word means in a state of rest. It's not just dreaming. So when they combine the word together they have the word *enupnion* and the word *enupnion* talks about receiving a leading, an impression, a direction, a vision, a spiritual encounter, while in the state of rest. That definition will be just nice for the second dimension of dream. But we put it under third dimension because here it includes the anointing upon.

In the second dimension you don't need the anointing upon. Joseph did not have anointing upon when he saw the angel. But this third dimension is where we have anointing upon come upon you while you are in a state of rest. When you are in a state of sleeping, and when the anointing comes upon you the dreams that you see are not *onar*. They are prophetic dreams. You move into what Deut. 13:1 says a dreamer of dreams.

And if you study the word *old men* in Acts 2 here, you cannot take it literally. Because if you take it literally a lot of you would be old since all of you have dreams. It says here in Acts 2, *Young men see visions old men dream dreams*. Everybody dream dreams so everybody must be old. Understand that the Greek word used is different. It is talking about a third dimension of dream, where the prophetic gift operates in a dream. And here the word *young* and *old* signifies your walk with God. It's in the similar usage as in First John it says *little children, young men and old men*, three spiritual stages. So here *old men* is talking about the final spiritual stage of your life. There are always three spiritual stages, children, young men and old men. That's in the book of First John. When we are children we need the milk. Then you progress from spiritual milk to spiritual maturity. Then when you reached fatherhood in the spirit realm you have a different dimension.

Let me illustrate what is like at the fatherhood stage. When you have grown into the Lord from childhood to manhood to fatherhood, there is a stage where you become quite prophetic. You may not be a prophet but you are prophetic. You have the advantage of your spiritual past and the advantage point of seeing into the spirit. Now an element of that ability is present when it was time for those patriots and old men of God to die. That doesn't mean when you have those manifestations you are about to kick the bucket.

Towards the end of his life, Jacob was going to bless his children and two of his grand children. Although Jacob was not a prophet when he was going to die, he suddenly taps onto that old man's ability, the kind of ability that Acts 2 speaks about *old men shall dream dreams*. And in the book of Genesis chapter 49:1 he began to prophesy and those prophecies came to pass. He prophesied over all his children. He spoke about what they were and what they shall be. It is actually classified under the spiritual truth of blessings. But those blessings were not ordinary blessings. It is more than that his blessings moved into the word of wisdom. That's where prophetic elements came into his blessings. Jacob's prophesying over his children was a case of old men dreaming dreams but in his conscious state.

Genesis 49:2-3 *Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob, and hearken to Israel your father*. Now he is about to die and he is going to tell them about their future. You notice this happened several times in the bible. Then he talks about Reuben, talks about Judah, talks about Simeon, talks about Levi, he talks about Zebulun, talks about Issachar, talks about Dan, talks about Joseph, he speaks the past and he speaks the future. When he has blessed them and given out all the prophetic blessings he died.

Notice his blessings of Joseph's son in chapter 48. You must understand his condition now. Now he is an old man. When he saw Joseph's children he asks, "Who are these?" Joseph said, "My children." Then he says, "Bring them to me." And he places the elder one Manasseh on one side and Ephraim on the other.

And Israel stretched out his hands and he placed his right hand, (which is a symbol of higher blessing) on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh. And Joseph thought he made a mistake. So Joseph said, "I think you are making a mistake that is not the elder," and he shifted Jacob's hand over. Jacob said, "I know." So he knew what he was doing. He had a word of wisdom. True enough Ephraim became the bigger crowd in a sense. Notice verse 17 *When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him.* He predicted correctly about the future of Ephraim and Manasseh; he had a word of wisdom that was a prophetic blessing. Notice this type of thing is never done when a person is not going to die. Unless they function in the office of a prophet you don't see this kind of thing manifesting. There seems to be some special thing manifesting when a person is about to go home to the Lord.

Notice that Moses pronounced blessing on the Israelites when he was about to go home. And he was a prophet. Even though he was a prophet before he died there was an extra power in his last words. Jesus Himself did that as He was being lifted up to heaven. He raised his hands and blessed His disciples.

That spiritual truth of prophetic blessing has a connection to what we look in Acts chapter two and called it old men dream dreams. In other words there is a difference when you are in the beginning of your ministry. You are just moving in. You are like a child. Then there is a difference when you are at the middle of your ministry and you are like a young man. But when you reached your final stage, when you reached your final years then there is a special impartation that comes upon your life. When that element works while you are asleep you are a dreamer of prophetic dreams.

Most of Smith Wigglesworth's prophecies about our times today and the last days came towards the end of his ministry. Most of Daniel's prophecies about these last days came at the end of his ministry. Notice in the book of Daniel it was only in his later years that he received a lot of those prophecies regarding the end times. So most of the prophetic dreams come when a person had reached that fatherhood stage in their ministry. They are going to leave the place and leave something behind. That is why it is not so common because God has to put an anointing upon while you are asleep. Or He has to quicken a gift of prophecy in your life. And it is powerful when the anointing is upon your life.

Perhaps you have been to a very anointed meeting. When you left the meeting and you went home, the anointing was still all over you. You could hardly sleep, you worship God and you fell asleep worshipping and that night you had a prophetic dream. Again remember our teaching you have to understand the background. What was your last thought before you slept? It makes a difference when your final experience before you slept was under the anointing. You were soaked in the anointing and you dreamed a dream. Most probably it would have a prophetic significance. It would have been a third dimension dream, a prophetic dream. That is the area we must understand in order to be opened to it.

How does a person move fully into it? There is no short cut. No. 1 the anointing upon has to be there. It does not mean that it always has to be towards the end of your life. When Deut. 13:1 talks about a dreamer of dreams it didn't say that the dreamer of dreams was going to die then that person becomes a dreamer of dreams. A person could have a special gifting. If you have a gift of prophecy under normal circumstances most probably the same anointing will operate in your dream life. As long as the gift of prophecy is in your life you can have prophetic dreams. So that's No. 1 the anointing upon must be there not just the anointing within.

No. 2 the principle behind it is not that you have to kick the bucket before you do it. The person must have reached a fatherhood level of spiritual maturity. It may not mean that you have to be going home before you move into that. The principle behind it is that you are in the fatherhood stage in your spiritual life. Perhaps you have moved in the perfect will of God and you have grown from spiritual childhood to spiritual manhood into spiritual fatherhood. And now you are at that stage and your maturity is such you could easily move into prophetic dream. Spiritual children do not have that. These are not step one, step two, step three. These are keys. In other words if one of the keys are operating you could move into prophetic dreams. You could be a young child but if the anointing upon is so strong you could have prophetic dreams while you are asleep. So No. 2 is where your maturity is such. You have developed your spiritual maturity and you have developed your spiritual ministry. You are a spiritual father. It is easy for you to move into that stage in the

prophetic dream.

Thirdly, Acts 2:19 *And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood and fire, and vapor of smoke.* Notice that signs and wonders are involved together with the prophetic ministry. You will also notice in Deut. 13:1 *If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder.* What is a sign or a wonder? A sign or a wonder is a manifestation of God that is given by His grace in order to confront unbelief among the believers and unbelievers. See a sign and wonder is different from a miracle. A miracle is also a sign and wonder in our natural sense. But in the bible the classification is different. A miracle results because of faith, either through the gift of faith operating or through people having faith. But a sign and a wonder results from God's grace. Where there is no faith, where there is nothing that could draw on the manifestation of God yet by the grace of God He operates a sign and a wonder. So sign is a different classification.

So here it says a prophetic dream is a sign and a wonder. In other words it comes at a time when there is a lot of doubts, there is a lot of unbelief, there is a lot of challenge to spiritual authority. It comes at a time like that. So there is the third area here that prophetic dream is a sign and a wonder. In other words when there is a need to challenge people; when there is a need to rouse people from the spiritual slumber, the Lord may give prophetic dreams to people. Perhaps where there is a lot of heathen coming against the move of God. God can give a prophetic dream. Or when there is a lot of doubt and unbelief among God's people and even in the one who dreams prophetic dreams can come because they are God's special grace. Remember the anointing upon come because of God's grace. So prophetic dream is a sign and a wonder. That's why they are more rare. They only come as God determines it.

When we began to see the three dimensions of dream and we consider all the various different interpretation, we can see that interpreting dreams is not quite as easy as it is. If you get the wrong classification you will arrive at the wrong interpretation. And if you start with having the wrong principles of interpretation and the wrong classification you will be greatly off the mark in the interpretation of a dream.

Lets look at an example in the life of Daniel. Daniel 7:1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream (Now that dream is not first dimension nor is it in the second dimension; it is in the third dimension. It was a prophetic dream) and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, and told the sum of the matter.* The dream basically showed the different Empires that will arise, the different kings that will arise in Daniel's time. And in verse 13 *I saw in the night vision, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.* Verse 15 *As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the vision of my head alarmed me.*

Now as I studied that very carefully it looks like this that within that chapter there were two parts. One was while he was asleep and the other was while he was awake and as he was still meditating on that it seems he has some sort of a vision. One was definitely a dream. The other looks like he was awake and he was seeing a vision of the Ancient of Days and he was grieved because he didn't understand. A prophetic dream must have a prophetic interpretation. Anything received by anointing upon needs an anointing upon to unveil it. So Daniel was grieved and he must have been praying over these things. And finally it was the angel who told him what the dream meant. Although he himself had the gift of interpretation he could not interpret that particular dream for it was beyond him; it was too far in the future for him to compare to anything he knows of the present.

Daniel 8 verse 1 and 2 *In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first.* (In other words this was his second prophetic dream.) *And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the capital, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision, and I was at the river Ulai.* Now that signifies while he was dreaming. And in verse one he says it's the same like the one in chapter seven. And the one in Dan 7: 1 is a dream. So logically Dan 8: 1-2 must also be part of a dream and possibly part of a vision too. Although he was in Susa he dreamt he was by the river. And he saw all these significant things happening. Then in verse 15 *When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it.* See he had a prophetic dream and he didn't understand it. He was seeking

its interpretation although he had the gift of interpretation of dreams. If there was anyone that was expected to interpret that dream or vision, he was the one. Here he could not do it and he needed spiritual revelation. That categorizes prophetic dreams in the class of its own.

So that closes our series of dreams.

We now open for questions.

Some of you asked questions about some symbols in your dreams. If you are dreaming of shoes or scandals, usually under normal circumstances they represent your testimony. If you are struggling with them then you are struggling in your testimony in your Christian life. Shoes have a special symbol because it ties back to the shoes of the gospel of peace, which refers to your testimony as a Christian.

A motorcycle is a vehicle of transport, so are lorries, vans, cars etc. All these mean a mode of transportation in your life, whether it is working life or family life. In other words a transportation system you got to study what does it mean to you. For example you could dream of yourself having an old bicycle and one of the chains fell loose but you are still going on. It's a warning in a dream talking about your life; the transportation system that is running your life. There is some chain loose in the principles and you are not watching it.

For example here is a dream submitted by a member of the congregation:

In the dream I saw I was eating a green apple. Halfway after having taken several bites of the apple, I suddenly saw two tiny worms in the apple. One was peach in color; the other was white. When I saw the worms I tried to vomit out what I had eaten. What was I doing when I was awake? I was offered to enter a new business by contributing some capital to that business. That night as I slept I asked the Lord to show me whether I should get involved in the business.

That dream is a direct answer. The Lord is saying that there are worms in that venture. Worms in what that person is going to enter into. So the Lord is saying don't enter. The white worm symbolizes things that look all right to the natural eye. The principles looks O.K. everything looks O.K. and there is nothing wrong. It looks so honest about it. And green signifies that is something new. See it directly speaks about that business and God is saying no to that dream.

A lady here said she had a dream about angels singing in heaven. That looks like Jacob's ladder. Now Jacob's ladder may be classified under the second dimension of dream. Her dream was a spiritual encounter. What she needs to take note is what is said during the dream and what she saw in the dream. It means her spirit was moving into the spirit realm.

What does electrical wiring symbolize in a dream? Electrical wiring in our days is spiritual power. It can be good. It can be bad. Depending on the dream. But most of the time it symbolizes Holy Spirit power. This brother had a dream that he was connecting wire on the ceiling. Remember if you dream of a house that house is usually your soul. If you are dreaming of the upper portion of your house it talks about your spiritual life. If you are dreaming about the lower portion of your house it talks about your physical body. So he is dreaming about the ceiling. A ceiling talks about his spiritual life. He is seeking to channel his spiritual life into his natural life. He was asking God before the dream how to hear the voice of the Spirit. The Lord is showing him that the connection between his spirit man and his soul man has to be done very carefully.

What happens if you dream about furniture in the house? Furniture represents things that you add to your life either in your soul or in your spirit. Your house represents your soul, your spirit or your body. So

any furniture within the house represents an addition that is made to your house. If you dream that the furniture was damaged then it means that there is something wrong inside. It could be your physical body that your dream is warning you. It could be your spiritual life that is dying and you need to do something about it. You cannot see it when you are awake and its being shown in the dream.

What about dreams about someone who has passed away? If it is not demon powers working then it has to do with your past. Your dream about your mother or your father may not mean that they are appearing to you. Since your mother and father were the ones who brought you up and taught you about life values and principles, dreaming about them may mean the voice of your soul or your conscience that has been training your life.

This lady said that she was dreaming about laundry and cleaning. That talks about spiritual cleansing, spiritual prayers. I believe it talks about prayer ministry.

Dream about getting married. It could mean an answer to prayer. It could also mean tying up to spiritual things. If it's applies to your soul then its talking about areas in your soul that you are beginning to grasp certain principles that you didn't have before. You are beginning to take them into your life, marrying them into your life. If it talks about your physical realm, then your dream could be pointing to areas of physical affection in your life that perhaps you are neglecting or not paying attention to.

How do you interpret time frame? Time frames come when in your dream you remember numbers. If in your dream you dream about just walking to a place and you are just seeing a lot of trees. When you woke up you don't remember the number of trees. Then time frame is not important. But when you wake up and the number hits you. You saw ten trees. Time frame can come in. So time frame comes in when the number is very significant so that you do not forget it when you woke up. Like Joseph's dream and Pharaoh's dream the number seven comes very clearly. Then the butler's dream and the baker's dream the number three was very significant. So that talks about time frame.

There is a rainbow and underneath there are a lot of colored fishes. When you dream about fish usually they represent Christians. Rainbows symbolize spiritual covenant and spiritual promises. So the person is looking at the spiritual condition or spiritual area. For example I had a dream. Many years back I read the book "Scenes Beyond the Grave" the things that were said there were biblical but there were others that were extra biblical. It doesn't contradict but they are very new and astounding. And I prayed and said, "Lord please show me whether these things are from You." When I slept I dreamed of two butterflies. So when I woke up I understood that those are spiritual truths.

This man here dreamt about telephones that were not working. Telephone talks about relationship and communication. Perhaps you would wish that there was some connection with someone or with some people but there was none. Perhaps you like to be closer and its not there.

White clothing. White clothing talks about spiritual life.

Army clothing. Depends on the context of the dream. If you dream of war, please don't interpret it as a third dimension dream or a prophetic dream. It could be revealing the state of your spiritual life. So army clothing talks about readiness and the battle that is being fought.

One last one; Snake. Snake represents the devil. It could be things that you got to take authority in your life.

So we pray that through these sessions you would be more sensitive to your dreams.

This series is found at <http://www.eaglevision.com.my/zdreams.htm>

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