

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

God literally died to be in relationship with you, and He wants you to fully know him, and know His Glory. He gives us His Spirit, spiritual gifts, dreams, visions and other spiritual encounters to help us know him more.

### Dreams & Visions

Throughout history, God has spoken directly to \_\_\_\_\_ – being a Believer is not a pre-requisite for us to hear the voice of the Lord. If that were true, no one would become a Believer because we first must hear His Voice. The difference is the \_\_\_\_\_ or recognize the source of the Voice.

Some divine revelation given in a dream is intended for later instruction, so an interpretation may not always come right away. But it's also true that His sheep know His voice, to follow Him (John 10:27).

This means we can come to Him with the \_\_\_\_\_ that if He gives us dreams and visions, it is \_\_\_\_\_ for us to know and understand what He is saying.

**Matthew 13:11**, *And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

The Biblical principle of doing well with what you start with, then \_\_\_\_\_. This applies to dreams and dream interpretation as well.

What's the difference between dreams and visions?

**Acts 2:17**, *Your young men shall see \_\_\_\_\_, your old men shall dream dreams.*

God speaks through both dreams and visions. The biggest (main) difference is that dreams are while you are sleeping, and visions happens while you are awake.

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

### Old Testament

#### “Dream” words

H2492, *chalam*, khä·lam' (root): to dream

#### “Vision” words

H4236, *machezeh*, makh·az·eh'

H2372, *chazah*, khä·zä'

H2384, *chizzayown*, khiz·zä·yōn'

H4758, *mareh*, mar·eh'

H7200, *ra'ah*, rä·ä'

### New Testament

#### “Dream” words

G3677 *onar*, o'-när

G1798 *enypnion*, e-nü'-pnē-on

#### “Vision” words

G3707, *optasia*, op-tä-sē'-ä

G3705, *horama*, ho'-rä-mä

### Additional Ways God Speaks (similar to dreams)

#### Lucid Dreaming

Lucid dreaming refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ that a dream is taking place.

#### Trance

The word *trance* is also used in the Bible, most notably referring to Peter's vision *while in a trance* (Acts 10:10-16).

#### Parables

Jesus taught in parables, which are metaphors for deeper truth.

#### Reason & Purpose

We are triune beings: body, soul (mind, will & emotions) and spirit. God designed our body and our minds to need rest, but like God's spirit, our spirit does not need rest.

Our spirit can be doing something completely different than what our mind or body is doing.

Ex// speaking in tongues – you can speak in tongues and read a book at the same time.

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

Our bodies can be a \_\_\_\_\_ to hearing God. When I am hungry, or in pain, or tired, or hot/cold I am not usually receptive to \_\_\_\_\_.

Likewise, our soul (mind, will & emotions), can distract us from divine revelation. Some people are lead by emotions, and others are more lead by logic – both are from the Lord but either bias can lead us away from what the Lord is saying through the Spirit.

God wants to speak to us, but at times we aren't listening clearly, so He uses our sleep time to speak to us in dreams. Dreams \_\_\_\_\_ the resistance of our body, and our soul.

Resistance is due to:

- Too difficult/fantastic to believe
- Different than our opinion  
ex// Joseph told to marry Mary
- Contradict our training  
ex//Acts 10:9-16, Peter's trance about Gentiles
- It may seem impossible to fulfill
- We believe what we want to believe.
- It's \_\_\_\_\_

(Mis) Interpretation

In order to receive the \_\_\_\_\_ from hearing God through a dream, four things have to happen:

1. Did you have a dream?
2. Is there an interpretation?
3. What is the application/occupation?
4. Is the timing correct?

R.I.O.T.: Revelation, Interpretation, Occupation, Timing

Daniel 2 has all the makings of a great story, and sets up Daniel as an authority for dream interpretation.

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

God gave Daniel and his friends the \_\_\_\_\_ about the dream... and the correct interpretation.

But... even if the interpretation is correct, the application (or occupation – \_\_\_\_\_) can be wrong...

Did God intend for Nebuchadnezzar to hear the first part of the dream and deduce that he should make a golden statue of it and make a decree that everyone must worship the idol image?

We need to hear God in all of it... from the revelation to interpretation to application to the timing, so that we actually receive the benefit.

**Hosea 4:6**, *My people are being destroyed because they don't know me [lack of knowledge].*

Both believers and non-believers have dreams, and both have methods of interpreting dreams. The difference between interpretation methods is which frequency you are attuned toward to accomplish it.

2 Ways to Interpret a Dream: Soul vs Spirit

1. The Tree of Life (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil (\_\_\_\_\_)

**Proverbs 9:10**, *Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.*

Another way dreams were abused and misinterpreted was \_\_\_\_\_ because leaders were afraid of the people rebelling against them (and their leadership).

The Bible links prophets and dreamers (warning of perversion and abuse)

**Jeremiah 23:25-32**, *I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'...Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.' Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them.*

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

Guide to Interpretation: Developing a Dream Language

Being aware of the variety of how (and why) God speaks will \_\_\_\_\_ of your relationship with God on every level.

**No matter how much you know about the principles of dreams and dream interpretation, it will never surpass the constant need for the Holy Spirit.**

**Genesis 40:8**, *Then Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."*

Dreams are \_\_\_\_\_

In this way, parables can be grouped together with dreams – both are highly symbolic.

Symbols are interpreted or understood through:

- culture
- Biblical precedence
- personal language/history

Dreams are \_\_\_\_\_

Dreams have no limitations.

- transcend the dimensions of height, depth, breadth & time
- can be in the future or the past
- can relocate instantly
- transcend age
- can see experience what another person is experiencing with their 5 senses

Dream Terminology

1. Type or Figure: a specific parallel between two historic entities.

**Romans 5:14**, *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

2. Shadow: contrasts what is real for what is not real

**Colossians 2:16-17**, *Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

3. Sign: validating proof, or outward mark

**Genesis 9:17**, *God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."*

**Isaiah 7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

4. Wonder: auspicious demonstration of divine power, intended to cause to marvel and stir the imagination

**Acts 2:19**, *I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

5. Symbols: similar to type and metaphor

6. Parable: a story intended to reveal truth, with one central point

**Matthew 13:13**, *This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.*

7. Allegory: similar to a parable but may have several points to communicate a larger concept. It is used to enlighten the listener, allowing the listener to discern the truth being communicated

Song of Solomon is many things, including an allegory to the love and intimacy Jesus, the Lover has for his church, the bride, the Beloved.

8. Metaphor & Simile: compare two things that are not the same but have something in common

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

### Dream Interpretation

**Genesis 40:8**, *Then Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."*

You may not be able to interpret every dream you have. There are some dreams which God gives that are intended for later instruction/resolution/encouragement (Job 33:16).

Possible Means of Interpretation:

1. Divine/Angelic Revelation

**Daniel 10:10-15**, *God sent an angel to tell Daniel the interpretation of the things which he (Daniel) was struggling to understand. The future events which Daniel dreamed about had no reference for him, and he (Daniel) required a full and clear explanation*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Jeremiah 1:11:15**, *GOD's Message came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"*

*I said, "A walking stick—that's all."*

*And GOD said, "Good eyes! I'm sticking with you. I'll make every word I give you come true."*

*GOD's Message came again: "So what do you see now?"*

*I said, "I see a boiling pot, tipped down toward us."*

*Then GOD told me, "Disaster will pour out of the north on everyone living in this land. Watch for this: I'm calling all the kings out of the north."*

3. Writing it down

**1 Chronicles 28:19**, *"All this," David said, "I have in writing as a result of the LORD's hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan."*

Sometimes it is in the process of writing down the dream that meaning (interpretation) of the dream comes to us.

4. Spiritual Maturity

## FIRE CATCHERS CLASSROOM: INTRO TO BIBLICAL DREAM INTERPRETATION

The more spiritually discerned we are, the \_\_\_\_\_ the mysteries to be revealed.

**Hebrews 5:14**, *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

### Dream Interpretation Aids

1. Ask \_\_\_\_\_ for an understanding of the dream
2. Study the parables of Jesus
3. Study \_\_\_\_\_ already provided in Scripture
4. Most dreams have numerous applications; it requires Holy Spirit guidance and discernment
5. Recognize \_\_\_\_\_ dreaming pattern
6. Dreams do not \_\_\_\_\_ scriptural principles