

“God Speaks Through Dreams”

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A simple distinction between dreams and visions is that dreams come when a person is asleep, and visions come when the person is conscious.

“When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.” Numbers 12:6

“God does speak – now one way, now another – though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings.” Job 33:14-16

1. Dreams and Visions Can Protect From Danger.

“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there...Herod [wants to kill the child] him’” Matthew 2:13

[Paul is speaking] – *“I fell into a trance and saw the Lord Speaking to me. ‘Quick! ‘he said.’ Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.”* Acts 22:17-18

2. Dreams and Visions Can Guide Into Fruitful Service.

“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come Over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” Acts 16:9-10

3. Dreams and Visions Can Give Us Important Information.

[Peter] fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of...animals...then a voice told him, ‘Get up Peter. Kill and eat.’” Acts 10: 10-13

4. Dreams and Visions Can Encourage Believers.

“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision. ‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you.” Acts 18:9-10

Some Dreams in the Bible.

Peter - vision about Gentiles (Acts 10:9-23)

Paul – vision of Macedonian man (Acts 16:6-15)

Pharaoh – dream predicting crops for 14 years (Gen. 42:1-32)

Joseph – dream of Joseph becoming greater than his brothers (Gen 37:5-11)

The Baker and the wine bearer – predict their destinies (Gen 40:1-23)

Ezekiel – Valley of Dry Bones vision (Ezekiel 37)

NT Joseph – dream to stay with Mary (Matthew 1:20)

NT Joseph – dream with instructions to flee to Egypt (Matt. 2:13)

The Magi – dream to warn them about Herod (Matthew 2:12)

Cornelius – dream about getting Peter (Acts 10:1-3)

Peter – vision about accepting Gentiles (Acts 10:9-15)

Paul – vision of Macedonian man asking for help (Acts 16:6-15)

Paul – vision of Jesus encouraging him (Acts 18:9-10)

Paul – a trance instructing Peter to leave Jerusalem (Acts 22:18)

John – a vision on heaven (Revelation)