

Eccl. 5:3

Dreams...

What are dreams?

Why do they come?

What about religious dreams?

**Are they genuine religious experiences &
messages from God?**

For example...

Dreams...

“Sometimes what we dream literally happens. This type of dream is a vision or a prophetic type dream. For example you dream of a tornado hitting a certain place, then it happens. That type of dream is given for you to pray and intercede, sometimes just for your awareness and preparation. Other than a vision or prophetic dream, your dreams are going to be symbolic or metaphoric. A tornado dream may be symbolic of an approaching stormy or difficult time in your life or other various areas of life, business, economical, etc. God may be allowing you to see the plan of the enemy (who comes to kill, steal and destroy.)”

<http://www.squidoo.com/understanddream>

Dreams...

I. God Has Used Dreams

Gen. 20:2-9 “And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister. And Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, because of the woman whom thou hast taken. For she is a man's wife.”

God fulfilled a promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:3).

God gave a warning through the dream.

The recipient understood the dream was a genuine message from God.

Dreams...

I. God Has Used Dreams

Gen. 31:10-13 **Instruction** to Jacob to leave Haran

Gen. 31:24 **Warned** Laban not to harm Jacob

Gen. 37:5-11 **Prophetic** of Joseph's family bowing

Gen. 40:5-23 Butler & Baker of Pharaoh, Joseph interpreted. **Prophetic & preparatory.**

Gen. 41:1-32 Pharaoh's dream, interpreted by Joseph. **Prophetic warning.**

Dreams...

I. God Has Used Dreams

When Aaron & Miriam spoke against Moses:

Num. 12:6 And he said, Hear now my words: if there be a prophet among you, I Jehovah will make myself known unto him in a vision, I will speak with him in a dream.

7 My servant Moses is not so; he is faithful in all my house: 8 with him will I speak mouth to mouth, even manifestly, and not in dark speeches; and the form of Jehovah shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant, against Moses?

Dreams...

I. God Has Used Dreams

Judges 7:13-15 Midianite's dream **confirmed & encouraged** Gideon to trust God.

1 Kings 3:5-15 Solomon's dream & request for wisdom. **A means of blessing & instruction.**

A means to reveal truth, confirm it & fulfill promises!

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Were...

False Dreams

Jer. 23:8 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. 29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. 31 Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith...

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Were...

False Dreams

Jer. 23:32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their vain boasting; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

Men could claim they dreamed, but lie!

Men could claim a message from God, but deceive!

Thus, not all dreams were real or true even in Bible times!

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Daniel 2:1 ...Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams; and his spirit was troubled, and his sleep went from him.
2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the enchanters, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.
4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in the Syrian language, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Daniel 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye make not known unto me the dream and the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

...9 But if ye make not known unto me the dream, there is but one law for you; for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can show me the interpretation thereof.

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king's matter, forasmuch as no king, lord, or ruler, hath asked such a thing of any magician, or enchanter, or Chaldean.

11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is no other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Dreams could be evaluated & tested!

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Dan. 2:13 So the decree went forth, and the wise men were to be slain; and they sought Daniel and his companions to be slain.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: 18 that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret... 19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Daniel 4:4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. 5 I saw a dream which made me afraid; and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. 6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. 7 Then came in the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers; and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Daniel 4:19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was stricken dumb for a while, and his thoughts troubled him. The king answered and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine adversaries.

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong... 22 it is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong; for thy greatness is grown, ...24 this is the interpretation, O king, and it is the decree of the Most High

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Daniel 4:25 that thou shalt be driven from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and thou shalt be made to eat grass as oxen, and shalt be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee; till thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

Confirmation by a genuine prophet.

Fulfillment just as predicted.

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

A Means Of Confirmation

Deut. 13:1 If there arise in the midst of thee a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and he give thee a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or unto that dreamer of dreams: for Jehovah your God proveth you..."

Even false dreams can come true some times...

Must still evaluate their claims by known revelation!

Dreams...

II. In Biblical Times There Was...

Purpose To These Dreams

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Predicted a new dispensation. Fulfilled (Acts 2:17).

Dreams...

II. Even in Biblical Times There Was...

Purpose To These Dreams

Joseph told not to put away Mary (Matt. 1:20).

Joseph warned of Herod (Matt. 2:12-13).

Joseph told to return (Matt. 2:19, 22).

Dreams were a means of revealing truth,
confirming truth & fulfilling promises.

Dreams...

III. Miraculous Dreams Have Ended

God Specified A Change!

Heb 1:1 God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners,

2 hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds;

Why speak “of old times” if it was to stay the same?

Dreams...

III. Miraculous Dreams Have Ended

God Specified A Change!

1 Cor. 13:8 Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away.

Purpose of miracles fulfilled (Mk. 16:20; Jude 3).

Thus, what further need or use would there be for them today (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:2-3)?

Dreams...

IV. But What About...

“My dreams are so vivid! So real!”

“My religious leader’s dreams come true!”

“My dreams are so relevant to my life!”

“I saw Jesus!” “I saw an angel!”

Will God contradict Himself? Do what He says He will no longer do?

Miraculous dreams have ceased, but regular dreams continue! (Eccl. 5:3; Job 20:8; Ps. 126:1)

Miraculous dreams have ceased, but false dreams continue! (Mormonism; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Cor. 15:8)

The gospel of Jesus is God’s method now (Ro.1:16)!

Dreams...

Conclusion:

God formerly used dreams to communicate.

Even then ordinary dreams occurred...

As well as false dreams...

Today, God communicates through His word.

Will we listen to His word?

Blood of Jesus sanctified the message (Mt. 26:28).

Heed Him today!

