

Dreams

August 10, 2025

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. The message this week is titled, "Dreams." Thank you to Rhonda, Glynnis, Barb, Don, and Ed for being part of the service. The scripture reading is Genesis 21 to five. Happy birthday this week to Len and Robin, and happy anniversary to Mary and Brian.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 20:1-5

The reading today is from Genesis chapter 20 verses 1 to 5. Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek, king of Gerar, sent for Sarah and took her. But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken. She is a married woman." Now Abimelek had not gone near her. So he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?" "Did he not say to me she is my sister and didn't she also say he is my brother?" I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.

Sermon

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for being with us today. I hope that your summer is going along very well. I don't think I've ever preached a sermon about dreams. And then one night I had a dream. And I had a dream about why I don't preach about dreams. And then I woke up. Still wondering about it. And I'm still wondering about it right now. Dreams. Where in scripture does the Bible talk about dreams? So when you don't know, you go and look. And I found it really interesting and really fascinating. You know, a lot of us, some people at least, are able to fall asleep quickly and wake up refreshed. And then there are others who toss and turn and they're overwhelmed with multiple dreams. Sometimes strange dreams. And wondering where did that ever come from? Well, it's found in scripture many, many times.

In the first book of the Bible in Genesis, Joseph the youngest brother who was mistreated by his own brothers, yet he remembered his dreams. That they would be mistreated by his own brothers. But then his brothers, because of being mistreated, he would be revered even more. Joseph said to Pharaoh, Pharaoh was basically of that time the king of the world. Joseph said to Pharaoh because he was having dreams. The Lord sent the dreams. The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. It is just as I said to Pharaoh. The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh is that the matter has already been firmly decided by God and God will do as God has chosen to do. And I think that's right. God will do as God has chosen to do in us and with us.

It's marvelous to think that we can be so connected to the Lord and let's face it, we all get busy and sometimes we forget. Maybe a quick prayer or something like that. But just this past week, thinking about dreams and how they work out and how other people have dreamt. So Joseph says to Pharaoh, the dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. It's just as I said to Pharaoh, the reason

the dream was given to Pharaoh is that the matter has been firmly decided by God and God will do as he's chosen to do. And even though Joseph's brothers caused great distress for Joseph, Joseph continued to trust in God. And when we have great difficulties, we sometimes cannot figure it out. But God has promised I will never leave you, I will never forsake you, I am with you always. Even while we sleep.

There in Samuel, Saul asked, why do you consult me? You did not obey the Lord, O curio, his commands. And then immediately King Saul fell full length on the ground and his strength was gone.

And then we go to this book. It's not the easiest book to read. The poor fella, his name is Job. Everything that would go against him went against him. And yet the spirit of the Lord helped him with faith even though he was horrendously challenged. Here's what he says. This is Job speaking. The spirit of the Lord has made me. The breath of the Almighty gives me life. Answer me then if you can. Prepare yourself, God says, and confront me. I am just like you before God, is what he's saying. I too have been taken from clay. No fear of me should alarm you. Nor should my hand be heavy upon you. But you have said in your hearing, I am pure and I am without sin. Really. In the dream, in a vision at night when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber. But God, even with Job's horrendous difficulties, with Job, even in distress, Job put his faith in the Lord. I'm sure he wondered why. I'm sure he was hoping every day his life would change. But finally he is restored.

Then we come to this incredible man by the name of Daniel. In chapter one, in verse 17, Daniel writes these words. These four young men who are with him, God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions. And Daniel could understand dreams of all kinds. His future seemed bleak. But God demonstrated Daniel's knowledge and the future of faith and faithfulness to God.

And then there is a really interesting book in the Bible called Ecclesiastes. And he says this, do not lead your mouth to sin and let your words be few. That's what always the congregation wants for the preacher. Let his words be few. A dream comes and there are many cares.

I suppose many dreams come when we don't know what our future holds. What will we do? Where will we go? My back is against the wall. How am I going to survive? And question after question after question, we don't know what the future holds. What will we do? How will we survive? And then these beautiful words. I from God says, I am with you always. 24 hours a day. I am with you always. And even when we think God, I don't think you're with me. He's always with us. I am with you always, always, always. And God's promise. I will never leave you. Never, never, never. I will never forsake you, God says. Boy, sometimes it feels not like that, but it is. I will never leave you, I'll never forsake you. And even as we sleep and toss and turn because of difficulties in our own life, God's promise, I am with you. Even when we have to say, God, can you help us out? Can you help us understand what's actually going on? Why is this happening? God says, I'm with you. I'm with you. Even as we sleep.

And then in the book of Joel, which is very interesting, a very specific and extremely important scripture that connects the Old and New Testament alike. In Joel, he says, and this is one of my favorite passages, "And afterward I will pour out my spirit on," guess who? "All people. I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream

dreams." I'm an old man because I dream. "Your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit on those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of that great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." So let's continually rely and call on the Lord.

And then in the New Testament in Matthew two, when the Magi had gone, the Lord appeared. Take this child and his mother to escape to Egypt and stay there until I tell you, God had our attention, had her attention.

And then Peter addresses the crowd who gathered together. And with great faith, he stood up with the 11 and raised his voice and addressed to the crowd, fellow Jews and all you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain what's happening here. Listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk. It's only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel that I will pour out my spirit on all people. I will pour out my spirit. God is saying this. I'm pouring out my spirit on all people. That's us. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. I'm an old man.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in those days and they will declare the word of the Lord. They will prophesy and I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great Lord of that glorious day. God will always get our attention. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

People of Israel, Peter says, listen to this. Jesus of Nazareth was a man credited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did among you through him as you yourselves know. This man, Jesus, was handed over to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did among you as you yourselves know. This man was handed over by God set purpose and foreknowledge by you, the wicked man, put him to death. By nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death. Listen to this one. Because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. He was not abandoned to the grave. God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of that fact. And we ourselves will not be abandoned to the grave.

God has promised that he will raise us. It's not a, I hope so. It is a reality.

Therefore he says all Israel be assured of this. God made Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ and when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart. And they said to Peter and all the other apostles, brothers and sisters, what do we do? Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins. And you'll receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and for all those who are far off, those who haven't heard the message yet. In other words, it's even for us this very moment.

And the apostle says in Romans, the Holy Spirit himself testifies with our own spirit that we are God's children. And if we're God's children, this is too much. And if we are God's children, then we

are heirs of God and we are co-heirs with Christ. If indeed we share in his sufferings, then we will also share in his glory. These aren't, these aren't, I hope so. No, these are words of reality.

So now to him who was able to establish you by the gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery hidden long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God that all nations of the world might believe and obey him. To the only wise God, be glory forever through Jesus Christ.

So in conclusion, may all of us find comfort. Even in our dreams, may we find comfort. Maybe, maybe tonight when you close your eyes, feel the comfort of God's presence. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because we have a father of compassion and the God who gives us all compassion. We have a comfort like a baby who can't settle. And then finally the baby settles and it's peace. It's the comfort of God who comforts us even in our troubles. And we know that if our earthly body is destroyed, it doesn't matter, we have a new body from God. It's in an eternal house in heaven. It's not built by human hands, but by God.

And when the kindness of our love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he saved us not because of righteous things that we have done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Time after time after time after time, here is this promise to us. Here's the promise to us. Here's the promise to us. And God never breaks a promise because we're a chosen people. We are a royal priesthood. We are a people belonging to God so that we might declare the praises of him who calls us out of darkness into this wonderful light.

I've taken up too much time, and let me just finish with this in the wonderful book of Revelation. And picture this if you can. All the angels in heaven were standing around the throne of God. And the angels fell down on their faces in the throne, and they worshiped God saying these words. Praise and glory and wisdom and honor and power and strength be to our God. There will be no more death. Nope, not allowed. There will be no more crying. Nope, not allowed. There will be no pain. For the old order of things has passed away. And then he says these words are trustworthy and true. What an amazing savior we have. Amen.

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