

Dreams – an ancient language of God

Help for Christians to decode the mysteries

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This message covers

- The bible revelation about dreams.
- Lessons for our generation to embrace this mystery language
- Further resources to help you.

Information notice board

- 1) **About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life being a hedonist – My dreams were only about my rise and fame! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has now overhauled my life to run after Him to live by the Holy Spirit rather than the Flesh. You can read my full testimony [here](#).
- 2) **About these series.** This is supplementary material to a series based on a word which came to me from the Lord Jesus. The word is “Blossom” which defines a series of 12 topics he has given me to tell his church about and build Christian character in his Holy Spirit. This article is also sermon notes for videos on the topic. The videos for these series are here: <https://www.shaweleroad.com/blossom>
- 3) **Pray for us!** Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
- 4) **Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)** and keep up with our videos which support the website.
- 5) **Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)? Consider supporting:**

The Divinity Code to understanding your dreams and visions.

The 2013 prophetic book by Adam Thompson and Adrian Beale. Get it on Amazon and other online book sellers.

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Part 1: Basics

Well in my early Christian journey, I listened to someone, I can't recall, but I think it might have been Pastor Rick Warren who said you need to maintain a spiritual journal so you can track your journey with God. I think I took this principle and extended it to maintaining a dream journal.

One day in around April 2017, in my first recorded dream, I saw in it a married woman, I knew here in Jersey. The dream showed me that she liked me and I was getting intimate with her. I woke up shocked. Not least because I was engaged and soon to be married but because I thought, that's weird, I didn't know she liked me, she was the LAST PERSON, I would have thought of, we were not even friends. Well I did not give it much thought, until about 2- 3 months later, I went to a party. By this time, I was now newly married and then she dropped a bombshell – she told me she had had a crush on me for a long time and she was now disappointed that I was married and also saved. I then remembered the dream! Hadn't God warned me, I might have walked into this situation and fallen into a trap.

So, spurred on by this so to speak Prophetic warning from God, I take dreams pretty serious and it is about 3 years since I have been keeping my "dream journal" – a record of my dreams. I have to date listed over 40 dreams. That incident is not the only one where God has warned me in advance of things – that later happened. I then concluded that God speaks to me in this way, and I need to hear him.

And then recently, I dreamt that I was best friends with 2 massive Ugandan celebrities – Bobi Wine and Jose Chameleon. For those who are outside Uganda, this would be the equivalent of perhaps being friends with Jayz and Kanye West or friends with the Cold Play guys in the UK.

Having understood the interpretation of this dream, which I will tell you about at the end, this is what has spurred me, I believe guided by the Holy Spirit to finally share this topic with you.

But let's start with the bible, what does it say about this topic? There are about 21 recorded dreams throughout the bible. These are as follows:

Dreams by type

(i) Literal or Metaphor

Type	M: Metaphor (Use of symbols e.g loaf, ladder, tree)	L: Literal Dream (e.g. "do this" "go here")
%	57%	43%
Number of dreams	12	9

(ii) Type of content

Type	Warning (e.g don't do this)	Fore warning (e.g danger is coming)	Promise	Directive (do this, go here)	Judgment	Future events
%	19	14	24	29	4	10
Number of dreams	4	3	5	6	1	2

Details of dreams

Old Testament				New Testament	Today
Genesis	Judges	1 Kings	Daniel	Matthew	
<p>1. Warning (L): Abimelech (Gen 20: 3-7)</p> <p>2. Promise(M): Jacob's ladder (Gen 28:12-15)</p> <p>3. Directive (L): Go home Jacob (Gen 31:10-13)</p> <p>4. Warning (L): Laban (Gen 31: 24)</p> <p>5. Promise(M): Joseph sheaf (Gen 37: 5-7)</p> <p>6. Promise (M): Joseph stars (M) (Gen 37: 9)</p> <p>7. Promise (M): Butler grapes (Gen 40: 9-11)</p> <p>8. Judgment (M):</p>	<p>11. ForeWarning (M): Midianite barley loaf (Judges 7: 13-14)</p>	<p>12. Promise (L): Solomon: (1 Kings 3: 5-15).</p>	<p>13. Future events (M): Nebuchadnezzar statue (Dan 2:31-35)</p> <p>14. Warning (M): Nebuchadnezzar tree Dan 4:10-18</p> <p>15. Future events (M): Daniel beasts (M) Dan 7: 1-14</p>	<p>16. Directive (L): Joseph to marry Mary (Matt 1: 20-23)</p> <p>17. Directive (L): Wise Men. (Matt 2:12)</p> <p>18. Directive (L): Joseph flee to Egypt. (Matt 2:13)</p> <p>19. Directive (L): Joseph return home (Matt 2:19-20)</p> <p>20. Directive (L): Joseph - not Judea (Matt 2: 22)</p> <p>21. Warning (M): Pilate's wife nightmare (Matt 27: 19)</p>	<p>Acts 2: 17</p> <p>'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.</p>

Baker bread (<i>Gen 40:16-17</i>)					
9/10. Forewarning (M): Pharaoh's dreams of cows and grain (<i>Gen 41:1-7</i>)					



The tables above show that:

1. **The majority of dreams are metaphorical.** About 57%. – using symbols and mysterious other images. This is consistent with God's character throughout scripture for the bible says:
 - It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2
 - He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. Mark 4:34, NIV.
2. **The majority of dreams (About 53%) are promises or directives (e.g do this and do that).**
3. **There is a heavy number of dreams in the first books of each of the Testaments.**
 - a. Genesis has 10 dreams. 48%.
 - b. Matthew has 6 dreams. 29%.

Is the Lord showing us that dreams are a very much part of laying foundational concepts when he is making major changes? When the Father was preparing to lay the Law through Moses, he gave the patriarchs several dreams. When his Son Jesus was coming into the world, he gave several dreams. Is this perhaps why to signify the beginning of the Spirit age, he said once again through Peter at Pentecost:

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Acts 2: 17.

4. **Without dreams:**
 - The future nation of Israel would not be saved – Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams were key to this (Gen 41: 1-7).
 - We wouldn't have the name Jesus and The Messiah would have been killed by Herod (Matthew 1 -2).
 - We wouldn't know fully how the end of times will come about. Daniel's dreams are key to this (Daniel 2-7).

Part 2: Examples from the bible

Having understood the foundation of dreams and the bible and their importance, let us explore some more biblical principles about dreams.

1. God often speaks to people – and has chosen dreams as one of the ways to hear his voice. These could for example be directives, prophecies or warnings.

The bible says:

*For God does speak—now one way, now another— though no one perceives 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**, to turn them from wrongdoing and **keep them from pride**, to **preserve them** from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword. Job 33: 14-18*

*Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” “I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. **He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams**. So, I have called on you to tell me what to do.” 1 Samuel 28: 15*

Some of the examples of dreams in the bible illustrate this further, for example:

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.” Genesis 20:3.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1: 20 – 23

When they had gone, 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 until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” Matthew 2: 13

2. Dreams are accelerating in these last days – the times of the Spirit.

*“ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, **your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams**. Acts 2: 17*

This is happening today!

For example, during these times of Covid-19, people are having a series of “bizarre” lock down dreams and scientists are still not sure why, let alone why we dream, as reported in the *Guardian* newspaper, in an article by a neuroscientist:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/12/coronavirus-stress-lockdown-dreams-vivid-scientists>

One person narrates: “being surrounded and drowned by spiders so realistic, being best friends with Niall Horan of One Direction, a tornado go through a hometown...”

Also, in a separate story, many Muslims are coming to God through seeing dreams, of Jesus!

The website: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/muslims-dream-jesus/> reports that a magazine called *Mission Frontiers* noted that of 600 Muslim converts, 25% (150) experienced a dream which led to their conversion. It then gives some examples of these conversion stories. Here is one:

Jesus Speaking Scripture

A friend of mine tells of a Persian migrant who arrived at a refugee center at 6 a.m., visibly upset. He told his story to a Persian pastor: During the night he saw someone dressed in white raise his hand and say, "Stand up and follow me." The Persian man said, "Who are you?" The man in white replied, "I am the Alpha and the Omega. I'm the way to heaven. No one can go to the Father, except through me."

He began to ask the Persian pastor: "Who is he? What am I going to do? Why did he ask me to follow him? How shall I go? Tell me."

In response, the pastor held out his Bible and asked, "Have you seen this before?"

"No," he replied.

"Do you know what it is?"

"No."

The pastor then opened to the Book of Revelation: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." The man started crying and said, "How can I accept him? How can I follow him?" So the pastor led him in prayer and peace came over him. The pastor then gave the man a Bible and told him to hide it, since the Muslims in the camps could cause him trouble.

But the man replied, "The Jesus that I met today, he's more powerful than the Muslims in the camp." He left and an hour later returned with 10 more Persians and told the pastor, "These people want a Bible." No one had to teach him an evangelistic strategy.

So if you are an unbeliever and you are getting dreams and visions – pay attention, the God of the bible is speaking to you, in one way or the other, even when you have never met him, **he will introduce himself to you, that your heart may know, there is one God and one judge. That there is one mediator – the Lord Jesus. That there is one Spirit – the Spirit of God, who searches all hearts.**

3. Men of God often wrote down dreams

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream. Daniel 7: 1-3

4. God has anointed certain people to help us understand and/or interpret dreams – so we should seek God's appointed interpreters.

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. Daniel 1: 17.

5. Dreams appear to be the language of prophets or people anointed with this calling.

He said, "Listen to my words: "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

6. Dreams can come from God to unbelievers as a means of causing them to fear him and believe or take action for future events.

In the bible – Nebuchadnezzar and Pharaoh were both kings and had very prominent dreams of future events.

- King Nebuchadnezzar had prophetic dreams of a statue representing future kingdoms (Dan 2:31-35))
- Pharaoh had dreams of 7 years of abundance followed by 7 years of famine ((Gen 41:1-7))

7. We have to be careful with dreams though – false people or spirits can creep in through them. Scripture is how we assess them.

The bible has principles which require that you typically confirm any matter, prophesy or a word from God with 2 -3 confirmations. It sets this principle as follows:

But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ Matthew 18: 16.

So, likewise in dream interpretation, seek 2-3 witnesses. The inner witness of the Spirit in you could be one, the word/bible is often a second confirmation/witness. A respected and reputable Spirit filled person (for example a church leader or prophet) can be a third witness.

8. Finally, Dream interpretation ultimately belongs to God; we WILL need his help.

Ultimately the Bible does not give us a handbook for interpreting dreams and neither do the dream interpretation websites or books – **they simply give clues or principles to apply to others.**

Even Daniel, who was great at interpreting other people’s dreams, needed help with his own visions (Daniel 7:16). There’s no guarantee that we’ll immediately understand the dreams we have, and there’s no biblical “magic formulae” for understanding them, either. We need to rely on God. What this means is dreams are not meaningless—it just means they’re mysteries God wants us to solve!

We both had dreams,” they answered, “but there is no one to interpret them.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.” Genesis 40: 8

As I wrote this article, Did I just hear the Lord tell me: “To you have been given the keysⁱⁱ?” ... God is indeed mysterious but let us continue.

Part 3: Practical dream interpretation guidelines/principles

Now that we have the background to the importance of dreams in the bible as well as examples from the bible, what are some of the practical steps you can take to successfully understanding dreams.

1. Have a list of excellent bible-based dream interpretation resources.

Some 4 I use are these books and online sources:

- a. The Divinity code to understanding your dreams and visions, 2013, Adam F Thomson and Adrian Beale.
- b. Understanding the dreams, you dream, 2010 Ira Milligan.
- c. <https://www.carisministries.com/seer-dictionary/>
- d. <https://www.pura-t-international.org.uk/christian-dream-dictionary>

Here I apply the principle of “2-3 witnesses to confirm a matter” by often using more than one of the resources to check my dreams.

Please be careful which sources you use to help you. Not every resource comes from God – some could be from evil spirits/demons! Some are focused on spirituality – the type promoted by psychics, mediums, astrologers et al. This is not biblical – consult God’s sources, those reliant on the bible.

2. Keep a pen and paper by your bed side.

In my case, I have a “dream journal” maintained in my “notes” facility on my phone. I record the following about every dream:

- Date (e.g 17/4/2020)
- Location of where I was when I dreamt (e.g Jersey, UK)
- Summary of dream/title (e.g A dream of Bobi Wine and Chameleon as my friends).
- Time (if applicable e.g 3.06 am)

3. When writing your dream, pay attention to certain elements in the dream.

These include:

- **Names** (e.g Joseph, Robert). Name meanings could be a hidden message.
- **Colors** (e.g blue plate, red shirt, green car). Certain colours have biblical foundations *e.g white = purity, purple = royal.*
- **Numbers** (e.g level 12). Again, these have often have biblical meaning, for example 12 is an apostolic number.
- **Places** (e.g bus stop, airport terminal). These have interpretations, e.g airport terminal is a place of waiting before elevation.
- **Feeling you experienced** (e.g fear, peace).
- **Repeat dreams** are a sign of importance, confirmation, imminence, urgency.
- **People.** People you see in dreams may represent:
 - Themselves
 - Their character
 - Their position, role, or what they represent to the dreamer
 - The organization or church they represent
 - The meaning of their names.

4. Don’t disregard the dream because it is “weird” or even similar to what you just experienced.

Think of how weird some biblical dreams must have appeared at the time. In Pharaoh’s dream told to Joseph, 7 skinny cows ate 7 fat cows and after that, they skinny ones were not looking any healthier after eating! That’s weird!

Divinity code notes:

As the majority of dreams come as parables, a very common mistake is to disregard such dreams because they utilize elements of something to which we have recently been exposed.

Say, for example, I find a bee floating in the dishwater in the kitchen sink, and that night I dream about a swarm of bees. If I wake and say to myself, “I had that dream because of that bee in the sink last night” and then dismiss it as nonsense, I have missed God’s voice.

This is because God takes the opportunity to use the images to which we have been freshly exposed to give us new perspectives on our spiritual walk.

*Just as Jesus related to fishermen with net casting (see Matt. 4:19), to farmers with seed sowing (see Matt. 13:1-9), and to a strongly relational society with scenes of marriage (see Matt. 22:37-39), **so the Holy Spirit loves to use images fresh in our memories, often throwing in abstract elements and people we know to convey truth.***

The important lesson behind this is that, try as much as possible to keep records of your dreams however “weird” or “unspiritual” they seem. There is a biblical principle about this: “to he who has, even more will be givenⁱⁱⁱⁱ” Often God can speak in a series, in bits and pieces as he helps you to start developing your own dream language or putting together pieces of a jigsaw. Keeping them all helps you to eventually develop the discernment of knowing which ones to keep and which ones to discard.

I have for example kept records of my over 40 dreams over the last 3 years and it’s only now that I am starting to understand my “dream language”. For example, whenever I see my mum in my dreams – I now know, this often means the Holy Spirit, I used to wonder why my mum was always in my dreams!

5. **If first you don’t understand --- be patient.** The dream might be part of a larger picture, God will give you the interpretation later. Likewise, if you don’t understand the dream, keep searching, keep seeking, keep knocking. God is mysterious and loves when we search! Perhaps like a loving father playing hide and seek with his children! The more you search, the more you get experienced. Finally, Don’t forget to pray, pray pray. Dreams belong to God. Don’t place all your reliance on a book, trust God above all else.

Part 4: an example dream and it’s possible interpretation

I had the following dream and based on using dream interpretation resources as well as guidance from the Lord, I lay out its most likely interpretation.

17/4/2020 A dream of Bobi wine and chameleon, as my friends.

[Bobi wine and Chameleon are Ugandan celebrities – perhaps as famous as Jay Z and Kanye West (before conversion) in the US or Cold play in the UK]. Some details are kept deliberately obscure.

A: Dream

Celebrity A has parked his car (a small white car) at a petrol station near the Old Taxi park in Kampala but Celebrity B couldn’t (a big posh light green car like a VX or an Escalade).. I had been having Lunch with the celebrities.

Then I drive to go to Celebrity B’s home to wait for him. I find the door to the living room open, so I enter shirtless, but the carpet is slippery, I fall. It is not a fatal fall. I can hear a woman and children in kitchen but see no one.. As I wait I survey the living room. It had flat blue porcelain bowls of sorts, each with I think a name of the child.

Then I remember how weird it would be to meet people bare chested so I run and get my grey shirt (it had been hot) and as I do get the shirt, a boy (his son) comes from school, he says they also call him “Mr Celebrity B”. I later also meet a girl (her name is M.. something).. and later Celebrity B introduces

me to an older boy (the third child) who is quieter. I remark that it seems this one was born when Celebrity B was broke and humble, unlike the others who are a bit more pompous.

Prior to that, Celebrity B and his crew, who came with him, they were throwing large stones over the wall to the neighbour's house! The house is a double storied house, it seems nice (as this is a posh neighbourhood) but is a bit old... But for Celebrity B and his friends, it's like they didn't care if a stone might fall on someone...The dream ended at the part when I was meeting the older boy (son of Celebrity B) and asking his name..

B: Dream elements to aid interpretation.

- **Names**
 - Bobi wine's names "Robert Kyagulanyi." Robert means "fame and bright".
 - Chameleon is also Joseph Mayanja. Joseph means "he will add". Mayanja means "many lakes". Possible interpretation: "He will add many lakes." Does lakes represent a harvest field or church? Hence name means – "He who adds many churches?"
- **Lunch** taking in a meal or feeding on Christ or having fellowship (as friends).
- **Cars**
 - A small white car means a small personal ministry (Celebrity A). White means righteous, holy. It is parked at a petrol station meaning it can be fuelled, or energised (Holy Spirit filled church or place of anointing in the Spirit) and is near the old taxi park meaning near many ministries that go nationwide, but perhaps for poor people? Does this mean the humble side?
 - A luxury green car can mean life/growth or more likely naive, fruitless or work of flesh particularly as this car can't be parked at the petrol station, like Celebrity A's.
- **Main theme of dream - my visit to Celebrity B's house.** Visit there is potentially a brief ministry or impartation.
- **A house** also typically means a ministry.
 - In the house there is a wife in the kitchen - companion (ministry partner or church) and some children (fruit of ministry). They are however hidden as I can't see them.
 - There are some children names on display in the living room - blue bowls is evidence of a royal priesthood. Children means church (children of God).
 - Could Celebrity B represent me - and my desire for greatness, fame nationwide with a luxury car (green can mean life/growth or naive, fruitless or work of flesh particularly as this car can't be parked at the petrol station, like Celebrity A's.
- **Early arrival.** I arrive at the house before Celebrity B? Does this mean arriving before I should and I am bare chested, meaning I am exposed and because I'm not careful when I enter the house I fall? A minor mishap? Carpet means foundation... a weak one? Without God (slippery) Hence I fall ? But not serious. Grey means uncertain/ill defined (grey area) or a mixture (black and white). Meaning my covering is unclear? I took off shirt in car as it was hot - meaning under pressure? Adversity?

- **Children.**
 - 3 children include 2 boys and 1 younger girl. Could girl their sister represent wisdom?
 - The younger children are pompous while the older one is humble (born in adversity). Older fruit (church) will be better than new ones in the time of fame?
- **Celebrity B Arrival.**
 - When Celebrity B comes - he and friends throw stones at neighbours' stately but old double storied house.
 - Is this throwing accusations (as in bible stones at others represent false judgment/accusatory words for example in bible, woman accused by pharisees before Jesus of adultery^{iv}) at older stately ministries? Because we are famous?

Bringing it all together it seems the Lord is saying:

I have two sides or ministries to me (intimate friends), based on me eating lunch with them. Both of them are popular or well known.

One of them is Holy and pure/righteous (white) and is refreshed by the Holy Spirit (petrol station) and is near other ministries (old taxi park). The other has a large ministry, but it's based on the work of the flesh (green).

I go visit (brief ministry) the work of the flesh and on my way there I take off my uncertainty (grey shirt) because of pressure (heat) and I arrive at Celebrity B's home. Inside that ministry are some hidden places (kitchen representing head or heart) where a ministry companion and churches (children) are but they are not appearing. When I arrive, I slip and fall because the carpet (foundation) is not built on God.

The ministry has beautiful decorations for the 3 children (bowls) in blue - presenting genuinely good works or things to be proud of, as they are blue (priestly).

The children of Celebrity B who I meet (fruits or ministries) comprise of 2 sons and 1 girl (wisdom) but the younger 2 are pompous while the older one is humble - born of a time before the ministry prosperity came.

This ministry of Celebrity B comprises of casting large stones (judgment and accusatory words) at other ministries without caring about the risk of hurting others.

The Lord was in this dream warning me about the risk to my path in ministry if I go down one route (humble and refreshed by the Spirit) vs the Other (fleshly but prosperous). Both are well known but in one, I would end up casting judgment on other ministries in arrogance/pride. Such as message calls for humility repentance and for the Lord's hand on me, to guide me in the right paths for his names' sake.

God is gracious and merciful. This dream got my attention and I remembered it! But without this dream, I wouldn't have the foresight to see what God is telling me about my ministry. He is telling me to rely on and him alone. What about you? What is the Spirit saying to the Churches?

Next steps:

Here are further resources to read about Christian dreams

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-dreams/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-does-the-bible-say-about-dreams.html>

<https://overviewbible.com/infographic-dreams-bible/>

ⁱ From <https://overviewbible.com/infographic-dreams-bible/> and The Divinity Code.

ⁱⁱ Could possibly refer to any one of these bible references to keys: <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Keys>

ⁱⁱⁱ Matthew 13: 12

^{iv} John 8: 1-11