

# The Mystery of Dreams & Numbers



*Season 2 Episode 10*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Recent survey:

- 20 percent of the population reports to having what the survey calls “paranormal” experiences on a regular basis.
- 58 percent report to having had an ESP or extra sensory perception encounter.
- 75 percent report to having a déjà vu experience.
- 95 percent report to having had a dream that they knew was given to them by some unknown force.

In Scripture we find one third of the Bible is about, or relates to, a dream or vision.

- If we sleep eight hours a day, we then sleep one third of our life.
- By the time you turn 60 you will have slept for twenty years. God could say a lot in 20 years.

The book of Acts shows us that almost every major decision of early Christianity was made because of a dream, a vision, a prophecy, a supernatural visitation, or some kind of divine intervention.

- As the Early Church grew, nearly every apologist who stood to fight for the establishment of Christianity believed in the present reality of signs, wonders, healings, and miracles, as well as dreams, visions, visitations, and the entire plethora of supernatural experiences seen in the Bible.
  - Men such as Irenaeus, Athanasius, and Polycarp all wrote of their paranormal experiences parallel to those found in the Bible.
  - Church Fathers such as Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Ambrose, and Augustine, emphasized the importance of dreams and visions.
  - The early church mystics such as St. John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Ignatius of Loyola, all had experiences with dreams, visions, and spiritual manifestations.
    - » They took the position of the early kings of Israel—if God did not speak to them in dreams, something was wrong.

- Today, the age of reason has taken its toll.
  - Theologians, with rare exceptions, are silent on this topic.

God has already defined how He is going to speak in these times—through His Word, as well as through signs, wonders, dreams, visions, and prophecy.

- **Joel 2:28-31** "And it shall come to pass afterward. That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."
- All of God's ways are perfect and outside of the Bible, nothing reveals the ways of God more than the interpreting or understanding of a dream or vision.
- Though God may speak through a dream or a vision, man does not always immediately understand the meaning. This was true in Bible times and it is true today.
  - Part of that lack of understanding is cultural, part of it is that God may choose to hide in order to make man seek.
  - Solomon wrote that it is the Glory of God to conceal a matter and it is the glory of kings to search the matter out. (Proverbs 25:2)
  - There is no better example of "searching the matter out" than the search we embark on to find the meaning of a dream that God gives.

### **TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 1**

The Psalmist writes that the ways of God are perfect. (Psalm 18:30)

- They are perfect in design: God's words and His works are in perfect alignment and in harmony in how they function.
- They are perfect in power, in holiness and righteousness, perfect in execution, perfect in objective, and to be such must be perfect in number.
- His works are perfect, perfect in timing, and in season for their occurrence.
- God's words are also perfect when He spoke to the holy prophets and perfect when written.
  - They were written in the perfect way, released at the perfect time, and in the perfect number.

Numbers have always played an important role in the way God speaks.

- The psalmist writes that God numbers the stars, and in so doing calls them all by name. (Psalm 147:4)
- God numbers the Heavenly Hosts and calls them by name. (Isaiah 40:26)
- Job tells us that God even gives a number to the weight of the water on the Earth. (Job 28:25)
- If God's word is perfect and everything He does is perfect, then it is no accident that when God uses the word "number" or "count" or "measure" He does so with intent.
- Sir Isaac Newton was convinced that all of creation could be understood through mathematical equations.

The number **12**

- Why is the number 12 so prevalent in Scripture?
  - Why, 12 tribes, 12 judges of Israel, 12 Apostles, 12 stones in the breastplate of the High Priest, 12 stones in the foundations walls of Heaven, 12 loaves on the Table of Shewbread, 12 Apostles, 12 months in the Jewish and Roman Calendar.
- It seems that God's rule with man and through man over the Earth has to do with the number 12.
- The list of twelve's is long and that list does not even include the multiples of the number 12 found in the word of God, like 144,000.
- Numbers *are* significant to God.

### **TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 2**

Scripture has important links to numbers and it is what the Bible has to say about numbers that is important.

The number **7**

- Seven is seen as the first division of time in the Bible when we are told there were seven days of creation.
- Sevens in the Old and New Testament:
  - The priestly sprinkling of blood and oil were to be done seven times on each of the seven pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle.
  - There were seven feasts of Israel.
  - The seventh day of the week was to be a Sabbath rest.
  - The land was to rest every seven years.

- All of God's dealings with Israel and their redemption and their relationship with God were done and/or completed in sevens or multiples of seven.
- There were seven sayings of Jesus on the Cross, seven loaves of bread that were multiplied, seven Spirits of God, seven letters to seven churches in Revelation, and so much more.

Not every number is mentioned multiple times in scripture.

- The number **666** which is the number of the beast or antichrist.
- It is a well-known number and a very important one to know, but it is used only three times in the Bible and not in a positive way.

In Daniel 4:13, a "Holy One" is speaking to another "Holy One".

- The one who is being spoken to, in the NKJV translation, is called "that certain one".
- The root Hebrew word translated "that certain one" is actually a name—Pawl mo nee—which means the "numberer of secrets" or "wonderful numberer".
  - From this exchange between two angels we discover that at least one angel's primary function is to deal with numbers concerning things of God.

### **TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 3**

Every number has its own significance and is used in perfect harmony within the context of its placement in Scripture.

- There are four numbers that represent completion and perfection in the Bible.
  - **3** is the number of divine perfection and completion.
  - **7** is the number of spiritual perfection and completion.
  - **10** is the number of ordinal perfection and completion.
  - **12** is the number of governmental perfection and completion.
- When you multiply the numbers I've just mentioned  $3 \times 7 \times 10 \times 12$  they equal 2520 or the number of days Nebuchadnezzar was judged for thinking He, rather than God, was the one who made His kingdom what it was.
  - In other words, Nebuchadnezzar was judged by the perfect God, on all four levels, so he could be a complete King.
  - How do I know that Nebuchadnezzar was judged for 2520 days? The bible does not clearly state that, but it does say he was like a beast for seven years. The Hebrew calendar year is 360 days long. Seven times three hundred and sixty is 2,520 days.

- At the end of that seven year period of time, or 2,520 days, Nebuchadnezzar wrote with his own hand the fourth chapter of Daniel.
- All of this was given to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream that Daniel interpreted one year before it happened and it would take seven years to complete.

The dream of the baker who was in prison with Joseph. (Genesis 40)

- The three baskets on the head of Pharaoh's baker represents that in three days it would take place.
- Bread in those days had no preservatives so it lasted only one day. Two baskets were empty, so two days had passed.
- The top basket was full. That together with the birds carrying off the bread (flesh) from the top basket on the head of the baker, allowed Joseph to interpret the dream that in three days Pharaoh will take off your head.

While God does give the interpretation of dreams, God also uses what I call, "divine logic."

- Numbers on one level fit into the divine logic category.
- On another level, numbers have no meaning at all if you do not know the interpretation of the rest of the dream.
  - They become much like the "unknowns" or "variables" (x or n) in algebraic equations.

Why seek for numbers or other metaphorical meanings if it is all waiting for the Holy Spirit to give the interpretation?

- One reason is that it is part of the "seeking a matter out" and you might remember that it is a particular trait of kings to do so.
- Perhaps God wants to make you more kingly in your nature.
- One other reason for the need to understand the divine logic or reasoning of Heaven is that it becomes a skill set.
  - In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel had seen things even he did not understand and the angel Gabriel came to him and told Daniel, "I have come to give you skill to understand" what you have just seen.

Skill is acquired, and revelation is given.

- Revelation is the most important aspect of understanding a dream.
- Revelation only comes from the Holy Spirit of God.

The ways of God are made known in many ways, but dreams reveal the ways of God in a method that hardly anything else does—in pictures.

- The old proverb that a picture is worth a thousand words has never been more profound in its application than when it comes to unraveling the mysteries of a dream.
  - Evidence of this is that a dream that we thought was short can take an hour to write down, because we are writing what we have seen and words sometimes fall short of conveying the importance of the night parable that was revealed to us.

### **TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 4**

What about dreams and numbers today?

- Could seven cows mean seven years in your dream, like it did in Pharaoh's dream?
  - It depends on the context of the dream.
    - » What type of cows were they—fat or lean?
    - » What action did the cows take—did the lean cows eat the fat cows?
  - Numbers and dreams are not so simple that you can give a blanket answer.
  - The number seven may mean something, but it is the context that gives the fullness of the meaning.
- The danger in any blanket statement about numbers is that someone will misuse the number because they fail to take the context of the dream into account.
- Numbers do have meanings, but we need to refrain from making them mean more than they mean.

#### **DREAM:**

In 1990, a friend of mine had a dream where he was hitchhiking to a city 2,010 feet away. As strange as it may seem, he was given a ride by five cars before he got to his destination. When he got to where he was going, a faceless man asked him to build his own car from parts that had been left in the salvage yard of the city. It took some time, but he did it. When he completed the car it quickly began to morph, like a transformer movie, into a 747 airplane. He got into the plane and the plane took off. The dream ended.

## **INTERPRETATION:**

God is taking you on a journey that will come to its fullness in the year 2010. Why the year 2010? Because a year has 12 months and a foot has 12 inches, so 2010 feet represented the year 2010. It would take him being an assistant pastor in five different churches. Why? Because each car represented his purpose, but because he did not own the car or ministry, he was simply in each car for a period of time.

When he arrived at the city of his final destination he would have to build his own ministry—and in his case it was a church. He would have to take people who had not found a home in other churches and been discarded to build his church. When he got everything in place it would grow quickly and take off into matters of new life in the Spirit of God. In this case the 747 airplane represented a transformation for a small church to a large church and the flying represented rising into things of the spirit.

But there was a dual application of the term 747. Yes the 747 was a large airplane, but the total sum of the numbers  $7 + 4 + 7 = 18$ . In Hebrew, the number 18 stands for "New Life" or "Abundant Life". Oh yes, it is often that a faceless man in you dream is the Holy Spirit who will not speak on His own accord, but only reveals the Father—so you never quite see the face.

This dream has come true. Though he tried desperately not to, my friend did take five assistant pastors positions before beginning his own church in 2010, and today, his church is flying with abundant life and the metaphor of the 747 is taking place as I speak.

Yes, the meaning of numbers are important and revelation is needed to fully understand what is being communicated, but it does not hurt to have the skill set given through the understanding of Scripture that is given by Holy Spirit as well in order to fully interpret a dream.

## **CONCLUSION:**

You carry within your spirit an image of God's purpose for your life. You innately know when you're on the right track and when you have veered from it. Within that grand design is the reason why God created you. Dreams can point us toward that which is good for us or warn us about things that will bring us harm. Dreams can tell you where God is taking you and what the enemy is going to do to try to stop you.

Dreams are fascinating and dreams with numbers, times, weights, measures, calendars, distances, and a host of other data can change a life, alter a pathway, or take you on a journey that will last a lifetime.

Revelation by the Holy Spirit and good dream skills can be great aids to helping you make the wisest choices in all aspects of your life. We are all looking for security in an uncertain world and divine wisdom given through dreams can become more important than ever. Perhaps this is why God waited to the last days to pour them out.

You might wonder why would God the creator of all things that exist would want to communicate with you? Perhaps it is simply that He wants you to return home to live with Him in Eternity. Perhaps it is the joy the Creator receives when you fulfill the purpose for which He placed you here on earth. And maybe he wants you to experience as few detours on the way to that purpose as possible.

Whatever the reason or reasons for God designing a dream especially for you, it will take courage and brutal honesty with yourself to see it through. God desires that you walk into greater spiritual health. This type of health reveals to you exactly where you are in your life, as well as what might need to change. Dreams from God are an honest evaluation of His knowledge about you. They are also prophetic in that they can prepare you for things to come. Dreams help us to know that God knows us.