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God Speaks Through Dreams, Profundity Of God's Ways, Jesus' Parables Not Meant For Everyone, Jacob's Ladder And Dream Of Speckled Cattle, Laban's Warning Dream, Abraham's Nightmare, Joseph - Prolific Dreamer And Interpreter Of Dreams, Abraham Exposed By A Dream, King Solomon's Dream And Gift Of Wisdom, King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, Daniel In The Court of The King

As I point out in several of my other articles, there is a clear Biblical record to support the fact that God sometimes chooses to reveal His Will to us by way of dreams, visions and other methods. This is evident from the Book of Genesis, all the way to the revelations which were given to John in the Apocalypse; that is, the Book of Revelation. For example, in the Book of Job, we find the following interesting verses:

"For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,"
Job 33:14-16, KJV

In the Book of Psalms, we also find mention of the fact that God seals our instructions during the night season, as we see in this verse taken from the sixteenth Psalm:

"I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." Psalms 16:7, KJV

The Lord also spoke through the writings of the Prophet Joel and foretold of a coming time when He would freely pour out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh. Included in that prophecy, is the promise that He would cause both men and women to dream dreams, and see visions, as we see by the following verses:

"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: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."
Joel 2:28-29, KJV

A contemporary of Joel, the Prophet Amos, also had this to say regarding how God sometimes chooses to reveal His Will, and His Plans, to mortal men, before He actually carries them out:

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7, KJV

Of course, God does not always work in this fashion. There are times when He purposely chooses to conceal His Ways from

certain people, for whatever His reasons. Thus, we also find it written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

When it came to discussing the Lord's Plans for the Jews, the Apostle Paul likewise marvelled at the profundity of God's Wisdom and Ways, and thus he was inspired to write:

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33, KJV

As I point out in the article "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes!", during the course of His Earthly Ministry, there were times when Jesus too said things, or did things, which were not meant to be understood by everyone. This was particularly true in regards to those men who sought to slay Him; that is, the proud spiritually-blind Jewish Elders of Jerusalem. Consider the following verses:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." Matthew 13:10-16, KJV

For the most part, however, God does desire for us to know His Will for our lives, and He will sometimes go out of His way in order to reveal it to us. As I noted a moment ago, during Biblical times, the Lord sometimes chose to reveal His Plans to His servants through the medium of dreams. Some of my readers will already be familiar with some of the more well-known dreamers of the Holy Bible. In the Old Testament, for example, in the twenty-eighth chapter of the Book of Genesis, we find Jacob's amazing dream of a ladder ascending to Heaven, with some rather unusual beings making use of the same. But it is Who was at the top of that ladder, and what He had to say, which commanded the most attention, as we see here:

"And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set

up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28:11-17, KJV

As you can see by the previous verses, God used this dream in order to reveal to Jacob how He was going to bless his seed, by giving them the land which later became known as Israel; so this was indeed a dream with a very meaningful message. However, this was not the only dream that Jacob had. According to Genesis chapter thirty-one, Jacob learned the secret which would result in his herds multiplying, by way of a dream which the Lord had given to him. Consider the following verses where Jacob is discussing with his wives, Rachel and Leah, how his father-in-law, Laban, had treated him unjustly. In spite of Laban's shrewdness, God outsmarted him, and Jacob ended up far wealthier in the end:

"And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee. And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee." Genesis 31:3-12, KJV

After Jacob and his family had escaped from Laban's powerful grip, Laban had every intention of trying to get back what he selfishly believed was rightfully his; however, the Lord again intervened by way of a dream, and warned Laban not to bring harm to Jacob or his family, as we see here:

"And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. So he fled with all that he

had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face toward the mount Gilead. And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled. And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead. And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead. And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword? Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing. It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad." Genesis 31:20-29, KJV

If we go back in time a number of years, we discover that God also revealed to Jacob's grandfather, that is, Abraham, by way of a dream, how He would bless his descendants, after they had gone through a dark period in Egypt. Consider the following verses which describe Abram's terrible nightmare:

"And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?...And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." Genesis 15:8, 12-21, KJV

As some of you will already know, Jacob's son, Joseph, was also a very prolific dreamer, as well as a wise interpreter of dreams. Sometimes, however, young Joseph's Special Gift got him into serious trouble with his jealous brethren. In two of his dreams, the Lord showed Joseph glimpses of the future, in which his family would some day bow down to him. Naturally, this did not sit well with his brothers who were already envious of him, due to the fact that their father Jacob loved him the most being as Joseph was born in Jacob's old age. To show his love for Joseph, Jacob had made him the coat of many colors. Following are the verses which describe Joseph's two dreams:

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying."

Genesis 37:3-11, KJV

As you may recall, initially, Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him; however, due to the oldest brother Reuben saving his life, Joseph was instead sold to a group of Ishmeelite merchants who were on their way to Egypt where they would sell their spices and other wares. Joseph eventually ended up in the house of Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers and captain of the guard.

Through a series of events, including a false accusation of sexual harassment by Potiphar's wife, Joseph found himself unjustly thrown into prison; but this was a part of God's Plan, and Joseph was eventually elevated to be the second most powerful man in all of Pharaoh's court. His miraculous promotion from prisoner to prince came about as a result of his ability to interpret the dreams of the chief butler and the chief baker, which ultimately came to the attention of Pharaoh himself, who likewise experienced some disturbing dreams involving seven fat cows and seven lean cows, and seven full ears of corn, and seven lean ears of corn. Due to the Lord giving Joseph the ability to properly interpret Pharaoh's strange dreams, the Egyptians had time to prepare themselves for the extended seven-year famine which would soon plague the Middle East. Being as the story is long, I won't be sharing all of the verses here; however, I would like to share the ones which plainly show that God allowed these dreams, in order to reveal His intentions with the land of Egypt, which would ultimately affect Jacob's descendants who would dwell there:

"And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. This is the thing which I have spoken unto

Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass." Genesis 41:25-32, KJV

So in the end, the very same Gift which had caused problems between Joseph and his brethren, saved both Joseph and all of his family, as well as the Egyptians. If you would like to read this wonderful story in its entirety, you will find it in Genesis chapters thirty-seven through fifty. Please note that there is what we might refer to as a "Scriptural Intermission", where the story of Judah and Tamar has been inserted into the middle of the story of Joseph and his brethren.

While many people are familiar with the fact that God made the Israelites a great nation of people during the time that they were under Egyptian bondage, what is less known is that Joseph's time in Egypt, and the sojourn of Jacob and his family to Egypt, was not the first time that the ancestors of the nation of Israel went to that country. As I point out in "The Children Of God And Politics", Abraham made several journeys to the southern end of Israel, even passing into Egypt, as a result of the severe droughts which plagued the area. Abraham was a very shrewd man, and his wife Sarah was apparently beautiful to look upon. Therefore, fearing for his own safety, Abraham decided to play a deceptive game in which his wife would pretend to be his sister. What seemed like a good idea at the time, resulted in some negative and embarrassing consequences for these ancient patriarchs. We read of the first incident in the following verses:

"And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels. And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy

way. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had. And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south." Genesis 12:9-13:1, KJV

One would think that Abraham would have learned a valuable lesson from his ordeal with the Egyptians, but that was not the case; because eight chapters later, we find him again relying upon the very same trickery in order to try to save himself from unwanted hardship. This time, his deception was exposed when God gave a dream to another man who had become captivated by Sarah's beauty, as we see by the following set of verses:

"And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. 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 by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine. Therefore Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the men were sore afraid. Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done. And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing? And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake. And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother. And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife. And Abimelech said, Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee. And unto Sarah he said, Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: thus she was reprov'd. So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife." Genesis 20:1-18, KJV

Moving up hundreds of years in Israelite history, we come to

another Biblical story which is popular with Christians and Jews alike: the story of Gideon. While the story of Gideon's test before the Lord, often referred to as "Gideon's Fleece", is well-known, what may not be common knowledge, is the fact that in addition to a visit by an Angel of the Lord, as well as the miracle of the fleece, the final sign that God gave to Gideon, in order to convince him that the Israelites would be saved by his hand, was a dream. Not only was it a dream, but it was a dream which the Lord gave to a certain member of the army of the enemy; that is, of the Midianites. Here is a portion of the story:

"And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand. But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host. And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude. And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along. And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host. And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian."

Judges 7:9-15, KJV

Several hundreds of years later, following the period of the Judges, we find another famous dreamer of the Old Testament: King Solomon. After Solomon had ascended to the throne of his father, King David, he felt quite incapable of leading the Children of Israel. One night, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and this is what occurred during the course of that famous dream:

"In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him,

Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days. And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants." 1 Kings 3:5-15, KJV

In such articles as "The Kings Of The North And The South", I also discuss the prophetic dreams and visions of King Nebuchadnezzar, and the young Prophet Daniel. You may recall that Daniel was numbered among the Jewish children who were carried off to Babylon when King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah. This occurred about twenty years before the final fall of Jerusalem in approximately the year 587 B.C.:

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego." Daniel 1:1-7, KJV

Soon after being appointed to the court of the Babylonian king, the young child Daniel proved himself to be a gifted interpreter of dreams and visions. In the second year of his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by a dream which he was unable to remember, as we see here:

"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his

dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof." Daniel 2:1-6, KJV

What a challenge indeed! Not only did King Nebuchadnezzar desire the interpretation of his dream, but he couldn't even remember what the dream was! While this most certainly was an impossible request for the king to make to his own wise men, God is not limited by such human folly. When all seemed lost, the Lord provided Daniel with not only the forgotten dream, but also with the interpretation of the same. Thus, Daniel is given a great opportunity to glorify God before Nebuchadnezzar, for the wonderful Gift which he had been given, as we see here:

"Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;" Daniel 2:27-28, KJV

After making sure that Nebuchadnezzar understands that this miracle of interpretation is a Gift of God and not something which he himself has produced, young Daniel then proceeds to interpret the night vision for the king. Being as I discuss this dream, as well as all of the other amazing dreams and visions which are found in the Book of Daniel, in "The Kings Of The North And The South" article, I will not go into great detail here. Suffice it to say that, apart from the Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse if you prefer, the Book of Daniel contains some of the most amazing prophetic dreams found in the entire Bible; dreams which are still being fulfilled in our current day! Not only do they tell of coming world empires, but they very specifically prophesy of the coming of the Messiah, as well as describe the time when God will crush all worldly governments, and set up His own Eternal Kingdom upon this Earth.

As we continue this series in part two, we will turn our attention to a few examples of significant dreams which are found in the New Testament. In addition, I'll also share an experience from my own life, as well as expose the lie of "Apostolic Succession", and explain the significance of the Lord's true Spiritual Temple. I trust that you will join me.

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Joseph's Dreams And Herod's Wrath, Pontius Pilate And The Fate Of The Messiah, Visions Of Cornelius The Centurion And Apostle Peter, Witnessing Door To The Gentiles Opened, My Kitchen Dream, Importance Of God's Spiritual Food, Come And Dine Hymn, Jesus The Cornerstone Of Our Faith, Misguided Roman Catholic Doctrine, Apostolic Succession, Vision Of Daniel Chapter Two, Melchizedek, We Are Spiritual Stones In God's Spiritual Temple, Prophesied End Of Jewish Temple Era

Turning to the New Testament, one of the best known examples of God giving someone dreams, involves Joseph, the husband of Mary, and the Earthly stepfather of Jesus. As we all know, the process of Mary becoming pregnant with Jesus was a result of the creative power of God's Holy Spirit; because at that time, she was still a virgin. However, God had not yet shown His Plans to Joseph, so Joseph was not convinced of this, and was prepared to break his engagement to Mary; that is, until he was given his first dream, as we see here:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:18-20, KJV

Some two years later, in fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy, when evil King Herod sent his soldiers to kill the young children of Bethlehem, in order to hopefully destroy the Messiah in the process, the Lord warned Joseph in yet a second dream to flee to the land of Egypt. Years later, after Herod's death, the Lord gave Joseph yet a third dream in which He commanded him to return to Israel, as we see in the following verses. Please notice also that the Lord even gave the three magi a dream as well, in which He warned them to not return to King Herod and give him the information which he desired of them:

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the

prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene." Matthew 2:12-23, KJV

So while there are some questions regarding what happened to Joseph in the latter years of his life, being as he is not mentioned after Jesus reaches the age of twelve, one thing we can say about the man, is that he must have very much been in tune to God's Spirit. Not only did he recognize his dreams as coming from the Lord, but he was obedient to his Heavenly Visions as well. He was a God-fearing man of faith, and we can all learn from his example.

As we have seen from the examples of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Abimelech, King Nebuchadnezzar, the Midianites, etc., God doesn't limit Himself to giving dreams to His own children only. When it suits His Divine Purposes, He will sometimes reveal things to the children of the world as well. Having said that, one dreamer who is sometimes overlooked in the New Testament, is the wife of Pontius Pilate. As a result of a dream she had experienced that day, she clearly warned her husband to let no evil befall Jesus; but we know that Pilate foolishly refused to take heed to his wife's wise counsel, and instead bowed himself to the pressure of the Jewish Elders and their zealous mob, as we see here:

"Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water,

and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified." Matthew 27:17-26, KJV

Of course, while what Pilate did was wrong, and evil, we all know that his decision was in accordance with God's Will, in order to bring to completion the Plan of Salvation. In short, just like King Nebuchadnezzar, who had invaded Israel over five centuries before, Pontius Pilate was simply one of God's chosen "vessels of wrath", who was ultimately designed for destruction.

The final example I wish to bring to your attention from the New Testament, involves the Roman Centurion, Cornelius, and the Apostle Peter. This story is found in chapter ten of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. In the strictest sense of the word, what these men experienced were not really dreams, but rather visions; because they didn't occur during the night while they were asleep, but rather in the middle of the afternoon, while they were quite conscious. It appears that both men entered a kind of trance-like state. First, let's look at Cornelius' experience:

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa." Acts 10:1-8, KJV

So here we see God preparing Cornelius for his encounter with Peter. If there is one thing we all know, it is that God is the Master Planner. It should not surprise us then to discover that only a few hours before Cornelius' arrival at Simon's house the following day, the Lord also gave a vision to Peter. This vision was accompanied by a very important lesson, so that Peter would willingly receive this Gentile Roman soldier, which under normal conditions, was totally contrary to Jewish laws. Following is the account of Peter's vision:

"On the morrow, as they [Cornelius and company] went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a

great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven."
Acts 10:9-16, KJV

As the account in Acts chapter ten continues, we discover that Peter does in fact accompany Cornelius and his group back to Caesarea, where the Lord has a wonderful witnessing opportunity arranged for Peter. It is during that meeting, that Peter says in part:

"And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:28-29a, 34-35, KJV

Acts chapter ten concludes with Cornelius' family and close friends receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and praising the Lord. Because these two men, Peter and Cornelius, were obedient to their Heavenly Visions, God was magnified, and the ministry to the Gentiles began in earnest, and the world would never be the same.

From the examples I have shared in this series, what we see then, is that God will sometimes use dreams and visions, not only to reveal His Will for particular individuals, but even to reveal His Will for entire nations; in fact, for the entire world. As Jesus stated in His Endtime sermon found in Matthew chapter twenty-four:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14, KJV

At this point, I would like to share with you what actually inspired this current series. Earlier today, while I was taking an afternoon nap, I had my own spiritual experience, similar to others I have described for you in the past. As some of our mailing list members will know, I often enjoy working late at night when everything is quiet; sometimes even doing a number of all-nighters straight in a row. But eventually, however, the lack of sleep catches up with me, and I am forced to give my body some additional rest, lest I really become sick and can't function at all.

So there I was, comfortably laying in my bed on this Sunday afternoon, caught in that hazy world between deep sleep, and semi-consciousness. Those who study this condition, state that it is during this time, when we find ourselves on the brink of unconsciousness, but yet still distantly perceive some noises around us, that we drift into what they refer to

as the "dream state". I speak not as a scientist, nor as one who has studied such matters, but merely as one who has in fact experienced such things. While I do not consider myself to be an active dreamer, (at least I do not often remember any of my dreams), and have never boasted of possessing the Gift to interpret dreams, there have been a few occasions, such as this afternoon, when the Lord has given me dreams, which I realize are of some spiritual significance, and not just the usual run-of-the-mill dreams, which are sometimes the result of events which occurred during the day.

While what I can remember from the dream is rather short, it was enough to make me realize that this was something which the Lord apparently wanted me to share with my readers. The reason why I am certain of this, is because the dream was clearly based upon the Word. In fact, that is precisely what my dream was about: I was receiving some revelations from God's Word, and sharing them with those who were around me. Let me tell you about it:

In this dream, I don't know where I was located, or even what the date was. Most of the events occurred in a kitchen; and I must admit that I find a bit of humor in this fact, because I have often referred to my articles as spiritual meals which I am preparing for my readers. This idea is based upon such verses as the following:

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12, KJV

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4, KJV

"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." Psalms 19:10, KJV

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psalms 34:8, KJV

"I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Psalms 81:10, KJV

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17, KJV

In fact, there was a time about three years ago, when each time that I would announce a new article or series on our private Christian mailing list, I would use a pre-formatted stationary I had created in Eudora. This stationary included the following traditional song. I don't know if all of the words are correct, but this is how I remember it at least:

Come and dine, the Master's calling, come and dine,
You can feast at Jesus' table all the time,
He fed the multitude, turned the water into wine,
To the hungry calling now, come and dine.

All things are ready, come to the feast,
Come for the table now is spread,
Ye famishing, ye perishing
And thou shalt be surely fed,

Here's the invitation,
Come whomsoever will,
Praise God for full Salvation,
Come whomsoever will.

Below the song, I would then place the following text:

----- Begin Quote -----

In the world they may experience the following:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11-12, KJV

...but not so at the Endtime Prophecy Net web site, because as we are told:

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psalms 23:5, KJV

...thus we strive to:

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2, KJV

Therefore, today's main course can be found . . .

----- End Of Quote -----

The above text was followed by the title of the new article, together with the descriptive headers which briefly describe what the article is about, as well as instructions on where to find the new article or series. These announcements were then signed by me with the following signature:

The WordWeaver
Senior Chef...but not the Master Chef!

I will now admit that it was a bit silly for me to announce my new articles in this fashion, but I do have my humorous side; although not everyone understands or appreciates it. I am not always as serious as some people may think. I can be a bit goofy, as my own daughter can attest . . . but she had better not! :)

At any rate, as I said a moment ago, because of what I just explained to you, I found humor in the fact that the Lord had chosen a kitchen as the setting for this particular dream. You see, in this dream, I was a chef; or at least I

was performing the function of a chef by preparing food for a certain group of people. I really have no idea who these people were. I don't recall seeing any of their faces very clearly, if at all, or hearing any of their names mentioned in the dream. All I know, is that I was bent over this hot stove, and I seemed to be busy cooking a large pot of rice, which just so happens to be a staple in our own home. While I enjoy eating potatoes a lot, the time-saving convenience of cooking rice in a digital rice cooker, which requires no attention on my part once the timer is set, brought about the demise of cooking potatoes in our home many years ago.

So there I was, cooking this pot of rice; and suddenly, while in the midst of preparing this food, for no apparent reason, I began to receive a lot of verses from the Bible. It was very similar to experiences I have had on previous occasions. There is never any kind of catalyst. It is as if my mind just suddenly shifts gears, and I enter this other level of consciousness, where I am listening to this still small voice within. I am still aware of things occurring around me, but I have tuned it out, in order to intently listen to the things I am being instructed in by the Voice.

As these verses came to me, I excitedly began sharing them with the people who were around me, and they seemed to be interested in what I had to say. This seems to indicate that they may possibly have been Christians as well, although I am not absolutely certain of this point. The central theme of what I was sharing with them in the dream wasn't anything new; at least it wasn't new to me. Perhaps my listeners were hearing it for the first time; I really don't know. It dealt with the fact that, contrary to what is taught by the Roman Catholic Church, Jesus, and not the Apostle Peter, is the Rock, and the Foundation Stone, or the Cornerstone, if you prefer, of our faith. This doctrine is clearly evident in the Bible through such verses as the following:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?...And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them." Matthew 21:42, 44-45, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." Acts 4:11, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but

fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 2:19-20, KJV

"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed." 1 Peter 2:6-8, KJV

It is because of their misguided interpretation of the very first verse in the previous group, where Jesus is speaking to Peter, that Roman Catholics have erroneously assumed that Jesus was stating that Peter was the rock. However, if you read the other verses I have included here, which provide a more expanded understanding of what the Scriptures have to say regarding this topic, it becomes clear that Jesus was in fact referring to Himself as the Rock, and not to Peter. The concepts of so-called Roman Catholic "Apostolic Succession", and Roman Catholicism being the "one true faith", completely fall apart once their twisted interpretation of this verse has been exposed. It is for this reason, that even though there is no Scriptural evidence to support their claim, the Roman Catholic hierarchy has consistently taught for years, that Peter went to Rome, where he not only became the very first Bishop of Rome, (later to be known as the Pope), but was also supposedly buried.

In the first part of this series, we briefly discussed the dreams and visions of King Nebuchadnezzar and the Prophet Daniel. What is rather amazing about the vision described in Daniel chapter two, is that not only does it prophesy with specific details of the various world empires which would dominate Europe and the Middle East from the time of Daniel and forward, but it also prophesies of Jesus' victory over the governments of this world, and describes how He will set up His Father's Kingdom upon this Earth. The reason why I am mentioning this point now, is because in that vision, in total agreement with all of the previous verses I have just shared with you, Jesus is in fact symbolized as a Rock, as we see here:

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth...And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in

pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45, KJV

Please notice that we are told that this stone was cut out "without hands". While this phrase is open to interpretation, what I understand by it, is that this rock was not of human origin. In other words, it originated from Heaven. This would seem to be in perfect agreement with some mysterious verses which are found in the Epistle to the Hebrews. As I explain in the second part of my series entitled "Was Jesus The Only Begotten Son Of God?", these verses explain how Jesus is the High Priest of the Heavenly priestly order known as Melchisedec, or Melchizedek:

"For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." Hebrews 7:1-3, KJV

As you can see by the phrase "Without father, without mother...", this mysterious Priest of Melchizedek, to whom Jesus was likened, was not of human origin either; just like the Rock described in Daniel chapter two. There should be no doubt then, that Jesus is in fact the true Rock, while Peter is not.

The previous thought carries us into the second part of my dream. While I emphasized to the people who were listening to me that Jesus is the true Rock, and the Cornerstone of our faith, I explained to them that the Bible also tells us that we too are stones. In fact, it is in that very same chapter where Peter informs us that Jesus is the true Rock, that he also explains that we are living stones who form a part of God's true Spiritual Temple, which is built upon the Foundation Stone of Jesus Christ, as we see here:

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ...But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" 1 Peter 2:5, 9, KJV

Exactly where did Peter get this idea from? Was it his own? The answer is "no". Peter was merely repeating what Jesus had apparently taught His Disciples years earlier. In fact, even John the Baptist was fully aware of God's intentions to build His true Spiritual Temple out of living stones. If you doubt my words, consider the following two sets of verses:

"And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all

Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." Matthew 3:4-9, KJV

"And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:37-40, KJV

Obviously, John the Baptist was no more speaking about the stones in the Jordan River, than Jesus was speaking of the stones which were embedded in the streets of Jerusalem. It is easy to see that John was clearly speaking of the people who came to be baptized by him, just as Jesus was speaking of the multitudes of people who surrounded Him during His glorious entry into Jerusalem. As I point out in a few other articles, Jesus Himself made it very clear to the woman from Samaria, in John chapter four, that the time was coming when the temple in Jerusalem would become useless, because God, through the Sacrifice of His very own Son, was going to begin building His true Temple, and His true Kingdom of the Spirit, made up of you and me. His Spirit would no longer dwell in a cold, dead temple made of stone; it would dwell in living temples made of flesh and bone, precisely as the Apostles Peter and Paul described for us in the verses I have already shared with you. The fact that God was planning to do these things, is rather evident in the following verses as well:

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:21-24, KJV

As we continue this series in part three, I will be sharing some additional verses with you which further support the ideas we have been discussing. In addition, we will discuss God's New Covenant, building on the right foundation, being humble servants of the Lord, wisely using, and not abusing, God's Gifts, the "New Spirituality" and Endtime Deception, and more. I trust that you will join me.

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Jewish Temple Era Replaced By True Spiritual Temple, Temple Veil Torn, God's New Covenant, Jerusalem Temple Destroyed, Final Part Of My Dream, Humble Stones In God's Temple, Built On The Right Foundation, Give God The Glory For Your Gifts, Voice Of God's Spirit, Gift With A Purpose, God Chooses The Lowliest Of The Low, In-dwelling Of Holy Spirit, Don't Abuse Or Profit From God's Gifts, "New Spirituality" And Endtime Deception, Beware Of Lying Spirits, Verify With God's Word

As I concluded in part two, the Scriptures make clear that with Jesus' arrival on Earth, and His subsequent Crucifixion and Resurrection, God was making clear that the time of the Jewish Temple Era would soon draw to a close, because He had begun to build His true Spiritual Temple, made up of you and I. Following are some additional verses which add Scriptural weight to this point:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Corinthians 5:1, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Revelation 3:12, KJV

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Revelation 21:22, KJV

It is interesting to note that in three of the four Gospels,

we are told that at the time of Jesus' death on the Cross, the veil of the temple, which separated the inner part of the temple, known as the "Holy of Holies", where only the High Priest was allowed to enter, was torn in half from top to bottom. Consider these verses:

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" Matthew 27:50-51, KJV

"And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." Mark 15:37-38, KJV

"And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." Luke 23:44-46, KJV

This was obviously a very definite, deliberate act by the Lord; but have you ever considered why He may have done this? There are undoubtedly many theories concerning this issue. My view, and I readily admit that it is just personal speculation on my part, is that God created this tremendous breach in the veil, in order to clearly show that the Old Testament Covenant, which was based upon sin atonement by the sacrifice of animals, was now over. God was literally ripping up the Old Contract, and in a sense saying, "Now there is a New Contract, a New Testament, which is signed in the Blood of My own dear Son. He is now the new High Priest of My new Spiritual Temple, and you must accept His Sacrifice as the only Atonement for your sins." Is it any surprise then that the Apostle Paul would later write:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Romans 7:4, KJV

Being as I discuss this same topic in considerable detail in other articles, I won't be taking up a lot of space here to cover it. If you are interested in reading further about this topic, allow me to suggest such articles as "The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love", "The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words", and "Are Christians Obligated To Keep The Sabbath?". Let me conclude this section of our series by simply saying that barely forty years after our Lord was crucified, in 70 A.D., in fulfillment of Jesus' very own prophecy found in Matthew chapter twenty-four, the temple in Jerusalem was in fact destroyed by General Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian, and it has never been rebuilt since then . . . at least not yet! In Matthew twenty-four, Jesus stated:

"...See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matthew 24:2, KJV

Let us return now to the final part of my short dream. After

sharing some of the previous verses with the people who were listening to me, I apparently realized that I was missing something important for the meal I was preparing; so I then found myself on my way to the local market, in order to purchase whatever was needed. I am not exactly sure how it happened, but rather than going directly to the market, I next saw myself trying to go up this steep mountain road. The impression I have is that it was some kind of a detour.

It was while working my way back down this steep road, that I made a shocking discovery: I was severely handicapped. As a few of my readers will already know, like other people my age, I do happen to suffer from certain health problems; but they are by no means as severe as the way I saw myself in this dream. You see, I was in essence hobbling down this steep mountainous road on all fours, because my back was so terribly deformed. It reminded me of some of the old women I saw during my three-year stay in Japan almost twenty years ago. Some of those poor old ladies were totally bent over, staring at the ground, because their condition was so bad.

It was at this point that I began to worry; and it occurred to me that perhaps this part of the dream was not even of the Lord. I pondered the possibility that this might be Satan's detour to try to make me forget the important points of the real dream, so that I wouldn't be able to share them with you. Whatever the case may be, this part of the dream was enough to shock me; and as on other occasions, it also served as the catalyst for helping me to pull myself out of the dream altogether. Upon waking up, I felt hot and groggy, so I went into the bathroom in order to freshen myself up. I realized that I had just experienced a significant dream, so I wanted to wake myself up as quickly as possible, so that I could enter the details into my computer.

As I was splashing water on my face, and contemplating the final part of the dream, the Lord showed me that it too contained an important message as well. The fact that I was in such terrible physical condition was a rather humbling experience. While I don't remember this clearly, I am left with the impression that there may have been people in the dream who avoided me, because of the way I looked. Why would the Lord have me basically crawling along the ground on all fours, a pitiful sight to see for those who may have been passing by in their vehicles? The answer which came to me, is that while we are living stones in God's Spiritual Temple, it is important that we remain humble stones; particularly if the Lord chooses to give us a particular Gift, or a certain calling in this life which will be a blessing to others.

We must never forget that were it not for the Foundation Stone, Jesus Christ, we would not even exist, or be needed at all. As Paul said in that previous verse, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." So we can only be effective as Christians, if we are built upon the right foundation, and that foundation must be Jesus Christ. We must not try to build upon our own self-righteous works, for as the Apostle Paul also wrote in that same part of his Epistle, it will, in the end, be burned:

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, KJV

So again, we must never forget that Jesus Christ is the true Rock. In Greek, the word used is "Petra". Jesus is also our firm Foundation, or "themelos", as well as the Cornerstone of our faith; that is, the "akrogoniaios". Neither we, nor Peter, can ever be the true Rock; we can only be the humble stones, that is, the "lithos", which are placed upon the Foundation, and on top of the Cornerstone, in order to build God's Spiritual Temple. As I point out in the series "So You Think You Are So Humble?", whenever God chooses to use us in any way, or reveals anything to us as His servants, we must make certain that we seek not our own glory, but only the glory of Him who is truly the Revealer of Secrets, and the Dispenser of Spiritual Gifts. As the Apostles Paul and James were inspired to write in their Epistles:

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." 1 Corinthians 10:17-18, KJV

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."
2 Corinthians 10:17, KJV

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."
2 Corinthians 4:5, KJV

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17, KJV

As I already mentioned, and as I also point out in my 1999 article "Revealer Of Secrets And Sergei Stepashin", this method of receiving instructions, either through dreams, or even through daylight communications, is nothing new to me. It has happened enough times so that I easily recognize when it is occurring. In the case of daytime communications, when I am fully awake, it is as if someone is talking with me at some sub-conscious level of my being. Whether you wish to refer to it as the Voice of the Spirit, or by some other term, it is a reality which I simply cannot deny. Please understand that it isn't an actual audible voice, but rather it is kind of a distant voice deep within me, to which I must attune myself.

I am not saying that I purposely try to make this happen; it simply does. I have explained before how I will sometimes be

busy in the bathroom, or perhaps in the kitchen washing the dishes; and without even realizing it, I will temporarily slip into this different mode of consciousness; still fully aware of what I am doing physically, yet at the same time, in communication with this Inner Voice which is instructing me regarding a certain matter. Again, there are Scriptural examples which clearly confirm this work of God's Spirit. Please consider the following:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26, KJV

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."
1 Kings 19:12, KJV

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Acts 13:2, KJV

When these spiritual events do occur, it's usually for a very specific reason. For example, sometimes I will be working on a particular article or series, and I will think that I am already done with it; but then the Lord will either speak to me during the night, or else place me in that trance-like state during the day, in order give me some additional information to append to it; such as a few more verses, or perhaps even a new sub-topic which I hadn't yet considered. There have also been times when clear out of the blue, He will give me a sudden inspiration for a brand new article altogether.

As I stated a moment ago, when these experiences occur, the overall impression I have, is that I am being instructed by someone; and they leave me feeling quite inspired; because the information I receive is so clear and so powerful; and it is not something which I can concoct on my own. In fact, as I said earlier, quite often, after receiving such things, I will stop whatever I am doing, and rush into my bedroom, in order to enter the information into my computer, before I forget it; which is exactly what I did after I received this latest dream. I just know that these things do not come from myself, and they are not a figment of my imagination. They are simply beyond my normal capabilities as a human being.

Let me remind you again that I am not that smart of a man. I graduated from high school decades ago with a "B" average grade level. In addition, I have never attended any college, university or theological seminary. I am not familiar with most of their theological jargon, fancy labels and catch phrases with which they like to stuff their heads over the course of a few years. Neither am I a priest, or a pastor, or an ordained minister. In short, I am uneducated as far as the ways of the world are concerned. It is for this reason that I wrote such articles as "The Only Credentials You Need" and "The Wisdom Of God vs The Philosophy Of Men". It was my desire to inspire those of you who may feel that God can't use you, because you have been made to feel totally inadequate by the children of the world, who boast of their

seminary degrees, and their long list of other credentials.

Please remember that God's Word clearly tells us that He tends to use those people who are looked upon as being the lowliest of the low by the educated men of this world. To fully understand why I say this, please consider the following verses, some of which you will also find in the aforementioned articles:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13, KJV

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe...Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men...But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."
1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, 25, 27-29, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."
1 Corinthians 3:19, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5, KJV

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;"
1 Corinthians 12:8, KJV

Having said that, I honestly don't know how else to describe these experiences I have, except to say that they must come by Divine Revelation. I don't say this in a proud way, as if I am some great spiritual one, because I am most certainly not; I say it in a humble way; and I must give all credit to the Lord, because He alone is the Revealer of Secrets. This is a key point I wish to emphasize here. If you have likewise experienced the kinds of things I have been describing, then I hope that you too will remember that the ability to dream meaningful Godly Dreams, or to receive things by some other form of Divine Communication, is not something which is born within ourselves; it is clearly a Gift from God. It is the result of the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul made this very clear when he wrote the following:

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
2 Corinthians 4:6-7, KJV

Please notice that Paul says "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." So it is not of us. We are not the originators of these Gifts. The treasure that we have in our earthen vessels, that is to say, in our physical bodies, is the Spiritual Light of Jesus Christ; and it is that very Spirit which allows us to connect to, and to tap into, God's Power Source, via dreams, visions, prophecies, and in other ways as well.

Before concluding this series, I would like to stress a few more very important points. The first one is this: We must realize that to even possess such a Gift is a very serious responsibility, and is not something which should be taken lightly. It is not something which should be abused. It is not something which should be used for self-promotion or for economic profit. A certain evil sorcerer in the Book of Acts once tried to do this very thing, and look what happened to him:

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."
Acts 8:9-24, KJV

As I point out in "Money-Making Bible Hucksters And Mammon", the writers of the New Testament make it very clear that we

are not to preach the Word of God for profit, and I think it would be safe to extend this thought to include sharing and interpreting dreams and visions, and any other activity which is related to the working of God's Spirit. As Jesus said to His first Apostles when He sent them out two by two:

"Freely ye have received, freely give" Matthew 10:8b, KJV

Following are a few additional verses where Peter and Paul both warn that the leaders of God's Church should not be motivated by the desire for filthy lucre; that is to say, they should not be greedy for money. This term is derived from the Greek word "aischrokerdes":

"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;...Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;" 1 Timothy 3:3, 8, KJV

"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;...Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake." Titus 1:7, 11, KJV

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2, KJV

The final point I wish to make ties in directly with the previous thought. Not only must we make sure that we do not commercialize our faith, but we must also make certain that what we are receiving, and sharing with others, is truly of the Lord. Why? Because in this day and age of so-called "psychic hotlines", New Age gurus, tarot card readers, palm readers, crystal healers, daily horoscopes and star charts, communications with the "Space Brothers", the "Great White Brotherhood" and other spiritual entities, making contact with the "christ spirit", being "slain in the spirit", and other unusual manifestations, there is a tremendous amount of spiritual deception occurring in the world.

It seems that people are willing to pay just about anything, in order to become involved in what has been described as the "New Spirituality"; but sadly, as we saw from the previous account taken from the Book of Acts, there is really nothing new about it whatsoever, and we would all be wise to question the real source of this "New Spirituality". The truth of the matter is that this deception has actually been going on for a very long time. Satan and his followers have been playing the "Angel of Light" game for literally thousands of years. Consider the following example verses:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also

be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, KJV

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Matthew 24:24, KJV

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV

So the Endtime Deception game is real, and many people are playing it. As the Lord's child then, you must make certain that you do not become a part of it, as a result of your own pride, or your desire to be somebody, or your desire to earn a profit from whatever Gift(s) you may have. As the Apostle John wrote, we must each learn to try, that is, to test the spirits, in order to make certain that what we are hearing and receiving is truly of the Lord:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:1-3, KJV

If you question some of these New Age adherents, you will quickly discover that many of them do not exalt Jesus Christ as the only-begotten Son of God and Savior of the world. As I point out in some of my other articles related to the New Age deception, Jesus is merely viewed as just another of the so-called "Ascended Masters", who form a part of the "Great White Brotherhood". According to these deceived prophets of the "New Spirituality", Jesus is no better, and no greater, than Buddha, or Confucius, or Muhammad, or any other teacher of the past; but as we Christians know, this is an absolute lie. Jesus Christ is the only Mediator, and Intercessor, between God and man, as the Apostle Paul makes clear in the following line written to Timothy:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" 1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

Not only have these false prophets of the "New Spirituality" demoted Jesus from His position as Mediator and Intercessor, but they have replaced Him with the so-called "christ spirit within", as if to say that we are all christs. Furthermore, in their delusion, many of these deceivers no longer believe in the concept of sin. The results of sin have been replaced by good and bad karma. It is a subtle half-truth based upon

the Biblical teaching of doing unto others, as you would have them do unto you. If sin is no longer real, then there is therefore no need for a Savior either. How satanic!

In the Old Testament, turning people away from the Lord was viewed as a very serious sin. In fact, those people who were guilty of doing such a thing were stoned to death, as we see here:

"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 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; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee." Deuteronomy 13:1-5, KJV

Jesus paraphrased this same teaching in the New Testament when He warned His Disciples about those false teachers and prophets who would cause His followers to turn away from Him. Please note that in the following verse, the English word "offend" is derived from the Greek word "skandalizo", which actually means to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall; to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey:

"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."
Mark 9:42, KJV

This is precisely what these New Age gurus are doing. They are turning people away from believing that Jesus Christ is the only Way to Salvation. They are falsely claiming that there is another way. They erroneously teach that the future is in our own hands, and that we can improve ourselves, and our world, simply by taking heed to the wise advice of the "Ascended Masters". We don't need a God to rule over us; we can rule ourselves, and become spiritual, without Him. What a terrible lie indeed!

So in conclusion, if God has seen fit to bestow upon you any of His Spiritual Gifts, whether it be Dreams and Visions, or the Gifts of Prophecy, Wisdom, Knowledge, or any other Gift, please make sure that you use it wisely and in a responsible manner. Do not use it for personal gain in any way; and make sure that you confirm that whatever you have received is of the Lord, by comparing it with His written Word. It has been my experience that God will never contradict His own Word. If He chooses to give you a dream, vision, or any other kind

of revelation, it will always be in agreement with His Word. If it isn't, then watch out! You may be dealing with a very deceptive spirit!

With this admonition, I will bring this series to a close. I trust that it has been an inspiration and a blessing to many.

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