

Visions and Dreams in the New Testament

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation about visions and dreams in the New Testament. I wanted to share some of the scriptures in this short article.

Examples of dreams

Here are some examples of dreams in the New Testament.

- Matthew 1:20—An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.
- Matthew 2:12—The wise men were warned in a dream to avoid Herod.
- Matthew 2:13—An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt.
- Matthew 2:19-20—An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to return to Israel.
- Matthew 2:22—Joseph was warned in a dream to go into the region of Galilee.

Examples of visions

Here are some examples of visions in the New Testament.

- Matthew 17:1-9—Peter, James and John
- Luke 1:18-22—Zacharias
- Acts 9:3-9—Saul
- Acts 9:10-16—Ananias
- Acts 10:3-20—Cornelius and Peter
- Acts 12:7-11—Peter
- Acts 16:9-10—Paul
- Acts 18:9-10—Paul

Visions and revelations

The Greek noun for revelation is *apokalypsis* (*Strong’s* No. 602). The Greek verb *apokalypto* (*Strong’s* No. 601) means “to reveal or to disclose something.” Those words are often used in a generic sense about revealing.

- 2 Timothy 1:2—when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven.
- 2 Timothy 2:3—when the man of sin is revealed.
- 1 Peter 1:5—salvation to be revealed in the last times.
- 1 Peter 4:13—when His glory is revealed.

However, there are times when the revealing involves visions and dreams.

2 Corinthians 12:1—"It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 12:7—"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure."

Revelation 1:1—"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John."

Revelation 1:10—"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet."

Revelation 1:12—"Then I turned to see the voice that spoke to me."

Revelation 4:1-2—"After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.' Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne."

Consider Acts 2:16-21

In a future Bible study, I want to discuss Acts 2:16-21.

Consider the following questions.

- What details of Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:16-21 were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost?
- What details of Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:16-21 were fulfilled in the New Testament?
- What is the primary time frame of Acts 2:16-21 in describing prophesying, visions and dreams?