

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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BIBLE DREAMERS

Larry R. Ping II

Tomorrow, the United States of America will observe Martin Luther King Junior day, as his birthday was on January 15, 1929. The most famous speech he ever made was on August 28, 1963, in which he included the now celebrated line, “I have a dream.”

He was not the only dreamer, of course. We all do from time to time. The list of dreamers includes some in the Bible as well. Think about these Bible dreamers.

1) Abimelech Dreamed. In his dream, he was warned, “Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife” (Gen. 20:3). Later, God would also reveal to Abimelech, “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” (Gen. 20:6). Abimelech had to be saved by God because Abraham had lied about Sarah, his wife. Abraham intimated she was his sister (Gen. 20:2).

2) Jacob Dreamed. In his dream, he saw “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” (Gen. 28:12). The dream’s purpose was to remind Jacob of the promises made to his grandfather, Abraham. The stone which Jacob had used for a pillow was “set for a pillar” (Gen. 28:22) to remind him of God’s care and provision.

3) Laban Dreamed. He was Jacob’s father-in-law. He had misled Jacob regarding marrying Rachel. After much time, Jacob secretly left Laban, along with his two wives (Laban’s daughters) and their families. This upset Laban who proceeded to chase Jacob. Laban dreamed and was told, “Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad” (Gen. 31:24). Laban was permitted to say goodbye to his loved ones and proceeded to tell Jacob, “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” (Gen. 31:29).

4) Joseph Dreamed. In fact, he dreamed twice. First he dreamed regarding his brothers, “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” (Gen. 37:7). Also, he dreamed, “the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me” (Gen. 37:9). Obviously, his brothers were not pleased with these dreams and would eventually sell Joseph into slavery. But these dreams would, indeed, be proven to be true much later in their lives.

5) Pharaoh Dreamed. This king of Egypt dreamed about “ill favoured and leanfleshed kine” eating “seven well favoured and fat kine” (Gen. 41:4). He also dreamed about “seven thin ears” devouring “seven rank and full ears” (Gen. 41:7). These dreams were important

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in that they were predicting seven very fruitful years of harvest, to be followed by seven years of extreme drought. Joseph, with God's help, was able to know and interpret these dreams and eventually would be allowed to bring his family to live in Egypt with him.

6) Solomon Dreamed.

The Bible relates, *"In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee"* (I Kings 3:5). God was impressed Solomon asked not *"for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies,"* but rather asked for an *"understanding (heart) to discern judgment"* (I Kings 3:11). Indeed, God endowed Solomon with much wisdom, much of which was preserved in Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

7) Nebuchadnezzar

Dreamed. This powerful king of Babylon dreamed about a *"great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before*

thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay" (Dan. 2:31-33). Daniel, with help from God, would be able not only to interpret the dream, but to say what the dream was! This dream is very important in that it pinpoints the time during which the Lord's Kingdom, or the Lord's Church, would come into existence (Dan. 2:44).

8) The Wise Men

Dreamed. They had been to visit the baby Jesus, and had offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts. Although Herod had requested information from them regarding the exact location of Jesus, the Bible says, *"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way"* (Matt. 2:12). This was to protect and safeguard Jesus from the murderous eyes of Herod.

9) Joseph Dreamed.

The earthly father of Jesus was

warned in a dream, *"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"* (Matt. 2:13). Joseph and Mary obeyed and helped Jesus remain protected. Previously, Joseph was also warned through a dream, *"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"* (Matt. 1:20). This instruction was needed because *"Joseph...being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily"* (Matt. 1:19). He was a good man wanting to do right.

10) Pilate's Wife

Dreamed. Pilate, with full authority to do with Jesus as he pleased, had a wife who came to him and said, *"Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him"* (Matt. 27:19). This, of course, was excellent counsel. He refused it and Jesus paid with His life.

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm