

SERMON NOTE: GOD Speaks To Us in our Dreams

By: Elder Dr Alex Tang

Bible Ref: Genesis 28:10-22 KJV, Genesis 32:22-32 KJV

And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. 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. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/gen.28.10-22.KJV>

And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/gen.32.22-32.KJV>

We dreamed about 70 times a night, but only remember maybe 5, dreams are mostly in colour, but sometimes in black and white



The different of Dream n Vision

Dream is in your sleep, vision is while you are awake.

God speaks

Acts 2:17 (NIV)

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

Biblical Dreams and Visions (OT)

- Abraham's dream-vision (Gen 15:12-18)
- Jacob's dream (Gen 28:10-22)
- Joseph's dreams (Gen 37:5-11)
- Solomon's dream (1 Kings 3:5-15)
- Samuel's call (1 Sam 3:3-14)
- Eliphaz's dream (Job 4:12-21)
- Isaiah's call (Isaiah 6:1-13)
- Ezekiel's call (Ezekiel 1:4-3:3)
- Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
- Daniel interpreted the King's dreams (Dan 2:24-48)

What is a dream?

- A dream is a spontaneous symbolic experience lived out in the inner world during sleep
- Dreams are series of images, actions, thoughts, feelings over which we have no conscious control
- People, places, and other things that appear may be from our experiences but also from other sources outside our experience
- Most people dream about 5 dreams a night but the last dream just before waking is the most important

In New Testament, there are also many records of dreams.

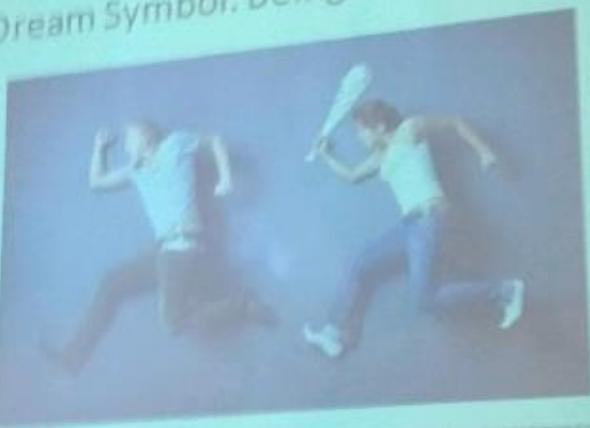
What are dreams for?

- God speaks to us
- Viewed as a question rather than an answer. Something to reflect upon
- Not something hidden but has a symbolic language
- Not providing information but an invitation to a relationship
- is a gift
- Gift to individuals and communities.

A Dream

- More as a question than an answer
- Presents possibilities, perspectives, alternatives that the waking ego may not be aware of
- Symbolic language
 - Sign is an image with one meaning, symbols have multiple layers of meaning
- Present a context of choices rather than the actual choice
 - Context is the pattern of attitudes and values within which a choice is made

Dream Symbol: Being Chased



I'd not who chatting is but why are we running..

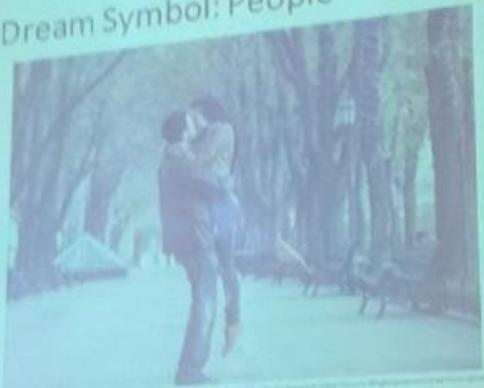
Dream of Transport

Dream Symbol: Vehicle



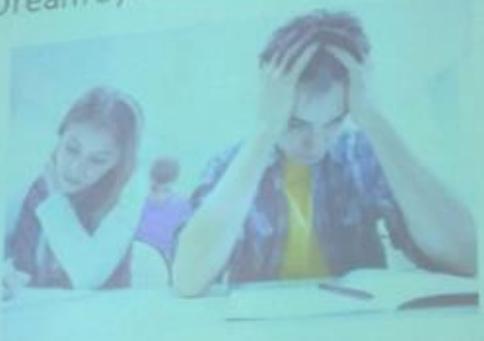
You are in control or need to go somewhere.

Dream Symbol: People



May means the people need you .

Dream Symbol: Exams

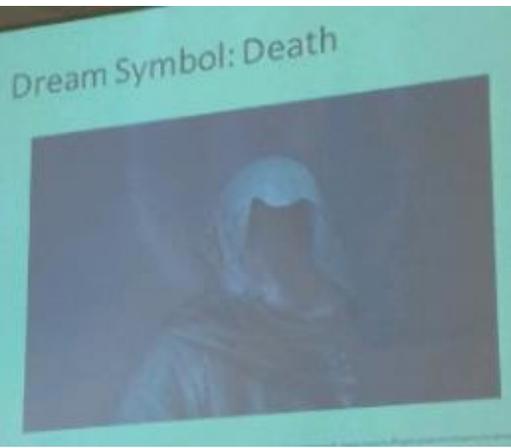


May means we are stressed.

Dream Symbol: Paralysis



If not we may be sleep walking.
Or spiritual war.



Have issues in life that need to resolved

Dreams of flying

Low or high.

May means u are doing well or boy well..

Falling

Babies

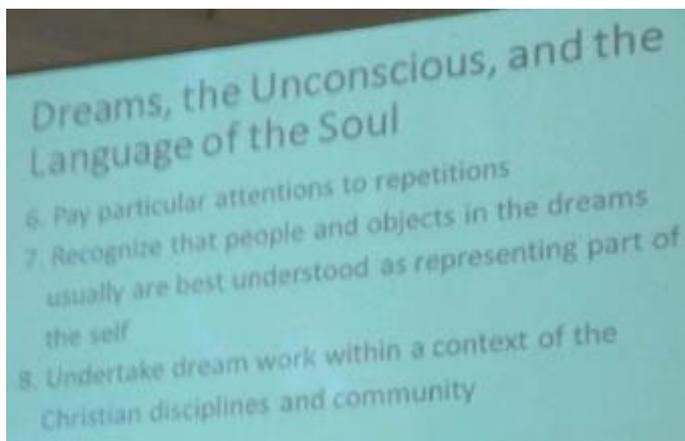
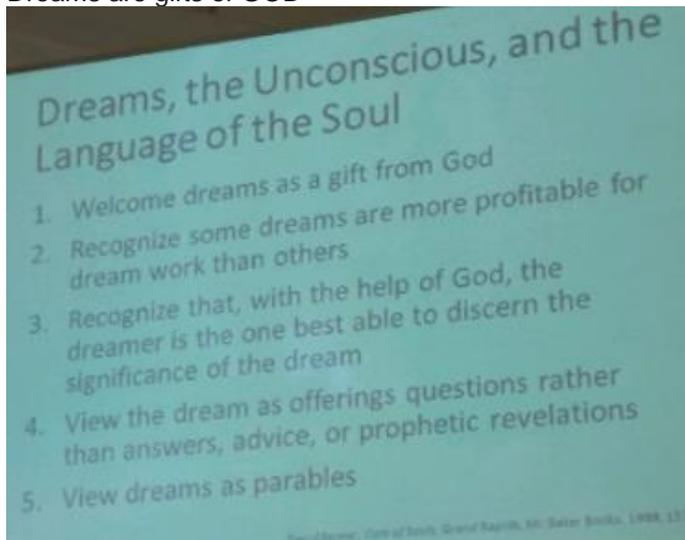
New life n opportunities

Food

House

Haunted: stressed..under pressure

Dreams are gifts of GOD

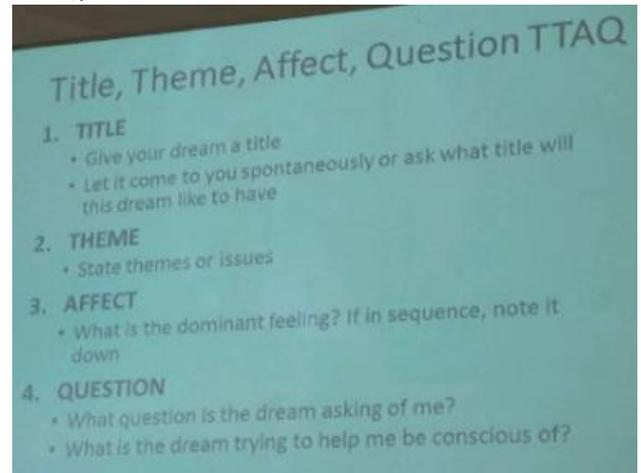


More importantly is GOD speaks up is in our Dreams.

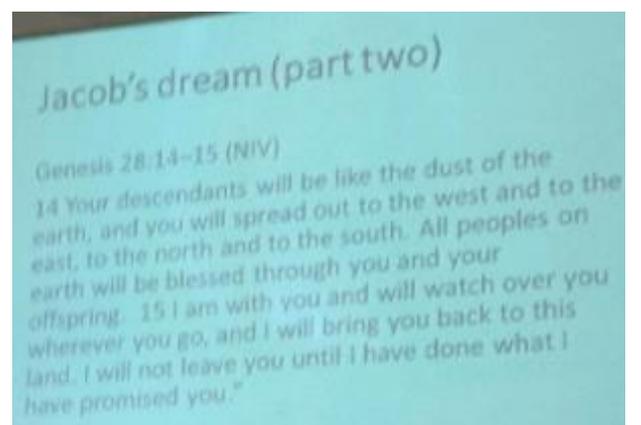
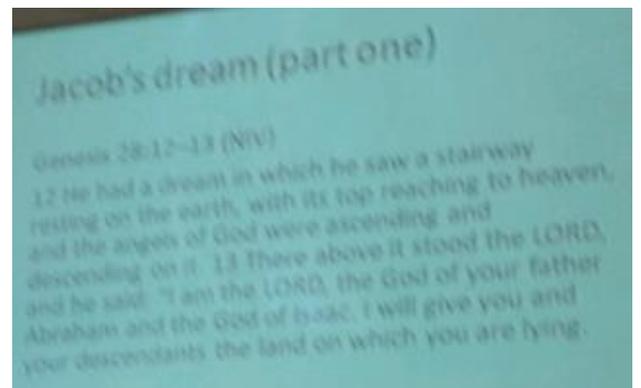
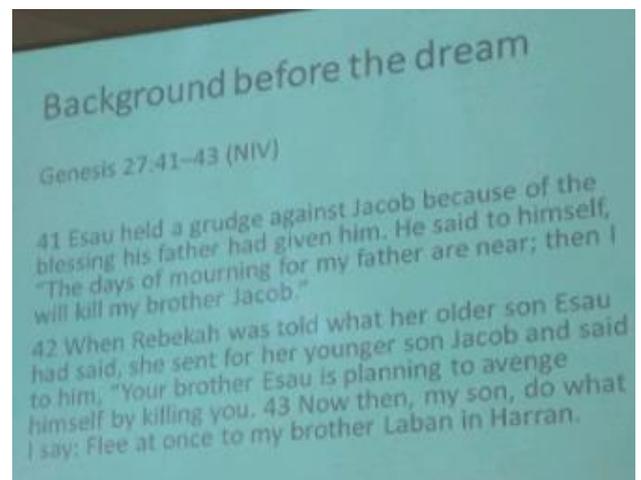
Report

Write down the dreams, before we forget.

TTAQ



Jacob's Ladder Dream



Jacob's immediate reaction

Genesis 28:16-17 (NIV)

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Jacob's Response

Genesis 28:18-22 (NIV)

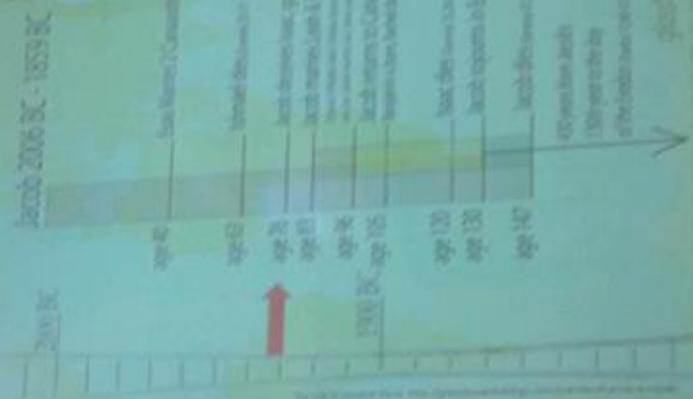
18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Title, Theme, Affect, Question TTAQ

- TITLE**
Ladder to Heaven
- THEME**
The God of Abraham and Isaac
- AFFECT**
awe
- QUESTION**
 - Jacob, who is your God?
 - Knowing about God and knowing God

The Life of Jacob



Jacob's Ladder Dream (Gen.28:10-22)

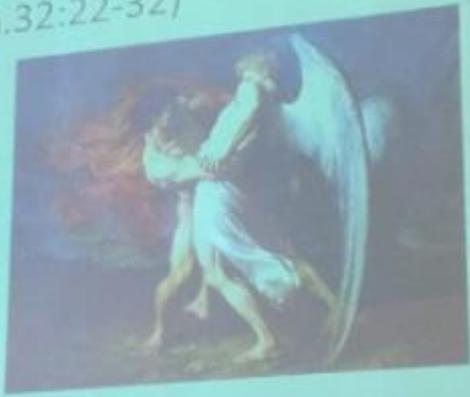


What is God saying to Jacob?

Jacob, who is your God?

In another dream of Jacob which he wrestled with "Angel"

Jacob Wrestling with A Man (Gen.32:22-32)



Before the 'dream'

Genesis 32:3-6 (NIV)

3 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 He instructed them: "This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: 'Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. 5 I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.'"

6 When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

The 'dream' (part one)

Genesis 32:24-26 (NIV)

24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The 'dream' (part two)

Genesis 32:27-29 (NIV)

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?"
"Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."
But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

Title, Theme, Affect, Question TTAQ

- TITLE**
Spiritual Hunger
- THEME**
Hunger to know God
- AFFECT**
Peaceful
- QUESTION**
 - How can I know God more?
 - Who will teach me?

As he seated to think about his dream.. This verse came to him

After the dream

Genesis 32:30-31 (NIV)

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

Peniel = 'face of God'

Job 42:4-6 (NIV)

42 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.'
"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you."
"Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Title, Theme, Affect, Question TTAQ

- TITLE**
A New Name
- THEME**
Struggle
- AFFECT**
Awe
- QUESTION**
 - What was your name?
 - Jacob = 'he who grasp the heel (deceiver)'
 - What is your name?
 - Israel = 'he who struggles with God'

God speaks



- are we listening?
- are we hearing?
- are we responding?

V32, Your name shall now be called 'Israel'

His Second Dream was GOD told him that he must change.

And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations" (Exo. 3:15)