Visions and Dreams

(Two Josephs)

1) **Introduction**
Visions can be while sleeping or an "open vision" when you are wide awake. Dreams can be unremarkable, every day. They can be from God to lead, guide and direct you. They can be nightmares or satanic, meant to disturb your peace.

2) **We are promised we will have visions and dreams**

2 Co 12:1 [Paul talking]

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.

Joel 2:28-29 (repeated in Acts 2:17)

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
29 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Nu 12:6

6 he said, "Listen to my words: "When there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.

3) **Joseph's dreams and dream interpretations** - Gen 37, 40, 41

a) **Gen 37:5-11** – prophetic dreams

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." 8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. 9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." 10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had?

Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" [11] His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

He wasn't wise in sharing his dreams but God used it to save the nation of Israel. It is interesting that his father and brothers were able to interpret the dream immediately.

b) **Gen 40:8 -** Joseph interpreted the dreams of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker which was a step in the fulfillment of the first dreams

[8] "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

c) **Gen 41:15-16** – Joseph interprets Pharoah's dream as a result, he is lifted up to the position God had show him in the first dreams

[15] Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

[16] "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

d) **Conclusion:** Notice how God humbled Joseph to the point he was giving God all the credit for the interpretation.

4) Joseph, Mary's husband's dreams

a) Directional dream

Mt 1:18-20

[18] This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

[20] But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

b) **Warning and directional dreams –** Joseph's obedience saves Jesus' life

Mt 2:12-15

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they [the Magi] returned to their country by another route.

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Mt 2:19-21

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

5) **Other examples:**

Daniel - prophetic, day of the Lord, heavenly

Zechariah - prophetic, warning dreams and visions

Ezekiel 40, 43 – prophetic

6) **Conclusion -** There are many examples of God directing people through visions and dreams – prophetic, protection, warnings and blessings.

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