



Feb. 26, 2025

## **The Importance of Dreams in the Bible**

Rick Hamlin

Pay attention to your dreams. Just like with Joseph, Daniel and other biblical characters—it may be God’s way of communicating with you.

Years ago, after reading a book by a therapist and minister who showed that God can often speak to us in our dreams, I began writing down my own. Every morning, while I still remember them, I make a quick note in a journal about what I dreamed.

What I’ve learned through this practice is that our dreams are sometimes just a jumble of inconsequential things—what you ate for dinner, a TV show you watched, an article you read. It can be your subconscious mind reorganizing thoughts. But every once in a while, you’ll have a dream that leaves you feeling as if God really is trying to get your attention. And as long as the message of that dream aligns with God’s will by encouraging positive change and positive outcomes, chances are good that he very well might be.

There are 21 dreams recorded in the Bible, most of them in the Old Testament, only six in the New. Some you’ll remember right away. How could any of us forget Jacob’s ladder, the dream he had when he made a swift escape from stealing his brother Esau’s birthright and had to sleep in the great outdoors, a rock for his pillow? That’s when the angels appeared to him in his dream, ascending and descending a celestial staircase. Dreams have a crucial distinction from the other mysterious ways in which God communicates with us. They obviously happen only when we’re asleep. As we read often enough in the Bible, God or his angels will appear in visions or speak to people in their waking moments, but a dream is a message in slumber. It’s from the subconscious mind or God—or both.

The more you pay attention to your dreams, the more you’ll get from them. And the more likely you are to remember them. (I’ve found this from writing down mine.)

We also see this happen in the Bible. The people who dream often have more than one dream—they’ve been paying attention.

And then there’s Daniel, who paid attention to someone else’s dream and thereby saved his own skin. The Old Testament’s Daniel is in a tough situation. Along with the rest of the Israelites, he’s taken to Babylon and put under the yoke of the king. Bright, young and strong, Daniel catches the king’s attention. But this only increases the courtiers’ jealousy. The only way for Daniel to survive is to interpret the king’s dreams. God tells

him what they mean. He discovers a gift—which ends up saving his life—that he never knew he had. But it's a gift. Nothing he aspired to.

It is easy to dismiss Daniel's powers of interpretation as something extraordinary. "I'm not like Daniel," we might say as we ponder what our own dreams mean. But Daniel didn't read a pile of books or get a Ph.D. or consult with a visionary. His gift came from God, a mark of his own humility.

With that thought in mind, let's take a look at the six dreams that appear in the New Testament, four of them to the same person: Joseph. In the narratives of Jesus' birth, we usually focus on Mary. How God appeared to her through an angel—in a vision, mind you—telling her that she would give birth to this baby who would be the Son of God. It is her future husband who gets the message in a dream.

He has heard through the rumor mill that Mary is with child—clearly not his—and so he is going to quietly call off the marriage. Then he has a dream. He is told to take Mary as his wife because the baby is not the offspring of any other man. The child will fulfill the ancient prophecy and be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us," and he is to be named Jesus. Joseph heeds the dream, as shocking and bewildering as it must have been. He does exactly what the dream said.

When Jesus is born, the tyrannical King Herod learns of this supposed new king. In a jealous rage, he has every male child aged two or under in and around Bethlehem put to death. Fortunately, Joseph has another dream, warning him of what Herod is up to. He takes his wife and child and flees to Egypt. Then, after Herod dies, a dream alerts Joseph that it is okay to return home. As the family is making their way through Judea, however, he has a fourth dream, in which he learns that Herod's son, perhaps as murderous as his father, has taken the throne, so they avoid Jerusalem and head to Galilee and Nazareth, where Jesus grows up.

Joseph is a lowly carpenter, not a rabbi, not a Pharisee, not of any exalted status, Yet he is the one who is entrusted with the safety of the Son of God. And he gets the message through dreams.

The wise men too are alerted to danger through a dream. How we refer to them may sound grand, but it is likely they were simply amateur astronomers. They certainly weren't Jewish and didn't know the Scriptures. But they did know how to read and act on signs from God—the star they followed in the sky, all the way to Bethlehem.

On their journey, they stop to visit Herod. The wicked king tries to trick them, telling them to let him know when and where the child is so that he might also pay homage. But in a dream, the wise men are warned of his duplicitousness and avoid Herod, returning home "by another route."

Doing what a dream tells you can take you a different way than you ever intended. It can help you avoid danger too.

The last dream mentioned in the New Testament is the only one in the Bible attributed to a woman.

Pilate's wife. And the dream she has is actually a nightmare. Pontius Pilate is the governor of Judea. Jesus is brought before him by the chief priests and elders, who are full of accusations. "Are you the King of the Jews?" Pilate asks. "You say so" is Jesus' equivocal answer. Jesus' fate is in the governor's hands.

At that moment, Pilate's wife rushes in. "Leave that righteous man alone," she tells her husband. "I have suffered much today in a dream because of him."

We know how the story ends, of course. Pilate does not act on his wife's dream. Sometimes I wish we knew the rest of her dream. Or is it enough simply to know that God chose her, someone apparently not a follower of Christ, someone outside the fold, to communicate his message? Through her we can see that God reaches out to everyone through dreams, even to people who don't deem themselves to be people of faith.

What I hope all these biblical examples do is reassure you that, by listening to your dreams and acting on them, you can change the course of your own life and the lives of people around you. It's so easy to say dismissively, "I'm not called to do something extraordinary like Joseph" or "I'm no Daniel, in the service of a king," but like all of them, we have dreams. And the biggest difference I see is how they trusted what they heard, learned and acted. Can't you? Can't I?

### Worship Calendar

Mar. 2

Love Your Enemies

Luke 6:27-36

**This Sunday (Mar. 2) is Holy Communion.** You are warmly invited to join us as we gather around the Lord's Table for this sacred time of worship, reflection, and renewal.

*"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." - Romans 12:5 NIV*

### NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### St Patrick's Day Luncheon



We are pleased to announce that Outreach will be hosting a St Patrick's Day Luncheon on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm in the downstairs hall. Chef Dave Taylor will be preparing an Irish stew for the lunch and will demonstrate how to make it for us. Every guest will receive a copy of his recipe. We are looking forward to another lively presentation and an opportunity for those in attendance to ask "Chef Dave" questions about the stew. Irish music will be provided and there will be lots of green to decorate the hall. Feel free to wear some green in honour of the day! There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the front foyer. Please plan to attend and invite your friends to join us. Free Will Offerings will be gratefully accepted. The net proceeds will be donated to Outreach projects.

### Buy Canadian

During all of the turbulence coming at us from south of the border, I have made a concerted effort to "Buy Canadian". To help me with this, I have joined the **Made in Canada** group on Facebook and I recently downloaded an App on my phone called **Maple Scan**. When I am shopping, I take a photo of an item and the App tells me who the Parent Company is, its location whether or not it is a product of Canada and whether or not it is made in Canada. It also details Canadian alternatives. This has taken much of the guess work out of shopping, as I want to do my part to support the workers of my country...a country that I dearly love. I hope that many of you will feel moved to do the same.

PS: There is another App that you can use. It is called "**O SCANada**"

**Pancake Supper hosted by your Outreach Committee**

Tuesday, March 4th, at 6 PM

Everyone is welcome to join us for our famous Down East pancakes, homemade by our in-house chefs! Fellowship time to follow.

Free Will Offering is gratefully accepted

**A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the foyer**

N.B. Call Sheila at 416-948-7140 if you have not yet signed up and would like to attend. Those in attendance this Sunday can still sign up.

**A Message from St. James Food Basket:**

Thank you for so diligently collecting egg cartons. We have reached storage capacity at this time. We will let you know when we will need more egg cartons.

**TAX RECEIPTS**

Due to the Canada Post strike in December, the Canada Revenue Agency has issued legislation that extends the deadline for making donations for the 2024 tax year until February 28, 2025. We will be issuing tax receipts up to December 31, 2024 as usual and then issuing receipts again from January 1 to February 28, 2025.

If you wish to take advantage of this one time change and claim January and February 2025 donations on your 2024 tax return please contact Jackie Taylor, otherwise we will hold the tax receipts for those two months until the end of 2025 and you will receive two receipts then.

Thank you

Jackie



**Lenten Candle Liturgy Readers**

Mar. 9 – Vi Lobodowsky

Mar. 16 – Al Bishop

Mar. 23 – Nancy McPherson

Mar. 30 – Rachael Chen

Apr. 6 – Georgena Engineer

Apr. 13 – Carol Hyndman

Apr. 18 – Chris Parr

### Bedroom for Rent

Furnished bedroom for rent, shared common areas in privately owned townhouse at Rathburn & West Mall. \$800 inclusive. Personal and financial references will be required. Preference will be given to a FEMALE roommate, as the house is occupied by a long-term lady occupant. Contact Margretta @ 416.788.6742.

### From the Guatemalan Mission Team

The Guatemala mission team will be serving around 1000 children across 4 schools and an orphanage in mid-March.

We're looking for donations of the following items:

1. Summer clothing for orphan babies/toddlers (0-3 years), young children (3-12 years) and young moms (11-15 years)
2. Baby shoes, regular shoes, tennis shoes, socks and towels for children (1-10 years)
3. Diapers, blankets, bottles for newborns
4. Medicine and first aid items, such as Tylenol, Advil, Polysporin, bandages, alcohol swabs
5. Soft cover lightweight notebooks, crayons, watercolor paints, pencils, pens and calculators
6. Laptops and portable projectors in good condition
7. Deflated soccer balls, volleyball nets, ping-pong paddles, tennis balls
8. Uniforms for sports teams
9. Lightweight non-bulky toys such as stuffed animals

The weather in the region (Antigua) ranges from 12-30 degrees Celsius, so the clothing items should be lightweight.

If you have any of these items in good condition, please make sure they are clean, sorted into clean bags by category, and you can place them in the clothing bin previously used for the Canadian/Ukrainian parachute donations. Thank you for your generosity! The babies and school children will be very blessed by your donations.

The deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### World Day of Prayer 2025

Graceview is the host church for this year's WDP which will take place on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. The subject this year is the Cook Islands in the south Pacific and the program was written by Christian women who live there. The program title is "I made you wonderful", based on Psalm 139.

We hope we can count on your support. Please mark the date and invite your friends.

Maureen Screen

### A Winter Devotional Update:

A **new** edition of **These Days** (January/February/March), as well as the current edition of **Our Daily Bread** (December/January/February) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

## Coffee/Tea Sign - Up



The sign-up sheet for coffee/tea service after worship is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen downstairs. Please sign yourselves up or sign up your committee so that our Fellowship time after church can continue.

Mar. 2 – 30 – Mission Team

Apr. 6 - ??????

Apr. 13 - ?????

Apr. 20 - ?????

Apr. 27 - ?????

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

\* Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.

\* Please keep in your prayers the following:

Family of Bob Nancarrow, Margaret Munene's brother Simon, Lenore Carty, Michael Langstaff, Shirley P., Shelia Thomas' grandson, Carter, Ed L., Charlotte Prentice, Joan and Peter K., the Jarvis family, Olive S., Roman P., Jean Fox's nephew, Ryan, and Gordon F.

Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

**Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- \* Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- \* Monday, Mar. 3 @ 9:30 AM – Sing Etobicoke at Graceview
- \* Monday, Mar. 3 @ 6:30 PM – Mission Team meeting (Zoom or in person-TBA)
- \* Tuesday, Mar. 4 @ 6:00 PM – Pancake Supper
- \* Saturday, Mar. 8 @ 10:00 AM – World Day of Prayer at Graceview PC
- \* Tuesdays, Mar. 11- Apr. 15 @ 12:00 PM – Lenten Lunches
- \* Monday, Mar. 17 @ 12:00 PM – Celebrating St. Patrick's Day with Irish Stew by Dave
- \* Sunday, Mar. 23 after service – Annual Meeting 2025
- \* Sunday, Apr. 13 – Palm Sunday
- \* Thursday, Apr. 17 from 2-4 PM – Maundy Thursday. Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary
- \* Friday, Apr. 18 @ 10:30 AM – Good Friday Service. Communion by intinction (Hot Cross Buns and Coffee/tea @ 9:30 AM)
- \* Sunday, Apr. 20 @ 10:30 AM – Easter Sunday service (Flower Cross will be featured again)

- \* Sunday, Apr. 27 @ 10:30 AM – Mission Awareness Sunday
- \* Sunday, May 4 @ 10:30 AM – Celebrating Graceview’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- \* Tuesday, May 6 @ 6:30 PM – Music & Worship meeting

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Mar. 2	Susan Chopp	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam
Mar. 9	Nancy McPherson	Susan Chopp	Kathy Twynam
Mar. 16	Eric Lee	Bob Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Mar. 23	Kathy Twynam	Jean Fox	Susan Chopp
Mar. 30	Chris Parr	Maureen Screen	Lynne Bishop

### SING! ETOBICOKE WINTER SCHEDULE

Mar. 3	9:30 AM	GV	Over the Rainbow	W25SE8
Mar. 10	9:30 AM	NPCC	Unforgettable	W25SE9
Mar. 17	9:30 AM	NPCC	Spring Sing (Guest Day IV)	W25SE10

### WEEKLY GIGGLE

The preacher’s Sunday sermon was Forgive Your Enemies. Toward the end of the service, He asked his congregation, “how many of you have forgiven their enemies”?

About half held up their hands. He then repeated his question. As it was past lunchtime, this time about 80 percent held up their hands. He then repeated his question again. All responded, except one small elderly lady.

“Mrs. Jones?” inquired the preacher, Are you not willing to forgive your enemies?

“I don’t have any.” she replied. smiling sweetly.

“Mrs. Jones, That is very unusual. How old are you?” “Ninety-three,” she replied.

“Oh Mrs. Jones, what a blessing and a lesson to us all you are. Would you please come down in front of this congregation and tell us all how a person can live ninety-three years and not have an enemy in the world.”

The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down the aisle, faced the congregation, and said “I outlived them all.”

### Where to Find Us

Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan [choppertini@hotmail.com](mailto:choppertini@hotmail.com)

\* Message from **Pastor Eric**: “FYI the Graceview website page has been revamped, so as to keep people updated of our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview”.

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

\* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to “follow.”

lease note the following email addresses for all church-related communication:

**Pastor Eric:** [pastor@graceview.ca](mailto:pastor@graceview.ca) (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

**Church Office:** [office@graceview.ca](mailto:office@graceview.ca) (unchanged and managed by our Secretary, Halyna)

### **Micro-Moments of Zest**

Simple ways to infuse your day with energy and  
enthusiasm

#### **Say Yes to Something New**


Try a different coffee order, take a new  
route, or switch up your routine

#### **February Calendar**





# FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	31	1
2 "Jesus' Mission Statement" Rev. Eric Lee	3 Sing Etobicoke @Fellowship	4 Walking Group 11:00	5	6 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	7	8
9 "Good News and Bad News" Rev. Eric Lee	10 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview	11 Walking Group 11:00 Craft Club 11:00	12	13 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	14 	15
16	17	18 Walking Group 11:00	19	20 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	21	22
23 The Resurrection of the Dead Rev. Eric Lee	24 *Sing Etobicoke @NPCC * North of Nowhere 7:00 PM *Outreach-7PM	25 Walking Group 11:00	26	27 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	28	1
2 Sacrament of Holy Communion Love Your Enemies Rev. Eric Lee	3 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview  Mission Meeting 6:30 PM	4 Walking Group 11:00  Pancake Supper 6:00 PM	5 Ash Wednesday	6 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	7	8 World Day of Prayer 10:00 AM Graceview

