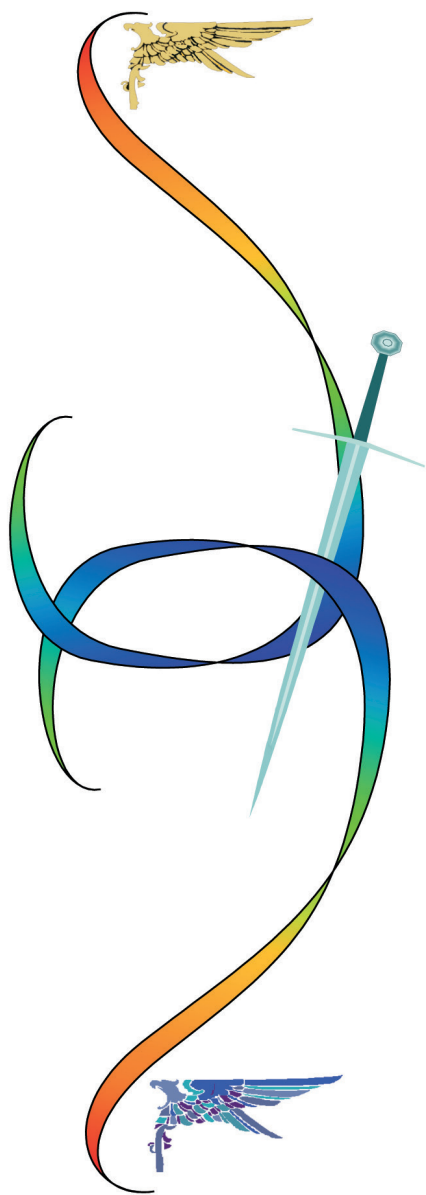


# Interpreting *Visions*



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# Interpreting Visions

A vision is a mental representation of something that is not tangent. You can't reach out and touch it. Often, when we pray for another person, we may have a symbolic vision that comes to our mind. It may be a scene, or a thing, or a person (rarely). There are many individuals in Holy Books that had visions or trance states.

In Acts 10 (Christian New Testament) Cornelius has a vision in which God tells him to accept Paul and pray over him to receive his sight again. Each of the books of Prophecy in the scriptures are either visions or dreams. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, (Old Testament) and Revelation (New Testament) all are written like someone who is on drugs. They are all visionary and prophetic. Often, God speaks to us in an unconventional manner. We need to be open to listening to Him. *God is not limited by our refusal to accept the visions and pray into them; we only limit our access to information that will help us with the answer.* He will only use willing vessels. Visions can give direction to prayer.

The English Interpretation of the Quran (by Abdullah Usuf Ali) has much to say regarding visions, inspirations, and dreams. In Surah 20 the vision of Moses with the burning bush is reviewed for all to remember that Moses was walking and talking when this vision came to him so real that it caused him to eventually lead a people out of Egypt.

In Surah 40.15 it says, "Raised high above ranks (or degrees), (He is) the Lord of the Throne (of authority): by His Command He sends the spirit (of inspiration) to any of His servants He pleases, that it may warn (men) of the day of Mutual Meeting."

Indeed, The Lord gives guidance to His servants when they seek Him in reverence and desiring mercy with His grace which is freely given.

Surah 34.50 of the Quran says that "If I am astray, I only stray to

the loss of my own soul: but if I receive guidance, it is because of the inspiration of my Lord to me: it is He Who hears all things, and is (ever) near.”

Oh, how we thank Him that He is ever near, and we lift our praise to Him for the inspiration which He freely gives when we seek Him with a pure heart.

The Old Testament is full of dreams and visions which were given to the Prophets to give them guidance.

Beginning with Genesis 15.1 God made His covenant with Abram using a vision. He declares all that will be given to him as if a man was speaking to a man face to face. It seems to be different from the Angel who spoke to Hagar in the desert after she had fled from Sarai. An angel speaking to someone is a spiritual being, not a vision of something. It is there. A vision is a picture of something (present, past or to come). In this way a vision is just like a dream, except the individual is awake and not sleeping. Sometimes people are asleep, then the vision continues to move into the daytime as the dream continues.

I have only had this happen to me once: And that is when I wrote down Vacuum Cleaner Salesman as a piece and compiled it with two other writings to make Abreas Ansus. I was asleep having the dream and woke up. I went to the computer to put the dream into the computer (this was about 5 A.M.). It's just that the dream kept coming and I knew that I could type it faster than I could write it down.

So, I wrote it down as I walked into it. In essence, it was me that went door to door seeking someone who would 'buy' what I had to sell. I needed my prayers answered: I needed someone to buy 'my story'. There was a tremendous amount of passion and pain that I felt as the vision kept coming to me. The tears tore down my face as I struggled to see what I was putting onto the paper. Only by inspiration could this come to me, I am sure of that, for the whole thing remains exactly as I wrote it down that morning in 45 min-

utes. I typed it in then went back and formatted the goblet shapes in about 15 minutes. Then, I took a shower and went to work. You see, I have to leave for work at 6:30, so I know exactly how quickly the vision came to me.

Let me encourage you to write down your visions. And try to grab as many threads from heaven as you can whether they come as dreams or words into your spirit. Then, take the vision and interpret it using Scriptures as an outline for criteria. Many of my books have visions in them which I interpret, so you can see how I do it using Scriptures which are familiar to you. Then, ask the Lord to send you His Spirit of Truth into your soul to give you understanding of the answer. He will because the only reason He gives a vision is to give you direction, so I am sure that He wants you to have it. Think about someone asking for a map to get somewhere and a neighbor overhears that he needs a map, so he tosses it over the fence in the back yard. Don't you think he sent it over the fence for a reason? Of course. He wants to help the one on the other side.

We are like the one on the other side of the fence and the Lord has provided a means to send a map over the fence for us. You see the thing with a map is that it does no good to have a map if you don't know where you are on it. Like one of those mall maps, we need a blue star to show us where we are starting out from so we can see where we need to go to get to where we need to be.

The vision is like the blue star on the mall map. If we can figure out the vision (or dream or words from heaven) then we will become oriented to where we are in relation to the way God sees things (that's the map). It is the Spirit that knows the mind of God, so certainly He knows how He thinks about where we are in life and where we need to be. So, when we combine the guidance of the Spirit with the vision, we will have greater understanding from the vantage point of the one who sent the message in the first place.

Let us beware, however, that there are not from God. Many see visions when they are on drugs, coming out of anesthesia and with-

drawals from alcohol. (I know because I am an Nurse.) Also, Satan is called the ‘Great Impersonator’, so it makes sense that he could send a vision to lead someone the wrong way. Do not allow your fear of this to keep you from pressing forward to understanding your visions. What if they are a message from God and you have been ignoring them all along? Do you want to face God, in the future having torn up the mail He has attempted to deliver to you to help guide you along life’s paths?

The way to tell the difference is easy. Jesus said that you can tell a tree by its fruit. A good tree bears fruits of righteousness. When you attempt to understand the vision, if it is from Heaven, it will yield the fruits of righteous living. Certainly, you would not follow a vision to harm your brother or wound your children! These are not visions which yield fruits of righteousness.

I have the many pages of this ‘Vision Journal’ blank for you to write down your visions because I am certain, that if you seek the vision; look toward wanting to know where you are on the map in relation to where God wants you to be, then He will give you visions, dreams and inspirations from heaven.

And, when you have a vision, seek to understand it. Correlate it with Scriptures, ask the Spirit of Truth to help you with Divine Inspiration, and walk toward the answer. Why else would you have a map in your hand, but to walk in the direction in which you need to go.

### References:

**Old Testament:** Numbers 12.6, Ezekiel 1.1, Proverbs 29.18, Daniel 1.17, Hosea 12.10, Habakkuk 2.3, Job 33.15, Isaiah 22.1

**Book of Mormon:** Lehi overcome by a vision I Nephi 1.7,8, Alma 8.20

**New Testament:** 2 Corinthians 12.1, Acts 2.17, Acts 10.3, Revelation 9.17