



**Glenn Brown**

February 2019

441 ½ Lark Drive

Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

telephone 970-434-1377

## **DEATH OF A DREAM**

God has a pattern that He has used all through Scripture, all through His relationship with men and women that He has called. If you are a Christian, a believer, it is extremely important that you understand this pattern, for God has already been using this pattern in your life, or you are going through the process right now, or you will go through it in the future. It is a painful process, and God never explains clearly why He takes people through it. The pattern has been called, “Death of a Dream,” or “Death of a Vision.” We can see the pattern acted out in the life of every major character in the Bible.

**Abraham.** Starting in Genesis 12, God called a man named Abram to know Him, to walk with Him, and to represent Him on the earth. God promised Abram that He would give Him and Sarah children and multiply them until they were a great nation and that He would bless them and make them a blessing throughout the earth. Problem: Sarah was childless, and she and Abram were already old. So what happened? 25 years passed, and Sarah was 90 years old and Abram was 100. What happened to their “message from God,” to their dream? They struggled to believe that God had really spoken to them, and they decided to help God out by letting Sarah’s handmaid, Hagar, act as a surrogate mother. That plan had disastrous consequences. Finally, finally, after all hope was pretty much extinguished, God came through with the miraculous birth of Isaac. Isaac means “laughter,” because when an angel told this couple, who should have been living in a nursing home or in Hospice that she was going to bear a child, she laughed out loud. Their dream died, and then God breathed life into it and it came to fruition.

**Jacob.** Jacob and Esau were grandsons of Abraham, and they were twins. Esau was born first, so he inherited the mantle of blessing that started with their grandfather. But Esau was dead spiritually. He was not interested in the blessing and the responsibility that came with a covenant with an invisible God. Jacob longed for that blessing, and he cheated his brother in order to obtain it. God took Jacob on a little side-trip to Haran where he had a decades-long adventure with his Uncle Laban in order to get the beautiful daughter of his dreams, and ended up with two wives and two concubines and twelve sons. When he returned home he feared that Esau was going to kill him and spent a night wresting with God. Jacob’s dream died in his long struggle just to survive, and then God intervened.

Note that in all this process God was revealing Himself, His nature, to Abraham and to Jacob and to us!

**Joseph.** Jacob’s favorite son, Joseph, had a dream. He saw himself sitting in a place of authority, and his parents and brothers were bowing down to him. In his youthful immaturity, Joseph told this dream to his brothers and stirred up their hatred. You know the story: sold into slavery in Egypt; thirteen years as a slave to Potiphar and sentenced to a dungeon; interpretation of the Pharaoh’s dream; ascendancy to second in command of all Egypt; intervention and rescue of his family and the beginning of their long sojourn in Egypt. Instead of ascending, Joseph descended into slavery and obscurity before God humbled him and raised him up.

**David.** I won’t take the space to recount the story of David and how he was picked by the prophet Samuel and anointed to be the King of Israel, but ended up being pursued by a murderous King Saul for 13 years before his dream started being fulfilled. And remember that David failed in a spectacular way toward the end of his rein.

**Moses.** Moses wanted to rescue his family, the Hebrews, from their bondage in Egypt. (They had been there over 400 years! Their dream had definitely died during this time of suffering.) He ended up living in the desert of Midian for forty years, and his dream also died. After all that time, God called him through a burning bush and reignited his dream.

Again, note how God used this pattern to reveal His nature and His plan for mankind through the ones He called. In Moses' case, we have the first five books of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments, etc., as a blessing to mankind.

**The Disciples.** The disciples called by Jesus believed that He was going to reestablish a powerful earthly kingdom like the one King David ruled, and that they were going to be in places of honor and authority with Him (sitting at His right hand). When Jesus died on a cross, their dream died with Him. Two believers on the road to Emmaus said, "We had hoped he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." Their hopes, their dream, their vision, were dead and gone. Then they discovered that the One they were talking to was the resurrected Savior himself!

**Jesus.** Jesus Himself went through the pattern of the Death of a Dream...in His rejection by the very nation God had called; in the garden, where He prayed that the cup of suffering would be removed; and on the cross, where He cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Glenn.** You might think it is a little prideful for me to list myself with Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. Yes, that has been my problem right along, and don't think that the Lord hasn't called it to my attention from time to time. The point I'm making with this teaching is that this pattern is a universal pattern that God has used from the beginning with all those, big and small, that God calls to be His disciples. It has happened to you, too, if you are a believer, a disciple of Jesus.

My dream was to be the pastor of a big, successful church. (Just as the apostles dreamed of being big-shots in the renewed Kingdom of Israel.) I had some visions that seemed to indicate that was what God planned for me. As my dream started being fulfilled, suddenly it crashed and burned. God made it clear to me that my sinfulness, my pride, was the reason my dream could not be granted.

Please note: not every dream given by God results in a conclusion that is satisfactory to us, the dreamers. King Saul also had a dream. The prophet Samuel chose him at God's direction to be the first king of Israel, and God gave him gifts and wisdom to fulfill that dream, but Saul's sinful jealousy and pride doomed him to destruction rather than to blessing. And think of how Solomon was given blessings and supernatural wisdom from heaven and yet fell into idolatry and every form of sin. Consequently, the nation of Israel fell from its lofty position, was divided into a northern kingdom of Israel and a southern kingdom of Judah, and went through hundreds of years of periodic civil war.

If you read through the book of Judges, you see that over a period of about 300 years God called many men and women to positions of authority and leadership, but that most failed and were rejected: Samson, Jephthah, the tribe of Benjamin, etc. It has been estimated that in the Old and New Testaments about 200 men and women were called by God to positions of honor and authority: priests, prophets, kings, apostles, pastors, teachers, and that only about 40 finished their course with success. That is about one in five. If you think back through your life as a believer, how many pastors, teachers, music leaders, prophets, missionaries, business men, public servants, etc., have you known who have started out well and then fallen by the wayside?

Why does God use this pattern of Death of a Dream with His followers? He does not spell it out, but I believe the following are some of the reasons:

1. To test us and show if we are serving Him for His glory or for our own glory.
2. To reveal our hearts to ourselves. I'm sure He already knows what is in us, but we don't know until it is revealed to us over time and testing.
3. To humble us.
4. To correct us.
5. To reveal His nature; for instance, His patience and long suffering; and His fairness to the world.
6. To display His glory.

---

---

## MARIJUANA, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND VIOLENCE

The January edition of *Imprimis*, the monthly publication of Hillsdale College, featured an article by Alex Berenson, a Yale graduate who has worked as a business reporter for The Denver Post, the New York Times, and others. Mr. Berenson's report starts as follows:

“Seventy miles northwest of New York City is a hospital that looks like a prison, its drab brick buildings wrapped in layers of fencing and barbed wire. This grim facility is called the Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Institute. It's one of three places the state of New York sends the criminally mentally ill – defendants judged not guilty by reason of insanity.

Until recently, my wife Jackie – Dr. Jacqueline Berenson – was a senior psychiatrist there. Many of Mid-Hudson's patients are killers and arsonists. At least one is a cannibal. Most have been diagnosed with psychotic disorders like Schizophrenia that led them to violence against family members or strangers. A couple of years ago, Jackie was telling me about a patient. In passing, she said something like, *Of course, he'd been smoking pot his whole life.* I said, *Of course?* She responded, *Yes, they all smoke..... So marijuana causes schizophrenia?*

I was surprised, to say the least. I tended to be a libertarian on drugs. When I covered the pharmaceutical industry for the New York Times I became aware of the claims about marijuana as medicine and had watched the slow spread of legalized cannabis in our country. Jackie told me, *You should read the big studies.* So I did. I read the big studies, the little studies, and everything I could find. And I began to wonder why, with the stocks of cannabis companies soaring and politicians promoting legalization as a low-risk way to raise tax revenue and reduce crime – I had never heard the truth about marijuana, mental illness, and violence.

Over the last 30 years, psychiatrists and epidemiologists have turned speculation about marijuana's dangers into science. Yet over the same period, a shrewd and expensive lobbying campaign has pushed public attitudes about marijuana the other way. And the effects are now becoming apparent. Almost everything you think you know about the health effects of cannabis, almost everything advocates and the media have told you for a generation, is wrong.

The article then reports on the reality that studies have shown that chronic pain in some studies have showed cannabis use was associated with greater pain over time. Over the past decade, as legalization has spread, patterns of marijuana use – and the drug itself – have changed in dangerous ways. In the 1970s, most marijuana contained less than two percent THC. Today, it routinely contains 20 to 25 percent THC, thanks to demand by users. In states where cannabis is legal, such as Colorado, many users prefer extracts that are nearly pure THC. Think of the difference between near-beer and a martini, or even grain alcohol, to understand.

Problems with the drug have soared. In 2014 they accounted for eleven percent of all the psychosis cases in emergency rooms. In states like Colorado, emergency room physicians have become experts in dealing with cannabis-induced psychosis. And psychosis is connected with violence because of its tendency to cause paranoia. The link between marijuana and violence doesn't appear limited to people with preexisting psychosis. Researchers have studied alcohol and violence for generations, proving that alcohol is a risk factor for domestic abuse, assault, and even murder. Far less work has been done on marijuana, in part because advocates have stigmatized anyone who raises the issue. But the link has been shown to exist, covering everything from bullying to fighting. Cannabis is also associated with a disturbing number of cases of child deaths from abuse and neglect, many more than alcohol, and more than cocaine, meth, and opioids combined, according to reports from Texas, one of the few states providing detailed information.

NOTE: Hillsdale College in Michigan is a conservative institution, and *Imprimis* is not an attack journal but contains very thoughtful information. To receive a free monthly hard-copy edition of *Imprimis*, email: [imprimis@hillsdale.edu](mailto:imprimis@hillsdale.edu) or call (800) 437-2268.

NOTE 2: At a recent church get-together, I got acquainted with a man who recently retired after 36 years in law enforcement, and he told me that alcohol was still the number one cause of problems that involved law officers (domestic abuse, public drunkenness, violence and murder, crime, bullying, auto wrecks, suicide) and that it wasn't even close. I'm just thinking that churches have become so fearful of being branded legalists and narrow minded that we have stopped warning our people about the real costs of addictions.

---

---

## CASTAWAY

I recently watched a rerun of the movie *Castaway*, which first came out some 25 years ago, if you can believe! The movie stars Tom Hanks as a FedEx executive who is flying along with a FedEx cargo plane that gets caught up in a storm and crashes in the South Pacific. Tom is the only survivor and finds himself on a small tropical island.

The movie recounts his lonely struggle to survive for four long years. He battles hunger, accidents, sickness, boredom, loneliness, hopelessness, suicidal thoughts. His thoughts and words are verbalized on the accompanying soundtrack. The interesting thing to me was that throughout this four-year period of often dramatic life-threatening action, not one time did Tom's character even think about, much less offer a prayer to, God. For him, obviously, God did not exist. The Bible describes this condition, which is common to much of mankind. It is called "godlessness."

But Tom did not remain entirely alone. He found a new volleyball among the debris washed up on the shore from the crashed FedEx plane. It accidentally got a rough human looking face, made of blood from his hand, imprinted on it, so Tom propped it up on a rock and named it Wilson. He developed an intimate emotional bond with Wilson. He talked to it, shared his deepest secrets and yearnings with it (he was actually praying to it), and wept copiously when it was separated from him. It became, of course, what the Bible would describe as an idol.

Godlessness (*asebia* in Greek), is described in Romans 1:18, along with Unrighteousness (*anomia* in Greek). Unrighteousness is also translated as "Wickedness" or "Lawlessness." *Anomia* (lawlessness, etc.) is that human attitude of defiance against the rule of God and His good laws. *Asebia* (godlessness) is an attitude of indifference to God; i.e., living and acting as if God does not exist. That is exactly what Tom's character did for the four years portrayed in *Castaway*, and it is what many men and women do all through their lives. In my observation, that is even what some folks do who have at some point in their lives identified themselves as "Christians."

Do you know why people act in ways that are godless or lawless? God explains it in the first chapter of Romans. He says they are willfully "suppressing the truth" because of their lusts and self-worship.

Do you know what God's attitude is toward people that are godless or lawless? Romans chapter 1 says it stirs up God's "wrath!" Wrath is God's furious anger. And, friends, this is in the New Testament.

My encouragement to you is to read, study, meditate, on the first chapter of Romans. The book of Romans is regarded as the pinnacle of Paul's mature theology. The Holy Spirit revealed to the Apostle Paul profound truths about His nature and the way he relates to men. Do a word study of the words in Romans, chapter 1. Look up all the cross-references. Read it in different translations: NKJV, NIV, ESV, NLT, the Amplified, etc. Let God speak to your heart about His love for you, and about His furious anger when people live in ways that are lawless, or when they live as if He does not exist. God will speak to you, and He will bless you.

## THE GOD WHO IS THERE

(From my Ancient Files)

Back about 1960 I knew a pastor named Ed Beck who worked for a Missions Agency. Ed was 6'6" tall and had been a college standout basketball player. On one of his mission trips, Ed went to Indochina, as it was called then, to a remote village in the mountains where the people still lived in the Stone Age. Ed's interpreter was a man who had left the village years before, had become a Christian, and had led Ed to the village. There were about 300 natives in this village who spoke an isolated language. They worshipped the mountain on which they lived.

They all gathered around to see this gigantic alien person. Ed spoke to them as though they were a group of children. He very simply related the story of the Savior, the way He lived, the way He died on a cross for our sins, the new life he offers us, and the eternal life He has purchased for us.

When he had finished, an ancient, wrinkled, toothless old woman was smiling from ear to ear and jabbering in her language. Ed's guide interpreted: "She says she always knew there was somebody like that, but she never knew his name."

There are a lot of people in our world that know, or at least they hope, that there is a God like that. Nobody has ever told them His name. Are you willing to tell them?

God Bless

Glenn

**e-mail address** [casabrn441@gmail.com](mailto:casabrn441@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.glennbrownministries.com](http://www.glennbrownministries.com)

I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry.

If any of you want to receive tax credit for your financial contributions,  
you may send them to:

CANYON VIEW VINEYARD CHURCH

736 24 ½ Road Grand Junction, Co. 81505