



WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

It is the Instruction Manual from God.

Lesson 2D - How does God Communicate with us?

- *Keep in mind that before people had (or wanted) access to the Bible, God used other ways.*



THROUGH DREAMS & VISIONS

- *Ok, do not freak out. God did communicate to certain people this way in the Bible when He had a message to get out.*
- *Remember, they had no Bible to read, and the Holy Spirit was not constantly upon them. (The in-dwelling Holy Spirit came into believers in the book of Acts.*
- *Dreams & visions could have been new information from God back then.*
- *Now, we have all the information from God already in the Bible.*
- *People could have dreams now, of course, but the information given would be a reminder of information God has already given to us through His Spirit and in the Bible. NO NEW INFORMATION IS COMING FROM GOD NOW.*

1. Here's an interesting question. What do you think is the difference between a dream today, and a dream in the Bible? _____
2. Which of the following is the purpose God gave dreams to people in the Bible?
 - a. ___ Divine revelation that indicates what someone should do
 - b. ___ Divine revelation that reveals when something is going to happen
 - c. ___ Divine revelation that explains things that are currently happening

Dreams and visions are sometimes considered to be same thing. Rather than argue the differences, let's agree that God chose to communicate that way to certain people in the Bible.

3. Why would God need to use this method of communication?

Judges 21:25 - [After the time of the judges] - In those days there was no king in Israel [no leader that obeyed God]; everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

1 Samuel 1:1 - Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

4. In Judges 21:25, what kind of shape was mankind in at that time? _____
5. ___Yes ___No Do you think most of mankind was seeking God?
6. ___Yes ___No Is it safe to assume that God could stop attempting to talk to man, and let man endure the consequences of sin & rebellion for a while?
7. What is 1 Samuel 1:1 telling us? _____
8. **HOWEVER!!** God had men & women who were following God OR God had a future plan for them. Let's pick a few. Look up the verses.
 - a. Genesis 15:1 _____ Numbers 12:6-8 _____
 - b. Acts 10:10-11 _____ Acts 16:9 _____
- *There were no prophets yet in the early Old Testament. (Moses was the first.)*
- *Samuel was ready to serve God; the times were bad, so God called him in a dream to ready him.*
- *Paul had a dream or vision from God because he would never have listened to anyone else.*
- *The availability of Bible books was scarce, or not always accessible to the common man.*
9. ___Yes ___No Would God be loving to man if He had important news to share, but hadn't used His power with dreams or visions or anything to reach His people.