

# 1. What Is Your Message to Me? Dreams as the Scripture of our Lives

Rabbi H A. Addison



## ***I WANT YOU TO KNOW*** ***(Ratziti Sheteida)***

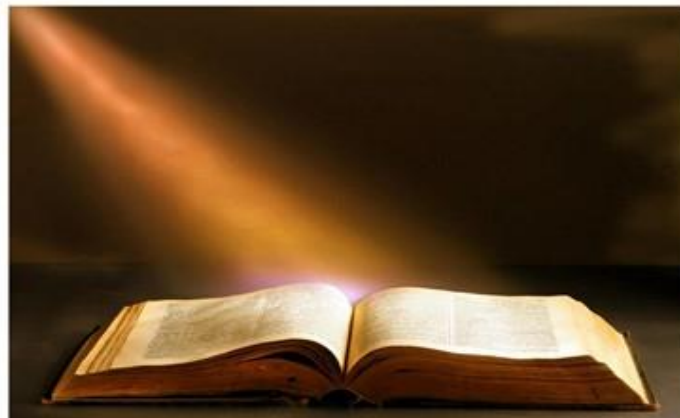
Oh, my dear God, I want you to know  
the dream that I dreamt last night moved me so  
And in the dream, an angel I did see,  
Rising from the ocean's depths the angel said to me

I come from the waters, from deep within the seas,  
To bring to children everywhere blessings of peace,  
To bring to children everywhere blessings of peace,

When I awoke, I was summoned by the dream,  
To go out and seek just what it might mean,  
The angel disappeared; there was no world peace.  
She vanished with her message,  
Yet, I remain... here with the dream.

*Uzi Hıman (d.2004)*

2.



3

# SCRIPTURE OR SCRIPTURES?

W C Smith, *What Is Scripture: A Comparative Approach* (1993)

## "THE WORD OF GOD"



...a particular book given by God to humankind. "Revealed by Him"... a work of divine provenance p. 9

## "A HUMAN ACTIVITY"

a bi-lateral term... it inherently implies, in fact, names a relationship... People – a given community – make a text into scripture, or keep it scripture: by treating it a certain way p.17-18



4.

## Scripture

### Interpretation of Revelation

A J Heschel

The act of revelation is a mystery, while the record of revelation is a literary fact, phrased in the language of man. . . . text of Scripture... consists of gems of God and diamonds quarried out of prophetic souls, all set in a human frame



Retrieved from: R. Hammer *Or Hadash: A Commentary on Siddur Sim Shalom*, 2003

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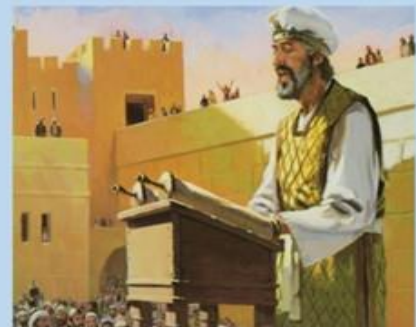
## SCRIPTURE AS ORACLE



But the children jostled each other in the womb so much that she exclaimed, "If it is like this, why go on living!" She went TO CONSULT (L'Drosh) the ETERNAL (YHWH)

GENESIS 25: 22

For Ezra had set his heart TO CONSULT (L'Drosh) The ETERNAL'S TORAH, to enact and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel EZRA 7:10



6.





## UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE AS DREAMS and DREAMS AS SCRIPTURE

*When there is a prophet among you, I, the Eternal (YHWH), reveal myself in visions, I speak in dreams. It is not so with my servant Moses, most faithful in all my household. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles...*

Numbers 12:6-8

7



## INTERPRETATION

### *Dreams and Scripture*

**PESHER**

PATAR

פֶּשֶׁר

פֶּטֶר

*Solve Resolve Absolve Dissolve*

**MIDRASH**

מִדְרַשׁ

SEEK CONSUL PROBE EXPOUND

8.

9

## WHO ENSURES WELLBEING?

Rabbi Elazar said in the name of Rabbi Chanina: 'Torah Scholars increase wellbeing in the world, as it is said: 'And all your children (**BANAYICH**) will be students of God, and your children (**BANAYICH**) will have abundant wellbeing' (Isaiah 54) – do not read '**BANAYICH**' (your children), but '**BONAYICH**' (your builders or discerning persons), for wellbeing abounds for the lovers of Your Torah ...

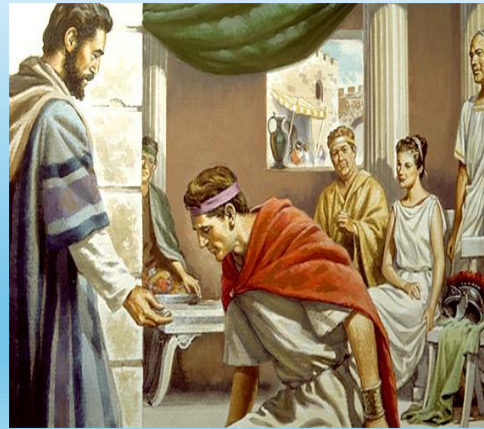
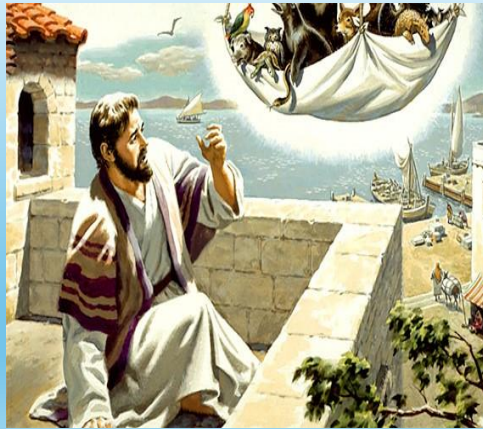
*bt Berachot 64 a*



## Peter's Vision

## Baptizing Cornelius

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 10



10.

**WHEN PETER WENT TO JERUSALEM** the circumcised believers confronted him: You entered a gentile house and ate? Peter explained: While entranced in prayer at Jaffa I had a vision... then three men sent to me from Caesarea appeared at the house. The Spirit told me to accompany them without discriminating... as I began speaking, the holy Spirit fell upon them as it had upon us at the beginning, and I remembered the word of the Lord: JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER BUT YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. (LUKE 3:16) If God gave them the same gift he gave to us...who was I to hinder God? When they heard this, they stopped objecting, saying: God has granted life-giving repentance to the Gentiles too. Acts 11:2-18



11.

## The Four Dimensions of Scriptural Interpretation



### CHRISTIANITY

*Venerable Bede* d.735 CE

#### LITERAL

**TROPOLOGICAL** (figurative)

**ALLEGORICAL** (allusions)

**ANAGOGICAL** (mystery)

### ISLAM

*Ja'far al Sadiq* d.765 CE

#### ‘IBARA

**ISHARA**(figurative)

**LATAIF** (allusions)

**ḤAQAIC**(mystery)

12.



## Entering the PaRDeS of Dreams

*Sovereign of the Universe, I am Yours as are my dreams. I have dreamed a dream and know not what it is. If I've dreamed of myself, my companions have dreamed of me or I have dreamed of others, if they be good dreams affirm and reinforce them like Joseph's dreams; if they require remedy, heal them, as our teacher, Moses, healed the waters of Marah... As You transformed Balaam's curse into blessing, so turn my dreams into something good for me and all who champion the Source of Life*

BT Berakhot 55 b

**1. PESHAT.** The Dreamer recites the literal, manifest dream twice. The group may take notes during the second recitation and usually hand them to the dreamer at session's end

**2. D'RASH** (Inquiry). After the second recitation the group inquires about the various aspects, settings and characters in the dream to shed light upon them, seeking objective answers rather than the dreamer's personal associations

*The Dreamer symbolically passes the dream to the group.*

**3. REMEZ** (Allusions). Group members project their own associations onto the dream images or elements as if this dream had been their own, always prefacing their remarks with "If this were my dream..." or "In my dream..."

*When finished the group "returns" the dream to the Dreamer*

**4. SOD** (Secret). The Dreamer, to the extent s/he wishes, may disclose any previously concealed insights that have emerged from the dream group process or need not comment at all. The Dreamer is encouraged to reflect on that day's shared process at home and to track the unfolding of dreams and life experiences, particularly between sessions to see if further hidden aspects of the dream's message might be revealed.

**Members of the group may then comment briefly on what aspect of the dream held particular energy for them individually**

Before moving on, the following adaptations of two scriptural verses are recited to mark the unique sanctity of the group encounter with this dreamer and dream:

**DREAMER:** Through this dream may my soul find wholeness and release (Psalms 55:19)

**GROUP:** Peace, Peace unto you and we who support you: May God always be your aid (I Chronicles 12:19).

*... since dreams and Scripture, with its parables, come from the same place...they call us to the same place of understanding, ... bringing us into conversation with Wisdom... to teach us how to live with God*

Joyce Rockwood Hudson

