

The Dream in the Darkness

I. Our Dreams Are More Real Than We Know

Abraham Lincoln dreamt that he heard subdued sobs, as if a number of people were weeping in the White House. He wandered into the East Room and saw a coffin lying on a platform; the face of the deceased was covered. When Lincoln demanded who was in the coffin, one of the soldiers guarding the body said, "The President. He's been killed by an assassin!"

Two weeks later, Lincoln unfortunately met a similar fate.

Harriet Tubman had vivid dreams helped her find safe pathways for the Underground Railroad, which served as the route to freedom for many slaves.

I want to wake you up!

I want you to see that God is at work when it totally is hidden.

II. God's Deepest Work May Be Hidden

Until the Time is Right.

Isa 40.1 NKJ "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!"
Says your God.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the LORD;
Make straight in the desert
A **highway for our God.**

4 Every **valley** shall be **exalted**
And every **mountain** and hill **brought low**;
The **crooked** places shall be made **straight**
And the **rough** places **smooth**;

5 The **glory of the LORD shall be revealed**,
And all flesh shall see *it* together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Our Crooked Rough Places May Be More than We Know

The **Divine Story** in Human DNA and in all the confusion

Matt 1:1 The book of the genealogy [Gk. *genesis*] of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of **Isaac**, and Isaac the father of **Jacob**, and Jacob the father of **Judah** and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of **Perez** and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of **Hezron**, and Hezron the father of **Ram**, ... **5** and Salmon the father of **Boaz** by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of **Obed** by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of **Jesse**,

6 and Jesse the father of **David the king**. And David was the father of **Solomon** by **the wife of Uriah**,

16 and **Jacob** the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom **Jesus** was born, who is called **Christ**

Through the Crooked mess God is writing a Hope Story

III. Dreaming the Solution to Personal Pain

Matt 1.18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband **Joseph, being a just man** and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

20 But as he considered these things, behold, an **angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream**, saying, "Joseph, son of David, **do not fear** to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**" **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: *[Isa. 7:14]*

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)

24 **When Joseph woke** from sleep, **he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him**: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

When we wake, will we heed the Dream?

Luke 1:38 NKJ Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! **Let it be to me according to your word.**” And the angel departed from her.

In that **Moment**,

The **Great** became **Tiny**

The **Strong** became **Weak**

From being **His Own** he made Himself **Ours**

The Solution is conceived in the Problem

The **Eternal** enters **Time**

But it’s Crazy, Unprecedented and Offensive

God entrusted **His Dream** to **Joseph’s Dream!**

IV. Human Response to Subjective Guidance

Matt 2.1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men from the east** came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For **we saw his star** when it rose and **have come to worship him.**”

Matt 2.9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, **the star** that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 **When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.** 11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they **fell down and worshiped him.** Then, **opening their treasures,** they offered him **gifts,** gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Isa 9.2 The people who walked in darkness have **seen a great light;**

2 Cor 4.6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has **shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

2 Cor 3.18 And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord**, are being **transformed into the same image** from **one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

V. What Love Looks Like – The Story in the Dream

1 John 4:9 NIV This is **how God showed his love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Helpless... he is wrapped in cloths and cannot move. He weeps and trembles with the cold, lying in the feed trough he cannot feed himself, He must be held and warmed. Nursed with the milk that will become his body and his blood.

Humble... born into a homeless, misunderstood, unwelcome family, his first breath includes the smell of manure.

He **laid in a manger** that we might be **seated with Him**.

He was **born in a cave**, that we might be **born from above**.

Afflicted... that you might be blessed

Matt 2:12 And **being warned in a dream** not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Poor... his parents cannot afford a lamb, and buy two doves for the ritual of purification.

Adopted... Must be adopted by Joseph in order to be of the line of David. He is both adopted and protected by Joseph, the dreamer.

Fugitive... He who holds all things together, with his parents, had to run for their lives. So that you might run into His arms.

Matt 2:13 Now when they had departed, behold, an **angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream** and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **14** And **he rose and took the child and his mother** by night and departed to Egypt ...

VI. Wake Up and Respond to the Incarnate Word

O Come Let Us Adore Him