



## Life Group Study Notes

### "Dreamworks"

Ps. Tim Johnson - September 10, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Do you dream often when you sleep?
- Has God ever spoken to you through a dream?
- What is the best dream you've ever had?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

*Genesis 37:5-11 ESV Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.*

God has been on a mission to redeem humanity and its sinful impact on the creation ever since humanity's original rebellion against God. In the early stages of the unfolding of his mission he chose Abraham, a man who God knew would be faithful to train his household in the knowledge of God. God continued to work with Abraham's son and grandson with the intention of bringing forth a nation that would be the channel of God's blessing of redemption for all the nations and families of the world. Abraham's grandson was Jacob, who became the father of twelve sons, who in turn were the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob's favorite son was Joseph. God planned to use Joseph to deliver Jacob's extended family from future catastrophe and to set them in a place where they could flourish and grow into a nation.

Joseph was given a prophetic dream from God about his future role, but...

## Haters

When God gives his people prophetic dreams, they discover that not everyone is excited about the dream. There will be people who oppose you and who even hate the dream. Sometimes they oppose God's will being done in your life because of their own sinfulness. Sometimes their opposition is due to the influence of evil spiritual forces that are actively seeking to manipulate people.

## Spiritual Immaturity

Sometimes we contribute to the opposition we face because of our immature and even sinful response to God's dream. We can misinterpret the dream through a filter of self-absorption and self-importance. Joseph apparently failed to understand the purpose behind God's intention to elevate him to a place of rulership. God's desire was to have a god-fearing Israelite in a position to deliver and preserve the extended family. God's eye was upon the bigger intention to raise up the nation of Israel through whom the Messiah of the world would come forth. But the Scriptures implicitly suggest Joseph was immature, unspiritual, and self-absorbed. He seems to have thought God's dream was about his own future importance.

When we are like Joseph in our response to God's prophetic dreams for us, we will need to go through a process whereby God strips us of our sinful posture just like God had to do in Joseph's life. If we are not careful, we may even end up hating our haters. Joseph, fortunately, passed that test and never demonstrated any hatred toward those who hated his dreams. Only when our character is godly enough will we be able to properly handle the fulfillment of God's prophetic dreams for us.

*Titus 3:3-8 ESV For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*

God has delivered us from hating through Jesus. With the Spirit's help we can do good.

## **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- Has God given you a prophetic dream or word for your life that is not yet fulfilled?
- Have you ever faced opposition from others regarding God's plans for your life?
- How can you find grace to respond in a godly way to those who oppose you?

## **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for holding your future in his hands.
- Ask God for wisdom to know how to pursue God's plans for you in a godly way.
- Ask God for grace to respond in a godly manner to those who oppose you.