

*Streams*



# DREAM elements

AN ALTERNATIVE  
DREAM DICTIONARY

JOHN E.  
THOMAS



*Streams*

**DREAM**  
**elements**

JOHN E.  
THOMAS



God is speaking to us through our dreams!! Imagine if everything in your dream had a deeper meaning behind it, and God is trying to get your attention! I love John Thomas' new book, *Dream Elements*, where he gives clarity on common symbols found in dreams from years of experience doing dream interpretations. Our dreams are meant to point us back to the dream giver—God the Father Himself! Discover through this book what He's trying to say to you today.

**Ana Werner**

SEER | PROPHET | AUTHOR

**FOUNDER OF EAGLES NETWORK**

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”

Dreams are perhaps the most mysterious part of our relationship with God. The elements of our dreams are given to capture our attention and draw us deeper into a journey of discovering God's ways. I am grateful for John Thomas and his contribution to this amazing subject. *Dream Elements* is a fantastic resource for dreamers, and I highly encourage you to make this book a key part of your dream journey.

**Jamie Galloway**

AUTHOR OF *SECRETS OF THE SEER & OTHERS*

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The author has chosen to capitalize all pronouns for God in Scripture quotations, regardless of the translation.

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# INTRODUCTION




Dreams are enigmas. Elusive, yet compelling. Some think of them as the movement of electrical impulses in our brain. Others view them as the activity of the soul trying to discover fulfillment.




But some believe they are messages from the outside—something to be pursued, valued, and desired.



Dreams have inspired great feats and foretold defining moments for individuals and nations. Because of dreams, kings have scoured their lands looking for answers, and many people have sought out interpretations at great cost.



Some see dreams as essential for life, portending future events. Others see them as the voice of God speaking truth and prophesying the future. Most cultures throughout human history have valued dreams to one extent or another.



## **What about you? What do you think?**

Are dreams the random stimuli your brain hasn't processed yet? Is your psyche merely presenting curious tales with no meaning as it tries to find resolution? Are dreams the hidden parts of your heart and mind trying to resolve inner conflict and reveal what is important or veiled?

Or in your dreams, do you recognize the voice of your Creator speaking identity, unveiling the future, and clarifying His will?

**Something brought  
you to this moment,**

when you picked up a book called *Dream Elements*. At some level, you obviously recognize there is more to dreams. Something—Someone—is speaking, and you want to hear. There is a weight, an importance, to the messages of the night. Curiosity, divinely inspired, draws you to seek out answers and solutions, even if you're not quite sure what the question is yet. That will come in time.

For right now, recognize that dreams (not all dreams but some dreams) are God speaking.

**The One who knows  
all things, who can do  
anything, and who loves  
you infinitely more than  
you can imagine.**

He is communicating to you, and it is important to understand Him. He wants to be known, and He wants you to see the future as He sees it.

He created you for a purpose, even to the point of choosing the exact time, the right time, for you to live: this moment in history, when everything that came previously brought about a perfect setting for you. The people around you, your parents and friends, your neighbors and coworkers, your nation, your culture—all these things formed a specific environment that would cause you to be who you are, value what you value, and have God-ordained opportunities. All these details, meticulously woven together so you would seek Him, find Him, know Him, and fulfill the purpose He created you for.

### **You have a destiny.**

You are not an accident or an unimportant element in God's story. You are loved and you are chosen. That is why He speaks. He wants you to fulfill your purpose. He wants to help you avoid the pitfalls that would hold you back. He is keeping you from making mistakes that would end your story too soon. He is helping you. Dreams are one way He stands with you and does these things.

Dreams are not the only way He guides you, but they are an important way. From Genesis to Revelation, God spoke through dreams to those He loved. We see dreams in the special call of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 15:12-16; 26:23-25; 28:10-22). Moses declared they're a normal way God speaks (Numbers 12:6). They surrounded the birth and early childhood of our Messiah (Matthew 1:18-25; 2:12-15, 19-23). When God poured out His Spirit on His church in the New Testament, He fulfilled a promise: that prophetic activity—including dreams and visions—would be common (Acts 2:17-18).

Though people have looked to many sources to understand the dreams they see at night, there is only one Source we can trust. If God is speaking, then God needs to be the One who clarifies what He is saying. To understand dreams, we study how He uses them in Scripture.

Even a short study of Scripture reveals significant metaphorical language. In fact, Jesus revealed that His teachings—all His teachings—are parabolic. I think it's safe to say that metaphor is the language of heaven.

**All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, He said nothing to them without a parable. –Matthew 13:34**

This book is filled to the brim with metaphors and their potential meanings. John Paul Jackson and I studied every dream, parable, and metaphor we could find in Scripture, and my study continues even after his passing. I spent fifteen years studying under him, and since 2016 I've been leading the ministry he started, continuing and deepening that study. Over the last twenty-something years, I have interpreted thousands of dreams (I believe the number to be well over ten thousand at this point, but I don't have an exact count), and I've seen thousands of people encouraged and strengthened as they realized what God was saying to them. That's the power of His voice and the strength of His hope.

So touched by the interpretation God gave them, some people have wept and laughed. Some just collapsed, overcome by His power and love. Numerous times through the years, dreamers have returned to me and shared how an interpretation played out and proved itself accurate. That is the history upon which this book is established. The dream elements and meanings listed on the following pages come from that study and experience.

## Key Sources for Understanding Dream Elements

This book does not suggest meanings lightly. The first place we look is Scripture. Is the element in the Bible? How was it used then and what did it mean? That's our starting point.

But many elements we dream about aren't found in Scripture—what then? In that case, we look at what I call “created order.” How did God create that element? What are its traits, how is it used, what was God's intention with it and for it? Honestly, you can learn a lot about dream interpretation by watching nature shows that explain how something functions and acts. The ways of God are visible in creation all around us, and He will use creation to speak to us in our dreams.

What if the element isn't an animal or tree but something man-made like a car? Again, we look at the intention. What is a vehicle meant to do, or how is it normally used? A basic understanding will often point us in the right direction.

Sometimes an element in a dream feels like it carries a significant meaning, but there is no recognizable reason or immediate understanding of the element. It isn't discussed in Scripture, and it doesn't have a clear "use" in the natural. So what do we do then?

God will, at times, prophetically clarify the meaning of an element. If He explains what something means in one dream, we place the meaning with that specific dream and don't automatically assume the meaning applies to every use of that element. However, when the same element has the same meaning multiple times, and the interpretation is proven true, we've discovered a pattern that's a good starting point for understanding the element in other dreams.

## How to Use This Dictionary

If a dream is from God, only God can interpret it. One of the great dream interpreters of Scripture, Joseph clarified the Source of all accurate dream interpretations when he asked, “Don’t interpretations belong to God?”

### **Good dream interpretation has two aspects: skill and revelation.**

We offer training on both in our online courses and Streams Academy. All the elements included in this book fall into the skill category; to interpret your dream correctly, you still need revelation. That is, you need to take the dream to God and listen, so you can hear what He’s saying and what He intends with the dream. Skill can take you only so far.

Often when people start interpreting dreams, they think that if they can just figure out what all the different elements mean, they can understand the dream. But that’s not how it works. God spoke to you to help you fulfill your destiny, and the most essential element of that destiny is your relationship with Him. Relationship is one reason He speaks through dreams and metaphors in the first place—He hides the meaning so you have to seek it out and encounter Him.



In Matthew 13:10, the disciples asked Jesus why He didn't speak plainly. Why hide truth behind metaphor? This was His answer:

**To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand... But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.**

**—Matthew 13:11-13, 16**

He hides things to reveal the heart and to see if people really want to understand.

In the same conversation, Jesus revealed to His disciples that they had been given the answers. How did they have the answers? Matthew 13 contains no mystical cypher that reveals every hidden meaning of every parable. Jesus didn't hand out a dream dictionary. But the disciples did have something that very few others had: relationship. When the disciples wanted to know what a parable meant, they just went to Jesus and asked.

When you want to know what your dreams mean, the first step is always to go to Him and ask. This book is not intended to bypass that step; it is merely part of the journey.

When you go to interpret a dream, start with prayer. Even before you look up the element that's bugging you, pause and ask God to show you what it means. An element doesn't always mean the same thing in every dream, and if you're using a dream dictionary that says otherwise, put it back on the shelf. Whoever wrote it either does not understand dream interpretation or they're trying to get you to rely on them as the secret keeper who can unlock your dreams. God is the only secret you need—He will guide you to the right meaning.

Keep in mind that elements in dreams derive some of their meaning from how they fit into the dream overall: the context, the element's placement, how one element interacts with other elements, how it affects the rest of the dream story. One simple element can have different nuances, depending on the context. I tried to write this book in a way that helps you recognize the different subtleties an element can have.

Avoid interpretive legalism. "This always means that." Not necessarily. Like I said, I've interpreted thousands of dreams, and I still sometimes find new meanings for elements I thought I already knew. Legalism gives people a false sense of security by rigorously defining the rules. That false sense of security is often disrupted by the God of whom it was said, "But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 115:3 NASB).

If you simply take your dream, look up all the elements, and patch the meanings together, you will end up with what we call a "Frankenstein interpretation." The interpretation has all the right pieces, but it does not have the breath of God, so it doesn't have real life. Real life, which comes only from the Creator, is the power for transformation hidden in all God dreams. Preserve that life by being humble in your interpretive process. Elements don't always have the same meaning. They might have the same meaning most of the time—but not always.

# Learn to Think Metaphorically

Learning dream interpretation is like learning a language. You can get the basics from a book like this one, but it won't help you actually have a conversation. You need to get out there and listen and speak. In this case, you need to dream and then work through the interpretation. Make dreams a regular part of your prayer life. Take them to God and ask about them.

Begin to think metaphorically. There are many elements I didn't include in this book, so how can you learn what they mean on your own? As you read through the elements I did include, you'll start to see patterns. Pay attention to those patterns, and you'll find yourself understanding more and more dreams and different elements.

Talk to other interpreters about your dreams, get their wisdom, and ask how they reached their interpretations. Have conversations, and over time dream interpretation will become easier for you.

The best way to learn a new language is through an immersion program. You go and live where that language is spoken; you interact with people, have conversations, and struggle along with your limited understanding as you point at things and listen as the locals try to explain. You immerse yourself in the culture, and after a few months, something just clicks. A similar thing can happen with dream interpretation.

If you want to immerse yourself in dream interpretation—the language of heaven—check out the other resources we have at Streams Ministries. John Paul Jackson’s course *Understanding Dreams & Visions* is a great way to continue your journey of dream interpretation, but if you’re ready for the immersion program, visit

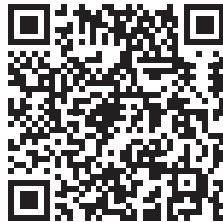
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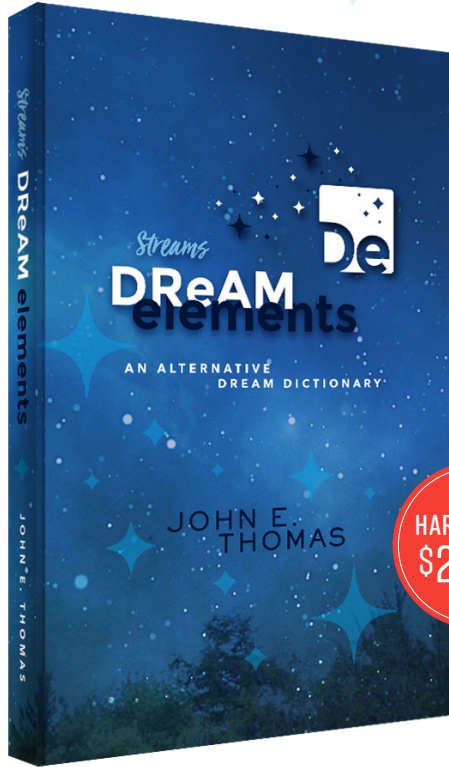
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