

## THE BEST DREAM OR THE WORST NIGHTMARE

Song of Solomon reveals two dreams and portrays two “states of mind” of a prospective bride. It compares the one who is ready for the Marriage with the one who is distracted, and not ready. It carries the same thought as the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. The scenario is repeated: one is “taken” and another is “left”; Matt. 24:40-41; Luke 17:34-36

### The Bride-to-be Who Is Ready

#### A. The Dream In Song Of Solomon 3:1-4

1. In this dream scenario, the bride-to-be has been awakened from a sleepy state, gets out of bed and walks through the streets, eagerly looking for the One She loves. She is ready to meet Him.
  - a. She is listening for the cry “Behold, the Bridegroom comes”; Matthew 25:6
  - b. She anticipates His coming, and asks the watchmen “Have you seen Him”; Is. 21:8; Hab.2:1
2. When She finds the Bridegroom, She clings to Him, and won’t let Him go; Song of Sol. 3:4
3. She is devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and is longing for His coming; Hebrews 9:28:
  - a. She follows the leading of the Holy Spirit Who guides Her, explains the scriptures, instructs Her in Kingdom truth, reveals mysteries and shows Her things to come; 2 Tim. 4:16-17
  - b. She recognizes unfolding, prophetic events and is able to discern truth from error; 1 Tim. 4:1
4. She overcomes distractions and is committed to “watch”, to be in a state of spiritual alertness:
  - a. She watches in prayer, having a zeal for souls, she intercedes for the lost; 1 Thess. 5:17
  - b. She watches during increasing tribulation and persecution; Luke 21:34-36; Mark 14:38
  - c. She watches “with Him” and “for Him”; Matt. 24:42-51; Matt. 25:13; Mark 14:37
5. She is like the excellent wife described in Proverbs 31:18:
  - a. She is consecrated by “oil”; Ex. 27:20. Her lamp does not go out at night. She is “ready” and anointed, having “illumination”, the ability to see and discern by the Holy Spirit; Rev. 19:7
  - b. She discerns the times and the order of prophetic events on the basis of the Word of God: birth pangs, antichrist revealed, great tribulation, Rapture, the Day of the Lord (wrath of God).
6. She examines herself continually in the light of the “Blessed Hope”; 2 Cor. 13:5; Titus 2:13
7. She “wrestles, strives”, Greek word (agonize; struggle), by the power of the Holy Spirit:
  - a. She submits to God’s purging and refining, and strives to enter the straight gate; Luke 13:24
  - b. She strives to overcome, to gain the mastery over sinful habits; Heb. 12:4; 1 Cor. 9:25
  - c. She extends mercy and forgiveness to others, and “labors” to enter into His rest; Heb. 4:11
8. She learns of Her inheritance; “The meek shall inherit the earth”; Matt. 5:5; Eph. 1:18-19:
  - a. Inheriting the “earth” is not to be confused with the faulty thinking of the “kingdom now” mindset, which believes it is to inherit the present fallen world order and convert it.
  - b. She lives from the heavenly realm, having a mind set on eternal things; Eph. 2:6; Phil. 2:5
  - c. She is focused on “things above”, not “things beneath”; Colossians 3:1-2
9. She is obedient to the Great Commission: Go, Make Disciples, Baptize, Teach; Matt. 28:19-20
10. She is like Enoch, who walked in harmony with the Lord. She embraces the Cross, makes steady spiritual progress, advancing in intimacy with the Lord and in the knowledge of His ways:
  - a. To walk with Christ implies continual obedience. She ceases going her own way, walks with a surrendered will, accepts the hardship and chastening, learns longsuffering and perseverance.
  - b. To walk with Christ necessitates a state of holiness. She fears the Lord, warning and exhorting others. She lives a moral life and separates herself from all that defiles; Heb. 12:14
  - c. Like Enoch, She “pleases God”; Heb. 11:5, will be translated, carried to another place by faith and saved from the wrath to come; Gen. 5:24; 1 Cor. 15:51-52. This is Her BEST DREAM.

## The Distracted Bride-to-be

### **B. The Dream In Song of Solomon 5:2-6**

- 1.** In this dream scenario, She is not adorned and ready to meet the Bridegroom when He comes:
  - a.** She has taken off her garment (wedding dress); Song of Sol. 5:3; Matt. 22:11-12; Rev. 16:15
  - b.** She heard His voice, but is hesitant to climb out of bed and open the door to her Beloved when He comes and knocks in the night; Song of Sol. 5:2; Rev. 3:20
- 2.** Her spiritual condition reflects that of the Church of Laodicea; Rev. 3:15-20:
  - a.** She has lost Her first love, being in a lukewarm condition. She is entangled in the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the pursuit of other things; Rev. 2:4-5; Mark 4:19
  - b.** The man-centered gospel She subscribes to has given priority to the power of a “positive confession”, to obtaining success in this life, rather than saving souls for the Kingdom. Her church does not denounce sin, call for repentance or preach the Gospel in convicting power.
  - c.** The study of God’s Word is replaced by seeker-friendly messages; psychological, self-help programs have replaced discipleship; prayer meetings incorporate New Age practices.
- 3.** She has forgotten that God’s plan is to save the lost and to conform the saved into the image of His Son; Luke 19:10; Romans 8:29. This is God’s highest purpose, which She has neglected.
- 4.** She is self-ruling, self-seeking and self-directed, doing Her “works” apart from the Lord’s direction. She wants to eat her own “bread” and wear her own “apparel”; Is. 4:1; Matt. 7:21-23
- 5.** Diversions, digressions and deceptive winds of doctrine have taken hold of Her:
  - a.** She is engaged in political and social “activism” in a foolish attempt to force “Christian principles” upon a godless society, rather than preaching the Gospel to convert the individual.
  - b.** Her priorities have deviated from the Great Commission; like the zealots, She desires to “set up” the kingdom by joining with non-Christian forces in a united purpose of social reform.
  - c.** She seeks to become part of a ruling class, which wants to take dominion in business, education, the arts, government, etc. “for Christ”. (We are salt and light, we are not “settlers” in this world; we are strangers here and our citizenship is in heaven); Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 1:17; 2:11
- 6.** She has a “misguided expectation”, making the same mistakes today as the Jews did in previous times with their erroneous thinking:
  - a.** They asked for and expected Jesus to give them prosperity; Matt. 21:9; Ps. 118:24-26
  - b.** They were asking for, expecting Jesus to set up His kingdom then and there; John 6:14-15
  - c.** They wanted Jesus to put on a show exhibiting signs and wonders; Matt. 16:1, 4; John 6:30
  - d.** Jesus came to save people from their sins not from the Romans or from poverty; Matt. 1:21
- 7.** She assumes that Jesus endorses Her “Christian” work and attempts to use Him as a source of power, but She is “king” on the throne of Her life. She has Her own agenda and operates independently of His Spirit. She is not willing to come under His absolute lordship and authority.
  - a.** In His first coming, Jesus the Lamb of God, the “son of Joseph”, came as a lowly Savior, riding upon a donkey; Zech. 9:9. (She, however, wants to preserve her own life); Matt. 10:38-39
  - b.** In His second coming, Jesus the “son of David” returns as a conquering King; Luke 1:32-33
- 8.** Like the foolish virgins, the distracted one will come to realize the folly of Her temporal pursuits, having been absorbed with her own “causes” and “issues of men”; Col. 3:1-2
- 9.** When She finally gets out of bed, She discovers that He has come and gone; Song of Sol. 5:6
  - a.** She will then realize that “one is taken and the other is left”; Matt. 24:40-41; Luke 17:34-36
- 10.** The Bridegroom came at an hour when She was not expecting Him:
  - a.** She was not prepared to meet Him and the door was shut; Matt. 24:50; 25:10; Luke 13:25
  - b.** This is Her WORST NIGHTMARE.

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