

The Loaf and the Sword

The Midianite's dream in Judges 7 is part of Gideon's famous story. The Bible clearly says what the dream means—but how does a loaf of bread rolling down a hill and flattening a tent mean “Gideon is going to defeat the bad guys”?

To understand this dream, we need to start at the very beginning when God first called Gideon.

Gideon isn't a big, brave warrior when the angel appears and calls him to deliver Israel. In fact, he's threshing wheat in a winepress because he's hiding from his enemies.

We tend to like Gideon because he's so transparent. He's terrified to do what God said. He has to confirm it again and again—and he's still scared.

Eventually God sends him down to the Midianite camp where Gideon overhears two soldiers talking about the bread dream.

“This is Gideon! He's going to crush us!”

They didn't know God but they knew what the bread represented—because they knew Gideon's story. No doubt it had spread like wildfire through the entire region. Gideon even received a new name because of it. When the angel called him, he was threshing grain. Why? To make bread. What began as a seed had reached maturity.

Here are three principles we can learn from this dream story:

1. God can use a dream element (in this case, grain/bread) to represent a person or group of people.
2. God speaks in dreams to those who know Him and those who don't.
3. You can trust God to speak in dreams and to give you the

right interpretation when you need it. He will communicate truth to you in ways you never imagined.

This short dream is fascinating! To learn more, listen to episode 16 of The Dream's Guy podcast. {eoa}

John and Dawna Thomas were radically saved out of the drug culture in 1996. Personally mentored by John Paul Jackson, they've been on staff with or have worked alongside Streams Ministries since 2004. John pastored The Bridge Metrowest (planted by John Paul) for five years before he and Dawna stepped out into full-time itinerant ministry. After John Paul passed away, John began to work more closely with the Streams leadership team and in 2016 was asked to become the president of Streams Ministries. With his background as a pastor and a minister in various settings around the world, John has a unique perspective on prophetic ministry and the global body of Christ. He desires to see the church rise up in her authority and in the full power of the Holy Spirit, and his passion for God's heart undergirds everything he does. He wants to help the bride of Christ respond with fervent devotion to the One who called her. John co-authored *The Art of Praying the Scriptures: A Fresh Look at Lectio Divina* with John Paul Jackson and he has an upcoming book release, *Dream Elements: An Alternative Dream Dictionary*. John has also written courses on prophetic ministry, dream interpretation and the kingdom of God. As president of Streams Ministries, he ministers internationally to help restore the awe of God to a world that has lost its wonder. He and Dawna live outside of Dallas, Texas.

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