

SHATTERED DREAMS

INTRODUCTION

Request: Could you teach a bible study on how to rebuild your life after SHATTERED DREAMS?

The phrase Shattered Dreams is not referring to what occurs in one's mind during the sleep of the night.

The phrase Shattered Dreams is referring to what occurs in the mind of one awake. It could be classified under the general heading of daydreams rather than night dreams.

The phrase Shattered Dreams used in our lesson refers to an imaginative expectation regarding something in one's life like a dream job, dream date, or dream house. It is an imaginative expectation when one has to believe it without being certain or sure of its reality.

This lesson will study four aspects of rebuilding a life from SHATTERED DREAMS by using two biblical examples.

1. There are two sources for this type of dreams in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

- **Cosmos Diabolicus (CD)** The evil thinking of the world
- **Divine Revelation (DR)** Bible Doctrine, resident in the soul and ready for application

The believer must be careful to not build unrealistic imaginative expectations regarding circumstances, people, or things in his life from Cosmos Diabolicus (CD).

The believer must be careful to build realistic dreams based on divine revelation (DR), from the word of God.

2. The example of a believer who built dreams upon cosmos diabolicus was EVE (Gen.3:1-7).

“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (3:6)

First, note that Eve built an unrealistic imaginative expectation dream regarding her life from Cosmos Diabolicus (CD).

Next, note that Eve experienced shattered dreams in Gen.3: 8-24. She had the perfect life as a grace gift from God, yet it wasn't enough. She had dreams built upon divine revelation from the word of God, but it wasn't enough. She wanted more (3:5) and went outside of God's resources to seek it (Matt.6: 33-34).

Finally, Eve experienced rebuilding a life after shattered dreams (Gen.3: 21; 4:1-2; 1 Tim.2: 14-15; 2 Cor.11: 2). Please notice the spiritual key involved in Eve rebuilding a life after shattered dreams. In rebuilding her life, Eve renounced Cosmos Diabolicus (CD) and returned to Divine Revelation (DR) as the realistic source of dreams (Gen.3: 8; 2:16-17).

“For in many dreams and in many words, there is emptiness. Rather, fear (reverence) God.” (Eccl.5:7)

3. The example of a believer who built dreams upon divine revelation was Joseph (Gen.37:3-11).

Joseph is an example of a believer who had his dreams shattered and rebuilt by the grace of God.

Joseph had two prophetic dreams regarding divine revelation upon which he built dreams for his life (37:5,9-10,20; Num.12: 6-8).

The two prophetic dreams involved sheaves and celestial. But the divine revelation behind these two dreams was that Joseph would have supremacy over the house of Israel. It was symbolized by all members of the family, even Jacob, voluntarily bowing down before Joseph.

What was the doctrinal point made in both dreams? (Gen.41:32)

- Jealousy and hatred of sibling rivalry was the first attempt to shatter Joseph’s dreams. It resulted in an attempt upon Joseph’s life by his brothers.
- Joseph’s dream was further shattered when he was sold into foreign slavery and Potiphar’s household.
- Joseph dream was still further shattered when he was thrown into prison on the charge of attempted rape of Potiphar’s wife.

What was the doctrinal point made regarding Joseph’s dream in Ps.105:16-21?

Joseph’s dream was rebuilt by the grace of God (Gen.42:6; 43:26-28; 44:14; 50:15-21).

“Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (Gen.50:19-20)

4. Difference between a Cosmos Diabolicus (CD) dream and a Divine Revelation (DR) dream is the source of the reality of its fulfillment.

Neither of the two examples of believer’s dreams could be fulfilled apart from the grace of God Acts 7:9-14).

*“And the patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. **And yet God was with him**, and rescued him from all his afflictions, and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his household.” (Acts 7:9-10)*

This led to the fulfillment of Joseph’s dreams after 20 years of shattered experiences.

“It means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.” (Gen.41:32)