

## A Dream That Becomes a Nightmare

Jude 8-10

Have you ever had a dream that started out sweet and ended horribly? In the Old Testament, false prophets were called dreamers (Jeremiah 23:25-28). In this text, people who sneak into the church and turn God's grace into a license to sin are called "dreamers" (Jude 8). In general, the Bible calls people who believe themselves to be Christians but live a life without Christ as Lord, "dreamers." Could it be that some today are dreaming while spiritually asleep? I pray that the Spirit of God will awaken you before your dream becomes a nightmare.

### I. The signs that you are in a dreamland spiritually . . . (v. 8).

Just as one knows another is physically dreaming by sleepwalking, eye fluttering, talking while asleep, etc . . . , there are signs that you are dreaming when you think you know Christ.

#### A. You defile the body God has given you . . . *"these dreamers defile the flesh . . ."*

The word *defile* means "to stain or pollute; to make dirty." A body is defiled when it is used in ways God did not design it. Have you noticed that when this happens people will often say, "I feel dirty!"? A Christian comes to the place where he realizes that his body is the Lord's (Read I Corinthians 6:15-20). Make no mistake, a *Christian* is capable of defiling his body, but the difference is the brokenness over, and repentance of, his sin.

#### B. You despise those in authority over you . . . *"these dreamers despise dominion . . ."*

The idea is "Nobody, and I mean nobody, tells me how to live my life!" That is what these dreamers say to themselves (and sometimes to others). Whether it is civil authority, church authority, family authority, or even the authority of God, it is "set aside" for the sake of one's feelings. They say, *"If it feels good, looks good, or sounds good, --- do it!"*

#### C. You deny the spiritual all around you . . . *"these dreamers speak evil of dignities . . ."*

*"Dignities"* is translated *"celestial beings"* in the NIV. It is literally the word, *"doxa"* or *"glories."*

The idea is that dreamers blaspheme the spiritual. If they can't see it, they don't believe it. If it is spiritual and unseen, then it must be unreal and unnecessary.

### II. The seriousness of being in a dreamland spiritually . . . (v. 9-10).

You will one day wake up. Your dream will have turned into a nightmare. And you will learn:

#### A. You are in way over your head . . . when you play around with the spiritual, when you take for granted the grace of God, when you blaspheme and laugh at things you can not see,

(i.e., hell, demons, angels.), you do what even Michael the archangel refused to do.

1. Michael refused to laugh at Satan --- *"he durst not bring a railing accusation . . ."*

2. Michael refused to set aside God's authority --- *"The Lord rebuke thee . . ."*

If Michael, the prince of angels, the one *"like unto God"*, refuses to live like this, why do you think you can get by with it without being harmed? You won't, because:

#### B. You will one day be destroyed . . . by the very things you reason bring you happiness.

These dreamers who sneak into the church speak evil of those things *"which they know not."*

Jude says, *"like unreasonable animals"* (brute beasts) they live their lives. May God wake you from your spiritual sleep to receive Christ as your Lord before your life ends up destroying itself and the judgment of God falls upon your soul.

*"There is a way that seems right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*