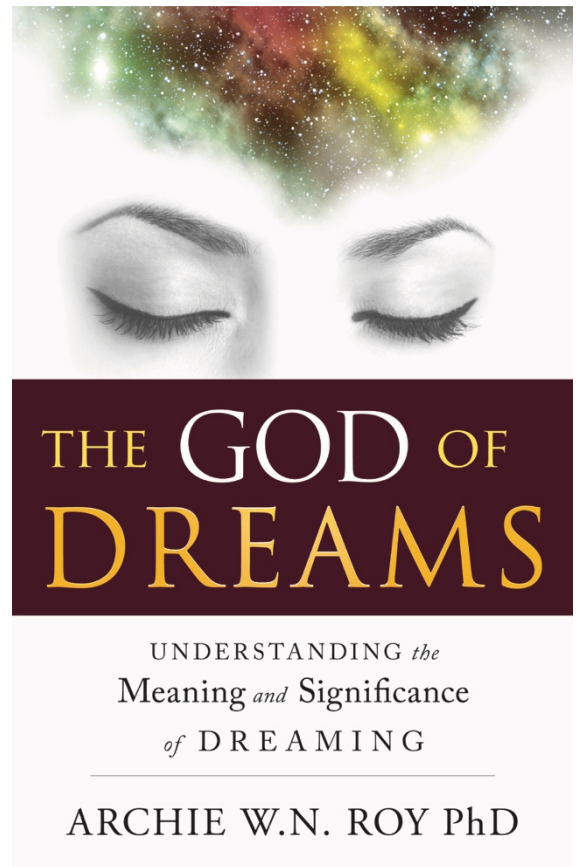


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# The GOD OF DREAMS

**UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF DREAMING**

**ARCHIE W. N. ROY PhD**



God gives dreams during critical and dangerous times, often arriving at pivotal moments in the flow of human history. If we can understand God's dealings with humanity through dreams, we are better positioned to understand His will for us today. *The God of Dreams* offers in-depth treatment of all types of dreamers and dreams, particularly the dreamers in Scripture and their unique purpose in God's plan.

Author and doctor of psychology Archie W. N. Roy, PhD, investigates dream interpreting and its biblical context. In *The God of Dreams*, Roy focuses on dream language and symbol—their relationship to various kinds of dreams—and why we have dreams. He considers the insights we can gain from the modern day psychoanalysts, as well as from famous Christian dreamers such as John Newton, John Paul Jackson, and Jackie Pullinger. He also critiques recent Christian writing, which he feels has gone too far in its uncritical embrace of analytical psychology.

We live in a different time from the days recorded in the Old Testament. We have received more revelation, especially regarding God's grace and the way of salvation by means of the new covenant. But are we also not living in a time of critical junctures and pivotal moments? There is a place for listening to God's dreams in these present times of turbulent change. We should listen to what He says through all His means, including dreams, and take action.

The intended readership includes the general Christian public interested in dreams, visions, and the prophetic; Christian academics and theologians; Bible college students; Christian students interested in dreams and Depth Psychology.

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# About the Author

## ARCHIE W. N. ROY PHD



Dr. Archie W. N. Roy earned a bachelor of science from the Evangelical Bible College and Seminary in Greenacres, Florida, and a license in theology from Victory Bible College in Scotland. He holds a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of Strathclyde and has worked in social science research, publishing, disability support, and social inclusion. A qualified guidance practitioner, he has worked as a careers advisor for the past

fourteen years, supporting students studying life sciences, psychology, and education at the University of Glasgow. He has had a lifelong interest in dreams and also enjoys hillwalking in the Scottish countryside. He lives in Glasgow, Scotland, with his wife, Margaret, and their Burmese cat, Salome.

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# *What Others Are Saying About* **The God of Dreams**

This is a very well-written book. I can say I have never seen a more thorough or readable book on dreams anywhere by anyone. . . . I especially like the way Archie Roy moves from technical to biblical to experiential, keeping the flow of the text while now and then continuing to give adequate warning to guard against New Age, occult, sensationalistic, and soulish fancy.

The testimonies of real-life examples, along with the basic how-to-do-it teaching, drawing from a wide variety of trusted sources, makes for a text that is comprehensive in its scope and readable without being simplistic.

**This book is truly needed. I have not seen any works like it.** Archie Roy has brought together many sources that need to be identified together, as most books on dreams sit rather on their own without this scholarly network offered. And the psychoanalytical as well as the brain research is so important and sadly ignored by most Christians.

—Clay McLean; McLean Ministries; Hickory, North Carolina, USA

Archie Roy has given us a **well-researched** and **well-balanced** book on the meaning and significance of dreams. His coverage of the various approaches to interpretation of dreams and dream symbolism is solidly grounded and in line with good biblical teaching. In addition to dreams recorded in Scripture, he also helpfully includes dreams and visions experienced by well-known Christians past and present. A great and inspiring resource on an important and fascinating subject!

—Randall Staley; Transformation in Christ; London, England

*The God of Dreams* leaves the reader in absolutely no doubt that God really does use dreams and continues to use them today. Archie Roy's exposition is detailed and easy to read. **The book puts real, tangible flesh onto biblical concepts and encourages readers to seek the practical application for themselves.** I found myself writing down far more dreams than I had before reading the book.

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I also found the work extremely informative. I had read a few other books about dreaming in the past but was always left with more questions than I had answers. This book really has an excellent timbre of multilayered answers that I really enjoyed. **Archie has come at the topic from various angles, which really enrich his argument.** People who are wired differently will feel the power of his argument because of the variety of perspectives. I think this is one of the major strengths of the book.

I absolutely loved Archie Roy's dismissal of postmodernity—in an area that is especially susceptible to multiple truths and meanings. I found his emphasis on dreams leading to a real message very encouraging. I also enjoyed watching him critique Carl Jung, because there is a huge and unhealthy influence of Jung's theories within the charismatic movement. I actually found this quite eye-opening.

The book is very applicable to the Christian life. I enjoyed where he wrote about the symbolic nature of color, for example. I'm sure anyone who reads this will be able to study his or her dreams in more depth because of this. I had also never thought about 90 percent of our dreams being about ourselves. This has really changed the way I think about my own dreams.

—**Calum Paton; Branch Pastor, Elim Christian Fellowship; Ralston, Paisley, Scotland**

Dreams are one of the multifarious ways God can speak to us even today, and we would do well to benefit from this well-researched book on the subject. I am all for hearing from God in ways that I can least pollute or taint. The symbolic nature of dreams is key in my opinion. How thrilling to find an author who wades through various deceptions in our “modern age” only to glean the truth of the Bible. Perhaps this book will single-handedly propel us out of the spiritual gutter Archie Roy alludes to. What joy to think that we Christians can become more discerning through reading his book.

—**Gwen Purdie, Founder of Dove Christian Counselling, Scotland**

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# Suggested Interview Questions

For Archie W. N. Roy, PhD, author of

## *The God of Dreams*

*Understanding the Meaning and Significance of Dreaming*

### **Q: What lead you to write *The God of Dreams*?**

**A:** Dreams have always greatly interested me. But I was at a Christian conference in North Carolina and picked up some resources at the conference table. One of these was an intriguing CD series on dreams from a Christian focus. The upshot of that series was that there just wasn't a huge amount out there about dreams from a Christian perspective. I investigated that and found it to be true. I thought – there's got to be a book in that.

### **Q: What do you want people to know about this book?**

There isn't another book out there like it. *The God of Dreams* focuses the reader on every dream in the Bible and its meaning, why it was given and what happened because the dreamer or someone else paid attention to it. The Bible actually has all the meanings in there. It illustrates the different kinds of dreams God gives.

The book also focuses on dreaming in the twenty-first century – the types of dreams people have, many of the common symbols and their meanings, and gives guidance on how to interpret your dreams. Dreams are very important and understanding them could change your life- for the better.

### **Q: Tell us about your journey writing this book.**

**A:** It was an amazing journey. The research and writing took five years as I delved deeper into dreams, investigating Scripture, looking at the science of sleep research, and seeking out case studies – people who have achieved amazing things because of the dreams they had. I also interviewed friends whose amazing dreams had taken them on different journeys.

I then looked around for the right publisher and that was an interesting process as well and it took time. Publishing is a complicated business now with so many options open to you as a writer including a whole range of online self-publishing possibilities. I also had faith in what I was writing. I didn't want a publisher on board early on. I wanted the time to write what I wanted to write. I had faith that once I finished a complete draft, there would be publishers out there who would see the value and help me take things forward.

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**Q: Can an understanding of psychology help in dream interpretation, or is psychology misleading?**

**A:** I feel that intuition helps a lot and training in psychology can help as well as long as the interpreter is not locked into a particular psychodynamic mindset. No depth psychology approach will have all the answers. It is possible though for a psychotherapist and a client to get to a joint understanding of a client's dream as they work together, sorting out possible meanings to dream symbols while taking account of the client's life context: what has just happened, what is about to happen and what is appearing on the client's event horizon.

But if God is speaking to the client, the therapist may have no understanding of that or the meaning.

**Q: How important are dreams?**

**A:** Sometimes people sense that a dream is significant but because they have no way to understand the symbolism, they put it aside. More often though, they just dismiss their dreams or it becomes the topic of light conversation in the office or at breakfast. But over 90% of dreams have meaning and really need to be understood. Dreams are a massive and largely untapped source of guidance, insight and revelation.

**Q: You're saying that God speaks to people in dreams?**

**A:** I believe from my research that God speaks to people far more often in dreams than they think. The Bible shows us that God readily does that, especially during times which are critical to the dreamer. The impending famine in Egypt is a good example. God hasn't changed so it's a perfectly reasonable assumption that He still speaks in these ways today. He wants to communicate and He has opportunities to bypass our waking preoccupations when we're asleep.

**Q: What do you think about dream dictionaries?**

**A:** There's a lot of these about, some secular, some New Age, some Christian. Some of them are useful because they include some common symbols which appear in dreams (such as flying and teeth falling out) and contain some interpretations which do fit from time to time. But none of them are comprehensive. Also there's a great danger of being misled because a lot of dream symbolism is personal to the dreamer. The actual meaning is personal. So the dreamer needs to do a lot of reflection on the dream, praying about it as well, or needs to have a conversation with someone who can find out something about what is going on in the dreamer's life which may help to explain their dream.

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**Q: If someone wanted to start trying to interpret their dreams, what would they need to do?**

**A:** The first thing is recording the dreams either by writing them down or doing digital recording. They then need to work on developing their metaphorical understanding – most misinterpretation happens because the dreamer is being too literal with the dream’s content. They also then need to pay close attention to *when* the dream occurred: what just happened in their life, what were they preoccupied about, and what was on their event horizon.

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