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Symbols from Revelation in Dreams and Visions in the Islamic World

Mahmoud's Story

"Three angels flying in the sky. Quotations from a book. Worship the Creator," I mumbled to myself as I woke up. "What is the meaning of this dream?"

"My name is Mahmoud. I am Muslim. I pray five times a day. I am faithful. I am . . . perplexed. I have never had a dream like this before. As a Muslim, I believe Allah sometimes chooses to reveal himself to a person through dreams, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. But this is the first time I have ever had such a dream."

"I have to know what this dream means! I need to know more."

"Hours into scouring the internet, I spotted a source of hope, a website where Muslims shared their dreams. I read dreams posted by others—some very similar and others with facets not revealed to me. Finally, I clicked a link and posted my dream, not knowing when or if I would receive a reply."

"I kept thinking about the messages, but the memory that captivated me the most was seeing and hearing the man in white—his face shining like the sun, his voice the most comforting I have ever heard. Never have I had peace as I did in his presence. I did not want the dream to end."

"Later that day, I received a reply, a warm welcome, really, along with a quotation. As I read the quote about the three angels flying in the sky, I was struck by the first angel's message, which he took to every nation. Every nation would have to include the Muslim people. My people. The message was from my dream. The angel said to worship the God who made the heavens and the earth."

“How did you know? Parts of this quote are exactly what I have seen,” I replied. “Where did this come from?”

“Do you want to know more?” came the response.

“Yes! Please, tell me more,” I eagerly wrote back.

“Over the following days, we discussed the dream, comparing it with the quotation. The website operators told me the significance of the three angels flying in the sky—that the angels were actually three messages to be proclaimed to all the world.”

“Then they helped me see something in the Qur’an I had never noticed—there are more verses about the Sabbath in the Qur’an than there are verses about Friday. But that did not even compare to what I realized next. Allah never cursed people for not keeping Friday holy. But He did curse those who broke the Sabbath!”

“How can this be? Why did Allah honor the Sabbath of the Jews more than the holy day of His people?”

“Do you want to know more?” came the question again.

“I do.”

“They presented more quotations, telling me they were from the *injl* (the gospel).”

“The *injl*? That’s the Bible! No, I do not care what the Bible says. I will not accept it! The Bible is a corrupt book honored by infidels! I stopped reading. I even went so far as to say as much in an email. But I kept thinking of the dream . . . and the glorious man in white.”

“You need to look for these messages and follow them,” He had said in the dream.

“Was I willing to turn away from the peace the man in white brought me in my dream?”

“After a while, I continued. I read scriptures that talked about the Sabbath being for all humanity and that to honor it was to honor the God who created all things—before there ever was a Jew.”

“Worship the Creator, I remembered from the dream.”

“I went back to the quote of the first angel. ‘Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’”

“The Creator is Judge . . .”

“Another quote stated: ‘For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.’ I continued reading, ‘And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.’”

“Over the following weeks, I exchanged messages with them many times. They were always gracious, courteous and patient as we discussed

the dream, the Qur'an and the Bible. Even when in disagreement, their tone was never that of an attack. It was brotherly. They spoke to me in a loving way that I had never experienced before, especially by my own religious teachers."

"We have discussed many things: all three messages of the angels, that there is only one God, and that the Sabbath is his sign, and we have had conversations about *Isa Al-Masih*. I am still learning about God and his messages."

"I have begun to understand what I had only partially known before—Allah, God, sends the dreams, and then he sends the people who can help one understand the dreams. Still, conversations can be difficult. There are many things I do not understand. I am Muslim, and this is a shift in my thinking. But I know two things: the man in white spoke to me, and there are Christians who can be kinder than brothers. Please keep praying for me on my journey."

Common Features of Dreams

When Jesus reveals himself to a Muslim, he uses recurring themes in the dreams and visions to provide continuity—necessary so that everyone knows they come from the same source and authority—providing unity to the message and confidence for the recipients. These recurrent themes answer their worldview and the longing of their hearts and minds.

Jesus Identifies Who He Is

Jesus identifies himself as the Way, the Truth, the Life (John 14:6), and the Light of the world (John 8:12). Muslims are unfamiliar with the term "the Way," but the Qur'an encourages them to search for the straight path. Muslims ask God to lead them to the straight path 17 times a day. Jesus uses the term "the Way" to lead Muslims to the Bible and the discovery that he, the Way, is the Straight Path for which, for whom, they have been looking.

The Qur'an also depicts God as truth and identifies him with the light of the world (Sura 24:35), both recognizable to Muslims. Further, the Qur'an states that God is the only one who gives life and takes it. As Jesus speaks of the three angels' messages, he emphasizes the first angel's message and the necessity of worshipping the Creator. For the Muslim, this thought of the Creator God harmonizes with Sura 3:49 from the Qur'an, which says, "I will create for you from the clay." Thus, through these symbols, Jesus identifies himself as God.

He Shows the Cross

The cross is both a stumbling block and foolishness (1 Cor 1:23) to Muslims. Muslims do not believe that Jesus died and, therefore, refuse the message of the cross. In dreams and visions during Easter, Jesus shows many Muslims three crosses with a light shining upon the center one. Jesus displays himself in the sky, opening his arms, with the shadow of the cross resting upon the person. Through this biblical imagery, Jesus is telling Muslims that he is covering them with his cross, his sacrifice, and his redemption.

The cross is foundational to every biblical truth; therefore, Christ emphasizes his death upon the cross to lead Muslims to accept and believe in this reality they have rejected.

He Calls to Repentance

While Muslims are receiving a dream or a vision, Jesus calls the person to repentance, without which there is no eternal life and no peace in this life and no assurance of salvation. The Qur'an does not provide Muslims with the assurance of salvation, but they eagerly search for this elusive blessing. As Jesus provides witness to who he is and what he has done, he calls Muslims to show their belief and love by repenting.

He Calls Muslims to Believe in Him

Jesus' call to Muslims is: "Believe (abide) in me and follow me." They already have a basic understanding of who *Isa* (Jesus) is, but now he is expanding their knowledge. The Qur'an says that *Isa* is a prophet of God, the word of God, a spirit from God, and the Messiah (see Sura 3:45; Sura 4:171), though Muslims do not understand what it means to be the Messiah.

He Uses a Lot of Light and Colors

God-given dreams are filled with light. From a biblical perspective, Christians know that God always brings light to a state of darkness ("Let there be light" Gen 1:3; people come to the light of faith in Jesus from their spiritual darkness). Colors are associated with his covenants with humanity (God's rainbow, which he set in the clouds, Gen 9:13-16; the colors used in the sanctuary, its furniture and the high priestly garments, etc.).

Sura 24:35 states, "Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth."

When Jesus says to a Muslim, “I am the Light of the world,” He is saying, “I am Allah.” In 1 Timothy 6:16, which also talks about God’s immortality, we read about God “dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto” and “whom no man hath seen, nor can see” (KJV). Dwelling among us, Christ took human form because he could not appear to us any other way if we were to live in his presence. Sura 24:35 also describes a lamp from which comes Allah’s light, and the lamp “is lit from (the oil) of a blessed olive tree.” Christians understand this last image as describing the function of the Holy Spirit.

Sura 24:35 also states, “Allah guides whoever He wills to His light” and that he teaches in parables. The dreams and visions are themselves parables, and those who receive them confess that he is teaching through stories (parables).

Jesus Often Quotes Scripture, especially from the Book of Revelation

The immediate context of many of the dreams or visions is based on symbols from the book of Revelation, which is God’s last-day message for all his people. But what is the book of Revelation based on? It is based on the entirety of the Bible, especially the Old Testament. By accepting the message of the dream, the Muslim is being led by Jesus to accept the scriptural foundation upon which Revelation and the symbols in the dream are built. Ellen White stresses the importance of the Book of Revelation.

In the Revelation are portrayed the deep things of God. . . . Its truths are addressed to those living in the last days of this earth’s history, as well as to those living in the days of John. *Some of the scenes depicted in this prophecy are in the past, some are now taking place; some bring to view the close of the great conflict between the powers of darkness and the Prince of heaven, and some reveal the triumphs and joys of the redeemed in the earth made new.* (1911:584)

Muslims Are Often Overwhelmed with a Sense of Love and Peace in His Presence

As is commonly found in the accounts of those who have received these dreams and visions, Muslims are overwhelmed with a sense of love and peace in the presence of the man in white—something they cherish and return to in their thoughts—because Jesus was answering the longings of their hearts and minds.

Why Is God Using the Book of Revelation?

The Book of Revelation Is the Last Personal Message from Jesus

The Book of Revelation is the last personal message from Jesus, given from heaven to his believers on earth for their edification and to share with the rest of humanity for their salvation. Even more, the message *reveals* Jesus—who he is and his character as demonstrated throughout the Scriptures and history. The Book of Revelation not only reveals Jesus throughout the entirety of the biblical canon but also clarifies who *Issa* is in the Qur'an and brings understanding to many passages about the acts and ways of Allah.

In Revelation 1:1, we learn this message is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants—things which must shortly take place” (NKJV). In using the Book of Revelation in dreams, God speaks to the future and the potential of people. He says to the recipient of the dream, “This is my personal message to you. I see you can be my servant. Look at what is about to happen. Follow Me.” He expresses the sentiments of his heart as found in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (NKJV). Moreover, Jesus is increasingly visiting Muslims in their dreams as we draw nearer to his return. This is especially true each year during the last seven to 10 days of Ramadan, when Muslims expect to receive dreams from Allah.

The Book of Revelation Is Full of Symbolism

The dreams are replete with symbols, fitting because symbols are used throughout Scripture, particularly in the Book of Revelation. As the recipient finds knowledgeable Christians who rightly understand what is represented in the dreams, they are led to understand the signs and the passing of the times, gaining hope in the coming Kingdom and building faith in the reliability of the Bible—a conviction of the truth and divine authorship of the rest of Scripture—a book they believe to have been corrupted. Additionally, from Sura 24:35, Muslims understand that God speaks through parables, which are full of symbolism—tangible expressions of thoughts. In this way Muslims are led from accepting the dream or vision to accepting the Holy Bible.

The Book of Revelation Reveals the Future

When a dream's foundation is based on Revelation, it brings Muslims a greater vision of the future and an assurance of salvation they do not have within Islam. Muslims are looking for paradise, and Jesus sometimes reveals in his dreams a vision of paradise—our ultimate goal and destination. There is also an urgency manifested in the dreams and visions, an urgency found in the opening verses of Revelation, calling one to understand “things which must shortly take place . . . [for yes,] the time is near” (Rev:1, 3 NKJV). Often, the Muslim dreamer will, through following Christ, be led to the true paradise. As the Muslim's knowledge of the Scriptures expands, he or she finds that paradise can, indeed, begin on earth, for Jesus says, “My grace is sufficient for you” (2 Cor 12:9) and “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you” (John 14:27)—both of which are truly blessings for today. Jon Paulien argues that,

The ultimate reason to study Revelation is that this strange book offers us a glimpse of heaven that you can't get anywhere else. You could say it presents heaven's intelligence about unlimited reality. Revelation takes us far beyond what we can see with a telescope. It opens up vistas that we cannot perceive with our eyes and ears. And when we understand the universe from God's perspective, we will have a much clearer picture of how to live successfully in that world that we can see, hear, and touch. (2004:7)

The Book of Revelation Is a Book of Blessings

Muslims highly value blessings and have a tremendous desire to obtain them. This yearning is inculcated in them through the stories of the patriarchs who, themselves, were always in search of how they might be blessed. Muslims, Christians, and Jews recognize and cling to the promise that God would make Abraham a blessing to the world. The Book of Galatians reveals that Jesus is the blessing—the Seed—God promised, the Blessing for whom everyone was looking. In the Qur'an, it is declared by *Issa* (Jesus) in the first part of Sura 19:31 that “He [Allah (God)] has made me a blessing wherever I go.”

In using the Book of Revelation within dreams, Christ connects the Muslim desire for blessings to himself, he who blesses, and in Whom is a blessing. The Book of Revelation is a book of blessings from the first to the last chapter. Revelation 1:3 promises, “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it” (NKJV). Revelation 1:3 is the first of the seven blessings of

Revelation. It is followed by Revelation 14:13—“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”’ “‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

Revelation 16:15—“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

Revelation 19:9—“Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”’ “And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’”

Revelation 20:6—“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Revelation 22:7—“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Revelation 22:14—“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

The Book of Revelation Is a Book of Warnings

The dreams and visions, like the Book of Revelation, are filled with warnings. Why warnings? Because God, the caring Father that he is, loves people. Jesus warns that he is coming soon to judge. Many dreams focus on his judgment as he sits on a throne. He asks, “Are you ready?” and “Who or what are you worshipping?”

The Book of Revelation Reflects the Great Controversy Theme

Like the Book of Revelation, dreams and visions are concerned with themes of the Great Controversy. Some dreams even show Jesus fighting with a dragon or the tail of a snake, as found in Revelation chapters 12 and 20 and harkening back to Genesis 3.

The Book of Revelation Focuses on Jesus, the Center Point

The dreams and visions are given to Muslims who have never learned of Christ and those already on a journey of biblical discovery. The former are encouraged to look toward Jesus for the first time. The latter receive confirmation they are on the path to God through their increasing

knowledge of and faith in Jesus. The dreams and visions—through the authority of the Bible and the divinity of Christ—strengthen the faith of both classes of Muslims as they learn more about *Issa* (Jesus) and prepare for the second coming.

Ellen White speaks of the importance of understanding the Book of Revelation, “When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness, which is to be the reward of the pure in heart” (1962:114).

The Dreams of Issa

The following excerpts of dreams given by Jesus come from seekers who have written to the Dreams of Isa website (www.dreamsofisa.org). One or more references from the Book of Revelation accompany many of these excerpts.

“*Assalam alaikom* (Peace to you). In my dream last night, the Prophet Issa, *alaihisalam* (Peace be upon him), appeared to me wearing white clothes and standing in the middle of seven lights. He was watching them and making sure they were giving light. He looked at me and smiled. Then I woke up. What does this dream mean?” (See Rev 1:12-16).

“*Asalamoalaikom* (Peace be upon you). Last night in my dream, I saw the Prophet Issa [Issa] standing at the door of our house and knocking while I was sleeping. But no one opened the door. He knocked several times, and I finally woke up and opened the door. His face was shining and filled everywhere with his light. He came in, and he had a smile on his face. What is the meaning of my dream?” (See Rev 3:21).

“*Assalamo alaikom* (Peace to you). I had a dream, and I want to share it with you. In my dream, I saw Prophet Issa, *alaihisalam* (Peace be upon him), wearing a white robe and sitting on a white throne. And I saw angels, men and some kind of animals worshiping him and praising him day and night. I heard a voice asking, “Do you worship him?” Then I woke up puzzled. Please, what does this dream mean?” (See Rev 4—a direct call to worship—and the first angel’s message of Rev 14:6-7).

“*Assalam alaikum* (Peace to you). In my dream, I saw the Prophet Issa sitting on a white throne and wearing white. Then I saw many smaller thrones, and people were invited to sit on them. What is the meaning of my dream?” (See Rev 4:2-4, 20:4).

“*Assalam alaikum* (Peace to you). Can you help me understand a dream I have seen several times now? In the dream, I see the Prophet Issa wearing

a white robe and sitting on a white throne. Then I see angels and people worship and praise him, and a voice from heaven tells me to join them.”

“*Salam* (Peace). I saw a dream last night. In my dream, I saw that I was with people from different nations, worshipping a man wearing a white robe and sitting on a throne. He was full of light, and angels flew in the sky and said, “You are worthy of worship, for you saved people from all nations.” I woke up shocked and puzzled. I am supposed to worship Allah. Who is this man wearing a white robe? Can you help me understand this dream? Thank you.” (See Rev 4, 5:11-14).

“*Assalamoalaykum* (Peace be upon you). I saw stars falling on earth and people fighting and killing each other. Then I saw a man sitting on a white throne and coming with the clouds. Angels were surrounding him, and people were trying to hide from him. Can you help me understand the dream?” (See Rev 6:16).

“*Assalamoalaikom* (Peace be upon you). I saw a man wearing a white robe sending angels to do something. They started flying in the sky and blowing trumpets. Things started happening in the sky. Stars started falling, and the earth started shaking. Water became blood and many things. I was afraid, then the man in white told me, ‘Don’t be afraid. Just trust and follow me.’ Please, what is the interpretation of my dream?”

“*Assalamo alaikom* (Peace to you). I want to share a dream I dreamt of several times. In the dream, the Prophet Issa appears to me. He is in white, gives me a white book, and asks me to open the book. When I do, I see a picture of angels with trumpets. Then I wake up. What does this mean?”

“*Assalam Alaikom* (Peace to you). In my dream, I saw angels standing in the sky with trumpets, waiting for a sign from the Prophet Issa to blow them. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘These are signs. Look for them.’ Can you help me understand the dream?”

“*Asalamo Alaikom* (Peace to you). I saw several dreams about angels having trumpets and blowing them in the sky. I saw things happening to the sun. It became black and the moon red, then the water became red, the earth was shaking, and people were sick. Then I saw a man in a white robe. He told me to be ready; the judgment day is coming soon.” (See Rev 8:6-13, 9, 11:15-19).

“*Asalam alaikom* (Peace to you). In my dream, I saw a war between a dragon and a man wearing a white robe. The man won the war, and the dragon was very angry, so he was causing problems on earth. What is the meaning of the dream?”

“*Salam* (Peace). In my dream, I saw a war between a man wearing white and a freak creature like a dragon. The man wins the war. Then I heard a voice saying, ‘Woe to the earth, for the devil has come with rage.’ What is the meaning of this dream? Thanks!”

“*Assalamo alaikom* (Peace to you). In my dream, I saw a man wearing white. He was fighting a big dragon. The man in white threw the dragon out, and the angels celebrated his victory. Then the man wearing white looked at me and said, “You should join me to win.” Then I woke up. Please, can you tell me what this dream means? Thank you.”

“*Assalam alaikom* (Peace to you). I saw myself with many people looking at the sky because a man wearing white was fighting a red dragon and throwing him to the earth. Many angels were thrown out with the dragon, and there was joy in the sky, but there was sadness on earth. What is the meaning?” (See Rev 12:3-4, 7-10, 12).

“I have had two dreams in which I saw a Man in White. The first dream came to me when I was eight years old. I saw Allah in my dream. Allah appeared to me in white, shining with bright light. I could not see His face clearly, but I could see his long white beard. Then Allah spoke to me. I do not remember the conversation, but I remember how happy I was, filled with peace in His presence. At the same time, I felt His greatness.”

“When I was 18, I had another dream of the Man in White. I was with Him on a battlefield with 10 or 12 men fighting against a dragon and his army. The warfare was terrible, but in the end, the Man in White defeated the dragon and the enemies and cast them out. I had the privilege of sitting and talking with Him and learning from Him. I was so incredibly happy to be at His side that I cannot describe my feelings. I was filled with peace and joy like I had never experienced before. When I woke up, I wanted to understand my dream. I asked various people what it meant, but none gave me a satisfying answer.” (See Rev 12:7-12).

“*Assalam alaikom* (Peace to you). I saw Prophet Issa (as) in the dream wearing white and saving people from the attacks of a dragon with a snake tail. He then asked me to follow him, and I woke up. What does my dream mean?” (See Rev 12:9, 20:2).

“*Asalam alikom* (Peace to you). I saw three angels flying in the sky in my dream. Each one had a letter in his hand, and they were waiting. The Prophet Issa appeared and ordered them, ‘Share your letters with the people on earth.’ Can you help me understand my dream?”

“*Salams* (Peace). In my dream, I saw myself with other people looking at the sky and watching three angels who were flying. They were shouting with loud voices, giving three messages to the world before judgment day. One angel said, “Worship Allah because the hour of judgment is coming soon.” What is the meaning? Thanks.”

“In my dream, I saw a man pointing me in the other direction. I looked up and saw a cloud of angels and a throne with a lot of light above them. Then a voice said, “Fear the Lord who made the heavens and earth. The judgment hour is near.” Then I woke up. I believe I saw God Almighty. Can you help me understand this dream? Thank you.” (See Rev 14:6-12).

“*Assalamo alaikom* (Peace to you). In a dream last night, I saw that I was standing on a sea made of glass. At the end of it, there was a white throne, and on it sat the Prophet *Issa*. He called me to come close to him. His face was shining. I started walking, and I was so happy that he called me. Please, what is the meaning of my dream? Thank you.” (See Rev 15:2-3).

“*Assalam alaikom* (Peace to you). I saw Prophet *Issa* wearing white and riding a white horse. He was carrying a big sword in his hand. He looked at me and said, ‘The day of judgment is near. Follow me, and you will be ready.’ I woke up puzzled but filled with peace. Can you help me know the meaning of the dream?” (See Rev 19:11-21).

“*Asalamualaikum* (Peace be upon you). I saw that I was standing in the street and people were looking at the sky. When I looked and saw Prophet *Issa* sitting on a throne surrounded by angels and coming to judge, people were running from him. Others were standing and waiting. Please, what’s the meaning of the dream?”

“*Assalamo alaikom* (Peace to you). In my dream last night, I saw that I was standing in front of *Sayidna* (friend of God) *Issa* while he was sitting on a white throne, and light was shining from his face. I could see that he knew everything about me. I was afraid because I was not ready. He said, ‘Just trust and follow me.’ Then I woke up. Can you help me understand this dream?”

“*Assalam alaikom* (Peace to you). In my dream, I saw that I was standing in front of a man wearing white. He was sitting on a big white throne and had a book in his hands. He asked me, ‘Do you want your name to be written here? Follow me. I am the straight path.’ I woke up puzzled, but I was so happy and didn’t want the dream to end. What’s the meaning of my dream?” (See Rev 20:11-12).

“*Assalam Alaikom* (Peace to you). In the dream last night, I saw the world get destroyed and a city come down from heaven; the city was so beautiful. Can you help me understand the dream?” (See Rev 21:1-4).

“*Assalamoallaikom* (Peace be upon you). In the dream, I saw that I was looking at the sky. The sky opened, and a beautiful city full of gold with many gates and high walls appeared. Prophet *Issa* was inside the city. He looked at me and said, ‘The only way to enter this city is to follow and trust me.’ What is the meaning of the dream?” (See Rev 21:10-21).

“*Asalamoalaikom* (Peace be upon you). I saw *Sayidna* (friend of God) *Issa* in my dream last night. He was standing at a crossroads and helping people to follow him to reach paradise. I listened to him and followed him. At the end, we reached a beautiful city with tall walls. It had a river and a tree in the middle. Can you help me understand my dream? Thanks.” (See Rev 21:10-12, 22:1-2).

Missiological Implications

To better grasp how you could use your insights concerning the message of Revelation to witness to Muslims as they have these types of dreams and visions, listen to the story of Muhammad.

"I am Muhammad from KSA [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia]. For a while now, I have been looking to understand some dreams that I had. In them, a man in white visited me. In each dream, he was sitting on his throne and surrounded by angels. He would invite me into his presence. He was full of light, and his face was so peaceful. He always had a smile for me. In one of the dreams, he said, 'I am coming soon. Are you ready?'"

"I told him, 'How can I be ready?'"

"He replied, 'Keep my commandments and believe that I am the way, truth and life.' In another, he said, 'I am the Word of God; you need to believe in me.' There were many more dreams."

What is the purpose of this article? God is allowing Seventh-day Adventists to see the importance of the three angels' messages, the understanding of which has informed us of the Great Controversy and the urgent need to take what he has given and share it with *all* the world—including how these messages apply within the Muslim worldview.

In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. (White 1909:9:19)

This article can be the foundation for future manuals providing insight into why Jesus is giving dreams and visions to Muslims, how he is filling those dreams and visions with symbols from the Book of Revelation, and how to understand the symbols, recognize them in the dreams and visions, and share this knowledge with others. God's purpose in sending these types of dreams is to prepare Muslims for his return and the day of judgment.

As Jesus has revealed himself in dreams and visions as the Way, the Truth and the Life and has used verses in the Qur'an which are similar, he is opening the door for us to be bridge builders with the Muslim world, calling Muslims to believe in him and his cross, to repent, and to prepare for his second coming.

God sends these dreams with symbols from the Book of Revelation to reveal himself before he returns. God gives the dream, but he almost never gives the interpretation to the same person. He gives the interpretation to someone else. Muslims are looking for someone to help them understand their dreams and visions, and God is inviting us to be the modern-day Josephs and Daniels of the 21st century.

The book of Revelation—a summation of the entire Bible—is a personal message from Jesus to all humanity that brings peace, joy, happiness, and purpose to the people he greatly loves living during the time of the end. Jesus is giving us the outline of how to teach that message of love. He has entrusted us with the Great Controversy theme as part of God’s plan of salvation.

Ellen White argues that “were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue” (1948:6:438). She goes to say that, “God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhoods” (1948:9:30).

The symbols found in Revelation are the keys by which the Adventist Church can unlock—interpret—the dreams and visions Jesus has been giving Muslims. When we understand the symbols and recognize them in the dreams and visions, they become the tools we can use to help Muslims understand what the dreams mean and why they received them.

In the last five to ten years, many Muslims have been doubting their belief system and even the existence of God. Through dreams Jesus encourages them and strengthens their faith not in systematic religion, but in him as the only source of truth and comfort. Ranko Stefanovic stresses that

Revelation has been a source of comfort, courage, and hope to each generation of Christians [and non-Christians] throughout history who ... might question whether God is still active and in control. . . . The book has given them a glimpse of Christ and heavenly realities and issues in the cosmic conflict that can be found nowhere else. (2009:1)

Muslims are looking for blessings. Therefore, they are looking for us. Please pray for understanding and for your Muslim friends to have dreams and visions. God meets people where they are, so God meets Muslims in their dreams to influence them to love and follow his Straight Path who is Jesus Christ—the Way, the Truth and the Life—the source of all blessings.

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