

Sermon Title: Dreams for Korea, February 18, 2012 (Scripture is from NIV)

How I Came to Korea

I came to Korea at the end of 2005 after graduating earlier that year. During my last year of college I consistently fasted and prayed regarding my future. I wanted to go wherever God wanted me to go. And during that time I prayed strongly for God to not just guide me but guide my parents together with me. That summer my dad began having dreams of me serving at a specific children's home in Korea. God also revealed to my mom in a clear way that I was to become a missionary. God made things so clear to them in the spirit that **before anything was fully confirmed** about me going to Korea, they gathered my sisters together and prayed a blessing over me to go and do the Lord's will in Korea. It was later that week that I heard from that specific children's home in Korea and was requested to come out and live there. I've been serving at that home for over six years now.

My father, who was originally against me leaving America to do missions work anywhere, is now my greatest supporter. God continues to give him dreams regarding my future, and they are specifically about North Korea. My dad has had such vivid dreams that **he is ready to drop everything in America and come join me** in ministry here in Korea. Just as he was certain that I would be going to Korea before anything was confirmed in the natural, he is just as certain about what God has planned for North Korea. North Korea is going to open up. We are going to build children homes there. The children are going to be gathered, healed, delivered, and set on fire for God. The nation is going to be shaken for God's glory.

And God hasn't just revealed these things to my dad, but to many other prayer supporters and acquaintances of mine. God has been releasing dreams for some time, and I want to share about these dreams tonight.

The Power of Dreams

Let me share briefly about the power of dreams. Before Joseph became prime minister over Egypt dreams were released, first in his prison cell and then to Pharaoh himself. Before Daniel became number two over the Babylonian empire, dreams were released to the king. Before Jesus was born and also just after His birth, dreams were repeatedly released to Mary, Joseph, and the wise men. **Dreams foreshadow a mighty shift.** Joseph was elevated within a moment. Daniel was elevated within a moment. While Jesus waited 30 years before revealing Himself, He turned the world upside down within three years of ministry.

We need to pay attention to the times church. There has never been a pro athlete to come out of nowhere and overtake all the news networks while winning consistently, and this has happened TWICE within the past six months... and both athletes are strong, solid Christians who are clearly shining God's light. Tim Tebow defied all the critics and took his lousy team to the playoffs, even beating the Pittsburgh Steelers who are always one of the toughest teams. And Jeremy Lin has gone from completely overlooked to leading his pitiful Knicks on a seven game winning streak and even being asked to attend All Star weekend and play in the Rising Stars game.

I can never remember this happening in sports before as drastically as it has happened for both Tim Tebow and Jeremy Lin. And they are two men with the clear favor of God upon them. They are like Joseph and Daniel in the Bible... two men completely overlooked who rose to great fame and influence within a day.

Pay attention to the times church. God is releasing an increase of dreams and visitations in this hour. This past week I was reading through the book of Acts and it kept standing out to me how many times angels would visit Peter, Philip or Paul and direct them. Angel visitations were common among the early church. And I felt God speaking strongly in my spirit, **“Expect more of this.” “Expect more visitations by angels.”** If God did it then, then why shouldn’t He do it now?

I led a mission trip to Myanmar in 2009 and one of the brothers on the team had a vivid heavenly visitation during a long van ride. All the team members saw him shaking with his eyes closed and his hands up the whole time. Despite it being the first time I had seen someone being taken up, I knew he was in heaven. And what he shared afterward was beautiful! But at that time, I didn’t expect it to happen much more.

A few weeks ago though I was leading a mission team again, this time to Nepal. And I felt God telling me to press in for more heavenly visitations. I told this to the team. And sure enough, one morning I walk out to see a team member hunched over shaking with her hands up. She was taken up with Jesus. At a revival that same day some of the Nepali people were in similar positions, shaking and gone in the natural. I don’t know if they were in heaven or not, but it sure looked like it. After the team returned my wife shared her testimony at church this past Sunday. During prayer time later that service a church member had all sorts of visions of being taken up and then returning to earth with Jesus. Other church members saw gold dust on themselves for the first time. God is doing something across His body this time.

God had told me after returning from Nepal that people needed to be anointed with oil and prayed over for the release of dreams, visions, and visitations. And we are going to do just that later tonight. This is a special hour, church. God is releasing dreams and preparing us for a sudden turn. God is preparing the Josephs and Daniels to have sudden rises in fame and in influence. **God is about to do something!** He is about to do something so powerful in Korea! But why Korea? Why has God chosen the people of Korea? This revelation goes back to when I first came to Korea.

The Correlations of Korea and Israel

When I first arrived in Korea I started up an orphanage volunteering ministry. I hadn’t planned to, but there was a clear need so I decided to meet it. I named the ministry “Jerusalem Ministry” off of Acts 1:8.

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

In this passage Jesus is speaking to the disciples before He goes up. Jesus has already said that He will not return until the Gospel has been preached to all nations (Matthew 24:14). But He warns the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and be faithful there first. Then they will go to Judea the land of the south, and then to Samaria the land to the north, and then to the ends of the earth.

While my heart is for the northern country, North Korea, I knew God was calling me to be faithful in my Jerusalem, which is Seoul. Little did I know this would begin a crazy correlation that I can’t escape.

Think about this: unlike almost all the other countries in Asia, Korea is made up of one pure race. There are many different tribes and ethnic groups in all the other Asian countries, but

Korea is just one with one language for the entire peninsula. Korea has been oppressed all throughout its history. Surrounding nations have continually invaded it and oppressed it. And then in the early 1900's God released a powerful revival in Korea, the first such revival that has been recorded in all of Asia. God chose Korea for the outpouring, and since that time Koreans have been marked by the fervent prayer that was released. Korea was then split after World War 2 and even endured its own civil war in the 50's. The north expelled, imprisoned, or executed all the Christians and has been an idolatrous and now cursed nation since the war. The south accepted many of the Christian refugees and has a fair amount of Christians in it. Although South Korea as a whole is not fully after God, God has still allowed the nation to defy odds and prosper over the past thirty or so years.

If you study world history there is one people group, one nation, that is eerily similar to Korea. And they are the Israelites, the present day Jews. The Israelites were also a pure ethnic group with one language. During the beginning of their history, which was the time of the judges, they too were continually oppressed by surrounding nations. And during the time of King David and King Solomon they experienced a mighty revival before the nation was split. The northern kingdom, Samaria, turned to idolatry and the true believers fled to the south. And while the south, Judah, was not fully after God, because of the presence of many believers the south prospered longer than the north that ended up cursed. The similarities between these two people groups and nations truly are eerie.

Now let me ask you: what people has been targeted the most by Satan throughout history? The Jewish people. They have endured persecution by the Roman empire, the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Nazis, and so many other people groups. Even today threats and attacks are common daily in the country Israel. Satan obviously wants these people dead. He knows God has chosen them since the time of Abraham. And Satan knows that the end place for the Gospel is Israel. The first will indeed be last. Satan wants them dead and Satan wants all the prophecies in Scripture about the Jews to be left unfulfilled. The fact that Satan wants them dead shows just how important the Jewish people are.

Now let me ask you: what people group currently has the highest suicide rate, what is considered the highest abortion rate, the lowest birth rate, along with their own concentration camps, genocide, and starving of their own people? The Korean people. You all hear me share every joint prayer meeting about the crazy struggles affecting the Korean people. South Korea is one of the world's most prospering nations, and yet sends out more slaves, particularly sex slaves, to America, Japan, and Australia than any country! North Korea was once the birthplace of revival in Asia, but has now enslaved its entire nation and forced them to bow down to idols. The fact that Satan wants Korea dead, never born, or enslaved shows just how important the Korean people are!

God has chosen Korea. God didn't just choose Korea to pour His Spirit upon over a hundred years ago. He has even greater plans for this nation. Satan knows this and has mounted some of his greatest attacks here. This is why we gather every month to pray together for this nation. There is something worth fighting for that is far beyond our present comprehension.

The Passage of My Life

Please open your Bibles to Isaiah 61. What I'm about to share is some of the visions and dreams God has given me, particularly regarding Isaiah 61. While this chapter is about the year of the Lord's favor for the nation of Israel, I believe that God is about to fulfill this passage in Korea using the peninsula of Korea as a prophecy of what is to come in the end

times for Israel. This is the passage God has spoken to me most clearly through regarding what is to come for Korea...

Isaiah 61:1-3 – The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

These three verses were what I held on to as God led me to Korea. I had once wondered how a God who calls Himself a Father to the fatherless could allow for so many orphans to be suffering and alone in this world. And God directed me to these verses. God has already shown the greatest act of love that could be known to man. He sent His One and only Son to die for us. And now He has given us His Spirit to enable us to be His hands and feet. The reason why there are so many hurting victims of injustice in the world today is because the church hasn't reached out to them yet. God has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted and proclaim freedom for the captives.

Now please focus on the last part of verse three, “They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.” Notice that those we reach out to, “They,” will be called oaks of righteousness. I understood that working with the orphans would be a seed planting ministry. Trees don't usually shoot up overnight, instead it takes time. Through this verse though God is making clear that these children, the younger generation, will grow up as oaks that cannot be shaken. No storm, no mighty wind, will be able to blow them down. They will be able to endure everything.

A few years ago, while still living in the children's home, I had a dream that stood out to me. I dreamed that I was walking on the grounds of the children's home and that there were a ton of green, green plants and tall trees all around. It was as green as the jungle. The leaves on the plants and trees were all wet. I then watched as this water from the plants and trees suddenly went up to the sky. I was then picked up and began traveling across the earth with the ground spinning rapidly underneath me. I finally landed in a dry, barren land. I saw a farmer trying in vain to break up the ground. I looked behind me and I saw the water from before had followed me. It flew over me and began to fall upon the land, watering the land. Even in the dream, I shouted out, “It's a miracle!” Then I was suddenly back at Virginia Tech speaking in a large auditorium about what God was doing in Korea. And I woke up.

After I woke up I understood that the plants and trees represented my children at my orphanage in Korea. I understood that God was going to pour out His Spirit (the water) upon them and grow them into lush plants and mighty trees. And not only was God going to grow them, but He was going to use them to go to the neighboring land (North Korea), and bring God's Living Water with them, bringing true spiritual life to the land.

But what about the ending? Why did I suddenly find myself at Virginia Tech, sharing? As I reflected on the dream, I felt the Lord telling me that these great plans of God, these miracles and outpourings of the Holy Spirit, these great works, they are not just for me or for those in my ministry. They are for all who hear about it. God is rallying together an army. The amazing plans He has in store for Korea are for all who catch what He is doing and desire to be a part of it.

Let's continue to look at Isaiah 61, verse 4...

Isaiah 61:4 – They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations

Who will do this work? I need you to pay close attention to the pronouns in this chapter. “They” will rebuild the ancient ruins and the places long devastated. It is the younger generation, the oaks of righteousness, that will restore Korea not just physically but also spiritually. The ruined cities of North Korea, which were once birthplaces of the mighty revival, will be restored once again. The wells of revival in those places that had been stopped up by Satan will be opened up once again. Springs of living water will be released once again all across Korea. Our God makes all things new.

Isaiah 61:5 – Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

This verse is for all of you here. Words have been prophesied over Korea over the years that revival will once again come to the nation, but from the outside. And interestingly we have seen more and more Koreans who lived in other countries returning to their homeland. We have also seen more and more foreigners becoming interested in this peninsula and moving out here. I really don't believe I would be in Korea if it wasn't for this verse. When God first called me to Korea I thought it would have made much more sense for God to have sent me to a country without the Gospel rather than send me to a nation that already has so many churches. But from this verse we can see that it was God's plan all along to use people from the outside to shepherd the people and oversee the land. There is a reason why you all are here in Korea.

Isaiah 61:6 – And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you will boast.

Look at the pronouns again. This verse is about us. Priests and ministers are called to be intercessors. They are called to stand in the gap and to proclaim blessing over the people. That is exactly what we do at these joint prayer meetings. And I believe as we have been faithful with little, God is calling us to take much more.

The second part of this verse has a promise for provision. “You will feed on the wealth of the nations and in their riches you will boast.” I used to wonder how God could provide for North Korea. I didn't doubt that God was going to give it over as an inheritance, but I wondered how He could provide for all the orphans. If I were to provide for 1,000 kids every day, I would need at least \$1,000 every day to provide for food. If I were to provide for 10,000 kids, then I would need at least \$10,000 every day just for food. Now what if I were given all of the orphans of North Korea, let's say one million kids? The amount needed for provision would be ridiculous. This was on my heart in a few years ago and within days God granted me an answer through a dream He gave my father.

My father had a dream where he saw a large boardroom, much like something from masterpiece theatre. In the boardroom he saw a group of delegates from Japan, from Korea, and from China. And he saw me seated with them all. In this dream we were discussing the ministry for North Korea. They told me that the name of the ministry could not be something outright Christian because the three nations would be providing all the funds for it. They said that the name needed to symbolize integrity, trustworthiness, and faithfulness. Then my dad

woke up in the night. He said that when he woke up it was pouring down rain outside and it was really loud for about thirty seconds, and then the heavy downpour subsided a little.

My dad fell back asleep and had a second dream. And this second dream was the exact same setting as the first: the large boardroom, Japanese delegates, Korean delegates, Chinese delegates, and me. This time we were discussing the different uniforms for the children. It was decided that the kids would be set in different cadres according to age and gender. We began discussing the Chinese character that we would be put on the uniform for each group. We discussed characters like joy, fortunate, lucky, among others. Please understand my dad had no knowledge about the school uniforms Koreans wear or how they have different Chinese characters, or hanja, for each school. While we were discussing the uniforms in the dream my dad woke again. And once again the rain was pouring down loudly outside for about another thirty seconds. During this time my dad could strongly feel the Spirit's presence. Then he fell asleep again.

When my dad got up in the morning he had his usual quiet time with the Lord to start his day. His reading was on Daniel 6, about Daniel and the lion's den. What stood out to him were verses four and five.

Daniel 6:4-5 – At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, **because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent**. Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

“Trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.” Basically these government officials found Daniel to be trustworthy, a man of integrity, and faithful... those same three words that stood out in my Dad's first dream.

My Dad immediately wrote out the dreams and what God was speaking to him and gave it all to me. God had provided His answer for provision in the future. We will indeed feed on the wealth of the nations and in their riches we will boast. God will provide!!!

Let's look back at Isaiah 61, verse 7...

Isaiah 61:7 – Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs.

Once again, follow the pronouns. Instead of their shame, shame which has oppressed Korea for so long, the young generation will receive a double portion. The young generation will receive an inheritance from the Lord and everlasting joy will be theirs.

One vivid dream that my dad had was of us standing on the South Korean side of the DMZ. We saw over the mountains what looked like a shadow forming at the top and coming down. Looking closer, we saw it was the children, and my dad said they were starving and in rags and looked destitute. There was such a massive number of children coming across the mountain towards us that it really looked like a shadow coming across the land. My dad said that North Korean soldiers saw the children coming and yelled at them to stop. The soldiers began to shoot at the kids and swing their guns, striking the children. But the children

continued to walk on, focused on my dad and me. Then, as the soldiers looked closer at the children, they saw themselves in the kids. And the soldiers fell to their knees, weeping.

I remember when my dad shared this dream with me it was the saddest dream I had ever heard. My dad couldn't get over how resolute the starving children were.

God has given me visions of these children gathering together at different points in the country, hearing of food and provision. It is in these places that we will gather them and lead them in worship. Without laying hands, we will see God's Spirit fall all across the children gathered and they will be overwhelmed by His presence. His love is far greater than ours and His heart burns for these children. It is as He overwhelms them that they will receive their double portion. God has chosen these children. I have seen them come to life like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision. I have seen them dancing and singing with such joy and fervor that the ground literally shook. Their joy will baffle the authorities. The children who were once so pathetic in the world's eyes will become more alive and joyful than anyone else.

And please understand, God has already done such things before. My favorite book is "Visions Beyond the Veil" by H.A. Baker. It is about an orphanage in China in the early 1900's where the Spirit of God was poured out upon the children. The book is about all the amazing visions the children had during the outpouring and the amazing change that was seen in the former beggars and thieves. Those same children became mighty witnesses for God and all are have said to have been martyred for their faith.

While that was just a small outpouring, I believe God has chosen the entire young generation of Korea. Satan wouldn't be trying to kill them through genocide, starvation, abortion, and suicide if God didn't have such a mighty plan for them.

Isaiah 61:8-9 – For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.

This where the correlation between Israel and Korea becomes so strong. God has already made a covenant with Israel, and yet we see here that in this specific time of the year of the Lord's favor God will make a special, everlasting covenant with them. It will be this generations' descendants and offspring who will be known by the entire world.

I honestly believe God has chosen the young generation of Korea. God says in Psalm 2:8 – Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. And when I have prayed for my inheritance, God has told me Korea and only Korea. God has told me that the children will inherit the rest.

It is the children of North Korea who understand suffering and loss. They know how to live off of nothing. And they will understand more than anyone that their kingdom is not of this earth but that it is of heaven. And they will live and die for God and count all suffering joy for His name because of His Spirit that He will pour out upon them. God has chosen the young generation to go to the ends of the earth. It will be the young generation that will have overcome the great demons of North Korea. Nothing will hinder them the rest of the way. They will go marked by miracles and the supernatural. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.

I also believe that the young generation will be anointed with wisdom like Daniel and his friends. Daniel and his friends also knew suffering. They were exiles in a foreign land, with their families likely all killed by the Babylonians. But despite their scars and disadvantages, God poured out a wisdom upon them far greater than all the learned people around them. And they were elevated to great places of influence. The same can be said for the disciples who were fishermen, zealots, and tax collectors. They were outcasts from society, and yet after they were filled with the Spirit they astonished the chief priests and government officials with their wisdom and boldness. God is going to do the same for the young generation. There will be agricultural advancements and new discoveries in medicine, energy, and science. As God pours out His Spirit these children will be set apart among the nations.

Isaiah 61:10 – I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

This is a verse for us and it emphasizes being clothed in grace, something I preached about here about a year ago. In order for us to do the work that God has planned for Korea we must be clothed in God's grace, not in our own works. If our identity is in our works, we will either be overwhelmed by the task ahead or we will be filled with pride for what will be accomplished and God will have to remove us. We must be clothed in God's grace, knowing that He is the One who has chosen us, cleansed us, clothed us, and set us apart for the work. He is the One who does the work through us. And so we can do all things in peace and in rest. He has clothed us and we are secure.

Isaiah 61:11 – For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

What God is going to do is going to be before all nations. While so many nations become overwhelmed by the economy, by false religions, and corruption, Korea will be set apart. Korea will bear fruit that will span across Asia. God has chosen this nation to be a prophetic representative of what He will do in the end with Israel.

Pray

If you've read this far, I want to encourage you to dwell back on the dream my father had about the children coming over the mountain at the DMZ. As you close your eyes and think back to the children I want you to ask God how He feels about these children. Ask God what He desires for us to do. And ask God to give you vision for the future... let God give you dreams, visions, and visitations for His plan for you... the more we surrender to Him, the more He is able to reveal His amazing plans for us!