

LAJUN &
VALORA COLE



Divine
DISPATCH

DISCOVER, DEVELOP AND DEPLOY

YOUR KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT

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LAJUN COLE
AND VALORA COLE



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This concept was first given to us
when we were on a flight to Lima, Peru.
We never imagined that our shared Apple Note
would turn into this book.
Heavenly Father, thank You for entrusting us
with this revelation and the ability to birth it.

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Foreword

I believe we are about to experience the greatest revival the earth has ever seen. This can only happen, however, as every believer is activated, trained and dispatched to take their place in the plan of God to advance the Gospel and expand the Kingdom. God is continually raising up new believers to advance the Kingdom of God and fulfill his purposes.

In their new book, *Divine Dispatch*, LaJun and Valora Cole give practical and biblical insight into the one question many believers are struggling to answer: *What exactly is my purpose and destiny in the earth, and why was I created?* When a person has clearly defined the answer to this one question, it can produce great increase in their life. I believe that every person who enters the world is designed and sent into the world with a distinct assignment by God.

Many who are currently reading this book are sent by God to fulfill an assignment in the earth. Many are sent to write books that educate believers; others are sent to provide clean water to citizens of nations where there is a lack of adequate drinking water. I also believe many are sent to prophesy, sent to preach, sent to pray, sent to heal, sent to deliver, sent to educate or even sent to restore hope to those who have lost hope.

I am always excited about new books released for the present generation. Over the last forty years in ministry, God has sent and divinely dispatched me to more than eighty different countries and an unknown number of regions and cities around the United States. I've written over forty books that have been sent to even more places than my feet have traveled to. I've had the honor of praying for, prophesying to, laying hands on and activating believers all over the world to fulfill their purpose and destiny. LaJun and Valora also have the vision to reach nations and activate believers. Their writings, including this book, are a part of fulfilling that mandate.

My prayer is that God would speak to you as you read the words of this book and stir in you the desire to learn more about your assignment in God's plan. Consider what they say, and may the Lord give you understanding.

One thing I've learned is that every person born has a desire to know they make a difference and their existence matters. But what most of us lack is the ability to define our purpose early enough in life, develop it and then commission it. This book will help every person expedite that process. LaJun and Valora clearly explain the process each believer must go through to navigate the challenges of discovering, developing and deploying their gift.

I personally know LaJun and Valora, and I know their heart is a heart of servitude and discipleship. I personally recommend this book and encourage individuals, leaders, ministries and churches to utilize it as a tool to assist believers to identify, master and dispatch their gifts.

May you be blessed and grow as you read it and gain the knowledge this book will impart.

Apostle John Eckhardt, overseer, Crusaders Church, Chicago,
Illinois; bestselling author, *Prayers that Route Demons*

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Introduction

What Is a Divine Dispatch?

Not too long ago, Valora and I were traveling to Lima, Peru, at the request of a good friend who has a tremendous ministry there. I felt as if my assignment was very important, as is any assignment to deliver a message in the Kingdom of God. As we boarded the airplane, however, it began to dawn on me that what was bringing me to Peru was more than an invitation from a friend. I began to understand how important and serious my assignment was, and I felt immediately the burden to write about the call I was feeling. God had divinely implanted a message for me to carry to the members of my friend's church. This message was not mine, but a divine dispatch directly from Him.

During the flight, Valora and I began to write about what defines those who are sent: who God chooses, how they are called, how they discover their assignment, how they are developed and how they are deployed or used by God to advance His Kingdom on the earth. We wrote for the entire six-hour

flight and completed six or seven pages of notes. We titled the project "Sent One."

In my military career, there were many times I was ordered from command to be sent on a mission. I was dispatched on missions and was expected to carry them out. Much the same, our heavenly Father chooses us and dispatches us with a message or a mission. The message we carry and the mission assigned to us are not our own. We have been entrusted with the message of another. We may be extremely passionate about it—in fact, we must be passionate about the message if we are to carry it and convey it well—but the message is not our own. It is the message of the One who sent us.

Many times, we do not realize the magnitude of the message or the messenger for whom we have been tasked to deliver. It is one thing to be asked by your friend to go to the store or to deliver a message to the bank. It is quite another thing for you to be asked by God to carry a message of the Gospel (the Good News) to someone.

This, my friend, is what we call a *divine dispatch*.¹ The word *divine* is defined as "relating to or coming from God or a god,"² and the word *dispatch* is defined as "to send quickly for a purpose."³ We will start with John's account of the instructions Jesus gave the disciples. "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

The word for *sent* that John uses in this context is the Greek word *apostello*, which means "to dispatch someone for the achievement of some objective."⁴ The Greek word *apostello* is a combination of two Greek words: *apo* and *stello*. The prefix *apo* is a word that denotes "separation from a place or thing, something originating from or being sent away from."⁵ The root word, *stello*, has a meaning of "preparing one's self, to set in order."⁶ This word, *apostello*, can be understood in each of

our lives. In essence, the sent one is divinely dispatched and given a message from God to a people group, a region or a nation.

When we look back over the course of our lives, we can see times and places for which we were being prepared. If we do not have the perspective that we are being prepared for a future assignment, we might wrestle with why we had to endure the various challenges and trials we experienced. We ask questions such as, Why did I have to go through that?

Valora and I have often asked God such questions. What we now know is that each part of our journey has taught us something different that made us ready to be sent or that helped us prepare for the assignment we are currently on. In fact, every part of our lives developed in us the message we are designed to carry.

Valora recalls a time in her life when God allowed her to experience a trial that prepared her to trust Him in spite of her circumstances. During her preteen years, her grandmother told her she was going to be used greatly by God to minister His Word. She was the first person to tell Valora this message. At sixteen, she was asked to speak at a youth conference. To her own surprise, she accepted.

It was an amazing experience for her, as she saw the demonstration of God's power while she ministered. After that, others asked her to minister, but she declined those invitations. Valora did not quite understand all that was happening in her life, and she began to shrink back because of fear. In her early twenties, she felt God call her. She asked God to show her His plans and confirm the call on her life, because she did not want to be disobedient to what God wanted her to do.

As she embarked on a three-day fast, she prayed that God would give her a sign regarding her purpose and destiny. That same week, she had a dream that she was in a field with the

greenest grass she had ever seen. There were small white animals in the grass. As she started to go toward them to lay with them, a lady said they were not puppies but lambs. The woman continued and said Valora was to feed them.

She woke from that dream to a phone call from the lady who had been in her dream. She told Valora God was calling her into ministry, and she needed to obey. Later that day, she received another phone call from an older gentleman she admired. He told her she had been on his heart and that God had chosen her to minister His Word. He conveyed that she would reach many people and set them free. Yet another phone call came that afternoon from her pastor. As Valora began to speak with him about the dream and the other two phone calls, he encouraged her to surrender to God, accept the call and publicly acknowledge it during that evening's church service.

Valora felt she was too overwhelmed with the care of her sick child, the demands of her job and other personal situations she was dealing with to actively work in ministry. She knew ministry would bring added pressure. During the church service that evening, Valora acknowledged the call of God on her life and totally surrendered. She said that once she did, she felt free of the weight of fear she had been experiencing.

Not only was Valora free, but as she spoke out her willingness to minister, God demonstrated His power by healing and delivering members in the service. She continued to grow in her assignment as a minister. Even though there were times when the spirit of fear came to discourage her, she knew God was greater, and she continued to say yes to His will.

Another challenge Valora overcame was one she encountered a year and a half before we met. It was 2007, and she had been a nurse for over 24 years. She was serving faithfully in both her career and in the ministry when she became very sick. She initially ignored the symptoms and continued to push

herself. When others asked if she was okay, she always replied she was fine.

She reached a point, however, when she could not keep up her busy pace. She had gotten very weak and had begun collapsing. When she found herself in crisis, she called a friend to let her know she was sick. This friend called an ambulance that came to take Valora to the hospital. She was admitted immediately, and after a series of tests, the doctors discovered her lungs were filled with fluid to the extent that her left lung was drowning. After further testing, the doctors discovered Valora had a brain tumor. This tumor was causing her body to shut down.

After a four-week hospital stay under the care of several specialists, she was told there was nothing else they could do for her. Their next step was to send her home and make her comfortable during what they saw as the last stage of her life. She was less than ninety pounds and was being given intravenous therapy of food, vitamins and minerals. At this point, Valora said to God that she was tired and ready to go to heaven. She thought, *If this is where my life ends, it is okay. I am ready.* She sensed the spirit of death in her hospital room. It was at this critical moment God spoke to her and said, *Valora, you cannot die, because your promise is still alive. You will live and not die and declare My Word.* She felt something shift within her, and the peace of God filled the room.

She was discharged with several medications to make her comfortable, but she was not able to take care of herself. She needed full-time assistance, so she moved into a friend's house to receive care. At the same time, God had given her a prescription. His orders were to take His Word three times a day and to partake daily in Communion. Two days after her discharge, she was sent back to the hospital due to difficulty with breathing and dehydration. She did not understand why this was

happening to her. What she really wanted was to get back to her familiar way of doing life.

She said that even though this was the most challenging time in her life, she found the opposition she was experiencing was God's opportunity to use her to encourage and pray for the medical staff in the hospital. One evening, one of her doctors came to check on her. As he examined her, God began to speak words of encouragement to him through her. He began to weep and praise God for the answer he had prayed for.

One thing she did that caused her perspective to change was worship. When she chose to worship instead of worry, she saw her life and her future differently. It was during this time God told her she was going to get married and that her husband was on his way. He told her she and her spouse would do ministry together. She asked, *God, how can this happen with what is going on in my life right now?* In spite of her questions and doubts, God healed her completely without surgery, chemotherapy or radiation. Instead of taking the prescribed medications from her doctors, she believed God with a new level of faith. By the end of her healing, she received test results that revealed there was no longer a tumor. Her bloodwork was normal, and she was living on her own.

A year after her diagnoses, she visited the first church her parents had been members of. She had not been there in over thirty years. They had a guest speaker that day who was visiting from Memphis, Tennessee. She, the guest speaker and a group from the church went to eat together after the service. Two months later, she and the guest speaker were married. And yes, I was the guest speaker, and yes, God has used us together to do amazing things in ministry and business.

Valora now has the perspective that the brain tumor did not happen to her, it happened for her. It was the catalyst that

brought her into a close relationship with God, and it prepared her to be the wife and pastor God chose her to be. This entire experience taught her not to look at her circumstances, but rather to trust God no matter what she sees. We can know for certain that God will never leave us or forsake us. God's Word and promise will always come to pass in our life. He will not allow anything to cause it to return void.

Jesus and Peter had a conversation in which Jesus told Peter that the devil wanted to sift him as wheat (see Luke 22:31–34). While Peter had no clue as to why the devil wanted to sift him, he did, at least, understand the terminology. Sifting was a process by which the good parts of wheat were separated from particles that were not good for use or consumption. Peter did not realize this process would be necessary for him to fulfill his destiny as a sent one. He would represent Christ on the earth after His return to heaven. Later, after many years had passed and Peter had grown older, he penned the words we find written in 1 Peter 5:10:

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

I love the wording of this text from the King James Version. Even though Peter had not understood Jesus' warning that he would be sifted, he learned in time that suffering makes us perfect. It establishes us, strengthens us and settles us.

There is a general process every sent one goes through prior to receiving his or her divine dispatch. First, there is a problem on the earth that needs a solution. Next, God dispatches a solutionist and develops within him or her the passion for the solution. Let's explore the process together as we look at four gospel passages.

Jesus told the disciples that even as He was sent (*apostello*), He would send them. The word Jesus used here is the Greek word *pempo*. This word means “to thrust a thing into another.”⁷ The disciples were being thrust into the same assignment He (Jesus) had been given. This assignment was to go throughout the world and make disciples who would turn the world upside down for the sake of the Kingdom.

Next, we will look at the instructions the gospel writer Matthew gave us concerning Jesus’ final instructions to His sent ones.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19–20

We have heard these words quoted many times, I am sure; however, few of us understand the depth of their meaning. John’s gospel gives us a glimpse into the next steps of the early disciples of Christ, but Matthew’s gospel gives us a much deeper understanding of what their assignment would be. Matthew uses the word *teach*, which in the Greek is *matheteuo*. This word means “to enroll as a scholar, to be a disciple of one or to make a disciple, or to teach or instruct.”⁸

Matthew’s interpretation of the assignment given to them by Jesus would resemble that of a young child entering kindergarten who is expected to complete a prepared curriculum that will lead him or her through his or her high school years, through post graduate work and matriculating with a doctorate degree. The assignment given to the early disciples was not simply that they were to go throughout the earth and make

converts to Christianity. They were to teach, train, impart, activate and empower others to fulfill the commission of Christ.

They were to become ambassadors and partner with Him in completing His assignment on earth. Is it not wonderful to know that we, too, have been commissioned to be trained and prepared to fulfill the greatest assignment in the history of the earth? This assignment is to bring people to know God, Christ and the Holy Spirit in a more intimate way.

In the same sentence in which Matthew instructed them to teach, he also instructed them to baptize. The word *baptize* in the original language would have had a much deeper meaning than we might realize. It is the Greek word *baptizo*, which means "to make fully wet."⁹

Have you ever been exposed to rain or water to the extent that every part of you was immersed or made fully wet, fully soaked and completely submerged with water? This is the connotation of the text. In this case, instead of water, the substance is the character and nature of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:14–18

Notice that Mark tells them to preach, whereas Matthew told them to teach and baptize. It is interesting how each gospel

writer further completes the thoughts of the others. Looking at each text allows us to gain a more complete picture of the assignment—the divine dispatch—they were given. Mark uses the word *preach*, which in the Greek language is *kerysso*. It means

- To be a herald, to officiate as a herald
- To proclaim after the manner of a herald
- Used with the suggestion of formality, gravity and an authority that must be listened to and obeyed
- To publish, proclaim openly something that has been done
- Used of the public proclamation of the gospel and matters pertaining to it, made by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by the apostles and other Christian teachers¹⁰

God dispatches them into the world and tells them, “Go ye into all the world and preach to every creature.” He assures them that signs would follow those who believed. Is it not interesting that our modern-day Church has relegated the preaching and teaching of the Gospel to a certain few, such as pastors, evangelists and teachers? God’s original intent, however, was for every believer to be responsible for spreading the Gospel and making it contagious. You may not be an ordained preacher, but you have a message, and you are sent with a word from Him. Look again at Mark 16 where He tells the disciples what they have the authority or power to do.

These signs shall follow those who believe:

- Cast out devils
- Speak with new tongues
- Take up serpents

- Drink anything deadly but it shall not hurt them
- Lay hands on the sick and they shall recover

Our final instructions come from the gospel writer Luke:

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Luke 24:44–49

Did you notice the last instruction? They were to wait until they were imbued with power from on high. If you remember in Luke 10, Jesus had already given them power. But the power Jesus is speaking of in this instance is a different kind of power. This power is from on high. This power came with demonstrations. It would produce evidence that they were who they said they were.

Here is a summary of the divine dispatch process:

1. There is a problem in the earth that needs a solution.
 - God births a solutionist for the problem.
 - The solutionist develops passion through life's processes. Note: Passion stems from something you love or hate.

2. God calls the sent one.
3. God sends someone to confirm His calling of the sent one.
4. God allows the sent one to go through a period of preparation, consecration and training.
 - God commissions the sent one.
 - God dispatches the sent one.
 - God gives him or her authority and power.
 - God backs up the sent one's message with signs, wonders and miracles.

As we come to understand the process, we find that all sent ones are divinely dispatched with a message, mission, mandate and mantle of Christ for His Church.

- Message: core conversation and communication
- Mission: assignment or instructions
- Mandate: burden
- Mantle: equipment

The first mention of Jesus dispatching the disciples was while He was still on the earth (see Luke 10:1–20). The text says Jesus dispatched them to every city to which He would eventually go. They were divinely dispatched as ambassadors to prepare the way for Him.

In verse nineteen, Jesus tells them He gave them power over all the power of the enemy. The word *power* used here by the gospel writer Luke is the Greek word *exousia*, which means "authority."¹¹ In essence, it is the delegated authority He gave them to carry out the assignment they would have on the earth; the assignment to continue the work He had been given from His Father in heaven.

In Acts 13, we find Paul and Barnabas being sent by the Holy Spirit to a group of cities that comprised Galatia, which is now modern-day Turkey.

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

Acts 13:1-5

As all sent ones who have been dispatched before you, you will find as a byproduct of your calling that you will encounter warfare. Because of this, it will be necessary for you to have the ability to

- Hear from God and speak only what He has spoken to you
- Know how to pray and intercede for yourself and others
- Know how to win souls who can join you in your assignment

Together, we will further unpack the process and give you tools we have learned to help us navigate it. Are you ready to join us as we discover, develop and deploy into our messages and missions as divinely dispatched by the King of kings? Let's get started!



STAGE 1

Discovery

There are diverse ways and times in which we discover our assignments. The word *discover* means “to get knowledge of, learn of, find or find out.”¹

There are many different means of discovery. Here are a few:

- Discovery in dreams
- Discovery by direct announcement from God
- Discovery by prophecy
- Discovery by prayer
- Discovery by angelic visitation

Some sent ones receive their calling or assignment at birth, while some find theirs in adulthood. Others have their calling revealed in dreams or by the prophetic declarations of parents, prophets or even God Himself. Yet others find their calling by angelic visitation. If you have not discovered your assignment

via any of these methods, you will discover it over time. Life itself helps you identify what exactly is your calling and assignment. I have found that the definition of my calling has at times changed, migrated and matured. I have also watched as God has brought definition to the lives of many I mentor. We will talk about each of these pathways to helping us discover our divine assignments.

1

Discovery in Dreams

 Our first method of destiny discovery is through dreams. Joseph is a perfect example of one who discovered his individual destiny through dreams. He had an original dream, and then he had another to confirm his first (see Genesis 37). In his dream he saw himself in a place of authority as his siblings, father and mother bowed to him. As he got older, he found himself in a position of leadership in every situation in which he found himself.

Joseph's story begins when he was seventeen years old and was feeding his father's flocks alongside his brothers. The biblical narrative explains how Joseph had great favor with his father. His brothers noticed this favor and envied him because of it. Genesis 37 tells us, "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more" (verse 5). He explained to them what he saw. In his dream, he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly, his sheaf rose up and stood upright while their sheaves bowed to his (see verse 7).

While the Modern English Version translates this verse with the words “bowed to,” the King James Version lends somewhat of a more detailed perspective. That version uses the word *obeisance*. The Hebrew meaning of the word *obeisance* is “to bow in token of respect or submission.”¹ One could see why his brothers would be upset. The first question his brothers asked him was, “Do you think you will indeed reign over us?”

Not only would Joseph be a ruler over them, but he would be in a position that would cause them to have to bow in honor. This would have been quite a blow to their egos. First, Joseph was their father’s favorite child. And second, Joseph was the child of Jacob’s old age by Rachel, the wife he had desired from the beginning.

Jacob, who was Joseph’s father, and his brother, Esau, were twins (see Genesis 25). They struggled in the womb, and as a result, Jacob came out holding his brother’s heel. The story explains that Jacob’s name meant supplanter, trickster and heel grabber. Jacob’s mother received a prophetic dream that instructed her there were two nations in her womb and that the older would serve the younger.

The two boys grew, and Jacob’s brother, Esau, became a very skilled hunter. As their father, Isaac, waned in strength and was near death, he told Esau he was hungry, and he asked Esau to go kill him some of the savory food he loved (see Genesis 27). He told him that once Esau brought him the food, he would bless him.

Jacob’s mother, Rebekah, was listening, and she heard Isaac say he was going to eat the food Esau brought and then bless him before his death. Rebekah instructed Jacob to go to the flock and get two choice young goats. She assured him she would prepare them and make them savory as his father liked them. He did as she instructed.

Esau was a hairy man while Jacob's skin was smooth, and Jacob reminded his mother of this fact. He said that if his father discovered the deception, he would receive a curse. She assured Jacob that if there was any backlash from their scheme, it would fall on her. She then took the skin from the young goats and put it upon Jacob's arms and the back of his neck. His arms and the back of his neck would have been the places his father would touch if he reached out to embrace him. Placing a hand upon the back of the neck was a term of endearment from a father to a son.

When Jacob came to his father to bring the meal, something interesting happened. The Bible says Isaac's eyes were dim. Although it does not implicitly say his ears were hard of hearing, I believe this text gives us a clue about that. Jacob came to his father, and he called out to him. Isaac replied by asking the question, "Who are you, my son?" Jacob deceived his father and said he was his brother Esau, and he told his father he had brought him wild game to feed him. Isaac asked, "How is it that you have found it so quickly?" Although Isaac was old, his eyes dim and his ears hard of hearing, he knew it would have been difficult for Esau to have gone hunting and returned so quickly.

I remember going hunting with my grandfather when I was a young boy. We would have to either drive or walk to the hunting grounds. Many times, it was quite a while before we found the perfect location. Once there, we would set up and camouflage ourselves so that we could catch our unsuspecting prey by surprise.

I am not sure what technique Esau used to hunt, as the Bible does not clearly delineate, but one thing for certain is that Isaac knew it should have taken longer than it did to have gone hunting and returned with the food. Isaac still had discernment to know his touch would tell him which of his

sons he was speaking with. He asked Jacob to come closer so that he could determine whether or not the son with whom he was speaking was really Esau. Jacob was prepared for this, as he knew Isaac would grab him by his hands.

He said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau” (verse 22 MEV). He asked Jacob again if he really was Esau, to which Jacob replied yes. Isaac then ate the meal. After he was finished, he instructed Jacob to come near so he could kiss him. As Jacob drew closer, he smelled Esau’s clothing that Jacob was wearing. Isaac then pronounced a blessing on Jacob, believing it was Esau.

And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother’s sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Genesis 27:27–29

Jacob left as soon as Isaac finished his prophetic declaration about his son’s destiny. Shortly after, Esau walked in. When Isaac realized Jacob had tricked him, his heart was broken. At the same time, Esau was also heartbroken that his brother had tricked him—once again. He begged his father to find a word of blessing for him, and although it was not the blessing Jacob received, Isaac did bless Esau.

Jacob feared that his brother, Esau, would try to kill him, so he ran for his life to his uncle Laban. When Jacob arrived in the city where Laban lived, he ran into a young lady named Rachel who was at a well getting water for her flocks. Jacob fell

in love with her, and he made an agreement with Laban that he would work seven years for him in exchange for his daughter's hand in marriage.

At the end of seven years when Jacob received his bride, he realized he had been tricked. He believed he had married the girl of his dreams, but he woke the next morning to find her tender-eyed sister, Leah, next to him instead. He then worked another seven years to wed her sister, Rachel, whom he had desired from the beginning. On top of that, he worked another six years for his uncle. I have always wondered whether or not Jacob would have experienced this deceit if he had not tricked his brother out of his birthright and blessing.

During his years working for his two wives, he produced thirteen children by four women. His children by Leah were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun, and by her concubine, Zilpah, he produced Gad and Asher. His children by Rachel's servant were Dan and Naphtali, and his children by the wife of his dreams were Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph was Jacob's eleventh child, and his brothers both envied and were jealous of him.

The Bible tells us Joseph had a coat of many colors. His father had neither sewn nor dyed a coat with multiple colors for any of his other sons, so I am sure this added to their jealousy. Imagine that your father had eleven children, but for only one did he go out of his way to have a special coat created that signified his unique and special love. I have no idea what it would have cost to create such a coat, but make no mistake about it, that was a very special gesture. It made him stand out from his siblings.

Genesis 37 tells us Joseph had yet another dream (see verse 9). One thing we have learned in studying the Bible is that when you have back-to-back dreams, God is about to do something. The second dream confirmed the fact that, not only was

the first dream from God, but what He revealed in the first dream would come to pass. Joseph shared his second dream with his brothers. He told them that the sun, moon and eleven stars were bowing to him.

His brothers were already envious of him, but I am sure this second dream made his brothers even madder. When he told his father this dream, his father rebuked him and asked, “Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?” (verse 10). The Bible tells us his brothers became even more jealous, but his father, “observed the saying” (verse 11).

I find it interesting that the Bible notes that Jacob observed the dream. The word *observed* used in this sentence means “to watch and wait for.”² In essence, Jacob had enough experience with God to know God could do whatever He wanted to do. He knew that as God had preserved his life and rescued him from dangers far and near, He would bring to pass this word for Joseph’s future. He remembered how his father had prophesied accurately about what his destiny and calling would be. Having had that history with God, he knew this dream about Joseph’s life and purpose would also come to pass.

You also must remember that nothing can stop God’s plan for your life. Joseph’s brothers attempted to assassinate him, but God had the assassination attempt stopped (see Genesis 37:20–28). He was delivered to Potiphar’s house where he found grace in Potiphar’s sight, and he was promoted to a position of leadership; however, Potiphar’s wife lied about something she claimed Joseph had done, and the result was that he was imprisoned (see Genesis 39:7–20). No matter what happened, each situation placed him closer to his destiny.

While in prison, it appeared that God’s plan for him was not going to come to pass. But make no mistake about it—Joseph was sent by God. He was placed strategically by God every step

of his journey to put him in position to solve the problem of food shortages in Egypt. While still in prison, two prisoners came to Joseph to inquire of him concerning their dreams (see Genesis 40:5–23). He interpreted their dreams, one of whom was promoted while the other was executed.

The butler was promoted to chief butler and was restored to the king's court. It probably seemed to Joseph that he had been forgotten; however, when God has a plan, nothing can stop it from coming to pass. Pharaoh had a dream that could not be interpreted (see Genesis 41). The chief butler remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. Joseph was called from prison to stand before Pharaoh, and he interpreted Pharaoh's dream correctly.

Because of his wisdom and discernment, Joseph was put in a position of leadership to help Egypt through the coming seven-year famine. God gave him the strategy of saving food during the seven years preceding the famine so that there would be a surplus of food during the seven years of lack.

As we see in Joseph's life, God can help us discover our assignment through dreams. Joseph was a sent one who was divinely dispatched to rule and reign in Egypt and to save Egypt from starvation. Eventually, he saw his brothers and his father again.

I remember God speaking to me in a dream about a part of my destiny. In this dream I saw myself preaching. I was in a white robe preaching with power and fire and ministering in a church. When I finished preaching, I saw myself laying hands on and praying for different people in the audience. As I prayed with each of them, they were slain in the Spirit. I asked a spiritual father what this dream meant, and he shared that the white robe symbolized purity. It also represented much of what my ministry would be about.

I have found that much of my personal ministry revolves around discipling believers and being pure before the Lord.

And usually, my preaching is with fire. I often teach, but when the Spirit of the Lord stirs in my heart, I preach with fire. God gave me a small glimpse of what I would be doing, but He did not show me what my process would be like to acquire the fire. He often does not show us specific details, because if He did, most of us would run. I sure would have. I will share more on my personal process of development in the next section.

QUESTIONS TO

Ponder

1. Has God ever spoken to you in your dreams about your purpose and assignment?
2. Do you dream frequently?
3. Have you ever seen yourself ministering or speaking to others in your dreams?
4. What were you wearing (such as colors)?
5. What was your message?
6. Who were the people you were speaking to?

Prayer

to Activate Your Dream Realm and Asking
God to Speak to You Through Your Dreams

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, I come to You knowing You are the Almighty One who hears me when I pray, and You are the

God who answers. I stand on Your Word from Joel 2:28 that says that in the last days You will pour out Your Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, old men will have dreams and young men will see visions. As one of Your children, my heart's desire is to be able to dream of only what You have released. I ask to be able to understand dreams and visions of various kinds. Lord, activate my dream realm that has been dormant, and help me to see into the night. I call for good and inspiring dreams and visions to come to pass.

Lord, speak to me in my dreams. Reveal Your heart, open my eyes to see my purpose and destiny and expose every plot of Satan against my life and others. Open my eyes to see images and scenes clearly, open my ears to hear sounds and voices distinctly and open my heart to perceive and understand what You are saying in my dreams. I pray for accurate interpretation of dreams and visions in my life and in the lives of others.

I plead the blood of Jesus over my life, and I cover my sleep stages against interruption. I ask that You prevent my dreams from being infiltrated and disturbed by demonic forces. I call forth and release any dream or vision that has been held up. I cancel every spirit of nightmares and bad dreams from attacking me while I sleep. I cast all nightmares and bad dreams upon You and forbid them from manifesting in my life. My dreams will not be disrupted, hindered or stolen. I will remember my dreams and recall those I have forgotten.

I apply the blood of Jesus over my dreams. I will not be anxious; I will not toss and turn nor be afraid during the night when I sleep. When I lie down, my sleep will be sweet. Upon awakening, I will be refreshed, renewed, revived and restored with enough rest and energy to accomplish the tasks You have given to me for the day. In Jesus' name, Amen.