Christmas Inside Out #618 – Plans to Prosper You Matthew 2:1-12 GateWay Bible Church December 9, 2018 Fred Hennes

## **Plans to Prosper You**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

God is a ruler with unlimited wisdom, power, and control over the affairs of nature and history.		
Where should we turn when we have a to make?		
God has a history of using (when sleeping) and (when awake) to direct the course of human affairs.		
Significant Dreams & Visions in the Bible		
– God saved Israel from famine (Gen 37-41)		
– God made himself known in Babylon (Dan 2, 4)		
– God gave great discernment (1 Kings 3)		
– God introduced Paul to the Apostles (Acts 9)		
– in Joppa, God revealed Heaven was open to all (Acts 10)		
– God called him to Macedonia (Acts 16)		
Even today God is using dreams and visions to reveal himself to people groups.		
There is a danger in that dreams and visions have often been less than (Jer 23:25-26)		
When we have a decision to make, our pursuit should be, followed by the, not dreams or visions.		
Our is to grow in wisdom and knowledge of the Word of God so that we may hold fast to that which is good. We must the Bible regularly to get the Bible us.		

## **Bringing the Message to Life**

Jot down a brief answer to the following questions

1.	Reflecting on this week's sermon, is there any principle or insight that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
2.	Have you ever had a dream or vision, or heard a voice from God that you were sure of? What impact did this paranormal event have upon your life?
3.	What would the outcome have been if Joseph and the Wise Men did not follow the dreams they received? What does this say about God's sovereignty?
4.	Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. What role did scripture have in Paul's encouragement to Timothy for finding wisdom? What role did dreams, and visions play?
5.	Read Acts 2:17 and then read Joel 2:28. How is this prophecy related to Christianity in our day?