Vision (spirituality)

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A **vision** is something seen in a dream, trance, or religious ecstasy, especially a supernatural appearance that usually conveys a revelation.^[1] Visions generally have more clarity than dreams, but traditionally fewer psychological connotations. Visions are known to emerge from spiritual traditions and could provide a lens into human nature and reality.^[2] Prophecy is often associated with visions.

In simple words, it is a religious experience in which the experience can be seen and hence it is called a vision.

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Illumination from Liber Scivias, showing Hildegard of Bingen receiving a vision, dictating to her scribe and sketching on a wax tablet.

Examples of visions

Visions are listed in approximately chronological order whenever possible, although some dates may be in dispute.

- Vision of God in the Book of Ezekiel chapter number 1. (6th century BC)
- Vision of a heavenly figure "like a son of man" in Daniel 7:13 (6th century / 2nd century BC)
- St Paul's vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus (1st century)
- Marian apparitions (visions or visitations of Mary, mother of Jesus) (1st century AD present)
- Visions of the afterlife in the martyr accounts of Perpetua and Felicity (2nd century AD)
- The *theoria* (Vision of God) by which a Christian mystic may discern a deep aspect of God (in the Eastern Orthodox tradition) (3rd-6th centuries AD)
- Constantine's vision of Christ's sign (312 AD)
- Jakob Böhme's vision of 1600, revealed when he observed the beauty of a beam of sunlight in a pewter dish
- René Descartes' series of dreams on the night of 11 November 1619, which set the course of his life in science
- Blaise Pascal's vision of 23 November 1654, which reinvigorated his spiritual commitment
- Emanuel Swedenborg's visions, which formed the basis of a newly revealed doctrine (beginning in 1740s)
- Joseph Smith's First Vision (1820), including Throne-Theophany of Lehi in the First Book of Nephi in 1 Nephi 1:8-11 (http://lds.org/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/1.8-11?lang=eng#7) (6th century BC)
- Ramakrishna had several visions of religious figures including Kali, Sita, Krishna, Jesus, and Muhammed. (mid/late 19th century)

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See also

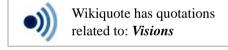
- Altered state of consciousness
- Apparitional experience
- Beatific vision
- Hallucination
- Kashf
- Lourdes apparitions
- Mysticism
- Neurotheology
- Private revelation
- Shamanism
- Temporal lobe epilepsy
- Theophany
- Vision quest

References

- 1. http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vision
- 2. Ferrer, J.N. Toward a participatory vision of human spirituality. ReVision 24(2): 15. 2001.

External links

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Categories: Religious behaviour and experience | Revelation

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