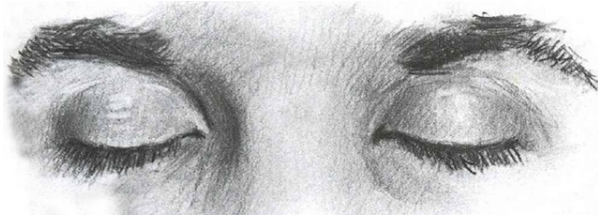


1 Samuel 26:1-12

## A Deep Sleep Caused by the LORD



There is a fascinating Hebrew noun [**tardēmah**, *Strong's* #8639] which is defined as “a deep sleep.” We all know the difference between a restless, fitful sleep and a deep sleep when we are really out cold. Three times our great God used an even deeper sleep to accomplish His purposes:

**1) The Creation of Eve (*Genesis 2:21*).** On the sixth day of creation the LORD God used supernatural anesthesia (“a deep sleep”) in order to perform the world’s greatest surgical operation. Out of man, He brought forth a woman: “For the man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man” (*1 Cor. 11:8-9*). God thus established the two genders concerning which rebellious men today are seeking to blur all distinctions: “Male and female created He them” (*Gen. 1:27*). What a pleasant surprise for Adam upon awakening!

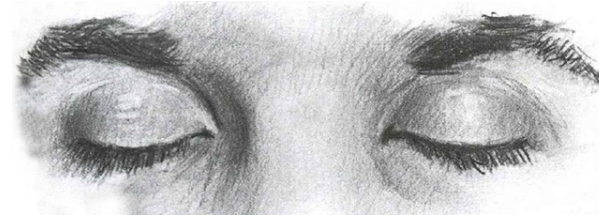
**2) The Announcement of Egyptian Bondage (*Genesis 15:12-14*).** Abraham’s sleep experience was not as pleasant. His deep sleep resulted in a horrible, dark nightmare as God revealed that his descendants would be slaves in a foreign land for four hundred years. The good news was that the slavery would end, Egypt would be judged, and God’s people would be delivered.

**3) The Protection of David (*1 Samuel 26:1-12*).** Saul had gathered an army of three thousand men to apprehend David, his imagined enemy. It would seem impossible that David and his partner Abishai could go into the heart of Saul’s camp at night and not be detected by at least one of these three thousand men. Surely they would not all be sound asleep, and probably they also had designated men to keep guard and protect their king. David was able to grab Saul’s spear and water container without one man noticing, “because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them” (*1 Sam. 26:12*). Amazing supernatural protection!

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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