

INTRODUCTION TO CARDINALS

The following several dreams will each contain references to cardinals---the songbirds often known as redbirds. To save time and much needless repetition, I will explain their symbolism in this section and how it came about.

It was several years ago when God first brought cardinals to my attention. One morning I was awakened from my sleep by a strange noise outside my bedroom window. I lifted my head and looked out the window onto a rock patio. There about five feet away was a bright red cardinal sharpening his beak on the patio's stone work. I got up from my bed and proceeded to the main part of the house (where I was staying with friends) to tell one of them of this experience. My friend was leaning back on a sofa reading an article from some book or paper. I asked about the item being read and the response was, "It's an article on redbirds or cardinals."

Now I assumed this was not coincidence and these two experiences must have significance for me. These occurrences along with later dreams caused me to use cardinals as a personal symbol to mean, "God keeps His words." Thus anytime thereafter when cardinals would come to my attention (from many varied sources), I was reminded that God does keep His words. God's keeping His words refers to His written words found in the Bible, His promises, prophecies and any words that speak to us of His character of being true and trustworthy.

We have symbols and objects that remind us of experiences and happenings in our lives. A gold band may remind us of marriage, a cross of the death of Christ. Some symbols are known to many and some may be personal as cardinals are to me. Seven states of our nation use cardinals as their state bird. Many use them at Christmastime as decorations. My point is, that as language reveals words to us, so symbols and objects can also speak to us.

We can also use other symbols and objects to remind us of matters important and useful to us. We use references of chapters and verses to help us remember where certain portions of Scripture are found. (Some may not know this, but the chapters and verses found in our Bibles were not originally placed there by the apostles. These chapters and verses which we find helpful and useful in our study of Scriptures were added hundreds of years later.) Personal symbols often remind us of a period of time or an event which we need to remember.

Keep in mind in reading through these dreams that the symbolic meaning of the cardinal is: "God keeps His words."