

Dream Interpretation Principles

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Review:

1] Prophecy, dreams and visions are God's heart spoken in a spiritual language.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." (Acts 2:17)

2] Dreams, visions and prophecy are a "revelatory gift" given to REVEAL who Jesus is.

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."
(Eph. 1:16-19)*

3] Dreams are given to guide us in the right direction.

"For God does speak — now one way, now another — though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword." (Job 33:14-18)

4] Dreams are NIGHT PARABLES. God keeps things FOR us, not FROM us!

"The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand." (Matt. 13:10-12)

INTERPRETATION = The true meaning that is short and to the point.

- Interpret off main points, not details (details can point to application or response)

APPLICATION = How it practically relates to a situation or person. Often includes a RESPONSE.

RESPONSE = What you DO with it.

4 EASY STEPS to Dream Interpretation (Doug Addison)

1] WHO or WHAT is it about? What is the context?

2] What is the tone? Positive or negative?

3] Is it a "common" dream? Are there repeated themes?

4] Break it down to the MAIN 3 or 4 points. Keep it simple

FALSE Dreams (Can Satan give us dreams?)

[Taken from "Parables in the Night Seasons" by Joy Parrott]

* There is no scriptural basis for dreams coming from the devil.

*Jer 23:16-17 - "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions **from their own minds**, not from the mouth of the LORD. They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' " NIV*

*Jer 23:25-27 "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' 26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the **delusions of their own minds**? NIV*

*Ezek 13:1-3 The word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy **out of their own imagination (heart)**: 'Hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord; 'Woe to the foolish prophets, who **follow their own spirit** and have seen nothing!' " Amplified*

- Rather, false dreams originate out of our own imagination.

Ezekiel 13:6 - "They have envisioned futility and false divination (witchcraft)..."

* Divination is a false oracle; an imitation of the Divine.

* Satan may influence our heart realm through sin, but he can not give us dreams.

Luke 6:45 – "For out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks" (mind dreams)!

Col. 3:2 – "Set your minds on things above..."

Psalms 41:4 – "Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

God wants us to be healed! He will often times USE dreams to bring it!

NIGHTMARES

1] "Bad" dreams come from 2 primary sources: a) An open door in our soul, or b) God

- * Find the root and renounce it – close the door!
- * Nightmares in kids is the enemy's strategy for making them fearful of the supernatural
- * Make the supernatural, "natural"; Have them draw pictures
- * If a problem, pray first then anoint with oil.
- * If problem persists, can indicate a high calling on their life - what is the nightmare about?

A child can tell the demons to go. If not in "Jesus" name, have them use the parents or grandparents name (the child knows the parents or grandparent if he's not developed a personal relationship with Jesus, yet - demons know any godly authority and must submit)

2] Nightmares can have 2 purposes :

- a) An invitation for healing/deliverance,
- b) A Warning or Divine Strategy for intercession

Watchman Dreams

When Warning dreams come often, it may be a sign that God has made you a watchman.

Ezekiel 3:17 - "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me."

Isa 21:6-9 – " Meanwhile, the Lord said to me, "Put a watchman on the city wall to shout out what he sees. Tell him to sound the alert when he sees chariots drawn by horses and warriors mounted on donkeys and camels." Then the watchman called out, "Day after day I have stood on the watchtower, my lord. Night after night I have remained at my post. Now at last — look! Here come the chariots and warriors!" NLT

Watchmen sat up on HIGH walls to be able to look into the distance and see what was coming in order to prepare the people for any impending attack or danger.

Example: NUMBERS 13 – The spies were sent out to watch/look over the land, but they reacted in fear when they saw the giants. No faith – only panic.

"The immature watchman will see the problem without seeing God's power and will react with fear, whereas the mature watchman will behold God's power, have an overcoming attitude, and will not fear no matter how big the giant may be!" (Joy Parrott)

Questions to Consider in Interpreting Your Dreams

1. What was the dream's subject?
2. What were the specific symbols?

3. What do these symbols mean to me?
4. Why did I say what I said, or do what I did?
5. Do these circumstances apply to me?
6. Do the people represented really represent themselves?
7. Does their name mean anything to me?
8. Does this person remind me of someone else?
9. Is there a message in this dream for me?

How do we respond to dreams?

“Things are hidden temporarily only as a means to revelation. For there is nothing hidden except to be revealed, nor is anything temporarily kept secret except in order that it may be made known. If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend. And He said to them, be careful what you are hearing. The measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you and more besides will be given to you who hear.” (Mark 4:22-25 Amplified Bible)

1] Journal – To the measure that you write it down...your dreams will increase! (Remember, don't discard the “junk mail” – write it ALL down, including your feelings – most important part).

2] Study your dream. Do the research to help you understand symbols, meanings, biblical perspective, etc. (Remember, 90% of your dreams are symbolic, not literal)

Tools to help:

- Bible – Is the symbol mentioned somewhere in Scripture?
- Concordance – Look it up!
- Dictionary - Webster's

3] Prayer – The majority of our dreams are a call for reflection and intercession. Praying in the Spirit can often bring even more clarity!

“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breast? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little” (Isaiah 28:9, 10)

4] If for intercession, then Intercede! – Once the interpretation is clear, act upon the insights given you and intercede on behalf of that situation.

5] If a word for someone else, Encourage! – *“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a **revelation**, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the **strengthening** of the church.” (1 Cor 14:26-27)*

6] If a warning or prophetic word for the body, Submit it to leadership! – Take it to leadership (written down), share your heart and then RELEASE it.

Further Resources:

Parables in the Night Seasons – “Understanding Your Dreams”

By Joy Parrott (2002, Glory Ministries, www.joyparrott.com)

Dream Language – “The prophetic power of dreams, revelations and the spirit of wisdom”

By James W. and Michal Ann Goll (2006, Destiny Image, www.jamesgoll.com)

Also available is Experiencing Dreams and Visions and The Seer – “The Prophetic Power of Visions, Dreams and Open heavens”

Dream Encounters – “Seeing Your Destiny from God’s Perspective”

By Barbie Breathitt (2009, Holy Fire Publishing)