

"SCHOOL OF DREAMS"



YEAR OF THE
SUPERNATURAL

EQUIP - EMPOWER - RELEASE



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Week #4 - Part 2

PROPHETIC DREAMS

Guidelines for Successfully Interpreting Prophetic Dreams

Introduction

- Dreams which are believed to be from God can be direct & clear cut, but most prophetic dreams or dreams from God are figurative. They are usually symbolic and need to be interpreted.
- Most of these symbolic dreams leave us scratching our heads asking, "Lord, I need help figuring this out".
- I want to share with you some guidelines which will greatly help you in interpreting your dreams and the dreams of others.

❖ **Don't make the most common mistake of interpreting your or someone else's spiritual dreams literally.**

Often a woman **will dream of being raped**. This most often represents not a criminal act which is soon to occur, but rather an emotional or spiritual robbing of something near and dear to the person. Dreams are very cryptic and symbolic in nature and we must be careful to know when to take an element literally and when to see it as representative of something else.

❖ **Be aware that individuals can sometimes represent types of people rather than themselves.**

For example, you repeatedly dream of the same person from your high school days they could be representing a certain type or class of person (the wild party girl, the neglected social outcast, etc.). God will often use a person you have strong opinions of (negative or positive) to

represent types of sin or types of generations or age groups He's directing you to minister to. The valedictorian of my senior class represents my generation. She appears in my dreams every few years when God is communicating messages to me about my generation. I have had people tell me they saw Oprah or President Obama in their dreams. That refers to leadership, authority, or influence. What immediately stands out to the person, in a symbolic dream, helps to de-code the mystery of the dream.

❖ **Always interpret the dream within the overall context of the emotion you felt upon waking.**

For instance, one person may dream of standing in the midst of rushing water which is rising higher and higher. Two people can have that same dream and one awakens terrified of drowning while another has total peace. The water in one dream may represent impending doom and judgment while in the other it represents the power of the Holy Spirit. One has to analyze their emotional reaction to the dream. When you are first awakened are you excited, empowered, scared, or confused? If you are just confused with no overtly positive or negative impression then you'll realize that this third guideline may not help much. This just means you'll have to struggle a little harder to arrive at the dream's meaning, but you can still decode it with a little time and prayer.

❖ **There are no universal standard meanings for the symbols in your dreams.**

Besides a few common symbols that are universal, we each have our own unique "dream vocabulary" that we get the joy of discovering over time. We all seem to have particularly unique symbols for the demonic realm. For instance alligators, in others' dreams they're snakes, tattooed men on motorcycles! Etc...

For someone who grew up with dogs that were treated like family members, dogs in their dreams could represent safety and divine

oversight. For a person who was mauled as a child and is terrified of dogs today, the presence of a dog in their dream could be indicative of danger or an attack from the enemy. Dogs can also represent lust or witchcraft. The same holds true for common objects, colors, animals, or geographic locations. Every person's dream vocabulary is unique and has to be gradually discerned.

These four key guidelines will help you in better interpreting your dreams, but these guidelines will be useless if you don't record your dreams.

- ✚ Be sure to keep a notebook next to the bed or a recording device for later dictation and record the dream immediately upon awakening.
- ✚ Rest assured that when you ask God for wisdom in interpreting your dreams, He will provide it.
- ✚ Also be encouraged that He has gifted some in the Body of Christ with a specific gift of dream interpretation and they can be very helpful for especially difficult dreams.

Keys to Dream Interpretation

- I. Never rush to interpret a dream; yours or someone else's - Dreams are like building or completing a puzzle - One piece at a time
- II. Know that if God gave you a dream, HE can equally give you the interpretation to that dream.
- III. Practice makes perfect - You need to keep applying these principles until you master dream interpretation.

- IV. There are no universal meanings to symbols in dreams
- V. Symbols mean different things to individual dreamers, so be careful not to fall prey to that.
- VI. Every person's dream vocabulary is unique and has to be gradually discerned.
- VII. God uses objects or symbols that are familiar to the dreamer
- VIII. Always pray and ask for understanding / interpretation to your dreams or that of others.
- IX. Don't take dreams literally unless it a clear cut direct dream that needs no interpretation.
- X. Dreams are spiritual and not physical. Do not attack, assault, judge, or condemn the people you see in your dreams
- XI. When interpreting someone else's dream, work with them to solve the puzzle - ask them questions. What do the symbols in the dream mean to them? Never lean on your own understanding.
- XII. Do not ignore details in dream or you might mislead or be misled
- XIII. Commit every dream to God in prayer and ask for divine assistance.
- XIV. Dreams are landmarks on your journey of Destiny.

Purpose of Prophetic Dreams

A. Gods Response to our thoughts & intents.

Job 4:12-18 - "Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it. In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence; then I heard a voice saying: 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?'"

B. Speaking to His Prophets

Numbers 12:6 - "Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream"

C. God's instructions

D. To reveal what is in the heart of man so we can repent and be blessed

E. Salvation of a Soul

Job 33:15-18 - In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction. In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man, He keeps back his soul from the Pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.

F. Direction & Assurance

Genesis 46:1-6 - So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

G. Revealing Future events - Predictions - Unfolding of His plans and purposes

Daniel 7:13-14 - "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

H. To warn the unsaved (Authority) to protect His Children

Genesis 20:3-5 - But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman." Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands"

Genesis 31:24 - But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

I. Supernatural Life Changing Encounter with God

J. Divine Visitation

K. To bless and prosper us

2 Chronicles 1:7-12 - On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?" And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. Now, O Lord God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?" Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth

and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.”

L. To reveal to us our destiny - His plan and purpose for our lives

Genesis 37:5-7 - Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, “Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.”