

## INTERPRETING DREAMS

John Paul Jackson had a prophetic call on his life since he was a little boy. He has developed extensive teachings on the prophetic: books, tapes, courses, and even has a school for prophets. This is not unparalleled; remember the "sons of the prophets," in the time of Elijah and Elisha, and also remember that John the Baptist had disciples that followed him until the Messiah came on the scene.

His ministry sends out "Dream Teams" to every national event: the Olympics, NFL playoffs, World Series, NBA finals, Mardi Gras, Sundance Film Festival, Commonwealth Games (in Canada or overseas), etc. They set up makeshift booths with signs announcing free dream interpretation. Usually there are 20 to 30 people waiting in line for dream interpretation. People may have been remembering a vivid dream for 10 or 10 years. They knew it was important. They thought maybe God was trying to tell them something about their life or destiny through that dream, but they could never find an answer. When they finally receive a revelation from God, sometimes they are overwhelmed. Often they have to help people to their cars they are crying so hard from what God just said to them about a dream.

For some 25 years, John Paul has studied and prayed in order to teach biblical principles of interpreting dreams and visions. He says that that he has repeatedly gone through the Bible and studied every dream, vision, parable, prophecy, and metaphor, and he has found consistencies of dream interpretation in the Bible, which covers a period of perhaps 2,000 years - from Job and Abraham to the writers of the New Testament. His advanced course has 72 hours of teaching on dreams and visions. I gleaned the following information from 2 hours of teaching tapes on this subject, so this is like sticking our toe in the water.

- We spend one-third of life sleeping. If we live 60 years, we spend about 20 years asleep. This is not a waste! God uses this time, not only to refresh and renew us, but to speak to us. *"For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. 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"*(Job 33:14-18)
- When God gives a dream the soul cannot interpret it, for dreams are of the Spirit. *"No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."*(1 Cor. 2:10-14) The natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit. Psychology, psychiatry, New Age teachers, and occultic priests cannot interpret dreams. Remember when Pharaoh had his dreams in Genesis 41 of the fat cows and skinny cows, etc., "he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt," and none of them could interpret his dreams. Then he called for Joseph, who said, *"It is not in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer in peace."* The same sequence occurred in the time of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar's dream could not be interpreted by all the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans. After prayer, Daniel said, *"There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to the King what will be in the latter days."*(Daniel 2:28)
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## MINISTRY TO KIDS

I recently studied a set of DVD's regarding the counseling ministry at Bethel Church, in Redding, California. They title their ministry, "SOZO," which is the Greek word for salvation, and that word actually translates, "Saved, Healed, and Delivered." One of the tapes addresses ministry to children, and unfortunately I can't find the name of the lady who presented the teaching. The following is not a full ministry model, but I think it has some helpful insights:

- Before ministering to the child, thoroughly interview the parent. Minister to the parents, if they will allow it, and many times this will take care of the child's problem without even ministering to the child.
- Remember that kids don't get a Junior Holy Spirit.
- Don't talk down to the kids. Don't use Christianese, such as having them say, "I renounce such and such." Have them say, "Go away, fear/anger." Or, "I disagree with those thoughts that I am a bad kid."
- Don't put their parents down, and don't have the child put their parents down, even if the child was badly abused. Lead the child to forgive: mother, fathers, brothers, sisters, etc. Ex.: "I forgive Joey for being mean to me."
- The child's past is recent: last week. Children need forgiveness, healing, deliverance.
- Don't ignore or dismiss your child when he says there are monsters under his bed or in the closet. Those monsters are real to the child, and they may be literally real! Kids see into the spiritual real much more easily than we adults. Ex.: A 4-year old girl asked her father to tell a monster in the closet to get out. He did, and asked, "Is it gone?" She said yes, and was ready to go to sleep. Ex.: A 3-year old boy told his parents he was not going down the hall because there was something scary hiding there. They took it seriously and commanded it to leave, and the situation was resolved.
- Regarding imaginary friends: The teacher said she had never met one she liked. They come when kids are afraid or lonely and say, "I will protect you." As the child grows to trust that "friend," eventually they tell the child to do bad things. They provide the child protection and power. If the child does not want to tell that friend to go, negotiate with him: Suggest that Jesus will come in and make a trade of His friendship. Ask aloud, "Jesus, will you come in and protect Joey?" Then ask Joey what Jesus said. Then ask Jesus to come and make that imaginary friend go away.
- It is not uncommon these days for teachers to introduce children to spirit guides in exercises at school. This has happened on occasion even in Christian schools.
- In some ministry times, she had the child ask Jesus to come and do something fun with him; Jesus has come to a child as a skateboarder or a hopscotcher (and He is really good!). To a child who hated homework, she had him ask Jesus to come and help him with his math, and He did.
- Kids from bad homes are angry and acting out. Don't take away their walls, their methods of coping with scary, painful situations. But do get them connected with Jesus. Ex.: To a child describing how he and his sister hid

behind the couch from their cursing, violent father, she asked the child to remember that scene, and asked, "Jesus, where are you?" The child said he then saw Jesus behind the couch hiding with them.

- Our kids are getting infiltrated by the enemy through all the witchcraft in our culture provided to little ones as entertainment. "Three Little Witches, Do, Re, Mi," teach kids how to cast spells. As does our ubiquitous friend, Harry Potter. Kids regularly participate in "harmless" seances. When she asks if kids have been in séances, they all say no. But when she asks if they have played, "Light as a feather, stiff as a board," many say yes. One boy developed the habit of carrying an 8-ball around to ask directions for his life. Others use Ouija boards. Have the child repent and renounce involvement in these activities in age-appropriate words.