

Clarity of Vision

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In these times when much danger creeps around the earth, with wars and rumours of wars, with violence and terror literally stalking our streets, it's important to have clarity of vision.

This is particularly so when we come to the great unsettling of people's minds as terrorism confronts us daily on our TVs and in our newspapers. We need to be clear on what Heaven is saying, not what the politicians or media subscribe for us to devour.

It's also true that spiritual deception is stalking us. Spiritual powers that seek to delude us, spiritual (or more correctly, religious) experiences that seduce many into believing a lie sent from the Adversary to lead us astray.

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water." Jer 2:13

When God makes a promise or reveals a certain Purpose, it will not be partially accomplished, but **completely**. He will fulfill it entirely, and fulfill it on time. So it's important for us to "see" what God is doing. We must have **clarity** and **certainty** in our vision.

For instance, the Scriptures are not about God doing something for us. It's about God fulfilling HIS purpose. God is the centre of the Scriptures, not man. So when God gave a promise He intends to fulfill it **completely and on time**.

Yet in God's purposes there are always two levels operating. The Natural and the Spiritual.

Note God's promises to Abraham.

Gen 13: 16-17 **"As the dust of the earth"**

Gen 15:5 **"Look to the heavens and counts the stars"**

The first is about the NATURAL fulfillment of the promise. The second about the SPIRITUAL (even though it used the natural to point to it). One is about the Jews and their future nation. The other is about Christians and the Body. Two fulfillments: the natural and the spiritual. Of course they overlap but they were and are quite distinct. It does depend on what you believe for and the clarity of vision for this.

In God's promises there are choices; to believe for the natural fulfillment and for the spiritual. As long as we see ourselves and our needs at the centre of Scripture, we will not fully understand God's purpose. When we do this both our service and our eternal reward will fall short of what it could be.

The Father's purpose is to bring forth Sons who "see things as He sees them". They represent the **consummation** of God's purpose among people. Many will benefit from His salvation, but it'll be because they didn't see His vision clearly as all-encompassing. They treated salvation as some benefit for them and their eternal security. The Father's purpose is so very much grander than that – salvation, heaven, eternity are wonderful, real and true, but their benefit to us is PART not the whole of the story.

To put it another way: All of Creation benefits from God's salvation in some sense.

Rms 8:20-22 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

But it's one thing to be a recipient of Resurrection Life; it's another to be clothed in His glory! Just as there are varying degrees of natural glory (sun, moon, stars) so there are degrees of spiritual glories in the Resurrection.

1 Cor 15:40-42 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body.

God's vision, His plan, His eternal purpose for us has always been clear. From the very beginning He planned one thing:

2 Thess 2:13-14 **But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The promise of GAINING His glory; this is His purpose for us. So let's ask ourselves this question: where does our vision lie? Do we unwittingly believe for a lesser fulfillment of His plan for us? Are we being single-minded about what we're hoping for?

Let us therefore know these things:

Become singularly focused on the Father's purpose.

Put our hope completely in His grace to bring it about.

Furnish the inner rooms of our spirit-man with resurrection life.

Be diligent in season and out of season.

Humble ourselves ready for the coming exaltation!

Grace in Messiah to you.

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