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Visions - With The End In Sight  
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Pro 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." KJV

Pro 29:18 "When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful." NLT

Pro 29:18 "Where there is no prophecy the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law." RSV

Vision becomes our roadmap and when we have a vision it gives us boundaries that we must stay within, if we don't stay in those boundaries, we will never reach our goal or the manifestation of our dream. Vision gives us the discipline to stay within the boundaries.

Hab 2:1-3 "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. 2 And the Lord answered me, and said, **Write the vision**, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the \*vision is yet for an \*\*appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." KJV

Because of the hard times that the children of Israel had found themselves in, Habakkuk had begin to seek God in the situation to see what could be done to help the people. We can learn from Habakkuk's experience what we may be lacking in our own lives, to first get the answer that we are needing for our situation from God.

If the vision is important, write it down, don't depend on trying to remember it, make it plain so that it can be understood, the vision will give supernatural energy or supernatural ability to pursue the vision. The vision is not for right now, it is for a later date, what happens when it doesn't happen immediately? We may find ourselves losing excitement about it, but if we have written it down, we can refer back and remind ourselves what has been promised. The vision will come to pass at the appointed time set for it. We will be able to see the vision beyond any adversity or circumstance.

\*\*appointed time is an example of an appointment that we may have with someone, like a banker or doctor, a specific time, a set time to meet

\* vision means the ability to see, power of seeing, be able to look beyond circumstances of adversity and bring about what ought to be, it is the ability to imagine or see and prepare for the future, the power of perceiving abstract or invisible objects as clearly as if they existed, the ability to obtain and reach towards it

There are two sides to a vision, there is Gods side and mans side. Most of the time we have no problem with Gods side, however, we must know the ways of God and know His character or our attitude may be that we have nothing to do because the vision is from God, but we do have a responsibility.

Psa 37:4 \*"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." KJV

\*delight means like a womb of a woman, it is expandable

Sometimes when we get a vision from the Lord, we begin to pursue the dream and to forget God. We must stay consumed with the Lord, we must delight ourselves in the Lord and then He will give us the desire of our heart. There will be an appointed time to receive the dream or desire. We must be careful not to get ahead of the vision or dream, not knowing what we are doing, we may find ourselves in trouble.

Jesus is telling the people how they are to count the cost of building first in order to be able to finish later. We need to see the beginning with the end in mind. God has given a dream or desire, but our responsibility is to build the foundation first followed with the roof and walls, otherwise everything

will collapse. God's way is to build the foundation first. We will want to finish with confidence knowing that we have considered the cost and that we will make the appointed time seeing the end of the vision. This is the man's side or responsibility of the vision or dream.

Luke 14:28-32 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace." KJV

In cooperating with God, the first thing that we are to do in order to bring the vision or dream to pass at the appointed time, is to delight ourselves in the Lord. We must be teachable and obedient, we may need council to get knowledge in order to not jump ahead of our appointed time.

Psa 37:4 \*"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." KJV

Pro 19:2 "Desire (vision) without knowledge is not good, and to be overhasty is to sin and miss the mark." AMP

In delighting ourselves in the Lord, it will keep us from getting ahead of God in our journey to the fulfillment of the dream or desire or vision that we perceive God has given us. We must stay teachable because we don't have all the answers in the beginning, at the end we will be a lot smarter in relationship to what we had to do or should have done to make the vision come to pass easier, but it is an appointed time.

Psalms 103 tells us that Moses understood the ways of God, but the children of Israel did not, they understood the acts or miracles of God, but never His ways.

Paul desired to know the Lord and all his ways, this was his priority.

Phil 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" KJV

Delighting ourselves in the Lord does not mean that we are to delight ourselves in the problems or complaining or hopelessness that we may be encountering but to delight ourselves in God. What is on the inside of us and what we are pursuing will come out, delighting ourselves in God, He will give you the desires of your heart. Surround yourself with the vision, it will grow on you. Associating or surrounding yourself with people of like mind who have had an appointed time and fulfilled it, it will be beneficial according to the following scriptures, but choose if they are either wise or foolish, don't allow yourself to be deceived. God is priority, delight yourself in Him.

Pro 13:20 "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." KJV

Pro 14:7 "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge." KJV

1 Cor 15:33 "Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt *and* deprave good manners *and* morals *and* character." AMP

God had given Jonah specific directions regarding his going to the people in Nineveh and preaching to them. He was to speak to them from the office of prophet and that the city would be judged, however, Jonah chose not to be obedient, he knew if he did what God had told him to do, the people would repent, God would not destroy the city and Jonah would look bad, he had a little pride problem himself. So he went the other way, took a trip on a ship that ran into a storm and got in trouble. Jonah told the sailors that he was the reason for the trouble they were having, but God had prepared a great fish that swallowed him, a holding pen which gave him time to become obedient. After Jonah thought about what had happened, he repented, the fish spit him out on dry ground and he went on to Nineveh and did as God had originally commanded him to do.

Jonah 2:8-9 "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord." KJV

Jonah saw the vision, could see beyond the adversity, if he did as he had been commanded he would know what the end would be, but he lost his vision and chose to not be obedient, but after being in the fish for a time, he realized that Gods grace was his and he would be able to finish and see the end, got the vision back, went and did what the Lord had wanted him to do.

If we have been delighting ourselves in the Lord, the following scriptures teach us how God intervenes in miraculous ways to show how He reveals the circumstances that may be surrounding us and how He protects and blesses us. Greater is the one who is in us. The angels of God are going to outnumber the enemy who is trying to destroy us. We must see with our spiritual eyes. (reading the stories in 2 Kings will be beneficial)

2 Kings 6:14-17 "Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." KJV

The eyes of Elishas servant were opened and he saw the entire situation that was around him.

2 Kings 7:3-6 "And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? 4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. 5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. 6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us." KJV

The four lepers took a step of faith, knowing that unless they did something, they probably would die. After going into the Syrian camp and finding all the plunder left behind, they decided to share with the people in the city.

If it seems like that we are surrounded by all kinds of adversity, remember that if we are delighting ourselves with the Lord and have surrounded ourselves with the right kind of people, we will know that God has a plan, that our dream or vision will come to pass at the appointed time.

After Habakkuk had gotten the answer that he was seeking in chapter 2, (in previous teaching above) he prayed and that prayer was set to wild, enthusiastic and triumphant music in chapter 3. The people delighted themselves in the Lord, there was no complaining or talking problems. They were looking forward to the blessings, they could see the end.

Hab 3:1 "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth." KJV

Hab 3:17-19 "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments." KJV

Continually delight yourselves in the Lord, we have a divine appointment with a vision, even though it doesn't look that way right now, the end is in sight. There is an appointed time even though it is in the future, we will keep that appointment. Glory to the King of Kings.