

Vision – Seeing the Heart of God

By R.T. Nusbaum

The word "vision" appears almost 20 times in the book of Daniel. Understanding the meaning of the word "vision" is all important. To have vision is not simply seeing what is going on in the earth spiritually but seeing the heart of God and then seeing how things are set up according to that. Daniel knew God's thought for His people. Daniel also knew that it was not God's original intention for His people to be in Babylon. He saw the present condition of things through God's eyes instead of just circumstantially. God has an eternal, overall plan that He wants and works toward in every generation but time and circumstance help determine how God will apply that plan at the moment. You can never truly know what God is doing until you can perceive what it is that God is after overall. In other words, God was not simply trying to set Israel free from bondage from Babylon for it was He, Himself who brought them there. There were eternal things He was trying to awaken them to pertaining to His own heart and not just in their circumstances.

Daniel knew that the circumstances did not truly show forth God's intention. The people were far from it, no matter how much He had protected and provided for them in Babylon. Many people see what is going on and assume that is what God is doing or what He is after. Proverbs 29:18 puts it, "where there is no vision, the people perish," that is to say, "without an all-governing, all-consuming vision, the people will run a muck--they will make a mess of things! . Awake! Babylon is not the place of His intention. Don't dwell there thinking that there you will eventually find fullness and fulfillment and that He is steadily working toward that in Babylon. The people are not growing, they are perishing. Where the heart of God (vision) is not seen, the people perish. Without vision, our work becomes fragmentary, piecemeal, unrelated, and will not fail to miss God's ultimate objective.

The Lord is seeking for those whose eyes are opened to His heart. It is our responsibility to receive fresh aspects of the Lord's vision and to keep it alive and ever new before His people. Vision is what will hold together, it is what will keep you moving forward, it is what will keep you clinging to the Lord in times of pressure, and it is what will defend you against the enemy. There must always be the sense that God is coming forth to bring Christ into the fullness according to His intention.

There is a primary objective that governs all of God's working and dealings. There is an all-consuming, all-inclusive, and all-controlling end that He has in view, and a specific means by which He seeks to reach that end. The purpose of God should be the objective of all of our spiritual energies, attainments, and exercises. If we are ignorant of it, we cannot help but fall short of what is uppermost in His heart.

Utter Abandonment To God's Purpose

Daniel 9:18,19 - O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by THY NAME: for we do not present our

supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for THY great mercies...for THINE OWN SAKE...for THY city and THY people.

Daniel was utterly separated and abandoned to God's intention. He was separated from his own self-interests. His prayer is wholly focused on God's need and concern and not his own. Daniel's prayer was for "thy name," "thy mercies," "thy city," and "thy people." He was willing to chasten himself by fasting, standing in the gap for the recovery of God's intention for His people.

We must be abandoned to His purpose instead of just to His blessing. It is an easy thing to become absorbed in the cares of this life falsely believing that His only concern lies with us. We lose sight of God's interest and try to get Him to focus on ours. But we are called to "seek first *His* kingdom and *His* righteousness."

What Is The Lord Seeking to Bring About?

What is the Lord's present desire at this present moment? Well, it is the same desire He has had at every present moment of time. He desires that Christ fill all things. Christ's present concerns are not on the condition of the world which will perish but with Jesus' place in His Body. He is not trying to perfect His Body; He is trying to fill it. He is not seeking to improve the spiritual condition of His people but to awaken her to her spiritual position of oneness. ***