

# WHAT'S NEXT? (VISION THAT ENDURES)

BY PETER MORTON

“It’s easy to see, hard to foresee.” - Benjamin Franklin

*“They said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth’*

Genesis 11:4 (NASB)

In our day, the word 'vision' is usually applied to an idea that has not yet come to pass in the physical realm. As humans, we're continually in the process of walking out vision in this sense. I see my youngest son Jaden, who has just begun crawling recently, overjoyed at the concept that he can 'think' about moving somewhere, and then, through a tussle of arms and legs, move his little body to where he has thought about going.

As we grow older, the concepts we think about grow too, and we discover that a strong and good 'vision' has the power and potential to move not just us but others towards a goal. We can dream of great and noble things, and with good communication, resources and skill we can accomplish nearly anything we put our mind to. The Lord Himself saw the power of this in Babel, and said,

*“Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them”*

Genesis 11:6 (NASB)

But the vision we need in our day is not of the kind found in Babel. Although Babel was built after Noah, and after the flood, it is interesting to contrast the two approaches. We can use 'sight' to see what is around us right now. But 'foresight' literally means 'to see before'.

The men of Babel could 'see'. Noah could 'foresee'. Babel was building for 'now'. Noah was building 'for what would be'.

The most potent and beneficial form of vision is released when men and women foresee what will happen, and build accordingly. As Christians, we have been entrusted with the

very oracles and revelation of God. We have an understanding of things that God has determined will take place. We must build not in ignorance but with wisdom, knowing full well that what currently is, is not necessarily what will be.

## GETTING HEAVEN'S PERSPECTIVE

*“In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory’”* Isaiah 6:1-3 (NASB)

This 'throne room' account from Isaiah gives us a picture of true vision. One of the seraphim calls out to the other *“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD... the whole earth is full of His glory”*.

These same creatures are seen in Revelation 4:8 - where they are described as being *“full of eyes round about and within”*. If there were ever a creature created for vision it would be these. They perpetually gaze upon the Almighty with complete and perfect clarity. It's from this place of continually beholding the fullness and glory of God, that the seraph in Isaiah takes his next breath to declare that *“the whole earth is full of His glory”*.

We tend to use the word 'reality' when we describe what we can see, taste, touch or otherwise sense. However, this concept of reality is not found in Scripture. The closest word to 'reality' in NT Greek is *altheia* which de-

scribes "the reality lying at the basis of an appearance" (Vines Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words). In other words, reality is not what is seen, but that which produces what is seen. It is the root that produces the fruit.

This word *altheia* is translated in our Bibles as truth. When we're searching for reality, we are searching for truth. Our culture is obsessed with what we see, but Scripture shows us what is real.

For us to walk in true vision means that we have to understand that what we see and comprehend with our natural faculties is not necessarily truth or reality. This statement is foolishness to the natural mind, but what is greater foolishness is to build anything without reference to what is ultimately foundational to all existence. Jesus Christ declared *“I am the truth”*. We cannot find reality or truth apart from His eternal and unchanging being. It starts and ends with God.

## SEEING GOD IN EVERYTHING

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”* Matthew 5:8 (NASB)

Usually we would look at this verse as describing those who draw near to God. But the pure in heart will see God - not just in their prayer times, but in all things. They will see God at work in creation, they will see His hand moving in the nations, they will behold his glory when others see nothing but devastation and destruction.

*“The whole earth is filled with the glory of the Lord”*. This cry from the seraphim is not just



prophecy - it is truth - it is reality. Those who truly comprehend the glory and magnificence of God will see their surroundings, indeed the entire earth, filled with the glory of the Lord. This concept is further emphasised in Titus:

*"To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled"* Titus 1:15 (NASB)

When our heart is pure, our vision is pure. We see what others miss. We understand that God is reality, and all else is simply manifestation. This is why when Peter had the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, Jesus exclaimed,

*"...Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven"* Matthew 16:17 (NASB)

Peter demonstrated that he had true vision by declaring Jesus as the Son of God. The response of Jesus to Peter's revelation was as much to say, "you didn't come to that understanding naturally, someone opened your eyes".

Our natural mind is an enemy of God (Romans 8:7). It is impossible for us to comprehend His ways and workings unless He opens our eyes to His reality. This fact alone should sober every Christian, for the Pharisees truly believed they were doing the work of God when they had Jesus nailed to the cross. In the same way, well-meaning Christians persecute

the prophets of our day because their revelation doesn't fit the box.

## VISION IN THE LAST DAYS

*"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah."* Matthew 24:37 (NASB)

To understand the times we live in, we need to come to grips with the events of Noah's day.

Just like in the days of Noah, one of the most difficult things for Christians to work out in these days will be to continue building that which is branded 'pointless' and 'strange' by those who do not understand.

The outworking of true vision can sometimes seem like disaster or defeat. The death of Jesus on the cross was the perfect example of true vision, and yet to this day natural, human minds cannot comprehend the wisdom and power of it.

As we seek to walk out this kind of vision we must understand that although there is great insight to be obtained through the advice of friends and counsellors, there is no guarantee that the witness of the multitude will be right.

Likewise, we cannot rely on the world's standards of success to gauge whether or not we are following God. Financial prosperity and numerical growth don't necessarily equate to God's approval.

For each one of us, if we seek to be carriers of true vision, there will come a day when we simply have to put a mark in the ground, and trust that we have really heard from God. I'm sure that there were very few in Noah's time that were prepared to back his building project. Yet, there was obviously a point when Noah knew that God had spoken, and he picked up his building tools and began work.

## VISION AND FAITH

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)

If we are to talk of true vision, we must talk of faith. True vision is faith, and faith is true vision. Both faith and vision, to be real, must have action.

Like his fellow companions in the Hebrews 11 Hall Of Fame, Noah had a conviction of something not seen - in fact, something that had never been seen. It was this conviction that led him to construct a never-before-comprehended vessel that would save him from a never-before-comprehended disaster.

I really want us to get a hold of this, for it is this kind of vision that is required in the Church today.

As we move further and further into the end-times, we need men and women with vision - who will build not just for 'now' but for 'what is to come'. Too many Christians are obsessed with simply re-building what has already been built, only bigger and better, or with more bells and whistles.

History shows that most of those used powerfully by God weren't looking for fame or fortune, or even a life mission. They were just looking for God. Noah didn't copy the design for his ark from somewhere else, nor did he modify what had already been constructed. He was busy seeking God, when the Lord confided in Him the details of a remarkable and truly original plan.

## WALKING INTO TRUE VISION

*"Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets"* Amos 3:7 (NASB)

There's a strong link Scripturally between being a servant of God and being a 'prophet'. The Book of Revelation begins with this statement: *"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show his bondservants"* (Revelation 1:1). Bondservants of God receive revelation from God. It's less about a deep and mysterious call, and more about being obedient, and genuinely hungry to encounter God in reality.

If you're looking for a true vision for your life, start by seeking God simply for Himself. Real throne-room vision always precedes a true ministry vision. The Lord wants to share His secrets with you, and if we will be still and listen, we will find ourselves building what will last not just for an age, but for eternity.

