

DIAMOND INSTITUTE

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**Class: Visionary Leadership
Year 1 – Spring Semester
Text Book: The Bible**

All Scripture used is from the NKJV
unless otherwise noted

Session 1 – WHAT IS VISION AND IT'S IMPORTANCE

Vision Biblically Defined: Proverbs 29:18 in six translations:

King James Version - Where there is no _____ the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

New King James Version - Where *there is* no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy *is* he who keeps the law.

Amplified Bible - Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people _____; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]--blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.

The Message - If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

New Century Version - Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled, but those who obey what they have been taught are happy.

New Living - When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

1) GOD PROMISES VISIONS IN THE LAST DAYS

Acts 2:16-17, 20-21 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My _____ on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall _____ your young men shall see _____...20 Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be _____.

- The Holy Spirit will empower the people of God to preach/prophesy what they have seen in visions/revelations from the Lord with the goal of leading people to salvation in Jesus Christ!

2) SEVERAL KINDS OF VISION ARE FOUND IN THE BIBLE:

a) Spiritual Vision or Revelation Knowledge

Matthew 16:13-19, Luke 10:22, 1 Corinthians 2:7-16, Ephesians 1:15-23

b) Specific vision or revelation of people and churches

Matthew 9:4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

Revelation 1-3 John received vision of Christ and the condition of the churches in Asia Minor.

Revelation 3:17-18 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and _____ your _____ with eye salve, that you may see.

c) Supernatural visions for guidance and ministry

Acts 9:1-7 Paul saw and heard Christ in a vision and was called into the ministry.

Acts 9:10 Ananias was shown a vision of Paul to go and minister to him.

Acts 10:1-8 God gave Cornelius a vision telling him to send messengers to Peter.

Acts 9:9-48 Peter saw a vision that prepared him to go and preach the gospel to Gentiles.

Acts 11:27-30 Agabus saw a vision of famine and prepared the church to give to the poor.

Acts 16:6-10 Paul had a vision of man in Macedonia calling for help.

d) Vision for ministry that comes as a burden or concern

Andy Stanley shares the following about Vision:

What is a vision? Where do they come from?

1. Visions are born in the soul of a man or woman who is _____ with the tension between what is and what could be.
2. Vision is a clear mental picture of what _____ be, fueled by the conviction that is _____ be.
3. Vision is a preferred _____ or destination.

4. Vision always stands in contrast to the world as it is.
5. Vision demands _____.
6. It implies movement.
7. But a vision requires someone to champion the cause.
8. For a vision to become a reality, someone must put his or her neck on the line.
9. Vision requires visionaries, people who have allowed their minds and hearts to wander outside the artificial boundaries imposed by the world as it is.
10. A vision requires an individual who has the courage to act on an idea.

Visioneering Pg. 17-18

Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion – Bill Hybels

Courageous Leadership pg. 32

3) EXAMPLES OF MEN THAT RECEIVED VISION

- Nehemiah to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 1:3-5...And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.” ⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and _____, and **mourned for many days**; I was _____ and _____ before the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said: “I pray, LORD God of heaven...

- Ezra to restore the children of Israel and teach the Word of God

Ezra 9:1-5 When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. ² For they have taken some of their daughters *as wives* for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of *those* lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass.” ³ So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down _____. ⁴ Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the

evening sacrifice.⁵ At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I **fell on my knees** and spread out my hands to the LORD my God.

- Nehemiah and Ezra were deeply touched by the spiritual condition of the people of God. They saw what was and acted to change what was to what could be and their burden led them to pray and fast for the intervention of God!
- Nehemiah and Ezra were given visions in the form of burdens to change situations. God had also gifted both of them with the abilities to fulfill the vision. Nehemiah was a gifted administrator that could organize and inspire the people to rebuild the wall. Ezra was a highly gifted teacher in the Word of God and was the right person to teach the people how to live to please God.

Proverbs 18:16 A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

4) THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT FOLLOWING GOD'S VISION:

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone: they be _____ of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

1 Samuel 3:1 Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. The word of the Lord was _____ and precious in those days; there was no frequent or widely spread vision. Amplified

Eli the High Priest did not preach the Word of God and teach the people the law. He allowed his sons to live in open sins of extortion from the people coming to the temple and adultery.

- a) A lack of vision caused the nation of Israel to be defeated by their enemies and lose the ark of the covenant representing the glory of God.
- b) A lack of vision caused the sons of Eli to be judged for their wickedness, they both died!
- c) A lack of vision caused the wife of Phinehas to name her baby "Ichabod"

1 Samuel 4:21 Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

5) CHRISTIAN LEADERS MUST GUIDE THE PEOPLE OF GOD ACCORDING TO THE WORD IN THE FACE OF ALL OPPOSITION:

Isaiah 30:10-11 They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. ¹¹ Leave this way, get off this path, and stop _____ us with the Holy One of Israel!"

- a) Isaiah was used to reveal God's purposes and expose the spiritual bondage of the Israelites. Isaiah 42:18 - 43:1
- b) Jesus proclaimed God's prophetic vision to save, heal, restore and deliver humanity but was rejected in his home town and persecuted because He confronted the peoples racial pride and unbelief! Luke 4:18-20
- c) Paul warned Timothy that his ministry of preaching the inspired Word of God would encounter _____ from those that want to live ungodly in the Church. 2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1-5

CONCLUSION:

God is still imparting His visions to His sons and daughters to fulfill His purposes. Let us open our hearts and pray that God show us His vision and our part to play to make an impact on this world for Christ! Above all lift up Jesus Christ as Lord in your ministry, church and preaching! John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

Answers:

Page 1 – Vision, Perish, Spirit, Prophecy, Visions, Saved
Page 2 – Anoint, Eyes, Consumed, Could, Should, Future
Page 3 – Change, Wept, Fasting, Praying, Astonished
Page 4 – Blind Leaders, Rare, Confronting
Page 5 – Resistance