



TAKE UP THY SWORD



A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)

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Victory in the Vision

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward... he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir (Genesis 15:1, 4).

We are probably all familiar with this scripture: "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7); but how often do we analyze the word, sight? Helen Keller said, "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." If we concentrate or rely more on the vision of our natural eyes, then how can we clearly see and accomplish that heavenly vision for which God has created us? We are all here for a specific purpose, and inquiring of the Lord regarding our destiny is the first step. Hold onto this promise during the process:

... The days are at hand, and the effect [fulfillment] of every vision. For there shall be no more any vain [false] vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged... (Eze 12:23-25).

King Solomon tells us in Proverbs 29:18 that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Then God reminds us again in Hosea 4:6 that "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Is there a central theme coming across here? Perhaps we should also keep this Word in the forefront of our mind:

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding (Prov 4:7).

Before we "write the vision, and make it plain" (Hab 2:2), we need to spend some quality, intimate time with the Lord. We want our vision to come from His Spirit and not from our flesh. Second Chronicles 26:5 states that King Uzziah "sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." I'm a dreamer, but I can't just wait until I go to sleep for my Father to speak to me! When the Lord gives a vision or mission to His servant, it is for the Body/Kingdom. God will set up divine appointments and connections plus supernatural provision to fulfill this good work that He's begun in us (Phil 1:6). Be prepared when He finally says:

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter (Rev 1:19).

We cannot afford to let anyone or anything hinder our path to victory! In His Word, God has already provided the remedy for distractions, trials, and "the sin which doth so easily beset us" (Heb 12:1). For example:

When you feel overwhelmed He says, *CALL unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not (Jer 33:3).*

When you feel drained He says, *PRESS toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14).*

When you feel timid He says, *Be strong and of good courage, and do it: FEAR NOT, nor be dismayed (1 Chron 28:20).*

When you feel powerless He says, *Thou shalt also DECREE a thing, and it shall be established unto thee (Job 22:28).*

Remember when Eli said, "And it shall be, if He call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam 3:9)? We should always come boldly, yet humbly, to our Father's throne to gather the pertinent information needed to manifest our harvest. Let's gain insight from Nehemiah's protocol for repairing the wall of Jerusalem:

... The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build... (Neh 2:20).

As soon as Nehemiah heard about the distress of the Jews who had survived the exile, he immediately fasted and prayed for the forgiveness and restoration of that nation. Similar to Queen Esther, the king in Shushan said to Nehemiah, "For what dost thou make request?" (2:4). He prayed again, then answered that he wanted to go rebuild the city of Judah. He asked for very specific items, including protection for the journey. He neither disclosed the plan to anyone before it was time nor allowed the opposition to deter him. The great work God had called him to organize was completed in only 52 days (6:15).

When we proclaim our vision, we must do so believing that we "shall have whatsoever [we] saith" (Mark 11:23)!

THUS SAITH THE LORD: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh... your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28).

PRAYER: *My heart is inditing [composing] a good matter... my tongue is the pen of a ready writer (Ps 45:1).*

"Be encouraged in the law of the Lord" (2 Chron 31:4):

Job 33:14-18; Psalm 62:5; Proverbs 15:22, 18:20-21; Isaiah 30:8, 42:9; Jeremiah 1:5, 29:11, 30:1-3; Daniel 10:7&14; Acts 16:9-10, 18:9-10, 26:19; James 2:26, 4:3

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