



**Kingdom VISION**  
*On earth as it is in heaven*  
**January Series 2023**

- Many people start off a new year by making New Year's Resolutions... have you made any New Year's resolutions? Do you plan to??
  - New Year's resolutions get a bad rap... because they don't seem to make a whole lot of difference in our lives!
  - In fact, most people could make the same resolutions each and every year and not see much, if any, real change!
  - So, we write off resolutions, we write off goals and planning... what's the use!?
  - We may joke... it's good to laugh at our own pain!... but we write off resolutions, we write off goals and planning... what's the use!?
  - But then there's this small voice in the back of our heads... it seems that, while these resolutions, goals, plans don't work for me... they might be working for others???
  - Perhaps it's not that they in themselves are bad (the resolutions, that is) but that something is missing in the equation???
  - We're not exactly talking about New Year's resolutions today but something closely tied to that...
- As we launch into a new year, it's helpful to begin by talking about VISION... If we are to live the kind of VICTORIOUS lives that God has called us to live... VISION is the starting point.
- Not exactly the same as a resolution but closely related... Resolutions are just a secularized version of God's greater purpose in vision and dreams... so I want to talk to us about Vision today... Kingdom VISION:
  - What is vision? What does it mean to have a vision or a dream?
  - Why is it important that we have God's vision for our lives?
  - And How do you get that vision?



Great Vision Matthew 6:10 "...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

- George Barna defines vision as, "... a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants ... based upon an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances."
  - Vision is more than simply what could be. It's something that must happen.
  - Vision moves you from passive concern to action. It gives you a sense of urgency.
- Barna goes on to say, "Unless God's people have a clear understanding of where they are headed, the probability of a successful journey is severely limited. Unless you attend to His call upon your life and ministry, you are likely to experience confusion, weariness, dissipation and impotence..."
  - So having the clarity of God's vision is absolutely critical.
  - Most churches know the Great Commission but they have fuzzy sight as to how the Great Commission is to be uniquely expressed and lived out in the church's culture or its ministry context.
  - Having clarity of God's vision is absolutely critical if a church is fulfill God will and purpose for it.

- Define vision & dream... (oxford)

## vi·sion <sup>noun</sup>

1. the faculty or state of being able to see.  
"she had defective vision"

**Similar:** eyesight; sight; power of sight; faculty of sight; ability to see; power of seeing; powers of observation; observation; perception; visual perception; eyes; field of vision; view; perspective

2. the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom.  
"the organization had lost its vision and direction"

**Similar:** imagination; creativity; creative power; inventiveness; innovation

## dream <sup>noun</sup>

1. a series of thoughts, images, and sensations occurring in a person's mind during sleep.  
"I had a recurrent dream about falling from great heights"

**Similar:** fantasy; nightmare; vision; hallucination

2. a cherished aspiration, ambition, or ideal.  
"I fulfilled a childhood dream when I became champion"

**Similar:** ambition; aspiration; hope; goal; design; plan; aim; object; objective; grail; holy grail; target; intention; intent; desire; wish; notion; yearning; daydream; fantasy; illusion; delusion; pipe dream; chimera; castles in the air; castles in Spain; pie in the sky

## dream <sup>verb</sup>

1. experience dreams during sleep.  
"I **dreamed about** her last night"
2. indulge in daydreams or fantasies about something greatly desired.  
"she had **dreamed of** a trip to Italy"

**Similar:** fantasize about; daydream about; wish for; hope for; long for; yearn for; hunger for; hanker after; set one's heart on; aspire to; desire to; wish to; aim for; seek to; have as one's goal/aim; set one's sights on; thirst for/after

<sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18

- People often confuse vision and mission...
  - **Vision** focuses on tomorrow and what we want to ultimately become.
  - **Mission** focuses on today and what we must do to achieve it.
  
- A preferred picture of the future... that's VISION... "what do you see?"
  - ... for yourself?
  - ... for your family??
  - ... for your church family???
  - ... for your community? State?? Nation... the world???
  
- Having a clear vision... a compelling dream... is SO very important
  - Throughout time, behind the people who shape history, there is a dream... a vision that draws them... calls them to highest peaks, across oceans, through battle fields, up to podiums
  
- Abraham Lincoln said... "My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth."
  - His dream, a dream worth dying for, preserved our union and ended slavery in our nation... transforming the lives of millions and righting the course of the United States for subsequent generations
  
- Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech inspired a generation and propelled our nation toward racial reconciliation that nobody thought possible
  - **"I have a dream" – he said -- "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. '" – Martin Luther King Jr.**



- There are countless examples of world-changing dreamers, these are just a couple of my favorites
- While I believe that *all* world changers are dreamers and visionaries... not all Dreamers and visionaries are world changers... at least not on such a grand scale
  - Many more dreamers have hoped for a happy home, a vibrant marriage, healthy children... they've longed for a safe & clean neighborhood, and schools, workplace... many countless dreamers and visionaries have made significant impact in ways that no one may ever know
  - Whose to say that that's any less impactful... In fact, I'm of the mind that a nation of people dreaming about how to have a happy, healthy, God-fearing home, marriage, etc. is a lot more impactful than one big thinking visionary talking about changing the world
  - So EVERY dream and vision matters... large and small
- In other words, Behind *every* world changer is a dream or a vision... WE'RE ALL WORLD CHANGERS.
- But in times like ours... we seem to have lost this ability to dream... our vision seems to be fuzzy... clouded... all but lost.
  - Who are we? And where are we going?? These seem to be the great big unanswered questions of our day
  - We've lost our vision, our ability to see... we've lost our way
- Having a vision/a dream is not only necessary to be a world-changer (big or small) but vision is vital for our survival.
  - Proverbs 29:18...
    - "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (KJV)
    - "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction." (NKJV)

- “Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.” (NIV)
- “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.” (MSG)
- Defining key terms...
  - **VISION:** חֲזוֹן **châzôwn**, khaw-zone'; from H2372; a sight (mentally), i.e. a **dream, revelation, or oracle:—vision**.
  - **THE PEOPLE:** עַם **'am**, am; from H6004; **a people** (as a congregated unit); specifically, **a tribe** (as those of Israel); hence (collectively) troops or attendants; figuratively, **a flock:—folk, men, nation, people**.
    - **WE’RE TALKING ABOUT A CORPORATE VISION, REVELATION FROM GOD... DREAM**
  - **PERISH:** פָּרַע **pâra'**, paw-rah'; a primitive root; to loosen; by implication, to expose, dismiss; figuratively, **absolve**, begin:—avenge, avoid, bare, go back, let, (make) naked, set at nought, perish, refuse, uncover.
  - **Or CAST OFF RESTRAINT... IE.- ANARCHY**  
 “Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone, you may still exist, but you have ceased to live.” — Mark Twain
  - **KEEPETH:** שָׁמַר **shâmar**, shaw-mar'; a primitive root; properly, to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. **guard**; generally, **to protect, attend to**, etc.:—beward, be circumspect, **take heed** (to self), keep(-er, self), mark, look narrowly, **observe**, **preserve**, **regard**, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch(-man).
  - **THE LAW:** תּוֹרָה **tôwrâh**, to-law'; or תּוֹרָה tôrâh; from H3384; a **precept or statute**, especially the Decalogue or **Pentateuch**:—law.
    - **GOD’S CORE COMMANDMENTS... THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS... THE THINGS THAT JESUS SUMS UP IN THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**
  - **HAPPY:** אַשֶׁר **'esher**, eh'-sher; from H833; happiness; only in masculine plural construction as interjection, how happy!:—**blessed, happy**.

- So again, having a vision/a dream is not only necessary for every world changer, and we're ALL world changers... having a vision or a dream is vital for our survival...
  - Without a vision from God, it is impossible to survive
  - But a people with God's vision will surely thrive!
  
- Scriptural stories of vision:
  - **Abraham** had a vision of a great legacy... a nation... that sustained him in a foreign land
  - **Joseph** had a clear dream that got him through incredibly tough times... abused by brothers, sold into slavery, falsely imprisoned...
  - **Moses** had a vision at the burning bush that carried him through 40 years in the desert
  - **Joshua** had a vision of the nation of Israel living in the promised land that gave him courage to march into battle
  - **David** had a vision of a glorious kingdom that restored him even when he strayed almost too far to be redeemed
  - **Solomon** had a vision of a glorious temple that kept him even in the midst of despair
  - **Daniel** had the unique ability to interpret dreams and visions, earning him a place of honor in a foreign land
  - **Ezrah & Nehemiah's** vision brought about the restoration of Jerusalem's walls and Rebuild the temple
  - **Jesus** had a vision of Heaven touching earth that took Him to the cross and beyond
  - **And that VISION is what we're left with today...**

- In **Acts 2:17** (NIV) on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell on the early Church, Peter preached, and quoting Joel 2:28 he said **"In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams."**
- God was performing something miraculous on that day and I find it interesting that Dreams and visions were central to that miracle
  - God had sent His Son, Jesus, to change the world
  - His death, burial, and resurrection had sealed the deal
  - Now here He is, leaving us behind to be seated at the right hand of the throne of God
  - But his work is not done yet... he had already given His marching orders
    - Ie.-the Great Commission
  - Now he would be giving the Holy Spirit to empower us to carry it out
  - We're the ones who will complete His great vision... but we have to catch it first!
- ❖ Dreams truly are SO powerful; dreams have the power to pull you through the most challenging of situations and circumstances; dreams have the power to change our reality and transform our future...
  - Do you have a God-given vision of a preferred future that keeps you up at night? Gets you up and out of bed in the morning?? Outshines any bad weather or gloomy news headlines??? What is YOUR dream???





- **I have a DREAM** of a radically transformed Church...
  - Turning our world upside down... one city, one community, one neighborhood... one life at a time
  - Where our worship is unrestricted by forms and traditions and trends... *where worship is a lifestyle and not an event*
  - Where we are a funnel of the blessings of heaven... *truly blessed to BE a blessing*
  - That links arms in partnership for the sake of His Kingdom come... *on earth as it is in heaven* and let's nothing stand in the way of her unity
  - That has become addicted to serving and making a difference... *BEING His hands and feet...* living out the Gospel
  - That perseveres through any hardship, trial, or storm... *compelled by love for our God and love for others*
  - Made up of transformed disciples, more than spectators but participators in the kingdom work... *multiplying ministries and leaders...* Laborers to bring in the harvest
  - Bringing His Rest to a world around us that is burdened beyond belief...
  - Responding as the answer to the brokenness around us... *The hope of the world*



- ❖ I asked you a minute ago if you have a God-given dream for your life...
- ❖ Psalm 37:4 says to “Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart..”
  - God wants to give you “desires of your heart” – ie.- **YOUR DREAM**
  - But in order to receive from God you must first be in right relationship with Him
    - James 1 (vs. 5-8) tells us that “if any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”
      - “if any of you lacks wisdom – ie.-a dream or vision for your life
      - “Ask God” – ie.- He is THE source of ALL wisdom
      - “who gives generously” – ie.- He WANTS to give us the desires of our heart!
      - “but when you ask, you must believe” – ie.- it’s impossible to receive from a God that we don’t believe in
        - Do YOU believe? Or are you distracted/consumed by doubt??

- James 1 (vs. 16-17) continues in this vein of how to receive from God admonishing us... “Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”
  - “EVERY good and perfect gift” comes from our Father in heaven... HE is the source of light, everything we need, everything we could possibly want... comes from HIM
  
- ❖ If that’s you, He wants to give you that clarity... that Dream... the desire of your heart.
  - Delight yourself in Him... make God and His purposes your greatest desire and ambition
  - Ask Him for wisdom... and do so with belief... reject doubt and double-mindedness
  - And one more thing... be prepared to act.
    - The purpose of vision is always decisive action.
  
  - I’ve heard people say that “people hate change”??
    - It’s a misnomer that people don’t like change... people actually LOVE change...
      - Think about it... why do you think we spend all this time every year coming up with new year’s resolutions? Because we WANT to change...

- Those of us who are unhealthy want to get back in shape!
- Those of us who are struggling financially, want to earn more money and get out of debt!
- We want a better house, car, job... better friends, sweeter kids...
- If we're single, perhaps we're ready to be not-so-single!
- Hopefully those of us who are married, aren't pining to escape that marriage! But, I bet you wouldn't mind spicing things up a bit!
- People actually LOVE change... we just don't like the process of change
- *Transition* is the process of change and transition is not easy!
  - Transition is HARD WORK
  - Takes time and persistence
  - Requires commitment & sacrifice
- Most people give up before the miracle happens
  - In fact, Perseverance is the key ingredient to success in any venture whether that be education, career, starting a business, marriage, parenting, growing in your relationship with God, etc., etc.
    - The one who refuses to give up, is the one who succeeds!
- A Picture of TRANSITION:
  - In-between point A and B.. there is a transition season called "krazytyme"!!!
    - A clear and compelling DREAM is the only thing that can pull you through



- So there are some of us who lack clarity of Vision... my prayer for you today is that you would approach God with a sincere heart and ask Him what He would have for your life
- Others may have heard from God but you have lacked the courage to act... it's time to act.
  - The best time to plant a tree... yesterday
  - The second best time to plant a tree... today.
    - If that's you, my prayer today is that God would fill you with His Spirit and that you would start with just the first step... and then take the next indicated step... and the next...and the next.
- Still others have a clear dream/vision from God and you've stepped out in faith... you've put that vision into action... if that's you, you may feel like I'm preaching to the choir today...
  - But you're weary. You've become tired, maybe you're feeling defeated.
  - You've experienced some setbacks -OR- the journey is just incomprehensibly longer than you could have ever imagined
    - If that's you, my prayer today is that God would encourage you (ie.-to infuse with His courage) to persevere... that you would refuse to give up... that you would ask for help and support... and that you would endure to the end.
- This is the first step to living a life of Victory in Jesus... the starting point is "a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants"...you and me... THAT'S VISION.
  - So as we enter a new year... wherever you're at today... stir that vision and set your heart to pursue His purpose for your life... for your family / household... for your church and community THIS YEAR!

**Blessing: "Now to Him who is able... to do immeasurably more...**

**...than all we ask or imagine,**

**...according to his power that is at work within us,**

**...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus**

**...throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."**

**Eph. 3:20-21**

