

# THE FORTY - SECOND GENERATION

## It is Time to Polish Up Our Vision

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A wise man once stated

*"Men of vision do not look through the eyes of today, but they look beyond tomorrow." Those who look through the eyes of today can only see their world crumbling around them. All they see is a government who no longer cares for the people, run by politicians instead of statesmen, whose only interest is padding their own pockets. These will say anything and make any promise to be reelected."*

Those who look only with the eyes of today see an economy embroiled in debt with no hope for a future. Many only see a nation whose moral values are that of an alley cat. Their future looks dim and hopeless.

But men of vision who look afar off can see their hope is not in a failed world system. Their hope and future is in an everlasting God and His eternal Kingdom.

The word **vision** means *"a sight divinely granted in an ecstasy or in a sleep, a vision"*.

Most of the Old Testament was given by visions. Visions are divinely granted, as the all-wise Solomon wrote:

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18*

The word **perish** is an interesting word which means *"to refuse, be made naked, set at nought, to ignore."* So those who have no vision, God refuses. They are set at nought as nothing, and which God then ignores. In the book of Numbers, God speaks to the people:

*"And He said, Hear now My words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream." Numbers 12:6*

God was speaking concerning Moses. Many today will say God does not show me the same thing as what He has shown you. Let me ask you a question, "How many did God show He was going to lead them into their promise land? How many did God show the plan of the tabernacle to? How many did God speak to face to face?" We need to realize God showed Moses these visions, not even to Aaron his

brother. We need to note also that when Moses saw the burning bush he was there alone. God gave Moses the vision, and this vision is what sustained Moses to lead the children of Israel through the promise land. God still shows visions and dreams today to His prophets and leaders, praise the Lord.

Today God's visions and dreams are divinely granted through His divinely inspired Word as well as through dreams and visions. And all dreams and visions one is shown must line up with the Word of God.

God shows us through His Word what He intends to bring upon the earth, and what we are to do to prepare for that day.

*"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:1-2*

The prophet Habakkuk said, *"I will stand upon my watch."* Today we are to be a watching people. Jesus instructs us:

*"Take ye heed, Watch and Pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:33*

Habakkuk also said he did not know what to answer when he was rebuked. The word **rebuke** means *"to correct, chasten, and reproof."* Habakkuk was a man chastened of God. In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul tells us:

*"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Hebrews 12:6*

Then the Lord told Habakkuk to write the vision plainly so those who read can run. Paul speaks of those who run:

*"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." I Corinthians 9:24*

The prize we are seeking is eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Everyone who is going on with the Lord must desire a close relationship with Him

*"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." I Corinthians 9:25*

Those who strive in the flesh to win a prize are temperate in all things. When one trains for the Olympics, they must keep a strict diet and strict hours, etc. Theirs is a life dedicated to one purpose, and that is to win. All athletes must keep in strict training if they are to win. These all do this to gain a corruptible crown. But how should our lives be, if we are to gain an incorruptible crown? Paul knew he must,

*"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away." I Corinthians 9:27*

Paul kept his body under subjection. The word **subjection** means “*rigid discipline.*” Paul did not give into the desires of the flesh. He kept his body under rigid discipline. The word **under** means “*disciplined by hardships, beaten black and blue, smitten so as to cause bruises and livid spots.*” Paul’s disciplines and chastisements were extremely harsh at times, but his obedience made a difference in his reward:

*“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.” II Timothy 4:8*

Habakkuk continues to relate: “*For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*” Habakkuk 2:3

The vision God gave Habakkuk was not for his time. Many times when the Lord shows us a vision, it is not for now, but God has appointed a time for the vision to come to pass, and we must wait on it.

When was Habakkuk’s vision for? Verse 3 tells us this vision will speak at the time of the end. At the time of the end this vision will speak to those upon whom the end of the age has come. We can be assured that what God showed Habakkuk will come to pass at the appointed time, and it will come and not tarry. Sometimes we get tired of waiting. This is why God impressed Habakkuk to write this.

*“Behold, his soul, which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” Habakkuk 2:4*

Behold his soul which is lifted up is not upright. The soul is the inner life of man, his mind, his intellect, his inner most being. When man lifts these up, then he is not upright in the sight of God. He is serving self, not God.

But the just shall live by faith. How can we be pleasing in the sight of God?

*“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Roman 1:17*

The word **just** means “*righteous, observing God’s laws, virtuous, faultless, guiltless, used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life, approved of or acceptable of God.*”

These are those who are striving with all their heart to be justified by faith.

*“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not be the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Galatians 2:16*

Those who keep the old law or any part of it cannot be justified in the sight of God. They depend on works, not faith.

*“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:11*

No man can be justified by the law. He can only be justified before God by faith. In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul sums it up perfectly:

*“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:38*

If we do not live by faith, then God has no pleasure in us. Note that Habakkuk was the one who stated that in the end the vision is for those who are justified by faith.

How can anyone read the Bible and not catch God’s vision for these end time days? Isaiah explains why:

*“And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot for it is sealed.” Isaiah 29:11*

Many today have no vision. Why? It is because the words of the book, the Bible, has been sealed to them. You cannot get the vision from books and by education. It must be by the Holy Spirit. God has sealed His book to those who walk by physical sight.

*“And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.” Isaiah 29:12*

The book was delivered to those who were not learned or taught. This is true today also. There are many who cannot see the vision because they have not been taught what to look for, or expect.

If you believe in the rapture or the precepts and doctrines of men, you do not need a vision. So when you read the Word, you are not looking for a vision. You are looking for a way out, not a way through. Isaiah continues:

*“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.” Isaiah 29:13-14*

Jesus quoted this Scripture:

*“He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Mark 7:6-7*

Jesus said that Isaiah wrote of the hypocrites (play actors). They honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. When these teach the doctrines and commandments of men, their worship of God is vain, worthless, without value. Every denomination falls into this category because they are required to teach what their founding fathers taught, never going any further in God.

Each person who desires to go on in the Lord must polish up their vision and prepare their hearts to follow on to know the Lord. *By George Kirkpatrick*

*“Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” Hosea 6:3*

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