

## Being a Seer, a Prophet, or Both – Part 3

### Vision – the Power that Sustains

Read Ex 32:1-6 -- Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord." Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. NKJV

Moses has ascended Mount Sinai to meet with God. He was gone for a month. The people below, who had just been set free from slavery, began to wonder about Moses' fate. So they came to Aaron, Moses brother and asked him to make them a "god" – a golden image to go before them. I see no record of them praying for Moses or sending search party, they just revert to idol worship. For me, one of the most difficult things to understand is how quickly the High Priest – Aaron – would help them build an idol.

On the mountain, God saw what the people were doing and was prepared to destroy them, but Moses interceded on their behalf.

Read Ex 32:19-21 -- So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it. And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?" NKJV

Now note Ex 32:25 -- Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies). NKJV

If you read the rest of the account on your own, you will see those who did this terrible insult to God in the midst of a move of God paid an awful price – 3,000 Israelites died that day. But there is an even deeper reason for looking at this story. It illustrates a truth in keeping with our studies on visions and dreams.

Read Prov. 29:18 -- Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law. NKJV

Prov. 29:18 -- Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man] — blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he. [1 Sam 3:1; Amos 8:11,12.] AMP

Prov. 29:18 -- Where there is no prophecy the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law. RSV

**The point should be very clear for all of us – Where there is no prophecy – no vision – no revelation from God to carry us through on our journey to where He is taking us, people cast off restraint. They abandon the direction of God, they revert back to their former mode of behavior, they let go of God and follow the flesh.**

Question – Is this one of the reasons that many churches are in such a mess? Is this why, without a revealed direction from God many churches resort to opinion? The restraint that is being talked about here is the “KEEPING” Presence of God!

Question – In churches that have no allowance for visions and dreams, do they set themselves up for loss of restraint?

The Word of God -- His Law – provides vision and guidance for victorious living, and those who follow it are blessed.

**Principle – All people need a vision to sustain them in life.**

Prov. 29:18 -- Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. KJV

Unrestrained behavior leads eventually to destruction. People who have no vision, also have no goal, no purpose – nothing to go for. It is only when we have the chance of hitting something that we aim at it!

**SAY THIS WITH ME ~~ People who have no vision, and will not embrace a vision for the future, usually have nowhere to go so they go nowhere.**

As Christians we are all called to be a people of vision. We must learn to set a goal or target in front of our eyes to gaze upon. Paul had a vision- he set his sights on knowing Christ which he acknowledged as a life-long process.

There is something else here that I want you to see – to embrace a vision from God you often have to remove the restraints of your own making to embrace the vision. I would like you to see how this works in the life of Paul – first the removal of his own self-imposed restraints, and then following the vision.

Read Phil 3:7-14 -- But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Verses 12 - 14 -- Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NKJV

### **The Vision that Sustained Elisha**

There is something we all could develop in our lives that would enhance our ability to have experience visions – to being a seer. It is our hunger for more of God.

Elisha, who succeeded Elijah in the prophetic ministry, was a man of vision. Even as a young man, he had this insatiable hunger for God (now catch this) and that hunger made him tenacious in pursuit of this goal. He kept before his eyes a vision of the Lord that sustained him through a life of ministry even greater and more miracle filled than Elijah's.