

YOUTH WITH A VISION

Illustrated from the Life of David in 1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 10-29

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1.

BACKGROUND: THE NEED FOR A HEAVEN-SENT VISION

In the days before David, Israel was in a bad way, spiritually.

- The prophetic voice was rare (1 Sam 3.1; cp Ps 74.9).
- The Ark and the Glory had been lost (1 Sam 4.17-22).

Although God sent a prophet, Samuel, the people wanted a king.

- But he rejected the prophetic Word (1 Sam 13.11-14; 15.26).
- The result was confusion (Pro 29.18). (The word "vision" here = a **prophetic** vision).
- Israel needed a leader guided only by a heavenly vision.

Bro Branham Compared Conditions in David's Time to Our Day (63-0120M - *The Voice of God in This Last Days*, par 19-28)

19 Now in the Book of Samuel, First Samuel, 3rd chapter, I want to read the 1st, 2nd, and 19th verse...

20 ... this morning... I want to use the text of, *The Voice of God in This Last Days*.

21 It's a very outstanding time. We realize that where we're speaking from in the Scriptures, that it said, "There was no open vision in the days of Samuel." Therefore, "Where there's no vision," the Bible said, "the people perish." **We must have a vision. And visions comes to the prophets, and it's the Word of the Lord spoken to them.**

22 And we find out that Eli was not a prophet, Eli was a priest. And he was getting old, and his eyes were going dim, and he could not see to get around, was a great heavy man. And he had begin to let the work of the Lord go undone.

23 And that's something like it is of today. I think the church, the organization and denominations, they've been on the field for a long time, and they're beginning getting lax.

And the work of the Lord is being left undone, the Word of Truth, because the church, in itself, has become dim-sighted. And **we need, today, the Voice of God to speak among us, bring us back.**

24 And, see, Eli had laid down, and the...his eyesight was failing. He was a priest. And they had no open vision from the Lord. And that great need!

25 And God has promised to meet the need of the hour. He always does that. And **we need the Voice of God today, to meet the need of the hour, to meet the time that we're living in.** And after He has promised it, we can rest assured that He will keep His promise. That's the confidence that the believer has in his Maker, that He promised to meet the need.

26 And, today, **one reason that the church is in the condition that it's in, is because there is so many voices, so many other voices to attract the church from the Voice of God,** till it's very doubtful that many would hear the Voice of God though It spoke right in their midst. They perhaps wouldn't even understand It, because It would be a foreign thing to them. They have got themselves so much centred on the voices of the day!

27 And if we notice, in our Scripture reading, **that the Voice of God was foreign to them.**

28 **And it's become that way again today, that the Voice of God...There is so many other voices.** And then if God promised He would give us That, and if other voices are contrary to the Voice of God, then it must be the voice of our enemy, to confuse us, that we would not understand the Voice of God when It spoke.

Amidst the many voices of the day, some had clear spiritual understanding (1 Chr 12.32). How?

- By following a young man guided only by the Word, the Spirit and the prophetic voice.

Who was that young man? What were the key factors which influenced his life?

2. THE VISION CONCEIVED

The Key Factors Which Influenced David's Early Life

A Sincere, Whole-hearted Faith

- Matt 1.5-6 Was the seed planted by Rahab & Ruth? (Cp 2 Tim 1.5)
- I Kings 11.4, 6; 15.3, 5 A perfect heart
- Acts 13.22; 1 Sam 13.14; 16.7 A man after God's own heart to fulfil all His will
- 1 Sam 16.18 Examples of his early faith

Respect for the Word

- Ps 12.6; 19.7-11; 25.5; 37.31; 40.8; 138.2
- 1 Kings 11.33, 38 Kept His statutes, commandments & judgements

Moved upon by the Spirit; Respect for the Voice of the Spirit

- 1 Sam 16.13, 18 Anointed by the Spirit; and others could see it
- 1 Sam 16.23 That anointing drove away evil spirits
- 1 Sam 22.14-15 Often enquired of the Lord at the ephod before being forced to flee
- Acts 2.29-31 Was himself also a prophet

Respect for Samuel, the Prophet of His Day

The Lord spoke very highly of Samuel (Jer 15.1). He spoke to him in the cloudy pillar (Ps 99.6-7).

- 1 Sam 12.2-3 His character
- 1 Sam 3.19-4.1; 9.1-10.7; 16.4 His authority

David first met him at his anointing (1 Sam 16.1-13). Though little is explicitly said of their subsequent relationship, very significant clues reveal Samuel's deep influence on David.

The Vision Imparted by Samuel to David

Even before David was king,

- Samuel imparted his vision of the restored Ark and Glory to the key leaders, influencing them to make preparations for a restored house of God (1 Chr 26.27-28).
- That same vision was imparted to the young, newly-anointed David. He and Samuel must have met often to receive the detailed prophetic guidance for a restored house of God described in 1 Chr 9.22 long before it became a reality.

So, with a sincere faith and grounded in respect for the Word, the Spirit and the prophet of his day, Samuel imparted to David his vision,

- To build an house for the Ark (1 Chr 22.7; 28.2);
- To restore the lost Glory which had rested above the Ark.

Compare Paul's NT Vision of a Church in Glory

- His heavenly vision Acts 26.19, not of man (cp Gal 1.11-12)
- His total dedication 2 Tim 3.10 (my purpose); Acts 20.24; 2 Tim 4.7
- Goal of his ministry Col 1.28; Eph 5.25, to present a glorious church, i.e. in glory
Eph 2.20-22, to build a dwelling place of God; a temple filled with the restored lost glory of God (Ro 3.23; 2 Cor 3.17).

A solid foundation was now laid. But before the vision could be realised, testing must come.

3. THE VISION FRUSTRATED *Holding on to the Vision in Time of Trial*

Before a prophetic vision is fulfilled, there is much opposition and trial.

- As it was with Joseph (Gen 49.22-24; Ps 105.19), so it was with David.

Early Hopes Dashed

To fulfil the vision, David had first to become king, as prophesied by Samuel at his anointing.

Initially things seemed to be going in the right direction.

- He slew Goliath; Saul was very impressed (1Sam 17.34-36; 45-46;55-57).
- The heir to the throne loved him deeply & made a covenant with him (1 Sam 18.1,3-4).
- He was popular, promoted and taken into king Saul's residence (! Sam 18.2,5).

But the vision came under assault.

- A spirit of jealousy came upon King Saul (1 Sam 18.9-10;14-15;29).
- Though defended by Saul's heir (1 Sam 19.1-7), who was prepared for David to reign instead of himself (1 Sam 23.17), Saul's murderous jealousy finally forced David to flee into the wilderness, ever on the move.

Continued Respect for the Prophet of His Day & the Voice of the Spirit

Despite everything, David still kept his confidence in Samuel, the prophet of his day, the source of the vision, and sought to be led by and to trust the voice of the Spirit.

- 1 Sam 19.18-24 When he first fled, David was unarmed. Yet he went to a defenceless old man. Why? He knew Samuel had a more powerful Sword than any natural one
- 1 Sam 22.6-20 After Samuel, David next went to the priestly town of Nob. Why? To enquire of the Lord at the ephod.
- 1 Sam 22.5; 23.1-13 While on the run, he continued to enquire of the Lord to be guided by the prophetic voice (cp 1 Sam 9.9).
- 1 Sam 25.1 When Samuel died, David moved deeper into the wilderness. Why? Because a spiritual protective barrier had been removed.

Faith in the Vision Sorely Tried

Even though unjustly persecuted and forced to go on the run, David was not bitter. His heart was to do good to the flock of God.

- He defended Israel, fighting her enemies (1 Sam 23.1-5; 25.15-16,21).
- Only once did he ever lift his sword against Israel, under great provocation. But the Lord overruled (1 Sam 25.23-34).
- He twice refused to kill the man who sought to murder him (1 Sam 24 & 26).

But, even though his persecutor acknowledged David would one day be king (1 Sam 23.17; 24.20), David's faith in the vision gradually dimmed. Its realisation seemed ever more remote.

- He said in his heart Saul would kill him (1 Sam 27.1). If so, how could the vision be fulfilled? He fled to the land of the Philistines Israel's most deadly enemy at that time,
- There came his lowest point. His own men spoke of stoning him after their town was burned & their women & children taken captive.
- Fulfilment of the prophetic vision now seemed impossible. But in his darkest hour, he strengthened himself in the Lord and sought the guidance of the Spirit (1 Sam 30.1-8).

Within a month, the tables would be dramatically turned.

4.

THE VISION REALISED

David Made King (aged 30)

- Within one month of being almost stoned to death by his own grief-stricken men, after the death of Saul, David was king.
- As ever, David only acted after enquiring of the Lord (2 Sam 2.1).
- Yet initially he was only king over Judah. There was a further delay, this time of 7 years, before the divine vision could be realised (2 Sam 2.11; 5.4-5). The effect of Saul's spirit of jealousy had to be cleansed from the other tribes.
- While waiting, David was not inactive. He began collecting the materials needed to bring to reality the ultimate goal of his vision, to build a house for the Lord (1 Chr 28.2-3).
- Finally, David was made king over all 12 tribes. Now at last he could begin to realise the divine prophetic vision. The long years of frustration and trial had come to an end.

His Very First Acts as King of the Reunited Nation (aged 37) Reveal His Continued Total Commitment to His Early Prophetic Vision

Firstly,

- 2 Sam 5.6-9 His very first act was **the capture of Jerusalem**. Why? Because it was the God-chosen final location for the Ark, where He would set His Name (Ex 15.17; Dt 12.5-14; 1 Kings 8.29; 2 Chr 6.5-6; Ps 78.68; 132.13-14).
- 2 Sa 5.17-25 The inspiration spirit of Israel's enemy understood the significance of this. So, they had a general mobilisation and twice marched on Jerusalem. David's defensive strategy is very instructive. On each occasion it was fresh from above. He did not simply copy past successes.

Secondly,

- 2 Sam 6.1-5 Immediately afterwards, **he brought back the Ark** to an interim tent in Jerusalem. Why? The Ark was where the Presence of God dwelt and where He spoke (Ex 25.21-22; Jud 20.18, 27; 1 Chron 13.3).
- 2 Sam 6.6-17 But there was a 3-month hold up. David had to learn an absolutely crucial lesson. The vision must only be fulfilled "*after the due order*", i.e. according to the Word (1 Chr 15.1-2,11-15; cp 16.40).
- 2 Sam 7.1-17 This was not the end. The ultimate fulfilment of David's vision was a **house** in which the Ark would be restored to the original divine pattern as in the Mosaic Tabernacle, i.e. with the lost Glory restored, thus bringing about a full restoration of Israel's lost spiritual inheritance,
- 1 Chr 28.2-3 But the Lord said it was not to be built by David but his heir. He was, however, able to continue making preparations for its construction.

Though not part of his vision to restore the Ark and the Glory, David's third act once king had the same objective as the first two, i.e. to fully restore Israel's original inheritance.

- 2 Sam 8.3 After going as far as permitted in restoring **Israel's lost spiritual inheritance**, David went to recover **her lost God-given physical, territorial, inheritance** (Gen 15.18; Dt 11.24).

Continuing Openness to the Voice of the Spirit

Once king, just as in his earlier days, David continued to seek the mind of the Lord before he acted. He surrounded himself with prophetic voices, even in top government office.

- 2 Sam 24.11; 1 Chr 21.9; 2 Chr 29.25: **David's seer**, the prophet Gad
- 1 Chr 25.5 **the king's seer**, Heman (the grandson of Samuel, 1 Chr 6.33)
- 2 Chr 35.15 **the king's seer**, Jeduthun
- 2 Sam 16.23 Even David's counsellor (1 Chr 27.33) spoke as though from the Oracle (i.e. the Holy of Holies, God's Presence, 1 Kings 6.19).
- 2 S 15.27-29 Zadok, the joint high priest, was a seer, able to give divine guidance

5. DAVID'S LATER YEARS

From His Youth, David's Vision Had Been to Build a Habitation for the Lord

- Ps 132.1-5 I will not give sleep to mine eyes... until I find out a place for the Lord

Even When Forbidden to Build a Permanent House Himself, He Made Abundant Preparations all through His Reign for the Ultimate Fulfilment of the Vision

- 2 S 8.10-11 When he went to recover his borders, he dedicated materials from the spoils of battle to the future temple (cp 1 Chr 18.7-11; 26.26-27).

Despite Setbacks in His Middle Years, the Lord Turned Even His Errors to the Good

- 1 Kings 15.5 Despite the tragedy of Bathsheba, a child of her & David was chosen by God to fulfil the vision and build the temple (1 Chr 22.6-10).
- 1 Chr 21 Despite the Lord's displeasure in David numbering Israel, the very place where the sword of judgement was stayed was chosen as the location of the altar of burnt offering in the future temple, the fulfilled vision (1 Chr 21.18,26-27; 22.1; 2 Chr 3.1).

Even in his Last Days the Vision Consumed Him; He was still Making Preparations

- 1 Chr 22.6-13 David charged the young Solomon to fearlessly keep the Word & build.
- 1 Chr 22.2-5; 14-16 He had made abundant preparations: gold, silver, hewn stones, iron, brass, wood, skilled workmen.
- 1 Chr 23.1-2 In his last (70th) year, David made Solomon king and gathered all leaders, Levites and priests.
 - The priests were divided by lot into rotas for work inside the future temple (ch 24).
 - The Levites were divided into rotas for work around the temple, such as gatekeepers, musicians and oversight of the treasuries of dedicated things; and to attend to the needs of the priests (23.3-32; ch 25/26).

His Final Public Act Centred on Completing the House & the Fulfilling the Vision

- 1 Chr 28.1-13, 19 David assembled all Israel & gave Solomon the plans for the temple & the divisions of the Levites & priests received by the Spirit.
- 1 Chr 29.2-3 His wholehearted love and commitment to preparing for the temple.

His Last Words Were by & of His Lifelong Key Motivations, the Spirit & the Word

- 2 Sam 23.1-2 Now these be the last words of David... ***The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me***, his word was in my tongue... The God of Israel... spake to me...
- 1 Kings 2.2-3 keep his statutes & commandments... ***as it is written*** in the law of Moses

So, David died as he lived, with ***the vision & word of a prophet*** in his heart & ***the Spirit & the Word*** in his mouth. Truly, he, "*served his own generation by the will of God*" (Acts 13.36).

Postscript

The Vision Fully Accomplished: The House Perfected & the Glory Restored

- 2 Chr 5.5-7 The Ark brought up unto his place, to the Oracle of the house, into the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.
- 2 Chr 5.13-14 The house filled with a Cloud, the Glory of the Lord.
- 2 Chr 7.2-3 The Glory ***within*** the house and ***upon*** the house.
- 2 Chr 7.11; 8.16 Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord... the house of the Lord was perfected (cp 1 Chr 28.20).

The Antitype

- Acts 2.1-4 The Glory upon & within the ***spiritual*** house (cp Eph 2.20-22).