

A Renewed Vision

The Vision Thing

Psalm 27.4; 2 Corinthians 3.18; Exodus 33-34; Hebrews 8.5;
Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1; Matthew 28; Revelation 1; the Book of Revelation

- Vision as
 - A comprehensive view which catches us up into itself
 - A pattern of what is elsewhere and of what should be, what might be and what will be here
 - A personal encounter which transforms the individual or group
 - A power to energise a life that makes a difference
- The Ultimate Vision
 - The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ
 - Christ crucified and risen – he *is* the new world (John 1, 2 Cor 5, Revelation)
 - Jesus is Lord; Jesus has first place in all things
- Where do you see visions and how is the world structured?
 - Mountains – Gen 1, Gen 8, Exodus 19-40, Zion – Psalm 2, 15, 24; Isaiah 2; Matt 5-7; Matt 28
 - Zones
 - The garden-sanctuary – relating to God in obedient, truth-speaking worship-service as priests – thus bringing praise to God;
 - Our vision for church and worship is of a participatory drama
 - The land – relating to insiders in loving, truth-speaking edification-service as kings/queens – thus bringing maturity to the 'family';
 - Our vision for homes and families is of a refuge and a nursery.
 - The world – relating to outsiders in faithful, truth-speaking witness-service as prophets – thus bringing renewal to the world;
 - Our vision for work and the world is of a growing civilisation.

A vision for church and worship

- Worship – what it is: the biblical words and ideas: reverence and submission – Matt 2.11 8.2 20.20, 28.17; service – Matt 4.10 Rom 1.25 12.1; praise – Rev 4.10-11 5.13-14 11.16
 - 'Worth-ship' – to acknowledge the 'worth' of God the King (Ps 22.3, 80.1, 99.1) – pay him homage, render him tribute.
- Contours of our vision
 - The importance of worship (Bible; Adam and Eve; Abraham; Let my people go; Rom 1; Revelation)
 - What we do – renew covenant by cleansing, consecration, communion (gospel sequence)
 - When we do it– first day of the week
 - Where where we do it – "lift up your hearts": at the sanctuary, holy hill - Ps 24; in the Spirit - John 4, Rev 1, Eph 5; in heaven - Rev 4, Heb 6.19-20 9.24 10.19-20
- Why it matters
 - Impact on our *course/ves* – we become like what we worship: Ps 115.8; Rom 1.21-25
 - The corporate dimension – together renewed - Psalms 42-43, 63, 65.4 27.4 Heb 10.19-25; I Cor 11, 14 – building a people
 - foundation for our work - Gen 2;
 - foundation for our warfare - start by enthroning God in corporate praises (Josh 6, 2 Chron 20, Jesus at end of Last Supper, Isaiah 58.13-14);
 - foundation for our witness - Zech 8, Acts 5, I Cor 14
- How it will be:
 - Beauty, order, congregational participation, Bible, family time, exuberance, reverence, drama (Revelation)
 - Our vision for church and worship: a transformative encounter with God in Christ by the Spirit which informs and empowers the whole of life.
 - Relating to God in obedient, truth-speaking worship-service as priests – thus bringing praise to God

- Clouding the vision – failure of nerve, failure of faith, pragmatism
- Realising the vision – gospel living – eyes fixed on and feet following Christ crucified and risen
- A renewed vision: the garden-sanctuary – relating to God in obedient, truth-speaking worship-service as priests – thus bringing praise to God; our vision for church and worship is of a participatory drama

A vision for homes and families

- Psalm 127 - the house (family, temple, building, dwelling-place) – needs construction
 - the city (people, place, culture) – requires warfare
 - both accomplished by the birth of a Son who becomes
 - master builder
 - mighty warrior / weapon
- What a wonderful thing the godly family is:

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| • Authority and freedom | • Care of the immigrant and bereft | • Hospitality and welfare |
| • Privacy without selfishness | • Protecting life (abortion and euthanasia) | • Equality and diversity |
| • Busy-ness and rest | • Creating wealth (private property) | • Reducing crime |
| • Inheritance and responsibility | • Employability and sustainability | • Education |
| • Care of the elderly and disabled | | • Healthcare |
| | | • Identity – given and constructed |
- Clouding the vision – selfishness and statism
- Realising the vision – gospel living – eyes fixed on and feet following Christ crucified and risen
- A renewed vision: the land – relating to insiders in loving, truth-speaking edification-service as kings/queens – thus bringing maturity to the 'family'; our vision for homes and families is of a refuge and a nursery.

A vision for work and the world

Work

- What is God doing in and with the world? – making earth to be like heaven
 - So earth becomes a place of righteousness, joy, order, beauty, plenty, love, praise, maturity
 - Lord's Prayer / "God's workmanship" / new creation
- Work is good
 - God works – Gen 2.2-3, Exodus 20.8-11, Psalm 111.2,6,7
 - Adam works before the fall – Gen 1.28, 2.15
 - The Lord Jesus works – John 4.34, 5.36, 9.3-4, 17.4
 - Christians work – Eph 4.28, 1 Thess 4.11, 2 Thess 3.10, Col 3.22-24, 1 Cor 15.58
- "Making an effort to make earth like heaven"
 - All are to work – unemployed, children, mums at home, retirees
 - Variety of work
 - Reasons – please the Lord (Eph 6.5-9), serve others (1 Tim 6.1-2), provide for family (1 Tim 5.8), give to the poor (Eph 4.28), commend the Gospel (Titus 2.9-10)
- Two great errors: to despise work (selfish, lazy); to idolise work (security, significance, community, authority)
- Happy in our work ... called out of the market-place; greatness in service; 2 great commandments in one life

And the world

- The nations disciplined; Christ given first place in all dimensions and institutions – environment, international relations, national government, economic order, education system, culture and entertainment
- By Christ prophetic action and words – bringing new worlds into existence; Isaiah 2, 9, 11; Dan 1, 2, 3, 4
- The world – relating to outsiders in faithful, truth-speaking witness-service as prophets – thus bringing renewal to the world.
- Clouding the vision – dualism and parochialism
- Realising the vision – gospel living – eyes fixed on and feet following Christ crucified and risen
- A renewed vision: the world – relating to outsiders in faithful, truth-speaking witness-service as prophets – thus bringing renewal to the world; our vision for work and the world is of a growing civilisation.