

Birth of a Vision

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

I. Birth of a Vision

- A. Two key questions: “Is this vision (blessing) I desire from God?” “Is it mine?”
- B. Key faith response: Accepting a vision or dream, trusting until it comes to pass, and appreciating it when it is fulfilled.
- C. Characteristics of a vision from God
 1. An invitation (Luke 1:11-20, 26-38)
 2. An acceptance (Luke 1:18, 38, 45; Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:11, 12)
 3. A challenge
 - a. Some God-given dreams and visions are delayed because of resistance from humans and/or demons (E.g., Herod killing the children, Matthew 2:13-16).
 - b. We should never throw away our confidence or joy (Hebrews 11:6; 10:35-39).
 4. A paradox: amazing faith in visions not yet realized (Luke 2:8-20, 25-38)?

II. Many visions, like pregnancies, take time. And the birth may be painful. The process of receiving a promise trains us for believing and receiving even more promises and dreams from God.

- A. God will reassure us in the vision we are carrying. Even John the Baptist needed to be encouraged along the way (Matthew 11:1-4).
- B. God will be faithful to clarify the visions and promises for your life (Genesis 17:15-22).
- C. God prepares us for more blessing as we pray with confidence over the visions and promises of God (Hebrews 5:7-9). Jesus could easily say at the end of His life, “The prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me” (John 14:30).

III. Resurrection of a vision

- A. Sometimes a vision or dream looks like it is dead, or the end has come.
- B. Key question: “Is it time to prophesy new vision over dead, dry bones” (Ezekiel 37:1-6, 11-14)? God will be faithful to breathe life into you.
- C. No faith journey is ever unrewarded. If a vision seems to die, watch carefully for its resurrection. Our promises are destined to morph into something better (Romans 8:28)!
- D. Like Jesus, we can be confident in the process we are going through (John 12:23-27).
- E. Abraham was overjoyed. The Lord always provides, even when the worst seems to happen (Genesis 22:1-2, 10-14). Abraham “reasoned that God could even raise the dead” (Hebrews 11:17-19). He knew he had a true vision from God.

Mike Hudgins
January 1, 2023
HAPPY NEW YEAR!