

## The Importance Of Having A Plain Vision

Hab 2:1-4

*2:1 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.*

*2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*

*3 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.*

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

Notice, again, what the Lord told the prophet in verse 2: “*Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables [tablets].*”

In order for Habakkuk to write the vision, he first had to see it. The eyes of his understanding had to be opened so God could reveal to him something that was going to happen.

The Bible tells us of an occasion many years earlier, when a man named Eli was the high priest in Israel. He had become corrupted and self-seeking, and his sons were worse than him. They did not know the Lord; their behavior was immoral and unclean. But, in answer to the fervent, unceasing prayers of a woman named Hannah, God gave her a son. She and her husband named the child, Samuel, which means, “asked of the Lord.”

With a thankful heart, they dedicated the young lad to the Lord. After Hannah had weaned him, she brought him to the temple in Jerusalem to be tutored by the high priest.

1 Sa 3:1 says,

*And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious [rare] in those days; there was no open vision.*

In other words, it was uncommon for anyone at that time to have an open revelation from the Lord. Heaven was silent. Why? Because no one had an

ear to hear His voice; the word of God could not be seen? Why? Apparently carnality and worldliness had dimmed and nearly blinded the eyes of priests & prophets.

It is essential that we have a vision. Prov 29:18 gives this dire warning, *“where there is no vision, the people perish.”* That verse goes on to say, *“but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”*

Someone here today needs to know that willful and continued disobedience to the law of the Lord will eventually blind your eyes; there will be no vision; your foolish heart will be darkened so that you will stumble at truth. But if you will open your heart to what the Spirit has to say, and do it, you will be helped greatly. You will be enlightened, strengthened, encouraged, instructed in righteousness and indoctrinated in truth. You will be built up by the word of God's grace; your hope will be revived and your faith will grow exceedingly as you keep the law of the Lord.

A loss of vision is a serious thing. It is bad enough for one to gradually lose his physical eyesight, which what happens to some diabetic people who are in an advanced stage of their disease. The spiritual application of this truth is sobering indeed for when someone loses touch with the things of God, it is a symptom of a loss of vision. And when we lose our vision, we settle into a ho-hum, carnal existence, and the things of God become less and less important in our lives.

But when you keep the Spirit alive and moving within you and walk in humble obedience to His word, you will hear the inaudible and see the invisible. And so I urge you to do as Habakkuk did: **Watch** to see what he will say to you. Turn your eyes heavenward; gaze upon Him who is invisible, and he will engrave his laws upon the fleshly tables of your heart and enable you to gladly endure every trial of your faith.

NOW NOTICE: IN ORDER FOR US TO RECEIVE GOD'S MESSAGES, WE MUST RIGHTLY POSITION OURSELVES!

1. The prophet Habakkuk declared, *“I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me.”*

This mounting of a watchtower is an exercise to which we must not be strangers if we are to have God's light shining on our path, and to hear God's voice saying to us: *“This is the way, walk ye in it,”* and to feel God's hand laid upon us to strengthen us through every trial and conflict.

There must be those times where we ascend into the hill of the Lord, up above the crush and clamor of the worldly throng. **Even as Jesus cautioned, we must watch unto prayer.** It is when we have positioned ourselves in the Spirit that our eyes are opened and we hear the voice of the Lord revealing his ways and purposes to us.

This takes a made-up-mind and a fixed determination. ***"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower."***

***"Continue in prayer,"*** Paul exhorted, ***"and watch in the same with thanksgiving."***

**It is not some new play or drama we need, nor the most in-vogue choir, nor access to more sophisticated electronic media devices, nor the most modern church facilities, but a fresh revelation of the eternal and unchanging word of the Lord!**

Your own human judgment will try to get in the way.

Renounce it.

The wisdom that is from beneath, which is earthly, sensual and devilish, will try to assert itself.

Cast it down.

You will be tempted to lean to your own understanding.

Depend, instead, on the wisdom from above.

Personal fulfillment and happiness comes to those who hold to their vision.

- a. See yourself conquering. You will.
- b. See yourself doing something for God. It will happen.
- c. See yourself saved, forgiven, worshiping God freely. You will do it.

**I want to give you a little background to my text from the writings of Habakkuk and summarize what is happening in his life and in the lives of his peers.**

Habakkuk is looking to God for answers to two questions:

**1 - Will Judah be punished?**

The prophet is deeply troubled about this.

**First** of all, because of The Lord's silence. This saint's prayers about the terrible violence in the land have gone unanswered.

**Secondly**, because of Judah's sins. There is destruction, violence, arguing, fighting, and injustice everywhere he looks.

**In answer to his first question**, God replies: Yes, Judah will be punished.

The stickler is that the soldiers God will use to chastise his people will be the Chaldeans, a people who are notorious for their cruelty. Chapter 1:8 describes them as being:

Swifter than leopards  
More fierce than wolves, and  
as carnivorous as vultures.

Besides all that, the Chaldeans (also called Babylonians) are scornful: they laugh at their enemies, holding them in great contempt.

As a godly person, Habakkuk knows full well that the Holy One of Israel, the absolutely Pure God, must chastise those among his people who persist in a lifestyle that is unholy. What he finds hard to handle is the fact that God said he is going to use a nation that is exceedingly more wicked than Judah to mete out punishment.

His confession in verse 12 of that first chapter, however, lets us know that he finally comes to grips with the issue:

***O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.***

Now the second question Habakkuk has is this: **Will Babylon be punished?**

He wants to know, because, as far as he is concerned, Babylon is much more wicked than Judah.

"Yes", God says. "Babylon will be punished."

There are many reasons, and they are given in chapter 2, as to why God will turn around and judge Babylon and they all have to do with her sins, which are many. Take a brief look at the transgressions of the Babylonian people listed here:

- (1) Drunkenness, pride and greed (vs 5)
- (2) Wealth by extortion (vs 6)
- (3) Violence, murder bloodshed and corruption (vss:7-13)
- (4) Gloating because they have stripped other nations (vss 15-16)
- (5) Their destruction of private property and senseless slaughter of wild animals (vs 17)

(6) Their worship of idols made of wood and stone (vss:18-19)

**Yet, in the midst of that monologue, Habakkuk is encouraged by what the Lord God tells him in verse 14:**

*the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea.*

The time would come when God would display his power and glory in the destruction of this city and empire of Babylon and in the humiliation of King Nebuchadnezzar. Not only that, but he would restore his chosen people to their rightful position. And, beyond that, the day was coming when the promised Messiah would appear, embodying in human flesh the glory of the Lord. That glory would eventually fill the earth, even as the waters cover the sea, through the preaching of the gospel of salvation to every nation.

**Finally, in 2:20,** an end is put to all of the prophets' complaints and questions and arguments. It simply declares, "*The LORD is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him.*"

It would be a long wait before Babylon would be destroyed by God. *2:3 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.*

**Meanwhile, Habakkuk's faith – and the faith of all of the just (righteous ones) – would be on trial. They would, indeed, see the terrible army of the Chaldeans marching through their beloved land, turning their delightful garden of Eden into a desolate wilderness. But would they grow weary in well-doing and throw in the towel in discouragement, or would they live by faith?**

The man of God was deeply moved by the vision he heard. He trembled for the safety of his people under this dark cloud of judgment. He sought refuge for them from God, holding fast the conviction that a righteous God would not allow a wicked, proud nation like that of the Babylonians to hold His people forever in cruel bondage.

Can you see now Habakkuk needed a vision, a revelation, to straighten out his thinking and strengthen his faith?

**God wanted his people to know that, even though it might appear that his judgment against Babylon for mistreating his people would never happen,**

that nation would eventually be crushed. Until then, those in exile who were walking righteously and holily before the Lord would have to live by faith.

That is why I want you to *Write the vision, Habakkuk, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*

One translation of the Bible says it this way: Write what you see, Habakkuk. Write it out in big block letters.  
"Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so anyone can read it at a glance."

At times, you may feel like Job, who was haunted with many questions as to why he was going through so many heavy trials and suffering so much pain. Even when one of his friends tried to explain that God is sovereign and has a right to deal with us as he sees fit, Job was not satisfied.

In chapter 23 of the book that bears his time, beginning at the first verse,  
*Job answered and said, 2 Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.*  
*3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!*  
*4 I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.*  
*5 I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.*

The time appointed was long, but the Lord finally answered Job out of the whirlwind. When he did, he threw a barrage of questions in Job's face and then said, in effect, **"I act the way I act because I am God. I act with full knowledge and understanding of all things, but you act with your limited finite grasp of things."**

It was only then, when God made the vision plain to him, that Job repented. He answered the Lord and said...

Job 42:2-6

*2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.*  
*3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.*  
*4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.*  
*5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.*

*6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Job repented, not when he merely heard from the Lord, but when his eye saw Him. Now, the word had been made plain by a vision. Now he could continue to run with patience the race that was set before him with the steadfast confidence that the righteous judge of all the earth would do right.

**It's reassuring to know that behind all events and forces and enemies that war against our souls there is a personal God – the Lord Almighty – who reveals himself to us as the covenant-keeping God!**

Back to Habakkuk's situation...

**God declared plainly that those who were proud and arrogant and were not upright would not survive when the very gates of hell came against them, but the just would live by their faith; they would lay hold of the word of the Lord and stand upon his promises!**

Eze 12:21-25

*21 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,  
22 Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying,  
**The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?**  
23 Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, **The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.**  
24 For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.  
25 **For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.***

Notice, if you will, how Habakkuk changed his tone, as is reflected by his response in chapter 3:2 *O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Then, in the next few verses of that third chapter, Habakkuk portrays God in his glory, brightness and power. After God gave him a graphic description of the terrible effects of His strong right hand, swift and powerful in wrath upon the earth as he marches through the land in indignation against the Babylonians, Habakkuk says in verse 16 of chapter 3, *When I heard this, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my*

*bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.*

**In the time of trouble, when the natural thing to do would be to fear, you can rest and be at peace because you know you are doing the best you know how and your trust is in the living God.**

Listen to verses 17 – 19:

*17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: [What a bleak, dismay picture of what could happen!]*

*18 Yet [Even though worse may come to worse] **I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

*19 **The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.***

In the time of famine – when the job fizzles out, or the income is no longer there - and nothing seems to be going right – When the natural reaction to prolonged sickness, recurring mockery, or repeated rejection of Christ by your loved ones would be for you to hit the panic button, **you can rejoice in the Lord and be glad in him!** How can that be?

**Because the vision is written and has been made plain to your soul!**

There is something serene and calming about that.

When you know you have been justified freely by faith in Christ Jesus;  
**your faith has a sure foundation!**

Knowing that the word of God is sure; **you can live by faith!**

**No matter how bleak and foreboding the situation may appear to the natural eye, all is well. The Lord is in his holy temple!**

The child of God can say with the psalmist,

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*



**Thank God for a vision! Thank God for a revelation! Thank God for the prophets and apostles of bygone years who heard from the Lord and wrote it down!**

**Is the word of the Lord written indelibly upon your heart? Will you walk by faith, believing that every promise of God is yea and amen in Christ Jesus?**

**I stand before you to declare unto you the testimony of God. I want to make the vision plain that was written by holy men of old, so you won't stumble and fall.**

**1. You need to understand that not only is there but one God, but the Lord our God is One! He is indivisible – He can't be segmented or separated into two or three persons.**

**Jn 1**

*1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*2 The same was in the beginning with God.*

*3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

*11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

*12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

*13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**Col 1:15-19 speaks in this wise of Christ Jesus:**

*15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

*16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

*17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

*18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

*19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

"I love the words of that grand old gospel hymn, "It's All In Him."

Isa 9:6

*6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

The child that was born to a virgin at Bethlehem and given as the supreme sacrifice for sins at Calvary is the Mighty God and everlasting Father!

## **2. Do you have a clear revelation of the glorious gospel?**

Acts 2 declares plainly, beginning in verse 1,

*2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come,*

*Jesus had given them a sure word of prophecy in Acts 1:*

*4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

*5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

*Ac 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:*

About 120 got a hold of the vision revealed by Christ and began to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Ghost. They had not been told how long they might have to wait, but believed it would happen!

Acts 2:36-39

*36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

*37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

*38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

*39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

**Is the vision plain in your mind?**

### **3. You can live by faith if you have the assurance that he who shall come will come!**

Ac 1:10-11

*10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*

*11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.***

Now **that** is **the plain truth!**

Don't be deceived and misled by some publication that bears the name "The Plain Truth" on its cover. Let **God** be true, and every man a liar!

**He** [the Lord Jesus Christ] **shall come!** He's coming in power and we'll hail the blessed hour!

And I can tell you exactly **when** the Lord will come – He will come **at the appointed time!**

2 Pe 3:1-4

*3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:*

*2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:*

*3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

*4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

I am here to say that all things shall **not** continue as they were from the beginning. There is a definite period marked out in the Divine purpose, and when that time comes, the end of all things will take place.

2 Thess 1:3-10

*3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;*

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:  
5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:  
6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;  
7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,  
8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;  
10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Though the vision tarry: though it seems like the word of the Lord will never be fulfilled, wait for it. **It will surely come.** God cannot lie. If you have been given a word from the Lord, keep on living by faith!

Heb 10:35-39

*35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.*

*36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

*37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

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

*39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Every generation of believers must live in patient anticipation of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. When God's time is right, he will come, and will not tarry. In other words, he won't be late; he will be right on time. For some, he will come in terrible and swift judgment and cast all the ungodly into the lake of fire; for others, he will come with many rewards: joy, peace, honor and everlasting righteousness.

**The apostles and prophets wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and they made the vision plain. When you read it and when you hear it, slip on your Nikes and RUN!**

**Psa 119:32** I will RUN the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

**Isa 40:31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall RUN, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

**Heb 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us RUN with patience the race that is set before us,

Don't let anyone change your mind about what is written.

Don't give heed to those who pervert the gospel.

- Some twist it.
- Some add to it.
- Some take from it.
- Some water it down.
- Some compromise the truth.
- Some change the truth of God into a lie.
- Some sell it.
- Some cast it down to the ground.

But I exhort you to

Buy the truth.

Love the truth.

Obey it.

Walk in it.

Keep the truth.

Hold the truth in righteousness.

Be sanctified through the truth

Speak the truth in love.

Manifest the truth.

**If souls are going to be saved in this area, somebody needs to make the vision plain:** What God has revealed to you, make it plain to others:

- put it on the radio
- write a letter to the editor of your newspaper
- put it on door-hangars & distribute them to every household
- give away gospel literature: in offices, public phone booths, in parking lots

- teach it in home Bible studies
- tell it to your neighbors, friends & relatives.

Get all excited; go and tell everybody that Jesus Christ is King!

**We have a solemn responsibility to this generation to impress upon every man, woman and child the vision God has given us, using great plainness of speech, so he may run that readeth it.**

In the words of that grand old hymn penned by Bro. Gladstone T. Haywood, I ask you: “Are you in the church triumphant? Are you in the Saviour’s bride? Come and be baptized into the body, **and forever more abide!**”

**Live by faith, for every promise of God is yea and amen in Christ Jesus!**