

## A VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE

TEXT: (Ezekiel 12:21-23, NIV)

<sup>21</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>22</sup> “Son of man, what is this proverb you have in the land of Israel: ‘The days go by and every vision comes to nothing’? <sup>23</sup> Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to put an end to this proverb, and they will no longer quote it in Israel.’ Say to them, ‘The days are near when every vision will be fulfilled.

### INTRODUCTION

1. “So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that’s coming when Jesus arrives” (I Peter 1:13, MSG).
2. “Don’t lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing” (I Peter 1:14, MSG).

### I. QUITTERS

1. “They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them” (Psalms 78:11, NIV).
2. “But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel” (Psalm 106:13, NIV).
3. “They traded the Glory for a cheap piece of sculpture—a grass-chewing bull! They forgot God, their very own Savior, who turned things around in Egypt, Who created a world of wonders in the Land of Ham, who gave that stunning performance at the Red Sea” (Psalm 106:20-22, MSG).
4. “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ” (Galatians 1:6, NIV)
5. “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away” (Hebrews 2:1, NIV).
6. “I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified” (I Corinthians 9:27, NLT).
7. “As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly” (Proverbs 26:11, Niv).

#### A. A Proverb of the Faithless Christian

1. “Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD. Yet he too is wise and can bring disaster; he does not take back his words. He will rise up against the house of the wicked, against those who help evildoers. But the Egyptians are men and not God; their horses are flesh and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, he who helps will stumble, he who is helped will fall; both will perish together” (Isaiah 31:1-3, NIV).
2. “The days go by and every vision comes to nothing” (Ezekiel 12:22, NIV).
3. “Say to them, ‘The days are near when every vision will be fulfilled’”(Ezekiel 12:23)

#### B. Scoffers

1. “Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this “coming” he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water” (II Peter 3:3-6, NIV).
2. “For this they willingly are ignorant” (II Peter 3:5, KJV).
3. “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the

pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights" (Habakkuk, 3:17-19, NIV).

#### C. Where There Is No Vision

1. "Where *there is* no vision" (Proverbs 29:18, KJV).
2. "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction" (Proverbs 29:18, NIV).
3. "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves" (Proverbs 29:18, MSG).

### II. A REALISTIC VISION FOR MY FAMILY

1. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required" (Luke 12:48, KJV).

#### A. Making Your House a Home

1. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:7, KJV).

#### B. A Vision for Your Children

1. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (III John 4, NIV).
2. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NIV).
3. "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it" (Proverbs 22:6, NLT).
4. "Point your kids in the right direction—when they're old they won't be lost" (Proverbs 22:6, Message).

### III. A REALISTIC VISION FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

#### A. A Vision for a Deeper Relationship in God

1. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).
2. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).
3. "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).

#### B. A Vision of Developing a Prayer Life

1. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9-10, NIV).
2. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?" (Luke 11:11-12, NIV).
3. "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke" (Isaiah 58:6, NIV)?

#### C. A Vision for Usefulness to God

1. "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah" (II Kings 3:11, NIV).
2. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).