

Running with **VISION**

*“Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it”*

- Habakkuk 2v 2



Session #2: VISIONS OF HOPE

Isaiah and the hot coal commission

Isaiah Chapter 6

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

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Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:

If we are seeking after New Testament Christianity today, pursuing a biblical vision for the church is essential. Yet vision is not merely a case of conjuring up new ideas to combat spiritual malaise. Nor should it ever become a knee jerk reaction to the need of the hour, the whim of the people, or the constantly changing culture.

David once exclaimed “*I saw the Lord always before me...*” (Ps. 16v 8). Biblical vision is just that: constantly looking for the Lord to lead with a passion to be in His presence, a desire to serve His purposes and an expectation that He will always make the difference. When we genuinely *look unto Jesus*, faith starts to rise, vision forms and the road becomes clear. Ironically, *pursuing biblical vision* requires not so much that we come up with a new way of doing things, but that we return to the paths already found in Scripture, and rediscover their rewarding route.

In this new teaching series we will be ***Running with Vision***, looking at what happens when God grants heavenly revelation to His people. Each week we will study a specific God-given vision from the Bible and apply some key questions: *What was happening at the time? What was the vision like? What was God saying to/expecting from His people? How should Christians respond today?*

As we explore this collection of God-encounters, the aim is to see how these amazing visions communicated God’s purposes to people who so desperately needed to embrace them at the time. May we also seek to be obey the heavenly vision of all that God reveals to us, that we might pursue a brave, biblical vision for our own lives and church in this generation, embracing all that Jesus intends for us today.

Running with VISION #2: VISIONS OF HOPE

Uzziah was a godly King. Apart from a major aberration towards the end of his life, (2 Chronicles 26) his reign was characterised by godliness and integrity. ***It is significant then that in the year of Uzziah's death, Isaiah had a vision.***

As we saw last week, ultimately the source of any vision should be God and here, in the words of the prophet, "I saw the Lord..." ***Isaiah not only became aware of the greatness of God, but of his own sinful shortcomings.*** But this was not a vision that ended in despair; it was a vision of hope. When Isaiah came to that stark realisation, God touched his life, preparing him for a ministry that would reveal amazing truths to the people around him about the Divine plans and purposes to come.

Isaiah drew comfort that, despite the fluctuating fortunes which characterise earthly monarchs, there remains One who is absolutely Sovereign; in control of every aspect of everything. More than that, this One is holy and can be trusted to do what is right. Indeed, the holiness of God was so awesome and immeasurable, Isaiah witnessed the hosts of heaven in their eternal preoccupation, resounding the fact; calling to one another "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty..." (6v 3) ***Yet the throne of God is a place where holiness is married to amazing grace.*** For in this incredible scene, Isaiah discovered his sin could be atoned for, his life changed and now be given over to sharing the message of the Almighty with those who knew little of such things.

As we seek to run with vision, we must discover the same: ***whatever vision stirs among the people, whatever is required of us to change, God is in control and, if we look to Him, will lead us forward.*** However, sin amongst the people must be dealt with first. A true vision of God always reveals what is lacking as well as what might yet be. ***To run with vision requires confession from the people of God.*** Ultimately, when God grants a vision of hope, it is not to terrorise, or paralyse, but to mobilise God's people into action! In words reminiscent of Christ's own Great Commission, ***we, like Isaiah, are to "Go and tell..."*** Knowledge of a holy God, atonement for sin and a blessed life for all who trust and obey, should prepare us to run with this good news, sharing it faithfully, whatever the cost. What has been revealed to us, what we now have in Christ, is a vision of hope for all.

Read: Isaiah Chapter 6 verses 1-8

- Visions that Comfort: *"I saw the Lord..."* – v1
- Visions that Confront: *"... I am a man of unclean lips..."* – v5
- Visions that Commission: *"And I said, 'Here I am, send me!'"* – v8

Running with VISION:

Discuss:

- *Describe the vision that Isaiah experienced. What does he see, hear, taste, touch and smell?!*
- *Through what experiences has God given you visionary insight: How did they send you in a new direction?*
- *Do you need to have a genuine spiritual vision of who God is before you can effectively fulfil His call upon your life?*
- *What do you believe may be an area of your life that needs a renewed call and commission from God?*
- *If someone confided in you that they felt they had encountered a vision of God, what signs would you look for to test if the vision was credible or not?*

Pray:

Pray for a fresh appreciation of the holiness of God. Rejoice in the power of atonement for sin and seek guidance for where you should share the good news with someone this week.

Respond:

Take time to reflect: Is there any resistance/disobedience standing between you and God's call upon you? If so, what steps do you need to take to get past it? Make a list and bring it to God in repentance. Pray for courage to move into God's vision for your life.