

# *Running with* **VISION**

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

- Habakkuk 2v 2



## **Session #6: VISIONS OF VICTORY**

John and the Patmos promise

Revelation Chapter 1

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

[www.sladebrook.org.uk](http://www.sladebrook.org.uk)

## 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 #6: VISIONS OF VICTORY**

***By the time he found himself exiled on the island of Patmos, John was an aged apostle. In his lifetime John had not only witnessed tremendous growth and blessing among the churches, but also extreme opposition and attack. With severe persecution from the Romans and ongoing resistance from the Jews, it was difficult to make a stand for Christ. Lives were being threatened and lost. Christians were often ostracized and penalised financially. Add to this the subtle infiltration of false doctrine with its corrupting effect and one can see how these factors not only slowed the spread and the scope of some local churches, but also threatened their very existence.***

*In the face of such grim realities, some were tempted to compromise. Others were willing to forgo their faith altogether in search of an easier life. But for those like John, who sought to remain faithful to Christ, this was never an option. A fresh vision was required to strengthen the resolve of John and his fellow Christians.*

***In Revelation chapter 1 the final vision in the Bible unfolds: against seemingly impossible odds and opposition, God reveals a vision of victory. It is no coincidence that John saw a vision of the risen all conquering Christ. Not only was it a timely intervention, it would also leave an indelible image of Jesus upon him that would help to reignite the much needed fire of faith in his heart.***

***Any vision that compels God's people, must ultimately fix our eyes upon Jesus. When Christ is exalted and at the forefront of our lives He motivates our ministries and continues to change our lives. Wherever His victory is remembered and His name revered, a spiritual solidarity emerges that is hard to break down whatever problems we face. Recapturing a vision of Jesus is essential to both heal and harness the hearts of God's people as, at times, they struggle to hold on.***

*John's vision reminds us that Jesus walks among the lampstands, upholding those churches that seek to burn with a gospel flame in this world. The oppression may seem great, but there is always One who is greater. Jesus stills our fears and steels our resolve. This vision of victory not only reminds us of the hope, the holiness and the help Christ brings, but also inspires us to hold on and run with such a vision; to see and to seek all that He has for us today.*

## **Read: Revelation Chapter 1**

A Vision of Hope: The Risen Christ - Revelation 1v 1-13

A Vision of Holiness: The Righteous Christ - Revelation 1v 14-16

A Vision of Help: The Reigning Christ - Revelation 1v 17-18

### **Running with VISION:**

#### **Discuss:**

- *How do you see Jesus? What do you think He looks like? What characteristics instantly come to mind? Why do you think Jesus isn't described physically in the Bible?*
- *Re-read the description of Jesus in Revelation 1. What is the overriding image you take from this passage?*
- *Is it important for a church to have a clear vision of Jesus as well as a clear vision for ministry? Why?*
- *Try and outline a vision for holiness. Be as practical as possible.*
- *In the light of this series on vision, what is the next step for you and for the church in discovering and running with God's vision for us? How can we move from rhetoric to reality?*

#### **Pray:**

*As we conclude this series, pray that God would grant you a vision for your Christian life and make you a visionary! Ask for insight, excitement and opportunity to run with all that He reveals to you.*

#### **Respond:**

*Try to map out your Christian life thus far: Where have you come from spiritually? Where are you going? How are you changing? Try to include some aims/aspirations that you still have and think about how, with God's help, you can begin to run with fresh vision for Him.*