

Where there is 'NO VISION'

... the people perish !!!

Intended for the faithful of God , they are ancient and timeless words penned by the '*wisest of men*'. They are sober , instructive words often used as both an exhortation and a cautionary reminder to us - *as the people of God* - that to strengthen our faith we need a strong and clear vision of the '*glories to come*'. We cannot be without this 'VISION'.

Born of the knowledge and understanding we have through His Word , this glorious 'VISION' of that *time to come* must - in '*our mind's eye*' - be kept burning brightly and continually. This 'VISION' is *by design*, a motivating force that impels us forward in faith (despite whatever difficulties and trials we face) to strive on to that '*high-calling*' whereunto we are called.

It's a *VISION* soon to be realised. The *sure* hope and expectation of God's promises soon to be fulfilled. According to His good grace and mercy , we're able to see beyond the adversities of this life and attain unto the wonders of the age to come.

That is the *scripted* understanding of this passage we've all come to understand over generations , but is this '*THE VISION*' the Proverbs is actually speaking of ? A closer inspection of Proverbs 29 reveals something '*extraordinarily*' different .

The Proverbs by their nature are a prolific *laundry list* of precepts and principles for Godly living. Often juxtaposed against the motivations / deeds / works of the flesh (ie. *human nature / carnal thinking*) they form an invaluable and insightful road map to daily living for those who aspire to reflect the character and lofty ways of their Creator. It is a complete guide to the DO's and DON'T's of living a '*Christ-like*' life.

Yet from its beginning to its end , Proverbs 29 is utterly devoid of any reference to '*future glories*' that are so commonly attributed to this 'must-have' spiritual vision for believers. Within this chapter , there are NO inspiring visualisations , NO spiritual projections into the future kingdom age , nothing like this at all. So how is it , that this frequently used bible quote "*Where there is **NO VISION** the people perish*" is continually linked to the idea of powerful , positive and inspiring images of future glory ? Is this really '*THE VISION*' referred to ? The answer is ... NO. It is nothing of the sort.

A full examination of Proverbs 29 reveals it is entirely concerned with contrasting the '*foolishness*' of the wicked to the wisdom of God. It catalogues the corrupt , futile ways of evil men that invariably lead to their undoing and their downfall. It is the 'JUDGMENT / REPROOF' of the wicked - and the *correction* of those who follow not God's ways - that is the focus .

There is simply NO connection at all with any '*visions of future glory*' in Proverbs 29. This therefore suggests, the 'common practice' of linking this "*VISION*" (vs.18) to a grand and glorious hope (that draws us forward in faith) is misplaced and completely out of context. To do this , is a serious misrepresentation of scripture. Moreover, it is misleading and very harmful because it diverts *the believer's* attention away from the true meaning of '*THE VISION*' intended by God himself.

It is a *VISION* of the '*correction / judgement of the wicked*' both in everyday life - and ALSO at *the time of the end*. Being Proverbs , clearly its principles are meant to be applied to everyday life , both to *the godly* and *the wicked* alike. Yet there's ALSO a very real application beyond the principles and precepts for daily living ... it is a prophetic VISION of the last days.

The Proverbs are rarely considered as having 'prophetic' applications. Yet , this unquestionably is the case. We find , even from the very first verse of Proverbs 29 a direct and irrefutable allusion to God's FINAL judgments on '*the wicked*' .

*v1. He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck , shall **SUDDENLY** be **destroyed** , and that **WITHOUT REMEDY**.*

Think about this opening verse for a moment. While we understand the underlying principle of what *the Preacher* is saying , is it actually **true** that those who '*harden their necks*' in day-to-day life are then routinely '*destroyed ... suddenly ... without remedy*' ? Of course not. We often encounter such people , their lives continue on irrespective of their hard-heartedness toward God. At times , even we are guilty of the same trait , yet there is no immediate penalty of death. Instead , this verse is a clear and unmistakable reference to God's final judgments (soon to come) upon the kingdoms of men.

Echoing the same language as many other prophecies throughout scripture (which also speak of destruction in *the last days* coming "***SUDDENLY***") this opening verse is a far-sighted depiction of God's promised judgment upon this world , upon man. The true meaning of this verse is later reinforced further by the phrase "***without remedy***" providing an accurate characterisation of the terminal , irreversible nature of this approaching judgment. Not convinced ? Keep reading.

Another feature of Proverbs 29 is the repeated use of the word “**SNARE**” (3 times - vs. 6, 8, 25). The Hebrew word for “**SNARE**” has the meaning of a ‘*noose, hook or trap*’ with the idea of capturing an animal. Similarly , If we also include the reference to “*an evil NET*” in the preceding verse (v.5) which illustrates the identical theme , then there are in fact 4 occasions where the “**SNARE / NET**” is used to envision this sudden ensnaring of the ‘*sons of men*’ in the last days.

This is no co-incidence. Like the word “**SUDDENLY**” in verse 1 , “**SNARE**” and “**NET**” are key words and mirrored language often used in other prophecies that speak of the universal judgment of the wicked at the end of days. (Psa 9v15-16/Job 18v5-8/ Luke 21v35). Perhaps no other passage ‘*more powerfully*’ captures this prophetic VISION (*in these terms*) than :

Ecclesiastes 9:12

For ‘man’ also knoweth not his time :
as the fishes that are taken in an evil **NET**
and as the birds that are caught in the **SNARE**
so are ‘the sons of men’ **SNARED** in ... **AN EVIL TIME**
... when ‘**IT**’ falleth **SUDDENLY** upon them.

So we find the identical language (used in Proverbs 29) is employed once more in Ecclesiastes , creating a troubling VISION (through metaphors) of this final end-times judgment. All the same elements are there .. *The SNARE* .. *The NET* .. *SUDDENLY* .. an *EVIL TIME*. The parallels are far too strong and too vivid to be co-incidental. Once again , *the Preacher* is pointing forward ‘*prophetically*’ to the very same judgment determined upon all mankind in ‘*THE DAY*’ appointed.

In Ecclesiastes 9:12 , if we accept all this ‘*figurative*’ language as an ‘*accurate and descriptive*’ portrayal of events in this **EVIL TIME** to come (and we should !!) ... then WHAT are we to conclude from the final phrase :

“ .. when ‘**IT**’ falleth **SUDDENLY** upon them ” ??

Is there ‘*a reason*’ this event (which comes “**SUDDENLY**”) ... “falleth” upon mankind ? And what is the ‘**IT**’ ??

- FOR MORE INFORMATION , click on the following link : [DIVINE JUDGMENT ... THRO’ MAN’S ‘WICKED DEVICES’](#)

If we look at ‘*the context*’ immediately preceding “*Where there is **NO VISION** the people perish*” (v.18) we see these verses are fully concerned with the ‘*reproof/ correction*’ of *the ungodly* and *the wicked*. Verse 15 speaks of “*the rod and reproof*” (of correction). Verse 16 describes *what* results when these principles are not applied , as the wicked multiply and transgression increases. Verse 17 then returns to ‘*the wisdom*’ of applying correction to a child while he is still young.

In the intervening verse 16 we also have a secondary dimension ... once again it is a ‘**prophetic VISION**’ of *the last days*. “*When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth*”. It’s a visual projection to *the time of the end*, when *the wicked* are everywhere present , and sinfulness and ungodliness abound. We know it speaks directly of *this time* , as the words that follow “*but the righteous **SHALL SEE** their fall*” are a ‘*literal*’ happening. Not only do these words tell us *the righteous* (believers) will still be present in the very last days ... but we will also witness “*the **REWARD** of the wicked*” as we are consistently told throughout God’s Word. (Psa 91v8 , 37v34,38-40 , 54v5-7 , 58v10 , 59v10 , 92v11 , 112v8 / Prov 3v25-26)

- FOR MORE INFORMATION - click on the following link : [ENDURING ‘THE FINAL TRIBULATION’](#)

In relation to “*Where there is **NO VISION** the people perish*” we are often (and quite correctly) told the word “**perish**” in the Hebrew has the meaning ‘*to make naked*’ , that is , a loss of our covering garments. We know ‘*our garments*’ are a symbol for ‘*our faith*’. As such , for the servants of Christ to steadfastly endure through these coming judgments it will be imperative we have a ‘**truly unshakeable**’ **faith** and trust in the providential care of our God. A crucial component of this will be an accurate fore-knowledge and understanding of precisely ‘*what events*’ are coming and the circumstances we will face ... in addition to , also understanding ‘*the means*’ by which we will be **protected** , **preserved** and ultimately **delivered**.

- FOR MORE INFORMATION - click on the following link : [THE COMING ‘END-TIMES’ PASSOVER](#)

The whole purpose of Proverbs 29 (and more specifically , this verse) “*Where there is **NO VISION** the people perish*” is to reveal the TRUE and EXACT NATURE of this coming ‘judgment of the wicked’. It most certainly is **NOT** a VISION of future glory , designed to encourage and inspire (as we are often told). It is a VISION purposed to be a dire **fore-warning** , to alert all the believers in Christ of the need to be prepared spiritually (ie. have our garments of faith) to endure through these coming tribulations. The nature and scale of these events will be both unimaginable and horrifying. It will truly be ‘*the Time of Trouble such as never was*’ and will grievously and sorely test ‘*the faith*’ of all who claim to trust in God. If we endure faithfully , we will be **preserved** and **saved** according to His promise. (Psa 9v9 , 27v5 , 32v7 , 37v39 , 41v1-2 , Rev 3v10)

Found ‘**over 60 times**’ throughout the Old Testament , the Hebrew words for “**VISION**” are used overwhelmingly as an *ominous precursor* to God’s judgment. It’s almost **NEVER** connected to a hopeful, encouraging vision of future expectations.

It is the very same "VISION" spoken of in [Habakkuk 2 v 2-3](#) :

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

*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.*

This 'VISION' is immediately explained in the verses that follow. It is an extended allusion to the evil and malignant exploits of an un-named man. In the words of Habakkuk he is a proud, unrighteous person, a transgressor who *gathers all nations* unto himself, who *spoils many nations* . . . undoubtedly the end-times Russian Autocrat, 'Gog' himself. This is the VISION. It is NOT a VISION of glorious expectations, it is a VISION of the 'judgment of the wicked'. In this VISION, it is he who is appointed to be 'THE SWORD of the LORD' against Israel and against many nations, to exact a divine retribution upon the ungodly in like manner as *the Babylonians, the Persians, the Romans, the Nazis* were similarly used before him. His tyranny and brutality will be at the centre of the global conflicts and chaos ('*the Lord's judgments*') soon to engulf all mankind.

It is also the same 'VISION' found in [Ezekiel 7 v 13](#). Among the darkest chapters in all the Bible, this chapter describes the 'judgment of the wicked' at "*the end*" which *THE BUYER & THE SELLER* are caught up in. It's a VISION that not only describes a truly apocalyptic judgment coming upon mankind in the last days, but this VISION also removes all uncertainty concerning the '*exact nature*' of these final judgments '*of FIRE*'. Just as the '*THE ROD*' (*of correction*) is a central theme of Proverbs 29, Ezekiel reveals the latter-day meaning of these ancient archetypes '*THE RODS*' (*of wickedness*). These *wicked devices* will be used by Russia's Gog to unleash violence and mayhem world-wide, bringing God's fiery judgments upon the kingdoms of men. It is *the just*, righteous pattern of the LORD, using the '*wickedness*' of the wicked to judge the wicked.

- FOR MORE INFORMATION - click on the following link : [THE BUYER & THE SELLER . . . & THE COMING JUDGMENT of FIRE](#)

These same 'VISIONS' are found in Daniel 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11. They detail the evolving phases of *the fourth beast*, culminating in the latter verses of Daniel 11 with a brief (but sequential) summary of Gog's end-times campaigns and conquests, his rise to global domination, his short-lived victory . . . and finally his ultimate destruction. **THEN** (immediately after) in the verses that follow (Daniel 12 v 1-3) we also have "*AT THAT TIME*" the glorious '*appearing*' of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the Mount of Olives, together with the resurrection of the dead . . . and also "*AT THAT TIME*" the deliverance of "*thy people*" (everyone '*written in the book*'). This means . . . we are here UNTIL THE END. Quite simply, there will be no secret (pre-tribulation) calling away. The saints will remain in the world *faithfully enduring* through these final tribulations **UNTIL** the Lord Jesus Christ stands upon the Mount of Olives. This is the coming reality . . . we all need to be prepared for.

- FOR MORE INFORMATION - click on the following link : [THE RETURN OF CHRIST . . . THE NEED FOR BIBLE TRUTH](#)

It is a VISION (and a WARNING) intended for the saints to understand *in the latter days*. If we ignore it, we do so at our peril. It is verified by well over **100** clear and explicit bible passages (tabulated in PDF doc's linked to this paper) which consistently and conclusively prove these matters and future events to be incontestably true. It is why the scriptures and the prophets repeatedly speak of (and warn of ...) the "*tribulations*" the elect of God will face (Deut 4v30 / Matt 13v21, 24v21,29 / Mk 13v24 / John 16v33 / Rom 2v9, 5v3, 8v35, 12v12 / 2Cor 1v4 / 2Thess 1v4-6 / Rev 2v10). Faithful, patient endurance through "*tribulation*" being the divinely prescribed and necessary requirement for an entrance into God's kingdom (Act 14v22). This is the central purpose of 'THE VISION'. It is a direct message to us . . . the final generation.

[Revelation 7 v 13-14](#) *What are these which are 'arrayed in white robes' ? . . . and whence came they ?
These are '**THEY**' which came out of **GREAT TRIBULATION**.*

As we ponder this deep disparity between our '*traditional expectations*' (for the future) and the truth of what God's Word actually teaches, we'd also do well to consider another comparison of two opposing 'VISIONS' drawn by the prophet Jeremiah, wherein the '*revered*' prophets of his day misled the people with a message and a vision contrary to the LORD's :

[Jeremiah 23 v 16](#) *... they speak '**A VISION**' of their own heart . . . and **NOT** out of the mouth of the LORD.*

The consequences for these 'false' prophets - and for *those* who believed them - were grave. So it will be for us, if we choose to elevate inherited and false '*doctrines of men*' - ABOVE - the testimony and immutable truth found in God's Word. Individually and collectively - we MUST ask the question . . . Are '*our expectations*' for the future '*truly in accordance*' with God's Word ? Can they be substantiated / proven from the Bible ? It is our personal responsibility (both to God and to each other) to prayerfully and diligently search out the answers, solely and directly from the pages of His Word of Truth.

If we fail to understand 'THE VISION' of "*Where there is **NO VISION**... the people perish*" then we will be wholly unprepared and in far greater peril - when '*as a snare*' - this final period of judgment erupts upon the whole world. Now is our opportunity to ascertain the truth behind this "VISION" . . . and prepare ourselves to endure through 'THE DAY' appointed.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (' CLICK ' on Blue Links)

' BIBLE EVIDENCE ONLY !! ' DOCUMENTS

- [TIME OF TROUBLE - or - CHRIST'S RETURN \(Which comes first ? \)](#)
- [SAINTS ENDURE ' THE FINAL TRIBULATION '](#)
- [DIVINE JUDGMENT . . . THRO' MAN'S ' WICKED DEVICES '](#)
- [THE COMING ' END-TIMES ' PASSOVER](#)

FURTHER READING (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

1. [THE TIME OF TROUBLE . . . We Are Here Until The End](#)
2. [THE RETURN OF CHRIST . . . The Need For Bible Truth](#)
3. [THE END OF THE WORLD . . . Parable Of The Wheat & Tares](#)
4. [THE BUYER & THE SELLER . . . The Rod of Wickedness revealed](#)
5. [THE 2020 PROPHECY . . . \(Job 20 \) A Warning For The Last Days](#)
6. [GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR . . . & The ' End-Times ' Passover](#)