

REVIVAL NEWS

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**** JANUARY 2021 **** JANUARY 2021 **** JANUARY 2021 ****

THE APOSTOLIC VISION

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We are in days of the restoration of God's glory, refreshing and revival. Peter spoke of these days before the coming of the Lord as *"times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord"* Acts 3:19. Days of revival are to prepare us for the coming of Jesus, even seeing the *"restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began"* v.21.

No matter what is happening in the world and no matter what governments are in place, the vision and mandate of God never changes. Jesus lived in days of oppression, under the rule of an iron-fisted Roman Empire that dominated the Jewish people and crushed any attempts at insurrection severely. But in the midst of that environment, Jesus was free. He walked freely. As the Son, He did the will of the Father without hindrance (John 5:19). Sons of God are coming forth in the nations to walk as Jesus walked (1 Jn.2:6), being led by His Spirit (Rom.8:14) and governed by His Word! Sons are free!

Write the Vision

We are to be a people who are clear, focused, purposeful and intentional in doing the will of God in our generation! Habakkuk lived in a time where wickedness was rampant and violence, plundering, strife and contention were all around (Hab.1:2-3). It was a time when it seemed that the wicked got away with everything and justice was not administered (Hab.1:4). Habakkuk had serious questions about all this, but he waited for God to answer him and knew He would bring correction when He did answer (Hab.2:1). God said:

1. **Write the vision (Habakkuk 2:2)** – there is something about writing down the vision. The vision is God's eternal purpose that He is outworking in the earth. This is the apostolic vision!
2. **Make it plain on tablets – that he may run who reads it (Habakkuk 2:2)**. God wants you to run. The apostolic vision, when it is clearly laid out, releases energy in you to fulfil His purpose.
3. **Though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry (Habakkuk 2:3)**. We may want everything to happen very quickly. We need patience and endurance in the vision. We are to wait for it. However, just as on the Day of Pentecost – they tarried and waited for ten days, but then **suddenly** the Holy Spirit came (Acts 2:2). We need to be patient and be in the right position for the **"suddenly"** time of God.

This apostolic vision is the hope of the gospel. It is God's eternal purpose accomplished!

THE APOSTOLIC VISION

1. To fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh

The Apostolic Vision is to see the *“earth filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea”* Habakkuk 2:14. The promise is that the *EARTH* will be *FILLED* with the knowledge of the glory. God's plan is outworked in the *earth!* God also told Moses, *“but truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of Yahweh”* Numbers 14:21. We have a mandate, an apostolic vision – to be part of filling the earth with the knowledge of God's glory. The word *‘filled’* means: to be filled, to fill up, to be full, to fulfill, filling something to the brim, thoroughly saturated! The earth is to be *thoroughly saturated* with the glory of Yahweh, as revealed in Jesus, the Word made flesh, full of *grace and truth* (John 1:14).

The vision for Mankind from Creation

When God made man in His own image and likeness (Gen.1:26-27), He then told Adam and Eve to *“be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion”* Genesis 1:28. This is the vision! It has never changed! The earth is to be filled with sons of God. Sons are those people who are in the image and likeness of God, having been conformed to the image of His Son (Rom.8:29). We were saved and redeemed to become sons (Gal.4:4-5).

2. Christ is to fill all things through His church

In Ephesians 1:22-23 we see the One who is *“Head over all things”* has been given to us, the church, *“which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”*. The church is the body of the Messiah. This is not simply a religious term for the church, it is a description of what the church actually is! It is the very body of Christ. It is the place where Christ dwells by His Spirit. The body is the *fullness of Him, who fills all in all*.

Filling all things

The presence of Christ is to fill all things, every place, through His body the Church. We, as the body of Christ, are the presence of Him in the earth – the body of Him filling *the all in all*. We are the extension of Christ on the earth! The apostolic vision is that every corner of God's creation is to be filled with the Presence of Jesus through the members of the body manifesting His presence. This is to be outworked in their homes, families, workplaces, cities, villages and towns, making the most of every interaction to bring people into the Presence of the Messiah Jesus.

Enforcing the victory

This happens through the church *“preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”* Ephesians 3:8-11. The apostolic vision is for the

church to enforce the victory that has already been accomplished by Christ Jesus who ***“having disarmed principalities and powers, made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (the cross)”*** Colossians 2:15. The presence of every member of the body, wherever they are, makes a big difference!

The Church is not the building! We are the body of Him carrying His presence wherever we go.

3. It is a people filled with all the fullness of God

Paul prays for us in Ephesians 3:18-19 that we ***“may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God!”***

The word *fullness* means: full number, full complement, full measure, copiousness, plenitude, that which has been completed. We are to be filled with the complete and full measure of God! We are to be filled with the copiousness of God. This is a prayer of apostle Paul’s to be answered on the earth. We can have a faith filled expectation for God’s fullness to manifest in our lives through the experiential knowledge of the love of God in the midst of the saints!

Christ, the fullness of God, in us

In Colossians 2:9-10 it is written, ***“For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him who is the head of all principality and power”***. The fullness of God fills us, as Christ, who is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, manifests in us, ***“the hope of glory”*** Colossians 1:27. We are filled with all the fullness of God by having Christ dwelling in us!

4. The Doctrine is to fill everywhere and prevail

It did not take too long for those early apostles to cause a stir in the city of Jerusalem. They had a strong accusation made against them, ***“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine”*** Acts 5:28. May this accusation also be made of us: that we have filled our cities, nations, towns and neighbourhoods with the ***“apostles’ doctrine”*** Acts 2:42.

The Doctrine

Doctrine is so very important. Doctrine is *teaching*. Doctrine shapes what we believe and therefore shapes how we will behave. God is calling His church back to the pure doctrine of the Word of God as it is written. What we believe must be the Scripture, not church dogmas, doctrines or traditions. Let the Bible speak and let revelation come. Uphold the Bible, the Scriptures, as the sole authority for faith and practice.

The *apostles’ doctrine* (Acts 2:42) is the teaching, instruction and word that was given them by the Lord Jesus when He commanded them to ***“teach them to observe all things I commanded you”*** Matthew 28:20. The *apostles’ doctrine* is the New Testament, which

reveals the fulfilment of the law and the prophets (the Old Testament) in Christ Jesus (**Matthew 5:17, Luke 24:27**). This is what we are to do, fill every place with this doctrine. **“Daily in the temple and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching, Jesus the Christ” Acts 5:42**. This doctrine turns the world upside down (**Acts 17:6-7**).

The Word governs

After Paul had spoken the Word and reasoned with disciples for two years in Ephesus, the result was, **“So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed” Acts 19:20**. During those two years of discipleship, the whole Provincial Region of Asia **“heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks” Acts 19:10**. Everyone had heard the Word!

When it says that the **“word grew mightily”**, the word **‘mightily’** is an interesting word. It is the Greek word **‘kratos’** which means: *dominion, strength, manifested power. The word especially signifies exerted strength, power shown effectively in a reigning authority* [Word Wealth in New Spirit Filled Life Bible – 1 Timothy 6:16]. This is a governmental word. The Word of the Lord Jesus became the dominant doctrine; it was governing the Roman province of Asia. It had dominion and the reigning authority in that region! The doctrine of Christ captures the heart; it is good doctrine; this is the true doctrine we are to live by and it is to fill everywhere and be the dominant, reigning, governmental force, influencing the hearts of all people in every place!

5. Nations become obedient to the faith through grace and apostleship

Paul writes in **Romans 1:5** **“we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations”**. God’s plan through the gospel is to bring nations to obedience of the faith. The earth needs obedient disciples. The purpose of the gospel is not “saving people to go to heaven”. God’s plan is to teach people to obey heaven while they are on the earth. He wants obedience to the faith! It is through **grace** that this is achieved. **Grace** is the enabling power and ability of God to do the task. **Apostleship** is the commission and delegated authority of Christ to do the task.

Through Christ we have received both the **grace** and the **apostleship** to bring nations to obedience to the faith! Jesus released that **apostleship** when He said, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore...” Matthew 28:18-19a**. He delegated His awesome authority and commissioned the apostles and the church down the ages to make disciples of all nations – this is bringing the nations to obedience to the faith. We have the authority, the **apostleship** and He promised the **grace**, **“and lo, I am with you always to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b**. His Presence with us is the enabling power we need to complete this task!

6. The kingdom of God is to fill the earth

The Dream

In **Daniel chapter 2** we read of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great statue made of various metals. Then it is written that **“the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” Daniel 2:35**. The interpretation of the dream was that

the various metals represented kingdoms that would come on the earth until ***“the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” Daniel 2:44.***

The Kingdom is increasing

This is God’s eternal purpose! This is the apostolic vision! The ***“Stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42-43.*** That Stone is Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed King! That Stone has come and now ***“living stones are being built up a spiritual house”*** on that Stone (1 Peter 2:4-5). The Stone is becoming a mountain to fill the whole earth! ***“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the Throne of David and over His kingdom” Isaiah 9:7.*** The Mountain is growing! The government is increasing! The kingdom is taking over! ***“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” Revelation 11:15.***

A Victorious people

Apostle Paul writes of Christ that ***“He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet” 1 Corinthians 15:25.*** Jesus the Messiah is reigning right now. He is waiting for something! He is ***“waiting till His enemies are made His footstool” Hebrews 10:13.*** Jesus personally is head over all things and all things are under His feet (Ephesians 1:22). Jesus is waiting for all things to be under the feet of His body, the church! He is waiting for a church to be walking in victory over all His enemies. The body of Messiah is to manifest His kingdom rule and victory. When the church walks into this maturity it will then come to pass, ***“Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all!” 1 Corinthians 15:28.*** The kingdom of God will fill the earth!

7. Bringing all believers to perfection in Christ

Let us go on to perfection

The apostolic vision is to lay the foundations with the goal to ***“let us go on to perfection” Hebrews 6:1.*** God only gives the permit if the foundations mentioned in Hebrews 6:1-2 are laid and functioning in the life of the believer. Paul said as a minister it was his work to ***“present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” Colossians 1:28b.*** The way to bring the saints to perfection is ***“Him [Christ] we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom” Colossians 1:28a.***

The goal is perfection. The goal is maturity in Christ Jesus. We are to ***“press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:14.*** We are to stand ***“perfect and complete in all the will of God” Colossians 4:12.*** We as ministers are to ***“labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you [the saints]” Galatians 4:19.*** The apostolic vision is to bring every believer to perfection/maturity in Christ Jesus!

8. To bring the church to a perfect corporate Man

A mature church functioning in Christ's fullness

Jesus has been restoring to His church the knowledge of the five ministry gifts He gave when He ascended (**Eph.4:8-11**). These gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given for the *“equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* **Ephesians 4:11-12**. These gifts were never taken away. It is the apostolic vision for these gifts to be restored and functioning *“till we all come to the unity of the faith, to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* **Ephesians 4:13**.

This is the apostolic work of Christ in the earth! A perfect, mature, corporate body that is manifesting the *measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*. This body is *“joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”* **Ephesians 4:16**. A mature body, with every member contributing and doing their part, building each other up in the *agape*, self-sacrificial love of God! This is the apostolic vision!

9. A Perfect Glorious Bride Church

A Bride for the Son

Paul as an apostle knew that it was the apostolic work to prepare God's people as a bride for Jesus. *“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”* **2 Corinthians 11:2**. It is a wonderful vision to lay hold of. Jesus wants a Bride Church. Through the ministries He has given He is *“sanctifying and cleansing her [the church] with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”* **Ephesians 5:26-27**. Finally the apostle John caught a glimpse of her in all her glory, *“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”* **Revelation 21:2**. The Lamb's wife *“had made herself ready”* **Revelation 19:7b**. The apostolic vision is to see this glorious Bride presented to Christ her husband adorned and ready as a chaste virgin unto Him!

10. A House built for God to indwell

A dwelling place for God in the earth!

The apostolic work is to build the house of God. God, from the beginning of creation, has continually revealed His desire to live with men on the earth. Paul wrote to the **Ephesian** church that we are the *“household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* **Ephesians 2:19-22**.

This is a worldwide temple that is growing! It has a foundation (**1 Cor.3:11**). The apostles and prophets are to lay that foundation in every generation! It has a cornerstone! The house is built according to the pattern that is laid out in the Scriptures. It is a dwelling place of God in the Spirit! God dwells in His church, which is His house, on the earth! *“The house of God, which is the church of the living God”* **1 Timothy 3:15**. The Voice from heaven

will be heard, *“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God”* Revelation 21:3. The apostolic vision to see this house completed so that God can tabernacle and abide in and with men on the earth forever!

Write the vision!

Make it plain on tablets!

That he may run who reads it!

Run with the apostolic vision!

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