

WCCC 2025
Brother Godwin Sun

The Measuring Line Stretched Out Over Jerusalem (2)

I hear that some brothers and sisters have felt that this topic of glory is too abstract, too profound and not tangible. Our brothers have explained this a little. I would like to share some of my own experiences with brothers and sisters this evening. I feel that this is an important topic for us to be encouraged together.

First, I think we should all understand one thing. For the natural man, spiritual matters are obviously abstract and cannot be understood. Paul tells us that the natural man cannot understand the things of God. Therefore, to the natural man, it is normal to view spiritual matters as abstract or profound. But it is God's desire to bring us into the spiritual.

In my personal experience, I know that this is nothing that man is able to do. It must be the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Today, the Spirit abides in all of the children of God. So we have the opportunity to understand spiritual matters.

I was baptized in 1959. I was in my teens then. Many of the messages I listened to those days were by Brother Watchman Nee. His messages are very precious. I do not mean to exalt anyone this evening. I am sharing my own personal experience.

Many like Brother Nee's messages. They often focus on the reality of the experience. There are other areas that are deep, that I do not fully understand. I can understand the majority of them. In 1964, 5 years after I was baptized, someone told us about a servant of God from England named T. Austin Sparks, and he had great revelation. The light he received is rich and abundant. Many of the brothers in our midst were sharing this. It excited my curiosity, so I bought one of his books.

The book was in English, and British English is more difficult to comprehend than American English. My English, even till today, isn't good. It was even worse back then. But I went to buy the book and read a little bit. I could not understand it at all. It felt so abstract and impractical.

In 1955 and 1957, Brother Sparks visited the Far East and shared some messages. Those who attended told me the gathering was a breath of fresh air and all were delighted, but they did not understand a single thing. I wondered what sort of meeting that was.

So many heard Brother Spark's preaching and read his books, and there was a sharing. They said that his messages were like a pie in the sky - you could see

it, but could not eat it. Brother Nee's messages, on the other hand, is like an apple in the hand - you could see and eat it. This was the saying back then. When I read Brother Sparks' book, I did not understand much. I had to consult the dictionary many times.

At one point I was so frustrated at the book. What kind of spiritual book is this that I could not understand it? I was so frustrated that I threw it in the trash. I then felt that spiritual things should not be in the trash, so I picked it back up. I was very troubled those days, in my 20's. This was a book I could not understand. For the longest time I was very frustrated.

So brothers and sisters, you may have the same sentiment about the messages you hear today. Do not be disappointed. My frustration forced me before the Lord. One day, the Holy Spirit quickened me. How marvelous that with one touch, it opened something within me and I could now understand. It felt like I was brought into a glorious condition. And in that moment, all the spiritual matters became very real to me.

I am not exaggerating. I was so young at that time, but I had sleepless nights. Even as I lay on my pillow, all this spiritual understanding came, causing me not to sleep. In the middle of the night, I prayed to the Lord.

"Lord, stop, I can't take it anymore. I am only a student and I need to go to school tomorrow. I cannot afford to think about the scriptures all through the night!"

Thank the Lord. In spiritual matters, the mystery belongs to the Lord. If it belongs to Him, He has His way to help us understand. You need not worry. Brother Sparks tells us that he learned later on that spiritual matters became more concrete to him, and the things of the world became more distant from him. Through all these years, I feel that spiritual matters have become more substantial and concrete to me. I feel the earthly things fleeting away. The Lord will lead us through this transition.

Brothers and sisters, pray well. If you are frustrated today, thank the Lord. There is hope. Pray well before the Lord. The Holy Spirit will touch you and spiritual things will become real.

Now I will come back to my theme. As I have been sharing with brothers and sisters on the matter of the measuring line being over Jerusalem, let us look at some scripture:

"every one that is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory: I have formed him, yea, I have made him."
Isaiah 43:7 DARBY

"Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of Jehovah unto Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, saying,"
Zechariah 1:7 DARBY

"Therefore thus saith Jehovah: I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith Jehovah of hosts, and the line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem."
Zechariah 1:16 DARBY

"Thus did he shew unto me; and behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And Jehovah said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumb-line. And the Lord said, Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more. And the high places of Isaac shall be desolated, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will arise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."
Amos 7:7-9 DARBY

"to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive remission of sins and inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me. Whereupon, king Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision;"
Acts 26:18-19 DARBY

"But when God, who set me apart even from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, that I may announce him as glad tidings among the nations, immediately I took not counsel with flesh and blood,"
Galatians 1:15-16 DARBY

The theme for our conference is from Isaiah 43:7. It says here that God has created us for His glory. Brothers and sisters, this is God's will set upon man. By this will, you and I have received grace and are blessed. God has chosen us, these individuals. Who are we that we ought to be considered worthy of this glory of God? But God has chosen us from thousands and placed us in His glorious will. The Bible tells us that God's calling is irrevocable. Indeed, we must thank God for His calling. That we should be chosen, we who are corrupt and wretched.

God tells us that we are created for His glory. What a great grace this is! We must thank our God. This is determined and predestined for each Christian. It is appointed that we are to be His glory. This is something we cannot fathom.

We know how weak and corrupt we are. But because God has chosen you and created you for His glory, He must make you His glory. Therefore God must work. All of our life is the work of God. Our hearts must be filled with thanksgiving to

Him. That we, who are like rubbish, are God's transformative work. That one day we will be as precious stones.

Ephesians 2 says that we are His masterpiece. That God has appointed for His glory to be entrusted unto us. This is God's work. As it says in the book of Ruth, "He will not rest until this work is done". So we may be weak, we may fall, but let us rise. God's will on us will not change. Every brother and sister has this hope of glory, because our end is glory. What a great matter this is! We must thank the Lord.

These two days, our brothers have shared that glory is hard to define. When I was young I also pursued to understand this matter of glory. I then read books by Brother Sparks. Other brothers have also read this. Brother Sparks writes that the glory of God is the satisfaction of God. This is a good explanation. I felt that was true at that time.

A few years ago, at a special conference, I spoke on the glory of God, and how it is God's satisfaction. After the meeting, Brother Kaung told us that the glory of God is God Himself. After I heard it, I sought this before the Lord, and feel that this is the most accurate and simple explanation. God is God's glory. God's glory is God Himself.

We thank the Lord that our Lord Jesus, the Word became flesh, brought the glory of God down to earth. And today He shares His glory to those who come to salvation. So the glory of God is not something apart from God, but is God Himself. Anytime He appears, there is glory. So we thank the Lord our God.

This is the clearest definition.

We thank God that He is glory. All His works are glorious. When He created all things, all heavens and earth are filled with His glory. But we know how this glory will fade.

My house is by the sea, and I get to see the sunset every day. When the sun sets, the sky lights up in a shade of red. When you see it you are filled with awe. This is glorious - the glory of God's creation. But this glory fades and will go away. I often feel that God places me there to remind me that I am getting older, reaching the sunset of my life. The Chinese saying goes, "The setting sun is beautiful, but it is close to the setting of the sun". Thank the Lord for reminding me that I do not have many days left.

There are many places in creation where we can see God's glory, but this glory is temporal, just as how God has given us life. He breathed into the nostrils of Adam, and Adam became a living being. We know that this life is temporal. God's creation of man is glorious, but it is temporal.

God is glory and the origin of all glory is in Him. What is most precious to us is that God has given us His life through His Son. And this life within us, and the glory therein is eternal. For us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ have received this glory.

God's Son, the Word became flesh come into the world, manifested God's glory for the 33 years He was on the earth. When we read the gospels, we see the glory of God in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. John tells us, "how He is, we will be". Can we believe these words? This is a great blessing to us from God.

As Christians, we must love the Lord. When we see these things and still do not love God, Paul tells us that if anyone does not love God, he is to be cursed. So we must understand how great this grace that has come upon us.

God has created us by His glory, but we have fallen and have no way to manifest this glory. Our Lord completed the work of salvation and has given us this life. He then begins to do His work on us. We shared yesterday that God will use us as vessels to contain His glory. This is the work of God, not of man. God treasures the ones He has chosen. In the Old Testament, we are shown how God transforms us from within, and then entirely. This is for His own glory.

Today, we may think of ourselves as nothing, but in God's sight you are precious. You are His treasure. We may not manifest His glory today, but He is working in us. We must understand that each experience we have in our life is all for God's glory. Everything you go through has a deep meaning. This is God's will that permeates all creation. It directs our life, and also the building of the Church today. In the will of God, God has His glorious work. His glorious work must meet His own standards. No man should add or take away anything to it.

Brothers and sisters, we shared yesterday that when God is able to execute His work on us according to His standard, God's glory is displayed. Without that standard, there is no glory. We thank our God.

Today, when we come before His presence, we receive great grace. God's work throughout history moves through each generation. It does not remain in one generation alone. In Moses' generation, we see the tabernacle completed and how God's heart was satisfied and His glory shown.

But Moses passed away, and in Joshua's time we see that God's glory remained there. In the end days of Joshua, he already saw the weakness in the condition of the people of God. So he called to them, "if you feel that God is right, serve Him. If you think that Baals are right, serve them." In the famous words of Joshua, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He had made his own determination.

In the days of Joshua and the days of the elders, the people of Israel lived in the presence of God. Once the elders also passed, a new generation arose. They did not know Jehovah or the works of God. And immediately the people of Israel fell into darkness. And this continued for almost 500 years. They lived a pitiful life. There was no standard.

This is what we see in the history recorded in the Old Testament. This was a sad generation.

Recently, these images have appeared to me. We see these changes in our time. The Church has come to a turning point. Many older saints who love the Lord and have been a great spiritual help, serving the Lord faithfully and held fast to the testimony, doing the will of God according to His standard, have passed away. Can our generation continue to hold fast to what the Lord has entrusted to us? All the more, we need God's mercy.

One matter that is important to the experience of the people of God is how God works through generations by the imparting of vision. Today we understand the meaning of vision. The vision is a revelation of God's eternal will. When we see the eternal purpose of God, we can see the plumbline of God. We shared yesterday that God's own will is the measuring line. All of His work is held to this standard. As each generation passes, God will use His glorious revelation to direct His people. Some eyes are opened to this vision, and they are able to serve God according to God's heart. This generation is then able to walk in a way pleasing to God.

The generations will change, but the will of God will never change. Therefore the standard of God will never change. We see how Zechariah saw the vision of this plumbline. At least a few hundred years have passed since Mount Sinai to the time of Zechariah. There has been great change in the nation of Israel. Kings have risen and fallen, and the condition of the people has been chaotic. In these long years, we see that the standard of God has not changed. So Zechariah heard the Lord say that the line must be over Jerusalem. God works according to His eternal will, His measuring line.

When we read the Bible, we see how different generations are led by visions from God. These visions appear under different circumstances and are manifested in different ways, but they all point to one thing: that the will of God does not change. The standard remains the same.

Brothers and sisters, in our generation, God desires to reveal Himself and give us vision. We do not know the ways He will use it, but the meaning is the same. We must know that God will always work according to His own standard. All of our service and spiritual work today needs to conform to this measuring line. Man cannot serve according to His own way, or set His own standard. This is a very solemn reminder.

In Proverbs 29:18, a familiar verse to us says that without vision the people perish,

"Where there is no vision the people cast off restraint;"
Proverbs 29:18 DARBY

This means that people become bold and do whatever they want. We see how Christians today serve according as they wish. They have become bold and do as they want. I often remind myself that when serving the Lord, we should be a little more timid and less bold. We need a heart of reverence. There are some things we cannot do. We cannot do things out of our self interest or benefit. Do you not know that we will face our Lord one day? May the Lord be gracious to us.

Proverbs reminds us that the people will perish without vision. There are many meanings to this word "perish". The people disintegrate. They scatter. The people perish. This is a frightening word.

So each generation passes, and the Lord gives vision for His people to understand His will and see His measuring line. My dear brothers and sisters, we have shared about vision throughout different WCCCs. This evening I would like to share a little on the function of such vision, that we may rise and give weight to this matter.

Function of Vision

The first function of vision is that we will see the glory of God. Without the revelation of God no one can see the glory of God. Today when we speak of the glory of God, we must see it, not just hear it. May the Lord open our spiritual eyes. When we see the glory of God, we can then discern that which is heavenly and that which is earthly. Today, the Church is not able to discern. So many earthly things have crept into the Church, and many children of God brought in these things. This is the earthly mindset of the natural man.

We are greatly influenced by these thoughts. The Bible tells us that God rejects all of these earthly methods. The old man is crucified with Christ. All of the self must die. Dear brothers and sisters, this is how God sees the cross.

Recently when I shared with brothers and sisters, I said that natural life is never beautiful. The Church often looks to man's natural abilities - their status, their qualifications. But as far as God is concerned, He will not accept any of this. But we accept these things because we are fallen man. All these earthly things have filled the church. When we see the glory of God, we can see what is heavenly and what is earthly. Not only can we tell what is heavenly and earthly, we can see

what is eternal and what is temporal. Everything in time will expire. You will not find eternal things in time. This is hard for us to distinguish.

Paul said that we are mindful of that which we cannot see, because that which is unseen is eternal. That which is seen is temporal. Many who serve the Lord are practical and only see what is before our eyes. We serve and people praise us, and we are filled with happiness. This shows us that we continue to live in the confines of time. We pursue only that which is eternal.

Therefore, the first function of vision is to show us the glory of God. We have this desire from within. When I was young, we were working with the older saints. It was a time when some would say, "I have vision, you don't have vision." Because we were younger and respected these older saints, we would concede that we have no vision and only they had vision. Even the ones leading the youths would tell us that only they had vision and we had none. So we gave God's vision no thought because we believed we had no vision.

What a great error. As long as you are saved by grace and have the life of the Lord within you, and you have spiritual eyes, you will see. The Bible shows us that those who received vision were nobody. It was because they received God's vision and their eyes were open that they became different from others.

We are able to see. We should have this longing within for the Lord to open our eyes to see His glory.

The second function of vision is that it brings us back to the beginning, so that we can understand the truth behind all things. Vision brings us outside of time, to the beginning where the Lord devised His plan before the foundation of the world.

My dear brothers and sisters, only when you see the truth can you have the true standard of God. Then you realise the standard, the measuring line of God. It is not that we know a bit of doctrine that we have God's standard. Many prophets in the Old Testament had their eyes open when the Spirit of God came upon them. They returned to the original purpose of God.

We have 6,000 years of recorded man's history. There has been so much change. Even in the 2,000 years of church history, so many things have been mixed in that the children of God are no longer clear. Some will say "this is the way" or "that is the way". Everyone says their way is the right way. One day when we are brought into eternity and we see the heart of God from eternity past, we will truly know the way. This is such an important thing.

This is why many prophets were rejected by people when they received vision. Many of them were martyred because they saw the truth, and could not accept everything that is false. They became lonely people, but they were faithful to the

end. God gained that which He desires in their life. We will see them appear in glory. May this encourage us.

Only vision can cause us to return to the beginning and understand the truth of all things.

Not only does it bring us to the beginning of all things, there is a third function of vision: that it will bring us to see the end of all things. What a glorious sight! This vision will bring us great encouragement in our faith. Ezekiel saw the city of God. Some have said this is Jerusalem in the millennium. When I read the book of Ezekiel I have a feeling within that God has brought him in spirit to the very end of the history of man to see the result of God's work.

This is the same with the apostle John. God showed him eternity in a vision, and he saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem descend from on high. What a great sight! How beautiful, great and perfect! To John, this was such a great encouragement.

We must have vision within. I feel such vision is of utmost importance to those who serve the Lord. Years ago I had this feeling that the Lord had opened my eyes to see His work, the completed new Jerusalem. I tell brothers and sisters that if I had a hundred hearts, they would have all been broken were it not for the encouragement I gained from such a vision.

How difficult it is to serve the Lord in our time! Sometimes we can't move. We see such great obstacles and challenges. It seems that God is not working, and we get discouraged. At these times when we seem most hopeless, the glory of God appears and becomes our encouragement.

In the Bible, there is not only vision but also prophecy. Brothers and sisters, this tells us the end of all things. What a precious spiritual vision! We see all of God's servants throughout the ages who have been faithful in the generation in which they lived.

We think of Paul as a great servant of God. If he were in our midst today, we would pay great attention to him. Imagine him walking through the door. We would say "Paul is here. What a mighty servant of God. God has used him in such a great way!". But do you remember what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy? "All of Asia has deserted me." Because Paul held fast to the vision God has given him. God did not compromise, neither did Paul. He persevered. In Galatians Paul also writes, "should I rather please God or please man? If I please man, I am no servant of God."

One whose eyes have been opened will not compromise. No greater interest will tempt him. When we see the end, how precious that is!

The fourth function of vision is that it will bring us to a turning point. We may go the wrong way, and our goals may not be God's goal. But when our eyes are opened to God's vision, it will change our direction and our goal.

I feel that in this generation, the most important issue is that of our goal and our way. This is life and death. If our goal is wrong and we have no way, there is no meaning to anything we do. Brothers and sisters, do you see so many thousands of brothers and sisters running hard but on the wrong way? We run blindly forward. Like Paul said, not only are we blind, we lead the blind. We must have vision, that the Lord may change our goal, our way and our direction. Only vision can bring about this turning.

Vision also gives us a commission. Do you know you have a great commission today? Ask yourself, what is the commission of your service today? If you do not have vision from God, you do not know what your mission is. We know that Paul ran according to the mission God has given to him. Paul did not relax for one moment.

Not only do you have a commission, God's vision also gives you the drive to move forward. We see the apostles, especially Paul, who have gone through so much hardship, yet not fall. Paul was imprisoned and cried out "that I may know Christ". Paul was already in prison, unsure if he would be beheaded tomorrow, and still cries out "that I may know Christ". The driving force in Paul did not stop. This drive came from God's vision to Paul.

Brothers and sisters, we may be discouraged in following the Lord. We may have lost flavor in our walk as the days grow long. We may find ourselves singing the same old hymns, or hearing the same old messages that once were new. A gifted brother once told me that no matter how gifted you are, people grow weary if you speak at the same place for a long time.

Do we depend on the external encouragement of others to drive us on? One who has God's vision is driven from above. I see many older saints and am moved by their motivation. We may have sung the hymn hundreds of times, but they continue to weep when they sing it. Are we still motivated to follow the Lord? Or are we stumbled by a little hardship? Only those with vision can overcome.

We understand how Paul follows the Lord in his time. He followed the Lord like a mad man. Even the king accused him of being mad in following Christ, but Paul was content to be thought mad if the king gained what he had gained in Christ. Paul writes that if we have gone mad, it is because of the love of the Lord. Vision will give us such passion.

Fifthly, vision is able to discern between right and wrong. In the vision, Amos saw the measuring line of God, and how God would judge the house of Jeroboam according to the plumbline. Each time when vision appears, the enemy is judged.

In the vision, the schemes of the enemy are exposed. Paul writes that we are aware of the schemes and wiles of the enemy.

We must not take the enemy's schemes lightly. So many saints today have fallen into the snare of the enemy. My dear brothers and sisters, if our eyes are open, we can see where the enemy is at work, just as the apostles saw because they had vision.

Not only does vision expose the devices of the enemy, it also adjusts us to the right path when we have gone wrong. I shared yesterday that many who serve the Lord do so diligently, with clean hands and pure hearts, but they are on the wrong way. They lack the vision from within.

We must have the grace of the Lord. We know the story of Darby. He was in the Anglican church in Ireland. He was extremely intelligent and knew 13 languages, translating the Bible into many different languages. He was fluent in Greek and Hebrew. His brother in law had great hopes for him to become a lawyer and take on a high position in Ireland, but he became a pastor.

The Lord later opened his eyes and there was a great change. He became a great servant God used during the Brethren movement. His writings spread throughout all of Europe, and it caused a great revival like shoots coming forth in the spring rain. He had such a great impact on the Brethren because the Lord opened his eyes and returned him from the wrong path to the right path.

Today, we still need such a blessing. We thank the Lord that vision can bring us back to the right way.

Sixthly, vision can give us the power to unite as one. In Proverbs it tells us that without vision the people scatter. We are all seated together today, but may not be in unity. There may be many scattered thoughts. Only vision can join us in unity. As we serve the Lord today, what brings us together? It is not the work.

Today, many come together because of work. Some are bound in organization, others by tradition. We see in the early church, the co-workers of Paul, were united in vision. So Paul was able to say that we are of one spirit and one mind. They are united in vision. We see the co-workers of Paul having the same vision that he had received. This union brought great blessing to the house of God.

May we be assembled because vision unites us. We have one goal. One way. We gather together, co-workers serving the Lord together. There is true meaning in that.

These are such great functions in vision. I have listed them out that we may place some emphasis for the Lord to open our eyes. That this generation may have our eyes open, so that we can hold fast to the testimony.

There is a special characteristic of vision. Vision must be for today. We know each generation passes and God does His work. A new generation arises and God needs to open their eyes. When we reflect on the visions of those in the past, it tells us of the preciousness of the will of God. When we read the Bible and spiritual books, when we read messages from saints of old, they will encourage us because they see what we have not seen. It helps us learn more. But this is not enough. We need God's Spirit to give us direct vision.

Let me give you a simple illustration. In our daily living, we see photographs, and it is different from the real scenery. You may see the photo and admire the scenery. One day when you go to the location, you see that it is different. Perhaps the photo has a better vantage point than where you are at. But now you see it with your own eyes. It is your own experience.

One time I was passing by Tokyo and was about to meet a brother I had never met. I was given a photo of him. I saw this man who looked at me and thought maybe it was him. He had recognized me by the photo. But the photo and the real thing are different. The saints saw the vision and it is very precious. But today we must have a direct vision.

Brother Sparks had great vision and many admire him, some claiming that all the revelation of God ends with Brother Sparks. But Brother Sparks reminded them that the glory of the latter will be greater than the former. God wants each generation to be progressively more glorious. As we come to the end, we ought to live out more the glory of God. We must have the Lord open us within.

Only today's vision can solve the issues of today. We cannot use the vision of the past to meet the needs of today. We are at a crisis today, facing a generational shift. Many in the previous generation have passed on, just as Moses passed. Joshua too was in fear and trembling. Thank the Lord that God appeared to him and opened his eyes, and he became the leader of the new generation, leading the people of Israel across the Jordan and into the Promised Land.

When we read the book of Joshua carefully, we see that the miracles God had performed in Joshua's time was greater than that of Moses' time. God separated the Red Sea in Moses' time. Joshua prayed to God, and the sun stopped for the whole day. Today we understand that the earth stopped rotating. The separation of the Red Sea cannot be compared to this.

We are not asking for these outward miracles, but the new generation must ask for the Lord to open our eyes. We must have spiritual vision so that we can lead the people of God forward. The vision must be for today. Without vision, God's testimony and work will face a great crisis.

We cannot approach this with self-confidence. You cannot trust any of this. If God does not work, it is a crisis for the whole generation.

In the history of the Old Testament, God's vision brought about great turning points. Let me give you a few examples:

Jacob. In Genesis 28, when Jacob was in the wilderness, he had a dream of a ladder where angels were ascending and descending, and God was on top of the ladder. This was the vision he saw. The next day he awoke, and he spoke some special words - that God was here and I did not know it. This is the gate of heaven, the house of God. This is what Jacob understood in his spirit. It was different from what his eyes saw.

This shows us that the natural man, however gifted, is filled with earthly thoughts, cunning ways and selfishness. We cannot understand vision. Vision is a spiritual understanding.

Throughout the Old Testament, visions came in different images. We know why God used images because earthly minds cannot understand. We need God's perspective.

Visions also have this characteristic, that they are living and not dead images. In the New Testament, it is all by life. It is not by doctrine or knowledge. From the experience of Jacob we are able to see vision lead to transformation.

We have been sharing about Isaiah these days, and how there is a great transformation in Isaiah. In Isaiah 6, after the death of King Uzziah, Isaiah was in great sorrow. He felt that all hope was lost, because he had great expectations of King Uzziah. King Uzziah had perhaps more impact than even King Solomon. He was such a capable man who did many things. So he was a hero to Isaiah who placed all the hope of Israel upon him. When he died, the dream was shattered.

With a sorrowful heart, Isaiah went to the temple to pray. God opened the eyes of his heart, and he saw the One sitting on the throne. The vision shows us how Isaiah shifted his trust from man unto the Lord.

If we do not have this transition, we will never be used by the hand of God. We see this transformation of Isaiah, and he would bring us the most beautiful prophecy of the coming Son of God. He prophesied so clearly of Jesus' life.

We see Ezekiel who was a priest. Israel was destroyed and he was in captivity in Babylon. He was in hard labour by the river. At 33 years old, he was in deep sorrow. If things were normal, he would be serving in the temple, but now he had lost the priestly ministry. He saw how Jerusalem was besieged and

destroyed. All hope was lost. God knew how this individual loved Him, and revealed Himself to Ezekiel.

So a great cloud came from the north, and some brothers tell us that within it was the glory that was in the temple. This cloud departed from Jerusalem and moved thousands of miles to Babylon so that God's servant would see God's glory.

This tells us that the enemy can destroy the outward form of the house of God, but the glory of God is something the enemy can never touch.

This vision gave a great transformation to Ezekiel. He was not able to serve in the temple, but he became a spiritual priest. How alive his spirit was! He was an Old Testament character living in the principles of the New Testament. God had given him a foretaste of heaven.

Today, on earth, it is most unfortunate that the opposite has happened. They live in New Testament times, but on Old Testament terms. Many brothers attest to how the church today has moved toward Judaism very severely.

So we must have vision to transform us. We know of Paul, how he was a fanatic in Judaism. He was very serious and fervent about his faith, wanting to revive Judaism. The Lord met him on the road to Damascus, and what a great transformation that wrought forth! In a vision he saw the Lord Jesus, and all the tradition of Judaism was gone. That this man, hard and stubborn, would be changed completely by one appearance of the Lord. He departed completely away from Judaism. His eyes were opened and he was able to see the eternal will of God. All the mysteries hidden throughout the ages were revealed to him. He was able to see how important it is for Christ to be all in all in the Church. The great mystery of God is Christ, and the Church is the body of Christ.

Only Christ is the measuring line. In the 13 epistles of Paul, the word "Christ" appears many times. From testimony and the work of the Church, to individual daily living, everything is Christ. This is such a great transformation.

Because of time I had wanted to speak of John, but will leave it to other brothers and sisters. In conclusion, let us not make vision out to be an extraordinary matter that ordinary Christians cannot experience. Paul tells us he too was nothing. In Galatians he writes that it was the Heavenly Father's good pleasure to reveal His Son to him. It is the greatest pleasure of God the Father to reveal His Son to us. Just like a baby who wants something from the Father, the Father is prepared to give to the child.

Whether individually or corporately, we must have this faith and this confidence. We must pray well. We have come to a time of great crisis. Only vision can lead us forward. The vision for today will meet today's needs, especially in these

changing times. May many brothers and sisters be awakened by the Lord. Even the younger generation needs to make following the Lord their aim.

Brothers and sisters, with vision, you can understand the will of God, and you will know where the measuring line and standard of God is.

Lord, we have come to a time of crisis. There is great chaos in the world. And Your Church is weak in this turbulent time. Have mercy on this generation. May You open the eyes of many, showing Your vision to us. Without Your vision, we are without direction or goal. We do not know how to live this spiritual life. Have mercy on this generation and grant Your people grace. Lord Jesus, we believe that You will work among Your people. Give us sufficient grace to raise many brothers and sisters that in these last days we can see Your glory descend. Only when Your revelation comes we can work according to Your standard and bring Your glory down to this earth. Lord, may you grant our hearts' desire. Deliver us from these frightening times. We give You all the glory. Hear our prayer. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.