

2014 Memorial Day Weekend Conference

Banners

**The governing vision in the Bible is the vision of God's economy—
the vision of the Triune God working Himself
into His chosen and redeemed people
in order to saturate their entire being with the Divine Trinity
for the producing and building up of the Body of Christ
consummating in the New Jerusalem.**

**We need to see that the all-inclusive Christ
is the reality of all the positive things in the universe,
and as the Spirit of reality, He makes the untraceable riches
of all that He is real to us,
guiding us into Himself as the divine reality.**

**We need to see the vision of the Body of Christ—
the corporate Christ, the intrinsic significance of the church,
a constitution of the Triune God with the believers in Christ,
the means for God to carry out His administration, and
the universal church expressed in many localities as local churches.**

**We need to see that God desires all His people to be Nazarites,
those who separate themselves unto God
to be absolutely, utterly, and ultimately for God,
that is, to be for nothing other than God—
loving God, seeking God, living God, and being constituted with God
to bless others with God for the expression of God.**

WEEK 1

The Governing and Controlling Vision— the Vision of God's Economy

Scripture Reading: Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19; Eph. 1:17-18; Rev. 21:2, 9-10

OUTLINE

DAY 1

I. In the Bible vision denotes an extraordinary scene; it refers to a special kind of seeing—a glorious, inward seeing—and to the spiritual scenery we see from God (Acts 26:19; Matt. 16:17; Ezek. 1:1; 8:3):

- A. God's visions are His revelations, which enable us to see divine, spiritual, heavenly things (Acts 22:14-15; 26:16).
- B. In order to have a vision, we need revelation (unveiling), light, and sight (Eph. 1:17-18):
 - 1. Without light we cannot see the vision, even if the veil is taken away (2 Cor. 4:6; 1 John 1:5, 7).
 - 2. When the divine light shines over the divine revelation in the Word, the divine revelation becomes the divine vision; when we also have sight, we can see the heavenly vision (Eph. 1:17-18; 3:9).

DAY 2

- C. We need to pray that the Lord will bring us all up to a high mountain and release every one of us from ourselves, bringing us out of our own experiences, learning, and past attainments and lifting us up to a new realm, an elevated sphere, that we have never reached before so that we may have a transcendent view of the glorious vision of God (Rev. 21:9-10; Acts 10:9-16).
- D. All the churches and all the saints need to see the heavenly vision (Eph. 1:17-18; Rev. 1:11a; 22:16a):
 - 1. What we present to the children of God should not be mere teaching or doctrine or knowledge gained from reading but a vision that we have seen in spirit under the shining of the divine light (1 Tim. 4:6; 1 John 1:1-3).
 - 2. Every minister of God's word should convey spiritual, heavenly visions to others (2 Tim. 2:2, 15, 25; 1 John 1:1-3; Rev. 1:11a).

DAY 3

II. The governing vision in the Bible is the vision of God's economy—the vision of the Triune God working Himself into His chosen and redeemed people in order to saturate their entire being with the Divine Trinity for the producing and building up of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem (1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9, 16-17; 4:4-6; Rev. 21:2, 9-10):

- A. The economy of God is that God in Christ became flesh, passed through human living, died, resurrected, and became the life-giving Spirit to enter into us as life and to dispense Himself into us so that we may be transformed for the producing of the church, which is the Body of Christ, the house of God, the kingdom of God, and the counterpart of Christ, the ultimate consummation and aggregate of which is the New Jerusalem (John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 21:2).
- B. The entire Bible was written according to the principle of the vision of the Triune God wrought into His redeemed people (Psa. 36:8-9; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:16-17; 4:4-6).

III. If we see the heavenly vision and it is wrought into our being, this vision will have a powerful and lasting effect on us (Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19):

- A. When we see this glorious, heavenly vision, we are revolutionized, our entire being is changed in its concept, attitude, conversation, and thought, and we become thoroughly different; the vision will cause us to be beside ourselves, and our lifestyle will be changed (9:3-9, 11-12, 20, 22; Phil. 3:4-8).
- B. The heavenly vision captures us, reconstitutes us, governs us, directs us, restricts us, controls us, and preserves us (Prov. 29:18a):
 - 1. In order for the heavenly vision to govern and direct us, it must be wrought into our being (Acts 9:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6).
 - 2. The heavenly vision restricts us to the central line of the divine revelation with its focus on God's New Testament economy (1 Tim. 1:4).

DAY 4

- C. The heavenly vision causes our life to be full of meaning and purpose, and it motivates us, energizes us, and gives us endurance (2 Tim. 1:9; Heb. 12:1-2).
- D. Under the heavenly vision we are directed toward God's goal, and our life is controlled according to God's economy (Phil. 3:3-14; 1 Tim. 1:4).
- E. The vision we receive from the Lord will cause us to move, and we will

move according to the vision we have seen; in the book of Acts the divine vision mainly concerns God's move (10:1-33; 13:2).

- F. Where there is a vision, there is a way; the glorious vision always leads us onto the way and gives us the boldness to go on (26:18-19).
- G. The heavenly vision preserves us in the genuine oneness and brings us into one accord (Eph. 1:17-18; 4:3; Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12).

DAY 5

- H. If we are reconstituted with this vision, we will automatically carry out God's economy and do one work, the work of the Body (Eph. 3:9; 4:16; Acts 13:2).
- I. The heavenly vision directs us toward God's goal—the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem (Eph. 4:16; Rev. 21:9-10).

IV. We need to become persons with a vision (Acts 26:19; Gal. 1:15-16):

- A. Everyone who serves the Lord must be a person with a vision; the most important matter for one who serves the Lord is that he has a vision and serves Him with a vision (Acts 26:19; 9:3-5, 10, 12, 15-16, 20, 22).
- B. Visions come from God; they do not depend on anything of our self (Matt. 16:17; Gal. 1:15-16; cf. Isa. 50:10-11).
- C. Not every believer receives a direct vision; Paul received a direct vision, but Timothy received a vision through Paul (Acts 22:14; 2 Tim. 3:14-15).
- D. In seeing a vision, we bear responsibility related to our heart, to our willingness to let go of worthless things, to wait on the Lord, and to be open to the Lord (Matt. 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:21; Jer. 15:19; Dan. 10:2-3; 2 Cor. 3:18).

DAY 6

- E. We need to be centered on Christ and bear witness of the things in which we have seen Christ (Acts 26:16).
- F. Like Paul, we should not be disobedient to the heavenly vision (v. 19):
 - 1. In order to see more vision, we must obey the visions that we have already seen (22:14-15; John 7:17).
 - 2. We obey the vision by taking Christ as our life, not allowing ourselves to be distracted but maintaining contact with the Lord (Col. 3:4; 1 Thes. 5:17).

WEEK 1 – DAY 1

Morning Nourishment

Eph. 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

What is vision? Literally, the Chinese expression i-hsiang means an “uncommon, special scene.” Hence, vision denotes an extraordinary scene. For example, someone may have a house with exquisite decorations. Once you enter in and take a look, you immediately sense something uncommon. To you that is an uncommon scene; that is a vision. In the Bible vision refers to the scenery we see from God. Through His Word God has opened the veil, but we must see the scenes contained in the Word. Whatever we see through God’s revelation is a vision. (The Revelation and Vision of God, p. 9)

Today’s Reading

God continues to need a people who can cause His heavens to be opened. Today the earth is still occupied by Satan; the people on earth are still in Satan’s hands; and most of God’s people are still in captivity. Thus, there is an urgent need for some, like Ezekiel, who will seek God, contact God, and be God’s priests ministering before God. If God has such Ezekiels today, the heavens will be opened, the people on earth will be able to see heavenly visions, and the heavenly things will be fulfilled on earth. In these days may we all seek God and contact Him, and may the heavens be opened to us!

Not only were the heavens opened to Ezekiel, but the visions came, and something was revealed, unveiled, to him. God said to Ezekiel, “Look with your eyes, and hear with your ears, and set your heart on all that I show you” (Ezek. 40:4). The heavens were opened for the purpose of allowing Ezekiel to see visions of God. God’s visions are His revelations, which enable us to see divine, spiritual, heavenly things. Those for whom the heavens are not open cannot see God’s heavenly things. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 18-19)

Revelation is like the lifting of a curtain, the opening of a veil. Yet once the veil is opened, there are two other requirements—light and sight. Even when the veil is lifted, if there is no light, we will not see. If there is light, but we do not have the sight, we still will not be able to see. In the New Testament age the revelation is already here, but the strangest thing is that many people still do not have the light or the vision in their reading of the Bible. Why is this? First, it is because they do not have light. Second, it is because they do not have the sight—their eyes are not opened. Before the veil is lifted, we surely will not see anything. But even after the veil is lifted, if there is no light, we still will not see anything. If our eyes are blind, even though there is light, we still will not see. But if our eyes are opened, we will be able to see the vision spoken of in the Scriptures. What is a vision? A vision is a scene, not an ordinary one, but a particular scene that we see from God.

Today when we come to the New Testament, all that is contained in the Bible has already been revealed. Yet when reading the Bible, if our eyes are not opened we will not be able to see the vision of God even though the word of God is right in front of us. But if our eyes are opened when we pray and read God’s word, we will immediately see the vision. At that time the revelation will become our vision. (The Path of Our Growth in Life, pp. 78-79)

When the divine light shines over the divine revelation, the divine revelation becomes the divine vision (Acts 26:19). A vision is a view whereby we may see something. If a person’s eyes are covered by a thick veil, there may be some wonderful scenery in front of him, but he is not able to see it. He cannot see because he has no vision, but when the veil is taken away he can see. (The Triune God’s Revelation and His Move, p. 6)

Further Reading: The Triune God’s Revelation and His Move, msg. 1-2; The Revelation and Vision of God, ch. 1

WEEK 1 – DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 21:9-10 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

We need to learn to come to the Bible every day by coming to God. We should confess our sins to make a clear situation so that we can have fellowship with God in the Spirit. Then we should read His word by pray-reading. Every day we will receive revelation; the Spirit will also shine over the revelation, and we will receive a vision. There is a progression from the word to revelation and from revelation to vision.

In Ephesians 1:17 Paul asked the Lord to grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation. When the Spirit shines over the revelation, the vision is here. Without the light, we cannot receive the vision, even if the veil is taken away. The veil should be gone; and the light should come. Furthermore, we need the sight. If we are blind, we will not be able to see anything, even if the veil is removed and the light is here. We need the revelation, the light, the vision through the light, and the sight. Then the veil is gone, the vision is here, and we have the light with the sight. We also have the understanding of the vision through the Spirit's wisdom. (The Triune God's Revelation and His Move, p. 7)

Today's Reading

I have a deep expectation that you would be carried away to a high place, far above all, to have a far-reaching view of God's vision. In Revelation when the apostle John saw the vision of Babylon, the corrupted city, he was in the wilderness, a place of desolation. However, in order to see the New Jerusalem, the glorious, holy city, he was brought by an angel to a high mountain. This was because the view from the plain was not adequate. He needed to be brought to a mountain, a high place, a transcendent realm, that he might have a sufficiently far-reaching and great view. Therefore, I earnestly look to the Lord in His presence that He would bring us all up to a high mountain, a high place, and release every one of us from ourselves, bringing us out of our own experiences, learning, and past attainments and lifting us up to a new realm, an elevated sphere, that we have never reached before so that we would have a transcendent view of the glorious vision of God.

How I wish that every brother and sister would have such an attitude and desire and that we would tell the Lord, "I want to be released and carried away from myself. I want to be freed not only from my wicked sins but also from my good, spiritual experiences. Although I have had many attainments already, I want to see a vision that is higher, greater, deeper, richer, and more far-reaching and transcendent." May God have mercy on every one of us that we would be rescued and carried away from ourselves to a transcendent position that we may have a transcendent view, a far-reaching sight, to see through all things so that we may see the glorious vision of God. (The Vision of the Building of the Church, pp. 8-9)

Ezekiel saw four living creatures and God's glorious throne. Because of what he saw, he was burdened to convey these visions to others. What he spoke was not a teaching or something imaginary but a heavenly vision which he had seen in spirit. Every minister of God's word should convey spiritual, heavenly visions to others....I am not ministering a theory, a concept, a doctrine, or anything of systematized theology...[but] a vision from the open heavens.

All the churches and all the saints need to see heavenly visions. Therefore, what we present to the children of God should not be mere teaching or doctrine or knowledge gained from reading but a vision we have seen in spirit under the open heavens through our contact with God. This will cause God's people to be recovered from their captivity, and it will lead to the building up of God's churches. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 19)

Further Reading: Elders' Training, Book 2: The Vision of the Lord's Recovery, chs. 1-6

WEEK 1 – DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

Eph. 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things.

16-17 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith...

Paul was governed and controlled by [the vision of God's economy] in all his work and actions. We should be governed and controlled also....What is the Bible?...You need to learn to say that the Bible has two sections: The first section is the types and prophecies, and the second section is the fulfillment and accomplishment. All the things referred to in the Bible are for the fulfillment and accomplishment of the economy of God. The economy of God is that God became flesh, passed through human living, died, resurrected, and became the Spirit to enter into us as life and dispense God into us that we may be transformed for the producing of the church, which is the Body of Christ, the house of God, the kingdom of God, and the counterpart of Christ, the ultimate aggregate of which is the New Jerusalem. This is the Bible, and this is the vision that governs and controls us. (The Governing and Controlling Vision in the Bible, p. 17)

Today's Reading

The governing vision [is that] the Triune God is working Himself into His chosen and redeemed people to be their life and life supply, to saturate their entire being with the Divine Trinity, that is, with the Father as the fountain, the Son as the fatness, and the Spirit as the river....We must realize that the Bible was written under this governing principle. When we pick up this key, we can open up every part of the Bible. This principle helps us to interpret "the fountain of life" and "in Your light we see light" (Psa. 36:9).

Every book of the Bible confirms your understanding of this Scripture passage [Psa. 36:8-9] because the entire Bible was written according to the principle of the Triune God wrought into His redeemed people as their enjoyment, their drink, and their fountain of life and light. The application of this principle in interpreting any portion of the New Testament is endless. (Elders' Training, Book 2: The Vision of the Lord's Recovery, p. 158)

After we have this glorious seeing, our entire being will be changed in its concept, attitude, conversation, and thought. We will be thoroughly different. Although we still eat, drink, rest, and work, our whole person will be changed....Whenever we see a vision we have a response....The vision that you see will make you beside yourself. Your concepts will be changed, and your walk and living will become uncommon.

Sooner or later, the appearing of God and our spiritual vision will make us different from others. The world can never explain this. They cannot understand it, because they have never seen anything like it....After seeing such a vision, our whole life-style is changed....Our whole being has had an inward turn. From that day on, for us the world changed its color. It was a genuine change. This world has become absolutely tasteless to us....Our life becomes full of meaning, glory, and purpose because of the Lord. This proves that we have seen the glorious vision. When this God of glory unveils Himself to us, our lives are changed. This can neither be imitated nor denied.

I hope that every one who is going to participate in the gospel outreach is a man of vision. It must not be that some others are persuading you to join the gospel outreach. Persuasion will work for only three days. I am afraid that after three days, it will become useless. It has to be something that touches you within, which is the God of glory unveiling Himself to you and enlightening you, who will give you unspeakable strength for you to go on in serving the Lord step by step. (The Glorious Vision and the Way of the Cross, pp. 11-12)

Further Reading: The Governing and Controlling Vision in the Bible, ch. 1; Elders' Training, Book 2: The Vision of the Lord's Recovery, ch. 13

WEEK 1 – DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

2 Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

If you have seen the vision, whether there is a cold front or a warm front, you will not be affected. We have to realize that we have the outreach in the villages because we have seen an inward vision. This glorious vision controls us and gives us the boldness to go on....At present, we very much encourage the brothers and sisters to prophesy in the district meetings on the Lord's Day. This is to speak for God. However, there is a basic qualification to speak for God which is that we must first see God.

We also must deeply realize that our outreach is not a kind of work. Rather, it is a going out in ecstasy. If we are not ecstatic, the gospel outreach will not be effective. If we see the vision, our going out for the work will be different. (The Glorious Vision and the Way of the Cross, p. 13)

Today's Reading

One day while Paul was serving God,...he was on the way to Damascus. Suddenly, a heavenly vision came to him. This vision turned him, changed him, revolutionized him (Acts 9:1-5). This vision turned him from the old way of service. After he saw this vision, he became blind and very weak, even impotent. Before this vision came to him, Paul was clear, full of sight, and he was also potent, able to do many things. But suddenly a heavenly vision came to him, and Paul was changed. He became blind, unable to see anything, and impotent, unable to do anything. Before the vision came to him, he took the lead to do things, but after the vision came, he needed others to guide him.

A blessed blindness comes upon those who are met by the heavenly vision. After this blindness comes upon us, there will be the inner anointing and the inner shining, the inner enlightening. The inner vision will increase more and more and will revolutionize the way we serve the Lord....After he got saved,...in every aspect, [Paul's] service now was opposite to the way he had served before. (The Heavenly Vision, pp. 8-9)

Today, whether Christianity likes to hear it or not, I have to speak again and again concerning the vision I have seen. I have been speaking on this vision for over fifty years. I am not stubborn, nor am I proud. But I have to declare to the universe that I am a person who has seen the vision. I must admit that I am chosen by the Lord; I am called by the Lord.

In 1962, I began to work in the United States. For the last twenty years, I have also seen many being unsteady and uncertain. But I have always remained the same. The reason for this is that I have had a clear vision within. (Words of Training for the New Way, vol. 2, pp. 118-119)

Second Peter 1:3 says that God "has called us by His own glory and virtue." In the New Testament, every saved person should be one who has received God's glorious calling. We have all seen His glory, have been attracted by Him, and are under His influence. We can no longer be the same as we were, common worldly persons. We are a special people, because the Lord has called us. We do not care about heaven or earth. This glory that we have seen is the meaning of our life. It has also become our goal, our commission, and our burden. We do not care what the circumstance is nor what others think of us. There is something within us which we cannot deny or disobey. It is the glorious vision. We have to serve God according to this vision throughout our whole life. (The Glorious Vision and the Way of the Cross, p. 15)

Further Reading: The Glorious Vision and the Way of the Cross, ch. 1; Words of Training for the New Way, vol. 2, ch. 24; The Triune God's Revelation and His Move, msg. 4

WEEK 1 – DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Acts 26:18-19 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

We must have vision and revelation in order to serve God. The way to serve God comes from the vision, and the life to serve God comes from revelation. Nothing human should be brought into the service to God, that is, nothing from our past, nothing that is Chinese, nothing that is foreign, nothing that is old, and even nothing that is new....The heavenly vision stops the earthly practices and methods of God's serving ones. The heavenly vision adjusts us. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, pp. 11-12)

Today's Reading

The vision of Christ and the church is related not only to our personal growth in life but also to the building up of the church on earth. When we experience Christ as life, we can then have the growth in life. When we live the church life, the church can then be built up. Hence, each of us who serves the Lord must see the vision of Christ and the church. We need to see and live in such a vision. This vision should also become the goal of our service. It should be like a brightly shining lamp, and we should walk in its light. If we are serving the children in the church, we must help them to know Christ in their youth and to become materials for the building of the church, so that one day they too will be built up together....If we have seen the vision of Christ and the church, the goal of all of our service will be to help others receive Christ as life, so that they may become proper materials who are built up in the church. In all of our services, we should exercise all wisdom to help people to gain Christ as life, so that they may become materials for the building and be built up as the spiritual house of God. Brothers and sisters, this is our vision. (Our Vision—Christ and the Church, pp. 12-13)

Instead of serving without a vision, Paul served with a vision. He served with a vision not only in big things but even in small things. (The Heavenly Vision, p. 9)

If we have a desire to serve, we must have a vision. We must ask the Lord to grant us a vision. Furthermore, I hope that we do not just receive trivial visions that are peripheral. Rather, we need to see the most central vision, the most fundamental vision, in God's purpose so that we may have a real understanding and seeing of the most basic and central matters concerning God's intention. (Our Vision—Christ and the Church, p. 7)

How can we see a vision? What is the way to receive a revelation? Although the circumstances related to seeing a vision and receiving a revelation are not the same for every person, the principles are the same. Visions come from God; they do not depend upon anything of our self. If God wants us to see, we will see; if God does not let us see, we cannot see. Nevertheless, we still bear some responsibility related to our heart, to our willingness to let go of worthless things, to wait on the Lord, to be pure in heart, and to be open to the Lord.

Not everyone who serves God in the same age sees a vision directly. The Bible shows that Paul received a direct vision, but Timothy's vision was received through Paul. There is no record in the Bible of Timothy receiving a direct vision himself. Everything that Timothy saw came through Paul. Hence Paul says, "Continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from which ones you have learned them and that from a babe you have known the sacred writings" (2 Tim. 3:14-15). This means that Timothy received a vision from Paul and through the Bible. Hence, not everyone who serves God in this age will receive a direct vision. In any case, we all must see the same vision and receive it according to the same principles. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, pp. 15, 18)

Further Reading: The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, ch. 1; CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, "The Heavenly Vision," ch. 1

WEEK 1 – DAY 6

Morning Nourishment

Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you.

22:15 For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.

Acts 26:16 indicates that Paul did not receive the revelation of things without seeing Christ. Instead, he received the things in which he saw Christ. In other words, Christ did not reveal things to Paul without Himself as the content of those things. This is the reason that Paul would be a witness of the things in which he had seen the Lord. In all the visions Paul saw he saw Christ. Furthermore, he would be a witness of the things in which the Lord was yet to appear to him. Here the Lord seemed to be saying to Paul, “In all the visions and revelations you will receive, I shall appear to you.” This indicates that if we only see visions and revelations and do not see the Lord, then what we see is vanity. (Life-study of Acts, p. 596)

Today's Reading

As Paul was on the way to Damascus, Christ revealed certain things to him, and in those things Paul saw Christ. The Lord indicated that He would reveal more things to Paul, and in those things the Lord Himself would appear to him. Therefore, what Paul saw was not merely the things themselves but Christ as the One appearing in all these things.

In your experience you may claim to receive light from the Lord or to see a vision or revelation. However, you need to consider if Christ has appeared to you in that light, vision, or revelation. In the supposed light, vision, or revelation, have you seen Christ?

In any light we receive of the Lord we must see Christ. Christ must appear to us in whatever we see in the way of enlightenment, vision, or revelation....If we study the Bible and gain knowledge of the Scriptures without seeing Christ, that knowledge is vanity. We all need to learn to see Christ in the things that are revealed to us. (Life-study of Acts, pp. 596-597)

When Paul later spoke of [the incident on the way to Damascus], he referred to it as “the heavenly vision” (Acts 26:19). At that time a great light from heaven shined around Paul, and immediately he fell to the ground. Then a voice from heaven spoke to him (vv. 14-18). That speaking became a vision. Paul not only heard the gospel, but he also saw the heavenly vision. This caused him to fall to the ground....In principle, we also should have Paul's experience. We may be engaged with a certain matter and occupied by it, but at the appointed time the Lord will come to meet us. Perhaps, as we are pursuing an education and are about to obtain a degree, the Lord will come to meet us. Or perhaps when our business fails and we despair of living, we will meet the Lord. Our meeting with the Lord is our experience on the road to Damascus....Every serving one has to see a vision at least once and allow that vision to direct his entire life. (The Vision, Living, and Work of the Lord's Serving Ones, pp. 130-131)

How far-reaching was the vision Paul was granted in answer to his question, “Who are You, Lord?” The revelation that came to him filled his writings; through them, under the heavenly enlightening, the same vision can be ours. This Jesus of Nazareth embodies the fullness of the Father. The church, the embodiment of the Son, takes in His riches and thus becomes His fullness. Christ Himself must be wrought into us and become our life.

We obey this vision by taking Him as our life, not allowing ourselves to be distracted by doctrines nor striving after good behavior. All day long, throughout all our activities, we must maintain contact with this Christ. As we constantly talk to Him in prayer (1 Thes. 5:17), we shall be spontaneously taking Him as our person and thus living according to the heavenly vision. (Life Messages, vol. 1, p. 279)

Further Reading: Life-study of Acts, msg. 68; The Vision, Living, and Work of the Lord's Serving Ones, ch. 15

WEEK 1 — HYMN

Hymns, #1220

1

Remove the veils, Lord, from my heart;
True revelation grant to me;
A vision clear, O Lord, impart
Of Thy recovery.

2

By revelation I perceive
The power that raised Christ from the dead;
When I by faith this power receive,
I to the church am led.

3

Thy mighty power has set me free
From all the world's distracting things;
An entrance to the local church
This mighty power brings.

4

Once in the local church, I need
To take Thee as my person, Lord;
My outward man each day recede,
My heart is for the Lord.

5

I take Thee as my person, Lord;
I have been crucified with Thee.
My inner man has been restored;
I'm now indwelt by Thee.

6

When all Thy members self forsake,
Thy glorious Body, Lord, is known;
When of Thy Person we partake,
The one new man is shown.

7

The church life is the one new man
In every local church expressed;
Thy Body is a corporate man,
One Person manifest.

WEEK 1 — PROPHECY

Composition for the prophecy with main points and sub-points: