

MISCARRIAGE OF VISION

LESSON 31 – (ABC)

QUESTION

DISCUSS THE CAUSES OF FAILURE OF VISION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND ITS SET MAN.

ANSWERS

EXPECTATION CULMINATING IN NOTHING – THE PHANTOM PREGNANCY.

Isa 26:17-18

17 As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so have we been in Your sight, O LORD.

18 We have been with child, we have been in pain; we have, as it were, brought forth wind; we have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth, nor have the inhabitants of the world fallen.(NKJ)

Ezek 19:10-14

10 'Your mother was like a vine in your bloodline, planted by the waters, fruitful and full of branches because of many waters.

11 She had strong branches for scepters of rulers. She towered in stature above the thick branches, and was seen in her height amid the dense foliage.

12 But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried her fruit. Her strong branches were broken and withered; the fire consumed them.

13 And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty land.

14 Fire has come out from a rod of her branches and devoured her fruit, so that she has no strong branch-- a scepter for ruling.' "This is a lamentation, and has become a lamentation.(NKJ)

EXPECTATION CULMINATING IN SOMETHING THAT IS WORTH NOTHING.

Isa 33:9-12

9 The earth mourns and languishes, Lebanon is shamed and shriveled; Sharon is like a wilderness, and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits.

10 "Now I will rise," says the LORD; "Now I will be exalted, now I will lift Myself up.

11 You shall conceive chaff, you shall bring forth stubble; your breath, as fire, shall devour you.

12 And the people shall be like the burnings of lime; like thorns cut up they shall be burned in the fire.(NKJ)

EXPECTATION CULMINATING IN BAD FRUIT

VIZ. FRUITS OF BITTERNESS, OPPRESSION, UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

Isa 5:1-7

1 Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: my Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.

2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; so He expected it to bring

forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.

3 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.

4 What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?

5 And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it."

7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; for righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.(NKJ)

FULFILLED VISION IS A MARK OF ZION BELIEVERS.

Isa 66:8-10

8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.

9 Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God.

10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her;(NKJ)

CAUSES OF VISION FAILURE(FAILED EXPECTATIONS)

INACCURATE TURN

TURNING FROM GOD THE PRIMARY APOSTOLIC RESOURCE (REBELLION/DISOBEDIENCE)

Ps 68:6

God sets the solitary in families; he brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.(NKJ)

THE CONSEQUENCES ARE MISCARRIAGES(FAILED EXPECTATIONS):

MISCARRYING WOMB

Hosea 9:14-17

14 Give them, O LORD-- what will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts!

15 "All their wickedness is in Gilgal, for there I hated them. Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more. All their princes are rebellious.

16 Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up; they shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb."

17 My God will cast them away, because they did not obey Him; and they shall be wanderers among the nations.(NKJ)

DISHONOURABLE DISCHARGE FOR INACCURATE RELATIONSHIPS

ABIATHAR

ABIATHAR SUPPORTED ADONIJAH INSTEAD OF SOLOMON. HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM HIS DUTIES.

IKing 1:18-19

18 "So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it.

19 "He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.

(NKJ)

IKing 2:26-27

26 And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted."

27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, that he might fulfill the word of the LORD which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.

(NKJ)

KINGDOM MISCARRIAGE FOR INACCURATE RELATIONSHIPS

SOLOMON

IKing 11:1-5

1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites--2 from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. (NKJ)

IKing 11:11

Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.(NKJ)

THE KINGDOM WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM SOLOMON BECAUSE OF HIS UNGODLY RELATIONSHIPS.

CURSED FOR FAILURE TO TITHE

Mal 3:8-12

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

- 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.
- 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.
- 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the LORD of hosts;
- 12 "And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.(NKJ)

PERISHING FOR FORGETTING THE LORD

Deut 8:19-20

- 19 "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.
- 20 "As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.(NKJ)

Job 8:9-20

- 9 For we were born yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow.
- 10 Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart?
- 11 "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water?
- 12 While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant.
- 13 So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,
- 14 Whose confidence shall be cut off, and whose trust is a spider's web.
- 15 He leans on his house, but it does not stand. He holds it fast, but it does not endure.
- 16 He grows green in the sun, and his branches spread out in his garden.
- 17 His roots wrap around the rock heap, and look for a place in the stones.
- 18 If he is destroyed from his place, then it will deny him, saying, 'I have not seen you.'
- 19 "Behold, this is the joy of His way, and out of the earth others will grow.
- 20 Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, nor will He uphold the evildoers.(NKJ)

CURSES ARE MISCARRIAGES

Deut 28:14-15

- 14 "So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.
- 15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:(NKJ)

Deut 28:30

- 30 "You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.(NKJ)

Deut 28:38-41

38 "You shall carry much seed out to the field and gather but little in, for the locust shall consume it.

39 "You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

40 "You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.

41 "You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.(NKJ)

ALL THESE CURSES ARE FAILED EXPECTATIONS – MISCARRIAGES.
GEHAZI, ACHAN AND SAUL ARE ALL EXAMPLES OF FAILED
EXPECTATIONS. GEHAZI COULD HAVE WALKED IN A TRIPLE PORTION OF
THE ANOINTING – INSTEAD HE ENDS WITH LEPROSY.

TURNING FROM SECONDARY APOSTOLIC RESOURCE

ELIMELECH

1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

2 The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion-- Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.(NKJ)

Elimelech went to Moab with a vision of prosperity. He died in Moab with unfulfilled vision.

Bethlehem means house of bread. Moab is the land of iniquity.

When a man leaves the house of bread – the place of revelation, and turns to a place of iniquity, his vision will abort.

LOT

Lot's vision of prosperity was aborted when he disconnected from Abraham and turned to the fertile plains of Jordan overlooking Sodom. Soon his wealth burns up in Sodom and he is raped by his daughters in the mountains. This incestuous relationship produces Moab and Ammon, a generation that sacrificed children – vision – killers.

2. IMPURE WORD

II Ki 2:18-19

18 And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"

19 Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren."

(NKJ)

II Ki 2:18-19

18 Elisha was still at Jericho when they returned. "Didn't I tell you not to go?" he growled.

19 Now a delegation of the city officials of Jericho visited Elisha. "We have a problem," they told him. "This city is located in beautiful natural surroundings, as you can see; but the water is bad and causes our women to have miscarriages."

(TLB)

Polluted water in the city was responsible for frequent miscarriages.

Water is a symbol of the word of God.

Women symbolises churches.

The truth conveyed is that polluted word is responsible for vision failure.

Polluted (impure) word is a word that does not come from the Lord.

Jer 14:14

And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.(NKJ)

Jer 23:16-17

16 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD.

17 They continually say to those who despise Me, "The LORD has said, "You shall have peace" ";and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'"(NKJ)

Deut 18:20-22

20 'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

21 "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'--

22 "when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.(NKJ)

GOD'S WORD IS ALWAYS FRUITFUL. IF A WORD FAILS IT IS NOT THE WORD OF THE LORD.

Josh 21:45

Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.(NKJ)

IKing 8:56

"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.(NKJ)

Isa 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but

it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.(NKJ)

FALSE BRETHREN

Gal 2:4-5

4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.(NKJ)

Jude 1:4

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.(NKJ)

Jude 1:16

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.(NKJ)

Jude 1:18-19

18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.(NKJ)

False brethren weaken the church through strife and divisions with the intent of aborting the vision. They may use a Korah operating system.

Jude 1:11

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.(NKJ)

EXAMPLES:

Neh 6:10-14

10 Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you."

11 And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"

12 Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

14 My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.(NKJ)

Shemaiah was a false brother who tried to kill Nehemiah through his ungodly advice. If Nehemiah fled into the temple, a place exclusively for priests he would have incurred the wrath of God.

Judas

OPPRESSION/OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS(VISION KILLERS)

THIS INCLUDES ATTACK BY SATAN, DEMONS OR SATANIC SYSTEMS
WITH A VIEW TO ABORTING THE PURPOSES OF GOD.

1Thes 2:18

Therefore we wanted to come to you-- even I, Paul, time and again-- but Satan hindered us(NKJ)

Gal 5:7

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?(NKJ)

SATAN'S ATTEMPT TO KILL JESUS

Matt 4:5-6

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

(NKJ)

Rev 12:1-4

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.(NKJ)

PHARISEES AND SCRIBES(RELIGIOUS SYSTEM) PLOTTED TO KILL
JESUS.

Mark 3:6

Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

(NKJ)

Matt 26:3-4

3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.(NKJ)

HEROD(GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM) TRIED TO KILL JESUS.

Matt 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.(NKJ)

SANBALLAT, TOBIAH AND GERSHEM(COALITION SYSTEM TO DESTROY THE PURPOSES OF GOD)

Neh 4:7-8

7 Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,

8 and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

(NKJ)

Neh 6:1-2

1 Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),

2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.(NKJ)

ASSYRIAN ATTACK

II Ki 19:3

And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: "This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.(NKJ)

JEZEBEL(CONTROLLING, MANIPULATING, GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM)

IKing 18:4

For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.(NKJ)

ABSALOM(AMBITIOUS SYSTEM)

2 Sam 15:4

Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice."(NKJ)

2 Sam 15:10-13

10 Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'"

11 And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything.

12 Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city--

from Giloh-- while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number.

13 Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."(NKJ)

An Absalom system aims to sabotage a legitimate vision to fulfil its own.

SAUL'S ATTEMPTS TO KILL DAVID(GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM)

1 Sam 18:28-29

28 Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him;

29 and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually.(NKJ)

1 Sam 19:2

So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide.
(NKJ)

PHARAOH(GOVERNMENTAL)

Exod 1:15-16

15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah;

16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."(NKJ)

OTHERS e.g. KORAH, MOAB, ADONIJAH

(THESE OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS ARE PICTURES OF VISION KILLERS. THEY PICTURE SYSTEMS THAT ARE ANTAGONISTIC TO THE PURPOSES OF GOD IN A LOCAL CHURCH.)

NEGATIVITY

Characterised by negative, pessimistic confessions and perceptions.

THE TEN SPIES

Num 13:33

"There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."(NKJ)

VISION ABORTED: EXCLUDED FROM THE PROMISED LAND

Num 14:22-23

22 "because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,

23 "they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.(NKJ)

ELIJAH

IKing 19:4

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"(NKJ)

VISION ABORTED: ELIJAH REPLACED.

IKing 19:15-16

15 Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.

16 "Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

(NKJ)

THE OFFICER

II Ki 7:1-2

1 Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'"

2 So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."(NKJ)

VISION ABORTED: EXCLUDED FROM THE BLESSINGS.

II Ki 7:17

17 Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.(NKJ)

SELF-RELIANCE

Self-reliance is a manifestation of pride.

God is against the proud.

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."(NKJ)

Prov 15:25

The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.(NKJ)

Prov 11:2

When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.(NKJ)

Prov 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.(NKJ)

EXAMPLES:

SAUL

1 Sam 13:9-14

9 So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he

offered the burnt offering.

10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

12 "then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

14 "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."(NKJ)

Instead of waiting for Samuel, Saul personally offered the burnt and peace offerings. He crossed the boundary of his call by usurping the authority of Samuel. This self-reliance aborted his kingdom.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Dan 4:30-31

30 The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!(NKJ)

Jer 17:5-6

5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.

6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.(NKJ)

APATHY(LACK OF ENTHUSIASM)

II Ki 13:14-19

14 Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows.

16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

17 And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."

18 Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped.

19 And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times."(NKJ)

Joash did not follow the instructions of the accurate prophet with zeal. The prophetic action was enacted half-heartedly. As a result, a decisive victory over the Syrians was aborted.

1 Cor 3:6

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.(NKJ)

Having the seed is not enough. Planting and watering is necessary before God can give the increase. In the parable of the sower, the conditions can be changed in this modern age to influence the harvest – the bird can be killed, the thorns and the rocky ground removed to improve the harvest. Apathetic individuals cannot move to this level.

VACILLATION

This is defined as hesitancy and lack of commitment to the vision. Individuals with this problem cannot go all the way.

Jonathan loved David but was loyal to Saul. He failed to shift his loyalty to David. He died with Saul, failing to reach any height in his ministry, which had great potential. The two and half tribes go with Joshua but choose the wrong side of Jordan.

It was God's will that the entire nation go across Jordan. The promised land was across Jordan.

Josh 1:2

"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them-- the children of Israel.(NKJ)

Gad and Reuben develop a vision outside of Moses'.

Num 32:2-5

2 the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying,

3 "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Shebam, Nebo, and Beon,

4 "the country which the LORD defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock."

5 Therefore they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."(NKJ)

Moses succumbs to their request.

Num 32:31-33

31 Then the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying: "As the LORD has said to your servants, so we will do.

32 "We will cross over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, but the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us on this side of the Jordan."

33 So Moses gave to the children of Gad, to the children of Reuben, and to half the

tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land with its cities within the borders, the cities of the surrounding country.(NKJ)

Joshua sees to it that that their request is honoured.

Josh 22:1-4

1 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh,
2 and said to them: "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you.
3 "You have not left your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God.
4 "And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.(NKJ)

Josh 22:9

9 So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.(NKJ)

THE 2 AND ½ TRIBES LOVED MOSES' VISION, FOUGHT FOR THE VISION BUT IN THE END WERE LOYAL TO THEIR OWN VISION, ON THE WRONG SIDE OF JORDAN.

THEY EVEN CALLED THEIR VISION "THE LORD HAS SAID".

Num 32:31-32

31 Then the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying: "As the LORD has said to your servants, so we will do.
32 "We will cross over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, but the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us on this side of the Jordan."
(NKJ)

The land they chose was eventually called the country of the Gadarenes.

SEE THE OUTCOME OF THIS VISION SEVERAL YEARS LATER.

Mark 5:1-3

1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.
2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,
3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,(NKJ)

Mark 5:11-12

11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains.
12 So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."

(NKJ)

THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY CHOSEN BY THE 2 AND ½ TRIBES WAS NOW:
A GRAVEYARD(TOMBS)
AN HABITATION FOR DEMONS.
A GRAZING PLACE FOR PIGS.

WHEN YOU CHOOSE YOUR VISION ABOVE GOD'S VISION, WHEN YOU
LOVE GOD'S VISION BUT REMAIN LOYAL TO YOUR OWN VISION THE END
RESULT IS VISION FAILURE.