



**PEEPLS VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit



HOW TO PUT YOUR VISION TO WORK

SERIES: VISION FOR 2020_04

FEBRUARY 9, 2020 / 14 SHEVAT 5780 SUNDAY MORNING

1 CHRONICLES 12:32-33 KJV

³² And of the children of Issachar, *which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.*

³³ Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, *which could keep rank: they were not of double heart.*

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world of discord, disunity, and division, a world of discrimination and prejudice, bitterness and hatred. Within man, a spirit of evil strikes out at others far too often, the evil of... Often the result of such discord and division is catastrophic, ending up in broken relationships, emotional difficulties, bankruptcy, conflict, and even war. No nation and no house can stand if it is **divided** against itself. **Unity** is commanded by God, and **unity** is the driving thrust of this Scripture. Even from the very first words, **“all Israel,”** **unity** is the focus. All the tribes of Israel gathered together to appeal to David to become their king. Only if the people stood together as one, cooperating in building and protecting their nation, could they bring peace and economic prosperity to everyone. Accepting their appeal, David led the nation to the summit of power. Reading this account, the exiles who returned from Babylonian captivity would be encouraged to cooperate together. They had finally been freed to rebuild their nation. By studying this account of David’s gradual rise to the throne and his uniting of **all Israel**, they could see how God could do the same for them. But there would be one condition they must stand together, **united** in spirit. They could be successful in rebuilding their nation and in restoring true worship in the temple only if they were of one mind and stood **united** under God commanded by God. **What does our day require of us?** The world has never known such perilous times as these. Men today are perishing in a church pew, going to hell with a prayer on their lips, a song on their lips, and a Bible in their hands. **Surely this day demands something from us. It demands men with courageous hearts, bold spirits, and extreme dedication to the Gospel of Christ.** The souls of men and the glory of Christ compel us to be men of purpose and determination.

What does our day require of us?

What do the times in which we live demand of the people of God? — 5 things.

1. A Bold, Uncompromising, Unflinching Adherence to the Authority of Holy Scripture.
2. Distinct and Decided Views of Gospel Doctrine.
3. Faithfulness, Dedication, and Sacrifice in Preaching the Gospel of Christ.
4. A Clear Recognition of Our Most Important Priorities and Our Most Weighty Responsibilities.
5. A Diligent Watchfulness over Our Own Souls.

Note that the Scripture divides the defecting soldiers into two groups:

1. Those who defected while Saul was living (vv.1-22)
2. Those who defected from the northern tribes to rally behind David at Hebron for the purpose of proclaiming him king (vv.23-40).

Placing your long-term vision into Practice.

1. You start by _____ your inventory.

2. Develop a Daily _____.

3. Settle in for the _____ (Long Haul).

CONCLUSION

When we think about people of great **vision**, we often think of someone who has a unique insight into what lies ahead, who has the ability anticipate what will be trending in the years to come. **Vision** *does* involve the ability to see what lies on the horizon. That’s *part* of it, but only part of it. Those with the greatest **vision** are those who are to see today as it needs to be seen.

Application

Do you have wisdom enough to understand the times we are living in? Would you know what our day requires of you?

Now, turn back to 1 Chron 12. Look at the end of the chapter. Let me show you what happens when God raises up such men for his Church and Kingdom. **When these mighty men came to David, all Israel was made of one heart and there was joy in Israel (vv. 38-40).**

(1 Chron 12:38-40) “All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel [were] of one heart to make David king. 39 And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them. 40 Moreover they that were nigh them, [even] unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, [and] meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for [there was] joy in Israel.” Amen.

That’s what this series has been about. Today you’ve been given a block of marble to work with. Those with **vision** can see what is hidden inside that marble — the horse, so to speak — and they also know how to chip away everything that doesn’t resemble the horse. Those with **vision** understand that the promise future is found in today. **2020 Vision means that you see with accuracy and precision what’s going on in your life today** — that you have a clear understanding of who you are and where you are in your life. **2020 Vision means that you are able to see today in terms of where it can take you**, in terms of what the future can hold. **And 2020 Vision means that you see today in terms of what needs to be done.** Like the men of Issachar, you understand the times and you know what you need to do. You see the block of marble, and you recognize the part that doesn’t look quite like a horse, so you chip away. You execute the play. You follow through with action, day after day after day. Earlier in this series I have mentioned Ted Williams — how his excellent **vision** gave him an advantage at the plate, and how his lifelong dream was to be the greatest hitter of all time. Today I will close this series with one more Ted Williams story. Do you know how his career ended? Not in controversy, not in scandal, not in disgrace. Neither did he merely wither away.

In the last game he played, September 28, 1960, in Fenway Park, in his final at bat, he stood at the plate, took a pitch or two until he saw one he liked, and with his final swing as a major league athlete he drove the ball high into right field, deep into the stands. He did what every baseball player dreams of doing: he ended his career with a home run.

God desires the same for you — that your life will be lived in such a way that you knock the final pitch out of the park. That’s what **vision** will do for you. A person whose life is **vision-driven** is able to live each day — this day — to the fullest: You have a clear understanding of where today finds you, and where today can take you, and what needs to be done today in order to get there.

I. Reducing II. Routine III. Reform (Long Haul)