

1

Where There Is No Vision

Introduction: Please turn with me to Prov 29:18 and we will read a portion of our study passage for today.

2

Prov 29:18 (KJV)
"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

A. Prov. 29:18 KJV "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

3

When I say:
"Where there is no vision"
Then You say:
"The people perish"

I want you to participate in the sermon today. (M) When I say: "Where there is no vision" (M) I want you to say: "The people perish."

Lets do it twice.

How to know when I want you to say your part --

4

King James Bible seems to Indicate People of Vision

1. When people read this verse in the KJV, most often they apply it to people of "vision." I did.

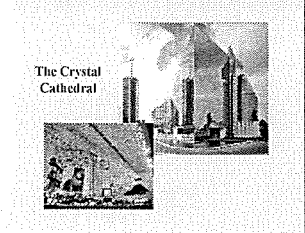
B. How often do you hear it said of a person: "This is a person of vision"? They can conceive of something, get it done, or provide for the future.

5

"The full face is to commemorate Jefferson's vision for the Louisiana Purchase, and support of the Lewis and Clark expedition which opened the West. He was a man of vision."

1. In a Political sense it may be said, "That person had vision for the future." The new nickle has a new view of Thomas Jefferson (3rd President) -- full face view. (M) Henrietta Fore, director of the US mint says, "The Full face is to commemorate Jefferson's vision for the Louisiana Purchase, and support of the Lewis and Clark expedition which opened the West. He was a man of vision."

6



2. In a Religious sense: I often heard it said that Robert Schuler was a man of vision, he built a religious empire; he built the Crystal Cathedral.

I saw his vision of baptism. A fellow pastor and I went and visted his church, before the Crystal Cathedral days, few thousand there; he was known for drive-in church.

That morning it was announced that there was going to be a bapitsm; I began to look around for the baptistry. Then it was said there would be 150 candidates; I wondered about the robes and where they were changing; who would have to care for all those robes. Then all candidates were asked to come forward, knelt, pastors got a small bowl, dipped finger in water, made sign of the cross on their forehead, said "I baptize you . . . " What a visionary! But not Biblical.

7

A Shared Vision
Cast Your Vision

3. I attended a NAD Leadership convention in St. Louis -- We had a very Expensive speaker there to teach us to have "A Shared Vision." (Our own visions coming together.) (A) At another NAD convention a few years later, we were challenged to "Cast Your Vision."

8

Have A Vision for Your Work
However ---
It Is Not About Us!

5. Once upon a time, we had a church leader in a certain conference, who presented this verse at workers meeting, and he challenged us to have vision for our work; think big; think grand, plan big, execute our plan.

And we bought it, we believed this is what the verse meant. It wasn't until recent times that I had the opportunity to study this passage more carefully, and (M) I discovered that the perspective we have been following in these examples is totally erroneous. It is not about us.

Yes, we may plan great things for the Lord's work. Jesus said we would do greater works than He did. But don't base it on this passage.

Lets go back to the verse:

9

I. "Where there is no vision . . ."

I. "Where there is no Vision"

A. Sometimes, when we want to understand a passage, it may be helpful to read it from different translations.

10

NASV "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained. But happy is he who keeps the law."

NASV "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained. But happy is he who keeps the law."

NKJV "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law."

(M) NKJV "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law."

11

The Meaning of "Vision" and "Revelation"
A "Prophetic Vision" Words, or Message of the Prophet

B. "Vision - Revelation" -- "Where there is no revelation . . ."

1. We live in an age where people have all kinds of revelations. -- •How to get wealth. •What truth is no longer important •How the world is going to end, etc.

2. But look at the NKJV margin, you will see that it is not just any kind of revelation that is spoken of here. (M) The margin indicates a specific revelation, it says "prophetic vision."

3. The Hebrew word indicates prophecy,
 •it is a revelation from God;
 •it is God speaking through a dream, a vision,
 •It is God speaking through the Holy Spirit.

The revelation here indicates the work of a prophet, the message of the prophet as the Word of God.

What is the Vision? The words, or message of the Prophet.

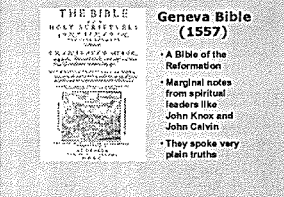
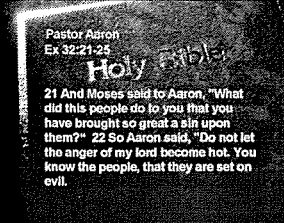
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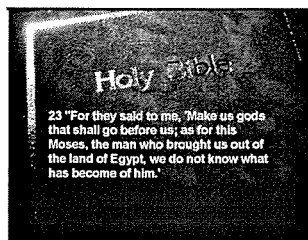
II. "Where there is no vision, (no revelation from the prophet), the people perish."

II. "Where there is no vision, (no revelation from the prophet,) the people perish."

Three Reasons for their being no vision.

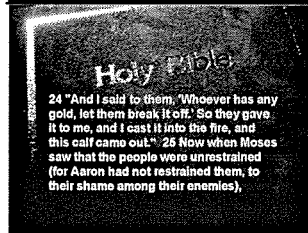
Why would there be no vision? (M) We will look at three reasons why there may be no vision, no revelation, no words of the prophet.

<p>13</p> <p>A. Maybe it has been a long time between prophets.</p> <p>Ps 74:9 "We do not see our signs, there is no longer any prophet . . ."</p> <p>1 Sam 3:1 "Then the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation."</p>	<p>A. Reason number one: Maybe it has been a long time since there was a prophet; maybe there was no living prophet. Ps 74:9; 1 Sam 3:1</p> <p>(M) Ps 74:9 "We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet . . ."</p> <p>(M) 1 Sam 3:1 "Then the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation."</p> <p>There may have been hundreds of years between prophets. It may be that there was no living prophet at a given time. It did happen. The inter-testamental period, for example, the time after Ezra/Nehemiah until Jesus' day there was 400 years between prophets.</p> <p>With print, computer, no excuse for us today.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>B. The Priests – the Clergy – took it away; disregarded it; discredited it; kept it from the people.</p>	<p>B. Reason number two: The Priests - the Clergy - took it away by: - disregarding it; discrediting it; keeping it from the people.</p> <p>From Aaron's day to this day, it happens.</p> <p>This is a serious and very sad issue.</p>
<p>15</p> 	<p>1. Geneva Bible was first published in 1557.</p> <p>It was a Bible of the Reformation. It had marginal notes that came from spiritual leaders like John Knox and John Calvin. These notes spoke very plain truths - They were not concerned with being PC (Lk 11:45). The common people loved it.</p> <p> •It is the Bible that John Bunyon, John Milton, the Pilgrims, and Wm Shakespeare used.</p> <p> •While common people relished the notes; •King James did not. The notes reproved him. The King James version of the Bible was commissioned, in part, to produce a Bible without the Geneva Bible marginal notes (King James put that purpose in print.)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Geneva Bible on Prov 29:18:</p> <p>Vision - "instruction in God's truth through prophets, through visions"</p> <p>No Vision - "No prophecy, no public preaching of God's Word"</p> <p>No Vision - "Where there are not faithful ministers of the Word of God"</p>	<p>2. Here is what the Geneva Bible taught on Prov 29:18</p> <p>a. "vision" the Notes said, meant instruction in God's truth, which was by prophets, through visions (1Sa 3:1).</p> <p>b. (M) "No vision" The notes said, meant No prophecy; no public preaching of God's word.</p> <p>c. (M) No vision meant = "Where there are not faithful ministers of the word of God"</p>
<p>17</p> 	<p>3. Lets consider the example of Pastor Aaron Ex 32:21-25 - Background</p> <p>"And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?" 22 So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.</p>



18

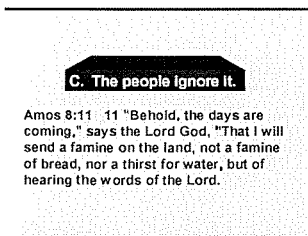
23 "For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'



19

24 "And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out." 25 Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies),

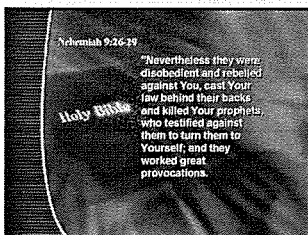
- a. Who was the prophet of the day? Moses
- b. Who was the pastor of the day? Aaron Aaron failed to uphold the words of the prophet.
- c. You must pray for your pastor, for the pastors of this conference, for the pastors of this denomination, that they will speak publicly and live openly the vision, the revelation of the prophets. It is serious for Ja 3:1f says that teachers, (Pastors, Elders) have a stricter judgment. Recognize that you are asking to be restrained by the prophets words through your Pastor.



20

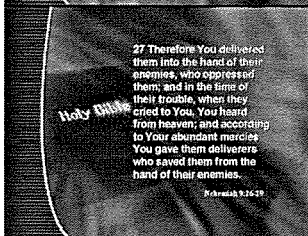
C. The third Reason there is no vision is that the people ignore it.

1. Amos 8:11,12 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.



21

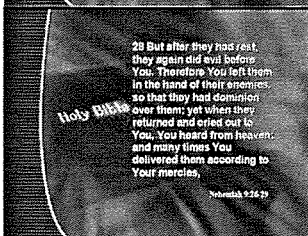
2. Neh 9:26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against You, cast Your law behind their backs and killed Your prophets, who testified against them to turn them to Yourself; and they worked great provocations.



22

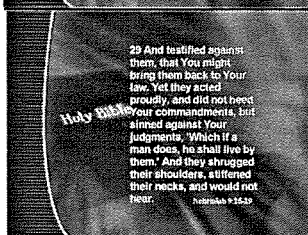
27 Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who oppressed them; and in the time of their trouble, when they cried to You, You heard from heaven; and according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them from the hand of their enemies.

The next word is one of the saddest words in the Bible - short word BUT



23

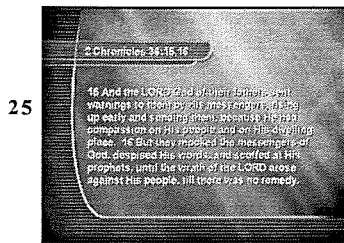
28 "But after they had rest, they again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them; yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; and many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,



24

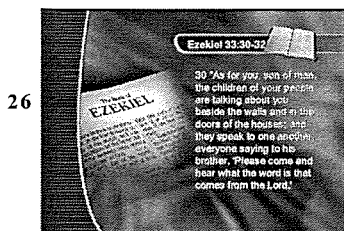
29 and testified against them, that You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, and did not heed Your commandments, but sinned against Your judgments, 'which if a man does, he shall live by them.' And they shrugged their shoulders, stiffened their necks, and would not hear.

The people would not hear the vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish!

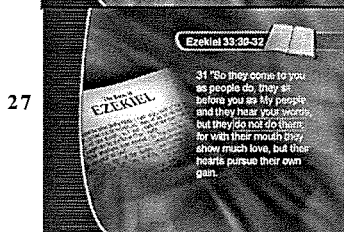


25 **2 Chron 36:15,16** And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings (*some don't like warnings - bridge is out*) to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them (*God does not slumber or sleep*), because He had compassion on His people (*God wants us to be saved*) and on His dwelling place. 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

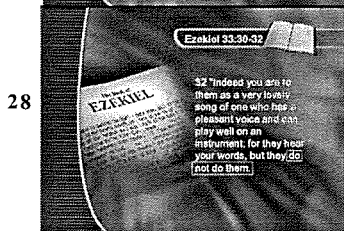
The people would not hear the vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish!



26 **Ezk 33:30-32** "As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, 'Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.'



27 **31** "So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.

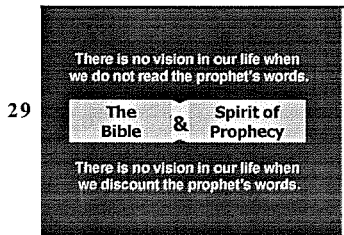


28 **32** "Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.

What is the difference: Don't hear the words or hear the words and do not do them? The end result is the same.

Lk 11:28 Blessed are those who hear and observe.

The people would not hear the vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish!



29 **a.** There is no vision in our life when we do not read the prophet's words. For us today, (A) this is the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. I am Thankful for the Spirit of Prophecy.

b. (M) There is no vision in our life when we discount the prophets words, when we refuse or reject their authority - "That was for a different day." "Things are different today." "That is not important today."

Do you hear any of that today? Outside the Church? Inside the Church?

Do Not Advance Yet

29

There is no vision in our life when we do not read the prophet's words.

The Bible & Spirit of Prophecy

There is no vision in our life when we discount the prophet's words.

c. The week of Dec 3, 2006 on an episode of ABC's "The Practice" the prominent theme was dealing with same sex marriage. A coach from Childress, TX wrote to ABC via their Web Site and spoke of the moral depravation of that program, and he quoted Scripture (Romans 1 for example) and said he would boycott ABC. Read the response.

"How about getting your nose out of the Bible (which is ONLY a book of stories compiled by MANY different writers hundreds of years ago) and read the Declaration of Independence (what our nation is built on), where it says "All Men are Created equal," and try treating them that way for a change!

Or better yet, try thinking for yourself and stop using an archaic book of stories as your lame crutch for your existence. You are in the minority in this country, and your boycott will not affect us at ABC or our freedom of statement."

Again, there is no vision when we discount the prophet's words. We live in an age when people say, "We do not need the vision." "The vision is wrong." But where there is no vision, the people perish.

30

III. "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

NKJV - The people cast off restraint
NASV - The people are unrestrained

Pastor Aaron

III. For whatever reason -- "Where there is no vision, the people perish"

A. The NKJV says "the people cast off restraint." The NASV says, "the people are unrestrained"

1. This was the circumstance among the Children of Israel.
2. When Aaron failed to uphold the words of the prophet to the people, they were unrestrained. •They turned their back on the covenant of God; •they turned their back on His promises; •they turned their back on His commands, •They fulfilled the desires of the natural heart and every man did what was right in his own eyes -- and the clergy helped them! And the same thing is happening in the religious world today.

31

Perish = "the people are naked"

The prophet's message to God's people of the last days is:

... And do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Rev 3:17


B. For the word "perish" the Hebrew literally says, "the people are naked."

Now that gets our attention. There are few places I want to be naked.

- I appreciate being naked in the shower.
- I do not seek to be naked in public. I would not like to be naked here, before you, today. I suspect you think the same way.

(M) Yet, according to the Bible, we just might be that way. The prophet's message to God's people of the last days is: Rev 3:17 ". . . and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."

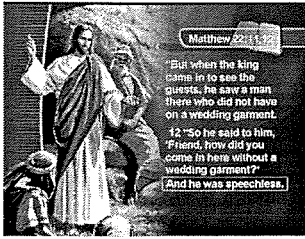
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Jesus talked about a form of nakedness

Jesus talked about a form of nakedness. The parable of the wedding feast describes a wedding of the king's son, •his own subjects were invited; •but they refused to come and some of them killed the messengers; •so the king invited any and everyone; many came, -->

33

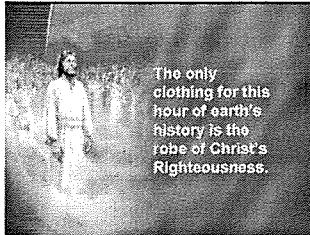


Mt 22:11,12 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' (M) And he was speechless."

The man stood naked; •he did not have the wedding garment; there was no excuse. •The consequence of being without the garment was to be bound and cast into darkness. The day is coming when those without the wedding garment will spend 1000 years in the darkness of death on this earth.

In this world today, there are many who stand publicly without the wedding garment, and their voices are raised, they have much to say. •But a day is coming when they too shall be speechless! Without the garment, they shall perish.

34



The only clothing for this hour of earth's history is the robe of Christ's Righteousness. To have anything else is to be naked.

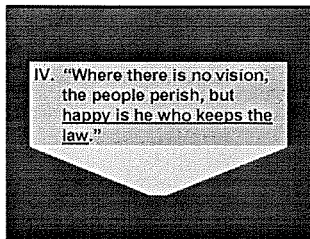
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C. The people perish -- Spiritual leaders of the past said:

1. "Perish" or as the Hebrew may be rendered, are made dissolute.
2. The faithful dispensation of divine truth is the only hope of a nation. Where this is wanting the people will sink into ignorance and corruption, till their destruction becomes inevitable.
3. "people perish" -- are deprived of moral restraints.

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35

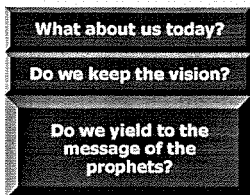


IV. "Where there is no vision, the people perish, But happy is he who keeps the law."

A. There is no happiness apart from obeying God's law from our heart. To obey His law is to obey His prophets, for the law and the prophets have always been linked.

1. 2 Kg 17:13; Mt 7:12; 11:13; Lk 24:44 The law and the Prophets are together
2. Ps. 19:7-11 The law and the testimonies - are together
3. These are Happy - blessed -- rewarded with eternal life; Of these, Jesus said, "they shall not perish."

36



B. What about us today? (A) Do we keep the vision? (A) Do we yield to the message of the prophets? Consider these seven messages from the prophets, most of which will revolve around Stewardship, of the Body of the Treasury: of Stewardship of time.

37

On Tobacco - Ministry of Healing 327

Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. In whatever form it is used, it tells upon the constitution; it is all the more dangerous because its effects are slow and at first hardly perceptible. It excites and then paralyzes the nerves.

1. Tobacco - MH 327 Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. In whatever form it is used, it tells upon the constitution; it is all the more dangerous because its effects are slow and at first hardly perceptible. It excites and then paralyzes the nerves. || It weakens and clouds the brain. Often it affects the nerves in a more powerful manner than does intoxicating drink. It is more subtle, and its effects are difficult to eradicate from the system. Its use excites a thirst for strong drink and in many cases lays the foundation for the liquor habit.

This was written in a day when physicians told people it was good to use tobacco; but God said, "The Bridge is Out."

Where there is no vision, the people perish

38

On Alcohol - Testimonies 7 75

As temperance is presented as a part of the gospel, many will see their need of reform. They will see the evil of intoxicating liquors and that total abstinence is the only platform on which God's people can conscientiously stand.

2. Alcohol - 7T 75 As temperance is presented as a part of the gospel, many will see their need of reform. They will see the evil of intoxicating liquors and that total abstinence is the only platform on which God's people can conscientiously stand." ••"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging . . . deceived by it is not wise." ••What about studies that say it is good for you? How much can you have in total abstinence? God says, "The bridge is out!" Where there is no vision, the people perish

39

On Coffee - Temperance 75

The stimulating diet and drink of this day are not conducive to the best state of health. Tea, coffee, and tobacco are all stimulating, and contain poisons. They are not only unnecessary, but harmful, and should be discarded if we would add to knowledge, temperance.

3. Coffee Te 75 The stimulating diet and drink of this day are not conducive to the best state of health. Tea, coffee, and tobacco are all stimulating, and contain poisons. They are not only unnecessary, but harmful, and should be discarded if we would add to knowledge, temperance. ••What about studies saying good? May not have known the word caffeine. God says, "The bridge is out."

40

Where are the dead? GC 557

The apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to contradict what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They deny the divine origin of the Bible, and thus tear away the foundation of the Christian's hope and put out the light that reveals the way to heaven.

Where there is no vision, the people perish
4. What do the Prophets teach about where the Dead are?
GC 557 The apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to contradict what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They deny the divine origin of the Bible, and thus tear away the foundation of the Christian's hope and put out the light that reveals the way to heaven. -->

41

Where are the dead? GC 557 Part 2

(Relate to ABC email) Satan is making the world believe that the Bible is a mere fiction, or at least a book suited to the infancy of the race, but now to be lightly regarded, or cast aside as obsolete. And to take the place of the word of God he holds out spiritual manifestations."

(Relate to ABC email) Satan is making the world believe that the Bible is a mere fiction, or at least a book suited to the infancy of the race, but now to be lightly regarded, or cast aside as obsolete. And to take the place of the word of God he holds out spiritual manifestations. || Here is a channel wholly under his control; by this means he can make the world believe what he will. The Book that is to judge him and his followers he puts in the shade, just where he wants it; the Saviour of the world he makes to be no more than a common man. And as the Roman guard that watched the tomb of Jesus spread the lying report which the priests and elders put into their mouths to disprove His resurrection, so do the believers in spiritual manifestations try to make it appear that there is nothing miraculous in the circumstances of our Saviour's life. After thus seeking to put Jesus in the background, they call attention to their own miracles, declaring that these far exceed the works of Christ.

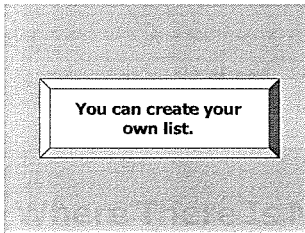
The message of the prophets on what happens when a person dies is a message of protection against one of Satan's greatest deceptions to mankind that is soon to come upon the earth. "The bridge is out."

Where there is no vision, the people perish

<p>42</p> <p>Spiritism and the Sabbath - GC 590</p> <p>The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism (591) will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God.</p>	<p>5. The seventh day is the Sabbath Gen 2:1-3; GC 590,591 The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism (591) will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. --></p>
<p>43</p> <p>Spiritism and the Sabbath - GC 590 Part 2</p> <p>They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony</p>	<p>They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.</p> <p>Where there is no vision, the people perish</p>
<p>44</p> <p>Tithe to the Storehouse Mal 3; CS 66</p> <p>A faithful tithe is the Lord's portion. To withhold it is to rob God. Every man should freely and willingly and gladly bring tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord, because in so doing there is a blessing.</p>	<p>6. Tithe to the storehouse Mal 3:CS 66 As did Abraham, they are to pay tithe of all they possess and all they receive. A faithful tithe is the Lord's portion. To withhold it is to rob God. Every man should freely and willingly and gladly bring tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord, because in so doing there is a blessing.</p> <p>There is no safety in withholding from God His own portion. When we send His portion anywhere other than where He directed, we rob Him.</p> <p>Where there is no vision, the people perish</p>
<p>45</p> <p>Food Safety in the Last Days</p> <p>The disease upon animals is becoming more and more common, and our only safety now is in leaving meat entirely alone. <small>Counsels on Diet and Foods 412</small></p> <p>The time will come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter. <small>Manuscript Release 384</small></p>	<p>7. Use of Flesh as Food -- CD 412 Again I will refer to the diet question. We cannot now do as we have ventured to do in the past in regard to meat eating. It has always been a curse to the human family, but now it is made particularly so in the curse which God has pronounced upon the herds of the field, because of man's transgression and sin. The disease upon animals is becoming more and more common, and our only safety (bridge is out) now is in leaving meat entirely alone.</p> <p>(M) 8. Dairy -- 8MR 384 Soon butter will never be recommended, and after a time milk will be entirely discarded; for disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men. The time will come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter.</p> <p>Don't know if it is Hormones, Antibiotics, Microbes; whatever it is God is saying, "The bridge is out."</p>
<p>46</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>7T - 135 "... because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men. The time is near when, because of the iniquity of the fallen race, the whole animal creation will groan under the diseases that curse our earth."</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>7T - 135 "... because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men. The time is near when, because of the iniquity of the fallen race, the whole animal creation will groan under the diseases that curse our earth."</p> <p>Where there is no vision, the people perish</p>

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 9. Overcoming Appetite Healthful Living 74 "As our first parents lost Eden through the indulgence of appetite, our only hope of regaining Eden is through the firm denial of appetite and passion. . . . The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, then they would have had the moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. . . . As we near the close of time, Satan's temptation to indulge appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome."

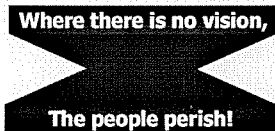
47



These are only examples. You can create your own list of words from the prophets.

Do not advance yet

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Conclusion:

A. In notes following the Vulgate translation of Prov 29:18: "When prophecy shall fail, the people shall be scattered. Where Divine revelation, and the faithful preaching of the sacred testimonies, are neither revered nor attended, the ruin of that land is at no great distance."

B. Dear brothers and sisters, we are no different than those in ages past.

The words are as true for us as it was for them.

The issue is just as alive for us as it was in any age of the past:

(M) We must live today knowing that "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

H-Praise #286 Wonderful Words of Life;
 Scripture Ezk 33:30-32;
 H-Meditation #279 Only Trust Him;
 Sabbath Message: Where There Is No Vision;
 H-Dedication #623 I Will Follow Thee