

VISION IN TIME



Eccl 3:1-8 *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.*

1. Introduction

In every vision there is a time. There is, a time to stop, a time to move; A time to learn, a time to teach; A time to receive from the Lord, a time to give to the Lord and to others. As with every vision, of great importance is that we need to know when this time has arrived, and when it's passed.

2. CoG vision

We have received a vision, from the Lord, for this church. The time is fast approaching, when we will need to move forward and take hold of this vision. It won't happen by just sitting back and hoping:

Mat 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful [energetic/determined] men lay hold of it.

That is an opportunity for **all of us** here, as the Lord moves His Church forward through the ministry - or service - of His children.

Whenever the Lord gives a vision to a person, you can be sure that one way of testing it is that He never gives a vision that you alone can accomplish! No ministry in this church will be allowed that relies on a single individual. For example, if I'm away, the church must function properly. If I'm no longer here, the work must carry on, effectively and powerfully, as if I'd never left!

a. Complacency destroys vision

We have to learn never to satisfied with our walk with the Lord. We must **never** reach the point where we think "*Oh that's good enough.*" Whatever the Lord has spoken must be brought to fruit; we can stop for nothing less. Our blessings from the Lord can only be stolen when we settle for the 'good' things in God. The Enemy is good at taking out Christians by letting them believe that where they are is good enough. The 'good' is the only thing that stops us reaching the 'best'!

However, as we take up the vision for growth, there will be times when we are going to need to:

- pause,

- re-focus,
- receive refreshing - we need to have 'food' (Word) and 'water' (Spirit),
- seek His face as we work things through.

In all this, though, we must never settle for second best. To help us understand this, let's look at the life of Terah. Who? you say! Well, you would have known him very well, if he hadn't settled for the **good things** of God, instead of pressing on to the **best**.

b. Stopping is not wrong

Receiving God's Vision always tests our faithfulness and our patience. We live in an instant world; many imagine, if nothing appears to happen 'soon', if we appear to slow down, then there is **no life**.

We were running along slowly and steadily up to December last year, after receiving and accepting our Church's vision last August (1999). However, that period was a time of testing and preparation for growth. Just as the plants and trees look dead in winter, yet there is life within them. We see that when they receive the light and warmth of the sun. So, too, with our Church, as we continue to look to the light and life from the Son, new life will burst out in His timing. So, on to Terah, to see that timing for a vision is very important: to know when it's to start, and to know when it's completed.

c. Stop but don't settle 'till the work is complete

In the Bible (KJV) a term is used 11 times; 10 times in the OT, and once in the NT ... "*the generation(s) of*". Look, e.g. at Gen 6:9+. The OT people referenced are Adam, Noah, Shem, Terah, Isaac, Ishmael, Esau, Jacob, Aaron & Moses, Pharez (Perez). Its only use in the NT concerns Jesus (Matt 1:1). Jesus is called the 'Son of Abraham', but where is Abraham referenced; where is his genealogy?

God called first to Terah, Abraham's father, hence why it is his genealogy that is quoted. It was Terah who left Ur of the Chaldeans, taking Abraham (Abram) with him:

*Gen 11:27-32 This is the account of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. 28 While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. 29 Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. 30 Now Sarai was barren; she had no children. 31 Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans **to go to Canaan**. But when they came to Haran, they **settled** [yaw-shab = 'to settle down', 'tarry', 'root']. 32 Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.*

d. The mistake?

The problem for Terah was that he put down roots. He just didn't stop to recover, to gain strength, to await God's timing. He dropped roots and became satisfied with Haran, instead of moving into the real and great promise of Jehovah.

Then, Terah died and God could move on, through a very willing Abram. God was waiting for this move and Abram knew what God wanted as he immediately went.

Gen 12:1-4 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

3. And what about us?

Become the person blessed by the Lord God (Gen 12:12,3). Take up God's call, for *"The best is yet to be!"* Remember:

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

2 Tim 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Phil 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Look at the example of Isaiah, a man who gave his all without preconditions:

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah didn't look for details, he heard the Lord call and he responded. He didn't try to negotiate with the Lord over what he could / should do!

Do I fear God calling me? Too late, if you're a Christian you already have God's call on your life - remember your life is His, as you made Jesus your **Lord** [supreme in authority]!

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[Top of this page](#)

[Return to the 'Word Today' page](#)