

WE SEE JESUS

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

The greatest vision is the vision of faith, not sight. If the eyes of faith are closed, one is blind indeed. “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire” (Matthew 18:9). One way of interpreting the words of the Lord is to think of the carnal flesh as having two eyes, while the spiritual person sees with just one eye – the eye that see Jesus. Consider how many people saw the Lord Jesus during his ministry and yet despised and reviled him! The Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Herod and Pilate, all saw the Lord Jesus, but did not benefit from what their eyes beheld. On the other hand, thank God for people like Anna and Simeon! These were prophets who already saw the Lord Jesus through the eyes of the Holy Spirit. “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation” (Luke 2:29,30).

We have all wistfully told ourselves how blessed we would be if only we could have seen the Lord with our own physical eyes. Think again! Not only did the Lord live for a long time among the people of Capernaum, but they also witnessed some of the mightiest of his miracles. “And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day” (Matthew 11:23). We must pray hard, saints of God, for our spiritual eyes to be opened; for us to see Jesus only. What do you and I see every day? What is the “big Sight or Vision” that propels us towards tomorrow? I pray it is what the Apostle Paul tells the Hebrews, “We see Jesus!” Simeon and Anna did not see Jesus only the moment their eyes beheld him – they saw Jesus everyday through the prophecies of the word of God.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The Law of Moses and the prophets mean everything to the Jews. That is all they care to see. The Lord Jesus took three of his Apostles up to a high mountain, invited Moses and Elijah (represented the prophets) and totally overshadowed them all with his glory. “And was

transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light” (Matthew 17:2). The Law, the prophets, and even the Apostles, were lost in the glory of Jesus. The voice from heaven commanded all of them to hear Jesus. When the disciples opened their eyes, the Bible states, “And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only” (Matthew 17:8). They saw Jesus alone – “We see Jesus”, the writer of Hebrews declared. When people talk to Christians, they may talk about other issues, but the true Christian sees Jesus alone. Our subject will find its way to Jesus, just as Philip began with Isaiah and ended up with baptism in Jesus’ name. “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35).

Matthew 8:8 *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

The Roman centurion was not dependent on seeing Jesus physically; he came to Jesus to declare what he already saw with his eyes of faith. He came to declare this faith so the Lord could praise him, and we all learn from this man who “saw Jesus” before he “saw Jesus”. Hallelujah! We all must “see Jesus” before we see him physically when he returns. Balaam boasted that he was a man who saw visions with his eyes open. “He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open” (Numbers 24:4). And yet it was his donkey’s open eyes that saved the prophet from certain death at the hands of an angry angel. Those who see Jesus behave in strange ways, like Balaam’s donkey. Why will a normally faithful donkey refuse to obey its owner and even resort to violence? Simply because the donkey’s eyes were attuned to the spiritual world. Seeing Jesus is not a passive activity, it drives us into action.

Num 22:25 *And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.*

Num 22:33 *And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.*

Imagine if Isaac’s eyes were healthy and whole! He would have extended the blessing to Esau. May our physical eyesight be so weak that we never bless Esau! “And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I” (Genesis 27:1). Fortunately his son Jacob’s physical eyes were also dim with old age, but he thankfully switched to his spiritual eyes in blessing the children of Joseph. “Now the eyes of Israel were

dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them” (Genesis 48:10). Let us trust these physical eyes less and less and train ourselves to trust the spiritual eyes of faith – let us see Jesus!

John 20:24 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.*

John 20:25 *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.*

Thomas had failed to “see Jesus” through the testimony of many witnesses who had seen the resurrected Lord. He fell into the trap of wanting to see the Lord physically and touch him. But God has ordained that through the preaching of his word, salvation will be granted to the world, not visual evidence. This brings us to the greatest of all themes – salvation. Did Thomas or we ever see the Red Sea split into two? Did we see the river Jordan divide to let the children of Israel pass through? Did we see David slay Goliath with a small stone? Did we see fire come down at the behest of Elijah? The answer to all these questions is a resounding no – for Thomas and for us. Yet Thomas and every believer has “seen Jesus” and these events by faith! We haven’t seen the events of the Bible, but through mental vision we do. Saints of God, let us affirm once again that we believe there is only one God, and that his name is Jesus Christ! Let us affirm once again that we must repent of our sins and trust in the blood of the Lord Jesus to cleanse us! Let us believe that baptism in the name of Jesus is the place where we put off the body of Adam and put on Christ! Let us believe that the Lord Jesus is waiting and eager to fill us with his Holy Spirit! Let us “see Jesus” in his plan of salvation.

Act 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Finally, the scripture in Hebrews 2:9 says “we see” Jesus, not “have seen” – we must see him every day, constantly. Let us pray that seeing Jesus becomes present tense; something we do every moment of the day. May our spiritual vision be one which sees Jesus surrounding us constantly like air surrounds us, like water surrounds fish. May we see Jesus like David was aware of the abiding presence of God!

Psalms 139:7 *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*

Psalms 139:8 *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

Psalm 139:9 *If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;*

Psalm 139:10 *Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

Psalm 139:11 *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.*

Psalm 139:12 *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*