



The Creative Power of Kingdom Vision

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JACOB'S EXAMPLE

I would like to share with you a biblical example of a personal vision and its planning, implementation, and eventual rewards. This is the story of Jacob and his quest for freedom from the cruel hand of his uncle, Laban.

In this story, we will see Jacob's need for a vision and how he found it and applied the writing of the vision. We will discover how he developed a plan and set goals, found his resources, obtained

helps, and finally put them all in order on the way to seeing his vision accomplished. I believe that if you read this chapter again and again, comprehending this example with your heart, it will aid you in every vision and dream you receive from the Lord.

Jacob truly needed a vision. After faithfully serving Laban, his uncle, for twenty years, he had received little in return. Having taken two of Laban's daughters to be his wives, he had fathered many children. But financially and

materially Jacob was still in poverty. He longed to raise his family on his own land and not be under the dominion of his uncle.

The Lord was not ignorant of Jacob's plight. Therefore, God, through a vision, brought Jacob the solution to his problem. He shared with Jacob the avenue by which he could fulfill his desire for freedom. Jacob took hold of that vision, began to practice the principles we have discussed in this book, and successfully accomplished his goal on his own terms.

In Genesis 31:7-13, Jacob explains to Laban's sons just how he was able to acquire his freedom from their father:

“Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me. If he spoke thus, ‘The speckled shall be your wages,’ then all the flock brought forth speckled; and if he spoke thus, ‘The striped shall be your wages,’ then all the flock brought forth striped. Thus God has taken away

your father's livestock and given them to me.

“And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which were mating were striped, speckled, and mottled. Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Lift up, now, your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing

to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.”

In verse eleven, the angel of the Lord speaks to Jacob and shows him a vision. In that vision, he sees the cattle of Laban mating. The angel says, “See that all the male goats... are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.”

God is giving precise instructions to Jacob. He is declaring, “Jacob, this is what *I* see. I see *all* those animals as spotted and speckled, and I want *you* to see them all as spotted and speckled, too.” It is the solution to Jacob’s dilemma. God is informing him through the language of the Holy Spirit, “Here is your way out. Here is the vision and dream you can build upon and formulate a plan with-one you can write down and run with. This is the way I will deliver you from the hand of Laban

so you can see your vision and dream-your purpose in life-fulfilled!” Finally, in verse thirteen, the Lord urges Jacob to rise, leave the land of Laban, and go back to the land of his own family.

Now Jacob has a clear word from God. He knows that God wants him to leave Laban and step out on his own. He also has a plan for accomplishing that word. Jacob heeds these instructions and proceeds toward his ultimate goal, which is leaving Laban.

Jacob begins to formulate a plan. In Genesis 30:25-43, we see that plan unfold perfectly. Jacob tells Laban that he wishes to leave and take his family with him. Laban, understanding that Jacob is the real reason for his prosperity, pleads, “No, no stay! Name your price. Name your wages, and I’ll give them to you.”

On that offer, Jacob initiates his plan. He insists of Laban, “My wages are these: isolate all the spotted and speckled from all the pure colored cattle. Separate them

three days distance, and give me care of all the pure colored cattle. Let your sons care for the spotted and speckled. Any spotted and speckled born to the pure colors in my care will be my wages.” Of course, Laban thinks Jacob has presented a foolish offer and readily agrees to the terms. He knows that the chances of the pure color cattle birthing any substantial number of spotted and speckled offspring are minimal.

Jacob proceeds with his plan. His next major goal is that his pure

colors begin to produce spotted and speckled animals. To accomplish this, he begins to write his vision and put it before those who will run with it - in this case, the pure colored cattle.

Jacob goes to the forest, cuts down many small trees, and chips away the bark so the trees and tree limbs will look spotted, speckled, and striped. He then places those trees and limbs before the cattle at the watering troughs. When the animals come to drink, they begin to mate.

The Fruit Of Diligence

Jacob's goal was to have all the animals conceive with the spotted and speckled rods right before them. Since he wanted to make sure that those which would produce his goal and vision were seeing what he saw, he placed his vision before the runners. When it came time to conceive and produce, Jacob made certain his vision was all they could see. And, of course, that is exactly what happened. The pure colored cattle

began to produce spotted and speckled offspring!

After these multi-colored animals were born, Jacob separated them to assure that none of the pure colors would mate with the streaked and spotted cattle. But he also made sure that the pure colored animals could see the spotted and speckled ones. Jacob did everything he could to keep his vision of spotted and speckled offspring before the pure colored flock. This would further that vision.

Jacob also gave special attention to those animals that seemed stronger and healthier. When they began to mate, he put the spotted rods directly in front of them, knowing that they would produce stronger, healthier spotted and speckled calves. But if he saw weak animals mating, he pulled the rods from before them so they would produce a weaker, pure colored offspring that would be Laban's instead of his.

Jacob, having planned his work and worked his plan, was able to

accomplish his major goals (enough wealth to live on his own with his family) and minor goals (getting the pure colored animals to produce multi-colored ones) and finally reach his ultimate vision of leaving his uncle's dominance.

But don't miss the time element here. Those animals did not bear offspring overnight. Many months and years passed during the working of Jacob's plan. Throughout the agonizingly slow months of the cattle's pregnancy, Jacob operated by faith that God's

word to him was true. He had to keep pulling up and driving down those rods day after day, week after week, month after month before he saw any fruit. Visions and dreams no matter how well planned, will take time to bear fruit. Jacob was obviously very patient and diligent. We, too, must follow that aspect of his example.

Let me briefly outline to you Jacob's tremendous illustration of finding, planning, developing resources, doing, and receiving the results of a personal vision.

1. Jacob had a **vision**, which was to leave Laban.
2. His **purpose** was to have a place of his own to raise his family.
3. His **major goal** was to acquire all of the abundance necessary to meet his vision.
4. The **resources** available to him were the flocks of Laban that he had been shepherding for twenty years. His goal was to acquire, as his wages, all of the spotted and speckled animals.
5. A **minor goal** was to separate the pure colors from the spotted

and speckled.

6. Another **sub-goal** was to take the pure colors and make them produce spotted and speckled.

7. He **wrote** his vision in the branches and trees by carving spots and speckles in the bark.

8. He **placed** his vision before those who would run with it (which were the cattle).

9. He made it a point to give **special added attention** to the strongest producers.

10. Over a **time period** of several years, each goal was met, and his

vision came to pass.

As we can see by this beautiful example, God is able to use anything to make your visions come to pass. When you have a word from the Lord, it is up to you to draw the plans.

It will also be up to you to walk out those plans. If God could use animals and tree limbs to further Jacob's purpose and vision, He can surely supply your needs on the way to fulfilling your dreams. This exciting account of Jacob in Genesis is an extraordinary

example of receiving a vision from God and fulfilling it. But just as Jacob developed his plan, used his resources wisely, and eventually achieved his goal, you, too, can do the same.

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