

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,... (Prov. 29: 18a; NAS).

The KJV translates this verse to say that where there is no vision "the people perish." What does it mean to have no vision? Does this verse relate to me, in the 20th century?

Visions were one way God spoke to mankind during the patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations. God spoke to Abraham in a vision (Gen. 15:1). He also spoke to Eli and Samuel through visions (1Sam. 3:1). In Jeremiah's lament, the prophet speaks of a time when God will not give the prophets a vision (Lam. 2:9). When the people are without visions from God they are without His word. Solomon's remark in Prov. 29:18a, is that when the word of God is not heard by the people then they shall become unrestrained in their behavior. Spiritually speaking, death will set in.

Another view of the Prov. 29 passage is in the area of setting goals. The idea is that when a person doesn't have a mission or goal in their life they will "perish" from living life to the fullest. Even in spiritual things, people need goals and dreams. They must be able to see how the every day, and even the mundane things of life relate to a greater good. It is next to impossible to keep life joyfully moving along when you don't see how the things you are doing relate to an eternal purpose.

And that's where the last part of Prov. 29:18 fits in; "...happy is he who keeps the law." Allow the word of God to give you direction and stability in accomplishing all of your dreams!

See you Sunday!

-gls