



OLD MEN'S *Dreams* for YOUNG MEN'S *Visions*

By Bishop Phillip H. Porter

...“your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28. “And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, see now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.” II Samuel 7:1-2

Some dreaming is very pleasant, especially when the bills are paid, your enemies are off your back, Mamma is happy, the kids are full, the weather is fine, the air quiet and your heart is resonating with your Savior.

Such a scene is where King David of the Old Testament found himself some 39 years or so into his reign as King of Israel. At home, comfortable and all is peaceable, both at home and in the kingdom. As he muses, thankful for the many accomplishments and experiences, he cannot but reflect on the “Goodness of God” and the debt of gratitude he owes. It is at this point he is reminded of the presence of God which has always surrounded him. But now that presence embodied in the ‘Ark of the Covenant’ is without and dwelling within tents (curtains). His heart is stirred to build a House for the Ark of God.

It is amazing when ‘Old Men Dream’. They recall successes and failures, hits and misses, almost and maybe, could have, would have, and should have. Between joys and sorrows they think of how it could have been done and how it ought to be done. Yes, they now know just what to do and what not to do. “If only I had just one more chance or if I was 21 again, even 50 or 40 or 30. Oh boy, if I was 30 again!!”

Yes, where are they, the Old Men Dreaming? We need them to dream, dream out loud, and tell us their dreams. Our Young Men need to hear them, to hear the conclusion of the whole matter! What would you have done? How would you have done it? Why would you do it that way? When would you get it started? With whom would you partner and why? How long do

you stay the course? Where do you begin and end? What are the pitfalls you encountered? Old Men, we need you to Dream, for when you dream, you excite us. Our minds are stimulated. Young men avoid pitfalls and plan to push higher, farther, faster, and finish instead of falter. Old Men’s Dreams are fodder for Young Men’s Visions.

King David’s heart dreamed of a ‘House for God’, for God’s presence to rest therein. He dreamed of its excellence, beauty, magnificence, splendor, elegance, awe, and ease, tastefulness, usefulness, meaning, and the meeting of all needs. Oh, the House of God would be the best; better than any other house anywhere. The Quintessential place evoking worship and quietness, all the while causing rejoicing with music of singing and instrumentation, both large and small, wind and string, keyboard and drums, cymbals and dancing; of gold and silver, bronze and iron, crystal and chandeliers, stones of beauty and depth, brilliance and glory everywhere, tastefully placed.

David dreamed to honor his “The Lord is my Shepherd!” He dreamed and he prepared, but God sent him a message: “Thou shalt not build me a house, for thine hands have shed too much blood.” In fact, David had been called of God to be a warrior, and what a warrior he had been. He had indeed done what God called him to do, and God was pleased with his doing! But the dream was yet there, so God said to him: “Because it was in your heart to build me a house, I will rise up a son of your loins to build the house for me, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.” II Samuel 7:8-12

When Old Men Dream well, they will use whatever resources at their command to aid the dream’s fulfillment. I Chronicles 22:5-6 “And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory

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throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death. Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel.”

I Chronicles 28:11 “Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat;”

THE YOUNG MAN'S VISION MANIFESTS

“And Solomon determined to build a house for the name of the LORD, and a house for his kingdom.” II Chronicles 2:1 “Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jubusite.” II Chronicles 3:1 “Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.” II Chronicles 5:1

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem,

with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. ...And she said to the king, It was a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom: Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: for thou exceedest the fame that I heard.” II Chronicles 9:1, 5-6

Oh that we Old Men would dream dreams and tell our Young Men of them, tell them ALL and use our resources (little as you think, they are many) to undergird them; our Young Men too will see Visions of great and grand things. We can dream them to success, to great heights, to self-worth; to understand that mistakes don't mean failure nor does it mean to quit. The late Dr. Martin Luther King, on the night before his departure, stood at the podium of the C.H. Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn. and declared: “I've been to the Mountain Top; I've seen the Promised Land.” What powerful hope he evoked into those gathered, for their future struggles. We also must seek to lift our young men and women to “Mountain Tops” where they too can see their Promised Lands.

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