

VISION 2020
I Can't Believe My Eyes

Text: Matthew 13:16

Key Word: Vision

Key Thought: 2020 Vision Unveils Things Clearly

*** During my days in Bible college I began noticing that the writing on the overhead screen and blackboards etc. was becoming blurry. I could read books without any problems but my distant viewing was not as clear as it had been.

We were walking in an Edmonton Mall shortly after and noticed there was an optometrist that was offering free eye checkups. Sure enough he confirmed I had Myopia (Nearsightedness). He mentioned that I would need my first set of glasses.

Being in Bible College and living on a meagre income made it impossible in my mind to cover the cost. We thanked him for his help and began walking down the mall hallway when I heard his voice calling out to us. We stopped, turned around and listened as he offered to get me glasses without any cost because I was in Bible college.

As the years passed by my vision declined so that I had to purchase progressive lenses. I must say they were not my favourite glasses. Shortly after looking for another option my friend set me up for an appointment to have cornea implants. I not only now see at all distances but I also noticed that anything that was white lost its yellow tinge. ***

I can see clearly now the rain is gone.
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunny day.

Jimmy Cliff

Jesus once said,

*“But blessed are your eyes because they see, and
your ears because they hear.”*

Matthew 13:16

When we began 2020 we chose the Theme: Vision 2020. Little did I realize what kind of a year we were about to face. I did believe that by November 2020 we would know why I felt strongly to have all the debt paid on the building and land. God did give me 2020 vision on that part of our journey. I'm glad He didn't show me anything more than what He did. Yet as the year progressed we all were exposed to daily news casts that brought unbelief. I'm sure the saying "I can't believe my eyes" became as common to you as it did to me.

There is a time coming (that appears to be hastening) when a seven-year time period of tribulation/great tribulation will take place over the entire earth. The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 11:15 - KJV

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,

Revelation 11:15 - NIV

There are clearly 2 kingdoms that are in direct opposition to each other. One is the kingdom of God and the other is the kingdom or (kingdoms of this world). The kingdom of God **will not and cannot** be shaken (Hebrews 12:28). The kingdom of this world **WILL** be shaken

*"Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.
27. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."*

Hebrews 12:26-27 KJV

If the Word of God is reliable, and it is, we should be able to clearly see that the kingdoms of this earth are shaking as we approach the return of our Lord and Messiah.

- 1. The Financial Kingdom**
- 2. The Medical Kingdom**
- 3. The Educational Kingdom**
- 4. The Geographical Kingdom**
- 5. The Judicial Kingdom**
- 6. The Political Kingdom**
- 7. The Travel Kingdom**
- 8. The Supply & Demand Kingdom**
- 9. The Military & Police Protection Kingdom**
- 10. The Media Kingdom**

I have chosen to call them kingdoms because it tends to grab our attention. There is not one of these kingdoms that has not shaken in 2020. Everything is shaking.

1. The Financial Kingdom

The Dow Jones went as low as 21,237 to 30,218 points which most in the financial domain believe is ready for another adjustment. Bitcom is becoming the new world crypto currency. It has fluctuated from 4000 to a record high at this point of over 17,786. We are quickly moving to a cashless society which brings more questions than answers. The Bible makes it clear the day will come when the cost of daily staples will skyrocket in price (Revelation 6:6).

2. The Medical Kingdom - Our medical system is witnessing a giant upheaval. Regularly scheduled operations are being delayed due to the increasing cases of Covid -19. Our first responders are facing daily struggles to keep up with the demands. Jesus informed His church that pestilence will come upon the whole earth (Luke 21:11).

3. The Educational Kingdom - Parents are becoming overwhelmed with the few options they now have to educate their children. The costs are reaching the point where future education may reach a standstill. Foolish thoughts are being introduced into their curriculum. Parents are quickly losing their rights to raise their children as they believe is right especially if it is according to God's Word.

4. The Geographical Kingdom - Our physical world is experiencing earthquakes moment by moment. It truly is shaking. Volcanoes are also blotting out the sunlight. Floods occur in one region and droughts in other parts of the world. The polar icecaps are melting. We just experienced an evergreen Christmas. Snowstorms belt one area while the other is witnessing forest fires.

5. The Judicial Kingdom - There has been a great deal of laws changing without thinking about what this will do to future generations. There was a time when they were appointed to interpret the law. Today they are making and changing the laws. Many laws are simply being neglected because our societal preferences are rapidly changing. Evil is seen as good and good as evil (Isaiah 5:20). The ultra rich are treated differently than the common people. Massive corporations compromise our safety on a daily basis and keep lawsuits in the courts for decades. It's no longer **"what have you done"** it is now **"who do you know."** Scandals continue to rise to the surface but are quickly moved on from because more important issues arise.

6. The Political Kingdom - It's unfortunate to admit that there is little opportunity to find support for those of us who have moral, financial and social conservative beliefs. The political system has become very corrupt and countries are now being led by more powerful nations. **"Absolute power corrupts absolutely"** is the best-known quotation of the 19th century British politician Lord Acton. Time and again we are discovering that our politicians are being paid off by corporations and other countries to meet their demands. They continue to protect those who are doing wrong in their parties. They won't be able to buy themselves out of the problems they have created.

7. The Travel Kingdom - In less than six months the world travel associations have faced a massive shutdown. Cruise ships are docked and not sure when they will be able to take on passengers and travel the seas. Resorts are facing major bankruptcies if things don't change rapidly. As of December 2018, there were 314 cruise ships operating worldwide, with a combined capacity of 537,000 passengers. The largest cruise ship is **"Symphony of the Seas,"** that holds up to 6,680 passengers. In March 2019 there were 176,000 flights per day throughout the world.

8. The Supply & Demand Kingdom - This is the first generation to witness a new supply and demand system throughout the world. Our city alone has massive warehouses with complex automated systems. Express trucks are becoming more common than cars on our streets. Trucking companies are becoming massive and now linked with huge aircraft. There was a time in my childhood when drive-thru restaurants were being introduced. Take out orders are now being done by delivery services.

9. The Military & Police Protection Kingdom - Superpowers are protected by highly technical weaponry. Men and women are being highly trained to combat opposing forces. There was a time when we respected our law enforcement officers. We now step back and allow lawless gangs to take over our streets and assault our police. Business people who have worked hard all their lives see their work going up in flames during these "peaceful protests."

None of us want to see another world war. Our Bible gives us insight on the terrible results that will take place. We have never produced a weapon we haven't used over time.

10. The Media Kingdom - Indoctrination is the new media. You either give into their foolish front cover stories or stand up against them while we can. We still have a voice if we decide to use it. It is not a time to surrender our last few rights to a socialist or communist agenda openly promoted over our news media. Please don't believe everything you read. Search for truth. Most media outlets are antichristian. They are not moderates. You can't tell me you don't feel intimidated to stand up for Biblical values. They are ultimately moving to completely silence our beliefs. Try exposing any of their false teachers and you will have a war on your hands. I am supremely upset with the control that social media companies have been given over our lives. Privacy is a real joke. I used to (and still do) eat cookies. Now cookies get to know my daily routine. Our personal information is sold just like a commodity. If I search on Google for Best Buy, Home Depot, Wayfair the next search I do has small inserts with the very product I am interested in.

Little did I realize that Seeing God with 2020 Vision would be so much needed this year. Seeing it is one thing. I believe hearing and understanding God and His Word will be even more needed if we normally just listen to the world's perspective. So that is why we will need to hear from God in 2021. I want to have an ear to hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(2020)\Sermons.2020\Christian Growth\Matthew 14_16.wpd

Date: Dec 13/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Surrounded

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Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 12:28

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- 1. The Financial Kingdom - Revelation 6:6**
- 2. The Medical Kingdom - Luke 21:11**
- 3. The Educational Kingdom**
- 4. The Geographical Kingdom**
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