

Biblical Vision

A conflict of visions differs from a conflict between contending interests. When interests are at stake, the parties directly affected usually understand clearly what the issue is and what they individually stand to gain or lose. The general public may not understand - and indeed may be confused precisely because of the propaganda of the contending parties. But such public confusion is the direct consequence of the clarity of the interested parties themselves. However, when there is a conflict of visions, those most powerfully affected by a particular vision may be the least aware of its underlying assumptions - or the least interested in stopping to examine such theoretical questions when there are urgent "practical" issues to be confronted, crusades to be launched, or values to be defended at all costs.

Yet visions are not mere emotional drives. On the contrary, they have a remarkable logical consistency, even if those devoted to these visions have seldom investigated that logic. Nor are visions confined to zealots and ideologues. We all have visions. They are the silent shapers of our thoughts.

Visions may be moral, political, economic, religious, or social. In these or other realms, we sacrifice for our visions and sometimes, if need be, face ruin rather than betray them. Where visions conflict irreconcilably, whole societies may be torn apart. Conflicts of interests dominate the short run, but conflicts of visions dominate history.

We will do almost anything for our visions, except think about them. The purpose of this book is to think about them.

Thomas Sowell, Preface, *A Conflict of Visions: Ideological Origins of Political Struggles* (Basic Books, 2007), pp. xiii-xiv

The kingdoms of the world did become those of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign to the ages of the ages! ... The reign of Christ marches victoriously through the ages ... it is a Rock of Truth by which all events in this world are to be weighed and interpreted.

James Nickel

When God implants vision, it is for the purpose of giving insight into what should be, but currently is not. Because of this, people with God-given vision are rarely understood by the status quo, i. e., those comfortable with the way things are. But, without a vision, what is will perish.

James Nickel

Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Habakkuk 2:2

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18

What greater mission can a man have than to set out to change the philosophical foundations of this generation to believing the Gospel; to turn a man from a preoccupation with heaven to a commitment to the kingdom of God; to turn him from a philosophy of despair to an eschatology of victory.

Howard Carter

You can't get anywhere if you don't start.

Anonymous

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You can only go anywhere one step at a time.

Anonymous

The present, which is the father of the future, is also a child of the past.

Anonymous

If there be a destiny, it is of no avail for us unless we work with it. The ways of Providence will be of no advantage to us unless we proceed in the same direction. If we perceive a destiny in America, if we believe that Providence has been the guide, our own success, our own salvation require that we should act and serve in harmony and obedience.

President Calvin Coolidge

The twilight of the humanistic world is the dawn of Christian civilization.

Anonymous

Men who saw night coming down about them could somehow act as if they stood on the edge of dawn.
Written in a letter by a Civil War Confederate soldier shortly before his death

The future must be won, and shall be won, by a renewal and development of our historic Christian liberty, by an emphasis on the fact: the *basic government* is the self-government of the Christian man, and by a recognition that an informed faith is the mainspring of victory. History has *never* been dominated by majorities, but only by dedicated minorities who stand unconditionally on their faith.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *Chalcedon Report* (October 1, 1965)

We need a baptism of clear seeing. We desperately need seers who can see through the mist - Christian leaders with prophetic vision. Unless they come soon it will be too late for this generation. And if they do come we will no doubt crucify a few of them in the name of our worldly orthodoxy.

A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*

The end of an age is always a time of turmoil, war, economic catastrophe, cynicism, lawlessness, and distress. But it is also an era of heightened challenge and creativity, and of intense vitality. And because of the intensification of issues, and their world-wide scope, never has this era faced a more demanding and exciting crisis. This then above all else is the great and glorious era to live in, a time of opportunity, one requiring fresh and vigorous thinking, indeed a glorious time to be alive.

Rousas J. Rushdoony, *Intellectual Schizophrenia: Culture, Crisis and Education*, 1961

We all need continually to be renewed, reformed, and revitalized by God and his word. Reformation is either an ongoing fact or it is dead. To honor the Reformation is nothing if we ourselves are not constantly renewed and empowered by our Lord to do more. One look at the world should tell us that the greatest applications of reformation and renewal are still ahead of us. The best way to honor the past is to apply its victories to the present. The Protestant Reformation has no life apart from the people who profess to be its heirs, and we had better develop and apply the Biblical premises of reformation.

Rousas J. Rushdoony

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the

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whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14