

Of Visions & Revelations

2 Corinthians 12:1–13

I. Of Visions, 2 Corinthians 12:1–6

II. Of Revelations, 2 Cor. 12:7–10

III. The signs of an apostle, 2 Cor. 12:11–13

Of Visions & Revelations

2 Corinthians 12:1–13

Paul's visions and revelations attest to his apostleship. 2 Cor. 12:1–10

A vision is a visual experience given with a specific message to a specific person. vs. 1

A revelation is a revealing or making known a truth before unknown. *apokalupsis* vs. 1

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I. *Of Visions*, 2 Corinthians 12:1-6

A. Visions Paul received in Acts:

- 1. His conversion experience, Acts 9:3–7; 26:23–24,**
- 2. A man in Macedonia, Acts 16:9,**
- 3. At Corinth, “*do not be afraid ...*” Acts 18:9,**
- 4. At Jerusalem, “*get out of Jerusalem ...*” 22:17–18,**
- 5. In Jerusalem after arrest, “*Be of good cheer...*” 23:11,**
- 6. In the storm, “*Do not be afraid ...*” Acts 27:23–33**

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2 Corinthians 12:1–13

B. The vision of a man caught up to Paradise, vv. 2–6

1. The timing, 14 years earlier - 42–44 A.D. v. 2

2. Who was the man “*caught up*”? - vv. 2–3

- Paul’s personal experience told in the 3rd person,
- The context requires it,
- The personal eye witness pronouns, v. 1–3; v. 5
- The known things that cannot be known require it.

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3. The experience:

- 1. What Paul knew; v. 2a,**
 - He knew the man, “*oida*” - *perceive*, v. 2b,**
 - He knew the man was “caught up”, - to snatch away, v. 2; 1 Thess. 4:17**
 - To the “third heaven”, v. 2 to Paradise v. 4**
- 2. He did not know - “*whether in the body or out of the body*” vv. 2b, 3**
- 3. He heard inexpressible words - unspeakable v. 4**
- 4. “*of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast except of my infirmities.*” v. 5**

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II. Paul's thorn in the flesh, 2 Cor. 12:7–10

A revelation is a revealing of truth, - making known a truth before unknown. Ephesians 3:5

Other revelations Paul received:

His conversion experience, Acts 9:3–6

Concerning spiritual gifts, 1 Cor. 14:6

**His receiving the revelation of the mystery,
Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:3–6**

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II. Paul's thorn in the flesh, 2 Cor. 12:7–10

1. Why Paul? “*Lest I should be exalted ...*” v. 7a

2. What was it? “*a thorn in the flesh ... a messenger of Satan.*” v. 7b

3. How did he get it? “*was given to me ...*” v. 7c

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II. Paul's thorn in the flesh, 2 Cor. 12:7–10

4. What was Paul's response? *"I pleaded for the removal of this thorn three times. ..."* v. 8

5. What was God's answer? *"My grace is sufficient for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* v. 7c

6. Paul's response? *"... most gladly I will boast in infirmities ... when am I weak then I am strong."* vv. 9–10

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2 Corinthians 12:1–13

III. The Signs of an Apostle 2 Cor. 12:11–13

Did Paul demonstrate the “sign & wonders” of an apostle?

A. In comparison to other apostles? 2 Cor. 12:11

B. In “*signs & wonders*”? vv. 12-13; Acts 14:3; 15:12;
Rom. 15:18