

## **The Baseball Vision**

### **Prelude**

This experience took place on Saturday evening, October 31, 2004 in Kansas City, Mo. I was attending the “Living Under an Open Heaven” conference sponsored by WhiteDove Ministries. The conference speakers were Bob Jones, Paul Keith Davis, John Paul Jackson, Bobby Conner and Shawn Bolz. This was the final of seven sessions.

Paul Keith Davis, Bob Jones and Shawn Bolz spoke and ministered to the crowd of approximately 2000 people. As Bob ministered to us, I experienced a profound ache in both of my thumbs. Later Shawn declared that there was an open heaven in the room. He told us to stop striving and just focus on the Lord. As I followed Shawn’s instructions, I experienced a supernatural peace sweep over me. It was almost as if I was alone in the room.

### **The Gate**

In this peaceful state I begin to see a gate. It’s an old gate, ornate and metal with vines and plants about it. As I stood there the gate slowly swings open before me. The gate opened inward from right to left and I proceeded forward. I don’t recall actually walking but I did move forward.

### **The Spiral Staircase**

The first thing I saw inside the gate was a cobble stone step and then another and another. The steps were also very old. They appeared as if no one had walked them in a very long time. By the time I had noticed the third step I could tell that they were part of a spiral staircase proceeding up and to the right. As I looked up, I began to go up very quickly. I could see that this staircase was very long. I seemed to go through three places. The first seemed to be the natural sky above me. The clouds were a grayish white color. The next section seemed to be a band of very dark clouds. As I punched through this dark section, I found myself in a place of clear, clean, pure whiteness. I recall having great peace as I stood here. I even folded my arms and thought to myself, “well now, isn’t this interesting”. I wondered where I was and what would happen next.

## **The Baseball**

As I stood there peacefully waiting to see what would happen next, I was amused and amazed to see a baseball headed directly for my face. The baseball was so close to me that it encompassed almost my entire view. The ball seemed to hover before me. I could clearly see the two lines of red stitching on this clean white baseball. As I wondered to myself why was I seeing this baseball the thought occurred to me that I should catch it. I reached up with both hands and took hold of the ball. As I brought the ball down, I could see the Lord. Although I couldn't see His face, I somehow knew that he was smiling. Behind Him was a baseball diamond with perfectly manicured bright green grass and four bases. We were standing off to the first base side of the field. Although no one else was there I knew exactly where I was.

## **The First Visit**

I had been to this baseball diamond before. Approximately five years ago while leading a small group meeting the Lord took me to this same place. I remember standing off to the first base side of this baseball diamond. The Lord was on my left, He waved His left hand in a sweeping motion as if to say look at the field. As I did, I saw that there were a group of young children playing. They were having a blast! No adults around to tell them what to do, they were just playing baseball and loving it. My reaction was to try and figure out why the Lord was showing this to me. I immediately felt a self-imposed stress trying to figure what this scene could mean. I remember thinking, OK the grass was green, what does green mean? The field was in the shape of a diamond, could that mean something. There were two teams of nine kids each, eighteen in all, what could that mean? Clueless and frustrated I turned to the Lord and said, "I don't get it, it's just a bunch of kids having fun, what's the point?" Immediately the Lord said to me "that's the point!" and the experience ended. All this time I had believed that the Lord wanted me to lighten up and learn to have fun like a little child playing baseball. Though that might still be true, this latest experience has revealed so much more.

## **Playing Catch**

As I stood there with this baseball in my right hand looking at the Lord with the field behind Him, I realize that it was the Lord who threw the ball to me.

He was standing there as if to say throw the ball back, so I did. I'm unsure how long we threw this ball back and forth but it seemed like were there for a while.

### **Walking the Bases**

The Lord came over and put His right arm over my shoulders and together we walked the bases. We went from first to home stopping to look at each base. I could tell that there was something written on each of the first three bases, but I couldn't tell what it said. The Lord said to me that three bases would be established before I "go home".

### **The Dugout**

After walking the bases, the Lord led me over to the visitor's dugout. I remember thinking "Lord why are we in the visitor's dugout, I want to be the home team". He told me that this was a traveling team and that Heaven was our home, that we were strangers and aliens in this world (Hebrews 11:13, 1 Peter 2:11). As we entered the dugout, I knew that I was the manager of this team. Although I hadn't met the players, I could see their uniforms. They were white with a five-pointed star on them. The Lord told me that this was an all-star team of fivefold ministries (Ephesians 4:11) that I would manage.

As I looked to my left, I saw the racks which held the players helmets and bats. Instantly I knew that these were helmets of salvation. Instead of bats the racks were filled with swords. Each sword was different with gleaming blades and handles of gold encrusted with multicolored jewels. The handles were molded perfectly to fit the hand of its owner. I knew that these were the Sword of the Spirit, the rhema word of God (Ephesians 6:17). As I looked at these helmets and swords, I knew that they were for the purpose of prophetic evangelism.

While still in the dugout I turned to my right and the Lord had in his hand a jewelry box, he opened it to reveal a ring. This was a championship ring. I knew that each player on the team had his own ring. The rings were gold with the words "Dread Champion" (Deut. 11:25) written on them. Each ring had a precious stone surrounded by diamonds. I saw rubies sapphires, emeralds and clear large diamonds. I knew that this team would never lose

so long as they played as team valuing unity and love (Ephesians 4:2-6). These rings symbolized the victory and authority these players would walk in. I knew that the Red Sox, who had won the World Series just four nights earlier, were a prophetic sign of this team I would manage, those who would walk in the anointing and never give up.

While in the dugout I knew that there were people back in the trainer's room symbolizing support people and I also knew that this team had a jet.

### **The Great Cloud of Witnesses**

What was once a simple field was now a full professional baseball stadium. The stands were full of people who I knew were the great cloud of witnesses from Hebrews 12:1. There is the music of heaven in this place and it has the passionate feel of a sporting event. The witnesses are cheering us on! They are crying:

He is worthy! He is worthy! He is worthy!

I knew they were saying that He is worthy of our lives, He is worthy of our best, He is worthy of any cost. They were exhorting us to live lives worthy of the calling we have received. (Ephesians 4:1). Don't give up no matter what the score! As they cheer, they are all pointing in the same direction, up toward the Owner's box.

### **The Lord**

As I turn to see where they are pointing, I see the Lord on his throne in brilliant white glory. He is positioned atop the stadium with the light of his glory overwhelming anything around Him. I am far from Him and can barely make out the form of a person seated on the throne through the brilliant pure white light. I explode in tears and worship Him. The next thing I know I am sitting in my seat that the conference.

### **Prologue**

I believe that this open heaven experience has in its divine strategies for my life. I am also aware that there is yet more to be revealed: what is on the bases, who specifically the players are and what they represent. I

believe the children from the earlier experience are the players the Lord has for this team. Give me wisdom and understanding Lord, amen.