

# Vision of Cosmic Reality

## 宇宙现实的异象

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In 2017 Emmanuel Mensah repeatedly ran into a burning building to save peoples lives before ultimately losing his own life.

2017 年，以马内利·门萨多次跑进一座着了火的大楼，去拯救很多人的生命，最终失去了自己的生命。

Thousands of young men saw the evil carried out in the name of conquest and signed up. Signed up to go to war and give their bodies and very lives to see people and nations saved.

成千上万的年轻人看到邪恶以征服的名义进行，并签名参军。为看到百姓和各国得救，报名去参加战争，献上他们的身体和生命。

In 1665, when the bubonic plague was spreading across the world, one town chose suffering to see lives saved. Eyam, in England, a town of 800 people, chose to quarantine themselves off from the important trade routes around them. Over 14 months they lost 260 of 800 of their residents, but their self sacrifice resulted in victory. Nobody outside the village contracted the disease. They doomed themselves to pestilential death to save the surrounding country.

1665 年，当鼠疫在世界各地蔓延时，一个小镇为拯救生命，选择受苦受难。在英国的 Eyam，一个有 800 名人口的小镇，选择把自己与在周围的重要贸易路线上隔离。在 14 个月里，他们失去了 800 名居民中的 260 人，但他们的自我牺牲带来了胜利。村外没有人染上这种疾病。为了拯救周边国家，他们置自己于死地。

### Victory came through Suffering

There is a pattern here that extends throughout life, and beyond life and death.

Victory comes when I put to death my own pride, and arrogance.

胜利来自苦难

这里有一种模式，它贯穿整个生命，超越生与死。

当我把自己的骄傲和傲慢都置死时，胜利便来临。

I win as a friend when I'm busy and give up my time to help a friend out.

I win as a Dad when I put to death my annoyance with my kids and sit and engage with them.

当我忙的时候，还放弃时间去帮助朋友，我便赢得到朋友。

当我把孩子带来的烦恼抛诸脑后，坐下来和他们交流互动，我作为父亲赢得到他们。

Today as we continue in the book of Revelation, John sees a vision of the future of the church. A future of victory through suffering. The same victory that Jesus won in his suffering and death, the church would be part of.

今天，当我们继续在《启示录》中，约翰看到了教会未来的远象。一个借着苦难得胜利的未来。耶稣在苦难和死亡中赢得的胜利，教会也是其中的一部分。

Challenge for us today will be to first see that as the ultimate victory, and then to continue to put to death our preferences, and pride and our sin, and to live to Christ. Because that is the victorious Christian life.

我们今天的挑战将是，首先要看到这是最终的胜利，然后继续把我们的喜好，骄傲和我们的罪置死，并为基督而活。因为那是胜利的基督徒生命。

Today, we'll see three things in Revelation 11, how God has protected his church, that there is protection because there is also Persecution, and lastly that God vindicates his people.

今天，我们将在《启示录》11章中去看三件事，上帝如何保护他的教会，有保护是因为也有迫害，最后上帝为他的人辩护。

## 1. Protected 受保护

Firstly, God protects his people.

首先，上帝保护他的百姓。

John is shown a vision of the temple of God, verse 1-2.

在第1-2节，约翰被展示了一个神的圣殿的异象。

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshippers. 2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

有一根芦苇，像丈量的杖，赐给我；且有话说：「起来！将上帝的殿和祭坛，以及在殿中礼拜的人，都量一量。只是殿外的院子不用量，因为这是要给外邦人的；他们将践踏圣城四十二个月。

The temple in the Old Testament is the place where God met with his people. It was made to exact measurements. But this is not a picture of the Old Testament temple. 1 Corinthians 3:16 tells us that now, after Jesus death and resurrection, the church is the temple. Not the building. We the people are the temple. God no longer dwells in a building but his Spirit is in us. He dwells within us his people.

《旧约》中的圣殿是神与百姓相遇的地方。它是依精确的测量来建造。但这里的不是《旧约》的圣殿的图片。哥林多前书 3:16 告诉我们，现在，在耶稣的死和复活后，教会就是圣殿。不是这栋建筑物。我们这些人是圣殿。上帝不再住在建筑物里，但他的灵住在我们自己中间。他住在我们，他的百姓，里面。

The outer court is left to be trampled by the Gentiles. Now in Christ, there are no longer Jew or Gentile, but we are united together as the Church. It's the amazing news of the gospel, God has made one forgiven people, he has brought his enemies into his family.

殿外的院子要留给外邦人去践踏。现在在基督里，不再分犹太人或外邦人，我们作为教会团结在一起。这是福音的惊人消息，上帝把所有已经被赦免的人归为一体，他把他的敌人带进他的家。

The outer court here is a picture of the threat by those who are against God who will trample God's church. They will attack God's people for 42 months, which points back to a prophesy from Daniel. Without getting into the specifics of the 42 months, it is a reference to the time, times, and half a time. But it points to persecution against the church ending. It is for a season, it doesn't go on forever. Whatever people do against God's people, he protects them.

殿外的院子，在这里，是那些反对上帝的人而来的威胁的画面，他们将践踏神的教会。他们将攻击神的百姓42个月，这是引述但以理的预言。在不进入42个月的具体内容的情况下，它指的是一年、两年、又半年的时间。指出了对教会的迫害会终结。这是一个时期，不会永远继续下去。无论人们怎样对神的百姓作敌对的行为，他都会保护他们。

Even though there is persecution God protects his people.

John sees God appoint 2 witnesses, who are referred to as lampstands.

即使有迫害，上帝保护他的百姓。

约翰见神指定了两名见证人，他们被称为灯台。

John is describing the church, who have a job to witness to the world what God has done. Described as 2 witnesses because in court 2 witnesses are reliable. And the church are lampstands as we shine God's light into a chaotic and dark world.

约翰在描述教会，他们的工作是向世界见证神的作为。被描述为两名见证人，因为在法庭上有两名证人是可靠的。当我们把神的光照射到一个混乱和黑暗的世界时，教会就是灯台。

We are to witness to what God has done in history, through Jesus, and in our lives. We've had some wonderful testimonies over the last couple of weeks about what God has been doing in peoples lives.

我们要见证神透过耶稣在历史上和我们的生命中的作为。过去几周，我们见到神曾在一些人的生命中所做的事的一些奇妙的见证。

The church is to witness for 1260 days, it's the same reference as the 42 months, clothed in sackcloth as a sign of grieving to call people to repent. This period is a way of indicating that while there is persecution God's people continue to witness.

教会将见证一千二百六十天，就是四十二个月，穿着粗麻衣作为悲伤的标志，呼吁人们要悔改。这些时期是表明，虽然受着迫害，上帝的百姓继续去作见证。

But this church also has a great power to protect itself. Verse 5,

但这个教会也有巨大的权柄力量来保护自己。第5节，

5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

5 若有人想要害他们，就有火从他们口中喷出来，烧灭仇敌；凡想要害他们的都必须这样被杀。6 这二人有权柄关闭天空，使他们说预言的日子不下雨；又有权柄使水变为血，并且能随时随意用各样的灾害击打大地世界。

Power to cause plagues and shut up the sky are pictures of Moses and Elijah. The 2 great hero's of the Old Testament. We are now engaged in a different kind of ministry, we are witnesses of God through his word the bible.

有权柄去用各样的灾害和关闭天空是摩西和伊莱贾的照片。《旧约》的两个伟大的英雄。我们现在从事另一种事工，我们是通过他的话，圣经，作上帝的见证人。

But it is every bit as powerful as the great prophets of old. For with the preaching of the bible we bring either eternal life or eternal death. That's what I'm doing standing here. That's what you do when you read the bible with a friend, or your children. Seeing God's mighty power work through his word.

这与伟大的古老先知一样有权柄。因为通过圣经的宣讲，我们带来了永生或永恒的死亡。这就是我站在这里做的事。当你和朋友或你的孩子一起读圣经时，你就是这样做。看到上帝的力量，通过他的话在工作。

God has sent us to be on about his mission, with the very words of life. God is working to protect us now to keep being his witnesses.

上帝派我们去用生命的话语来完成他的使命。上帝现在正努力保护我们去继续做他的见证人。

The vision given to John summarizes the glory of following God and also the pain of existence in this present evil world.

给约翰的异象总结了跟随神的荣耀，也总结了在这个邪恶世界中存在的痛苦。

For in this time we are in, the 42 months, between Jesus' resurrection and his return, it is that time as long as we have time to witness.

因为在这段时间里，这42个月，从耶稣复活到回归，我们就只有这段时间去作见证。

This time we are protected by God, nothing can separate us from his love in Christ Jesus. The father cares for us his children.

这一次，我们受到神的保护，没有什么能把我们与他在基督耶稣的爱分开。父亲关心照顾我们，他的孩子。

And yet those who are in the family of God are protected because we need protection. Soldiers wear armour because they face attack.

然而，那些在上帝的家里的人受到保护，因为我们需要保护。

士兵们穿盔甲是因为他们面临攻击。

In the last 11 years there has been much to rejoice in, but there has also been pain. As we look forward, we desire to see God's word go out, we also know that people will attack us.

过去 11 年，有许多是可以欢欣鼓舞的，但也有痛苦。当我们向前看时，我们希望看到神的话语传扬，我们也知道人们会攻击我们。

Life in this tension is not easy, yet God is with us, guarding us, guiding, nourishing, and strengthening us until the end.

这种生命中的拉扯是不容易的，然而上帝是与我们同在，守护着我们，指引、滋养和强化我们，直到最后。

## 2. Persecution 迫害

We need protection because John gives us a picture of persecution coming for the church. Verse 7,

我们需要保护，因为约翰给了我们一张教会将受迫害的景象。第 7 节，

7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8 Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.

7 他们作完见证的时候，那从无底坑里上来的兽要跟他们交战，并且得胜，把他们杀了。8 他们的尸首将倒在大城的街道上；这城按着灵意叫所多玛，又叫埃及，就是他们的主钉十字架的地方。

The witnesses who were protected are now killed by Satanic power. It takes place in Sodom and Egypt, not specifically that city, but a picture of those people who are against God. The church is characterized as a suffering church. We are like the Jesus that we follow.

被保护的见证人现在被撒旦的力量杀害。发生在所多玛，又叫埃及，不是特定的地点，而是那些反对上帝的人的反映。教会被描述为一个受苦受难的教会。我们就像我们跟随的耶稣。

The world who is opposed to God wants to shame Christians. The bodies are left in the public square. They are left for days and won't be buried, which in the ancient world would have brought great shame to their families and those associated with them.

反对上帝的世界想羞辱基督徒。尸首将留在大城的街道上。一直留着，不埋葬他们，这在古代世界，对他们的家庭和与他们有关的人，将带来极大的耻辱。

The church is attacked, maligned, scorned, and dishonoured by those opposed to God. The very ones we are called to. Verse 9,

教会受到那些反对上帝的人的攻击、诋毁、蔑视和羞辱。我们被叫去分享的对象。第 9 节，

9 For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

9 从各民族、支派、语言、邦国中有人观看他们的尸首三天半，又不许人把尸首安放在坟墓里。

The church, the 2 witnesses had tormented them. This is what happens when God's saving good news is preached to a people who don't want to hear it.

教会里，两个见证人折磨了他们。当上帝的拯救好消息被传教给一个不想听的人时，就会发生这种情况。

John the Baptist called Herod not to marry his brothers wife, and he was beheaded. Jesus called the Jews not to have a legalistic half hearted devotion to God and they crucified him, he had the words of life, he was God.

施洗约翰呼吁希律不要娶他的兄弟妻子，他被斩首。耶稣呼吁犹太人不要对神有律法半心半意，他们把他钉在十字架上，他有生命之道，他是神。

The world cannot bear to have their evil condemned.

Have you ever seen a loved one making bad choices that won't end well?

Do you risk criticising what they are doing out of care?

世界不忍他们的邪恶被谴责。

你见过心爱的人做出不好的选择，会有不好的结果？

你会因关心他们冒批评不对的事情的风险吗？

Even when that person doesn't want to hear it.

It is much more comfortable not to say anything, but it is not comfortable losing that persons life.

即使那个人不想听。

不说什么就舒服多了，但若那人失去他的生命，就不那么自在。

It is very comfortable to not share the gospel on our frontlines with our work and family. I see you making these choices and chasing after these things, but they won't satisfy. Only knowing Jesus will! It makes for an awkward family dinner.

不在我们的前线与我们的工作和家庭分享福音，是很舒服的。我看到你做出这些选择，追逐这些东西，但他们不会带来满足。只有认识耶稣才会！会使一个家庭晚餐十分尴尬。

Much more comfortable not face shame from sharing the gospel.

Can you imagine being a Christian and seeing people do what happens in versed 10,

不面对分享福音的耻辱会更舒服。

你能想象作为一个基督徒，看到人们做在第 10 节所说的事情，

10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

10 住在地上的人会因他们而欢喜快乐，互相馈送礼物，因为这两位先知曾使住在地上的人受痛苦。

It looks like a painful future to be a Christian.

看起来做基督徒将会是个痛苦的未来。

### 3. Vindication 平反

God doesn't leave his people on the ground, beaten and defeated. He vindicates them!  
上帝不会让他的百姓，被击打和打败，留在大城的街道上。他会为他们辩护！

11 But after the three and a half days the breath[b] of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

11 过了这三天半，有生命的气息从上帝那里进入他们里面，他们就站起来；看见他们的人都大大惧怕。12 两位先知听见有大声音从天上对他们说：「上这里来。」他们就驾着云上了天，他们的仇敌也看见了。

I can't help but be reminded of movies where the villain who seems dead comes back to life, but here it's the innocent! Those who were struck down are lifted up. God's Spirit brings them back to life.

我不禁想起了那些在电影中似乎死去的恶棍复活过来，但这里是无辜的人！那些被击落的人被提起来。神的灵使他们重得生命。

I don't believe that this is a literal time line of what happens. But it is symbolic way for John to say that God has vindicated his people . God has shown his people to be innocent, his people, in public, in plan view of all those who rejoiced over their deaths.

我不相信这是实际跟据时间发生的事情。但是，这是约翰用来象征上帝已经为他的百姓平反的言语。上帝已经表明他的百姓是无辜的，他的百姓，在公众中，在所有为他们的死亡欢欣鼓舞的人无保留地显明。

And the amazing thing is that verse 13 says that people gave God glory, and turn to him. God vindicates his people, and sends an earthquake to bring justice, and saves.

This is more of a pattern in history rather than a timeline.

精彩的是第 13 节说，人们转向神，归荣耀给天上的上帝

上帝为他的百姓平反，并派出地震来伸张正义，并拯救他们。

这更像是一个历史模式，而不是一个时程表。

The church witness to the gospel. The church is persecuted. Christian are martyred, mocked and scorned. And at times it seems like the church is done. The cause of Christ is defeated. God is dead they cry! Those who follow him, those Christians are dying out.

教会见证福音。教会受到迫害。基督徒殉难、嘲弄和轻蔑。有时，教会似乎已被打败。基督的事工被打败。他们呼喊，上帝已死了！跟随他的人，那些基督徒正在消亡。

But God's Spirit breathes life into them. Picking up imagery from Ezekiel 37, where dry bones are revived. God is reviving his church making us a victorious army.

但神的灵，生命的气息，从上帝那里进入他们里面去注入生命。从《以西结书》37 章得到的图像，在那里枯干了的骸骨复活过来。上帝正在复兴他的教会，使我们成为一支胜利的军队。

It happened to Jesus himself. Persecuted, killed, and yet raised from the dead. Steven is martyred in Acts 7, but God uses that moment to send his missionaries out into the world. Soviet Communism set out to crush the church, but the church outlived it.

它发生在耶稣自己身上。被迫害，杀害，但从死人中复活过来。司提反在《使徒行传》第 7 章中殉难，但上帝利用那一刻把他的传教士送到世界各地。苏联共产主义尝试去粉碎教会，但教会却活得比它更久。

In Ethiopia, between 1975-78, President Mengistu implemented the Red Terror where 1.5 million died and churches were closed. When Mengistu fell, no one was sure what would remain of the church, but Christians had been meeting in homes and not only survived, but Grown!

1975 至 78 年间在埃塞俄比亚，门格斯图总统实施了红色恐怖，150 万人死亡，教会关闭。当门格斯图下台时，没有人能确定教会是否仍会存在，但基督徒一直在家里聚会，不仅是幸存下来，而且是大有增长！

In 1900 the Boxer Rebellion in China saw over 200 missionaries killed and over 30,000 Chinese Christians killed. Yet God breathed life to what seemed dead.

1900 年，义和团在中国起义叛乱，有超过 200 多名传教士被杀，超过 3 万多名中国基督徒被杀害。然而，上帝把生命的气息给似乎已死了的人。

The same thing happened again in China after the Cultural Revolution.

In the face of hostile powers, the story of Jesus repeats itself in the church.

中国在文化大革命后再次发生了同样的事情。

面对敌对势力，耶稣的故事在教会中重演。

The church witnesses to God. Persecution. Death and what looks like defeat. But God breathes life and the church grows. Victory through suffering.

教会为上帝作见证。迫害。死亡与看起来像已失败，但上帝呼出生命的气息进入他们，教会在增长。通过痛苦取得胜利。

It is God's chosen weapon against the forces of evil. Faithful people sustained by the power of the spirit of God. Victory through Suffering. Life comes through death.

这是上帝选择来对付邪恶势力的武器。虔诚的人被神的灵的力量所支持保护。通过痛苦取得胜利。出死而入生。

My family watched the 1999 classic Disney movie Hercules last week. And the church is like a mythical beast. Like the Phoenix that rises from the ashes. But really the church is like the Ancient Hydra. Cut off one head, think it's defeated, but 2 more heads grow.

我的家人上周看了 1999 年的经典迪斯尼电影《大力神》。教会就像一只神话中的野兽。就像从灰烬中升起的凤凰。但实际上，教会就像古代海德拉。砍掉一个头，以为被打败了，但有 2 个头长了出来。

Suffering and persecution is God's weapon against the world, and the tool to see it grow.

苦难和迫害是上帝对抗世界的武器，也是看到增长的工具。



Our victory comes through suffering from Jesus's death and resurrection. It works in the church broadly. But also our own death and life in God each day.

我们的胜利来自耶稣的死亡和复活的痛苦。在教会里广泛运作。也在我们每天在上帝里的死亡和生命中。

For us as a church and individual preaching Christ in Chatswood and on our frontlines with our family and friends, we are not yet at the point of shedding blood for Jesus.

对我们来说，作为一个教会和个人在车士活，在我们的前线与家人和朋友宣讲基督，我们还没有到为耶稣流血的地步。

So what do we do with a message that says life comes through Death?

那么，我们该如何处理一个说，「生命是来自死亡」的信息？

Death and resurrection is the way we are saved, but it is also the pattern of our lives, and the weapon to see people saved.

死亡和复活是我们被拯救的方式，但也是我们生活的模式，更是我们看到其他人得救的武器。

Jesus said that whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

耶稣说，「凡要救自己生命的，要丧失生命；凡为我丧失生命的，要得着生命。」

The life of a Christian follows the pattern of dying to self and living for Christ.

基督徒的生命是遵循舍己和为基督而活的模式。

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4 that he is hard pressed, his body is being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life might be revealed.

保罗在《哥林多后书》第4章说，「我们处处受困，我们身上常带着耶稣的死，常为耶稣被置于死地，使耶稣的生命在我们这必死的人身上显明出来。」

The call of Jesus to his disciples is to die. Die to yourself.

Surrender your career and future prospects.

Surrender your status, and reputation.

Surrender your desires to have all the things that society tells you to have, the newest and best.

耶稣对门徒的呼召是去死。去置死你的自我。

放弃你的事业与未来的前景。

放弃你的地位和声誉。

放弃你想拥有社会告诉你必须拥有的所有最新和最好的东西的欲望。

See those sins of pride, and lust, and arrogance put them to death, so that Jesus is priority and he sets the direction of your life. He gives life, they won't satisfy.

看到那些骄傲、情欲和傲慢的罪，把它们处死。这样耶稣才是优先事项，设定你生命的方向。他给予的生命是它们不会能满足的。

Embrace the death of chasing career and idols. Put to death the chasing after self worth on your own, live to the worth of Christ who died for you and valued you above his own life.

拥抱追逐事业和偶像的死亡。把自己追求自我价值的生命置死，活出为你死，并珍视你高于自己的生命的基督的价值。

Whenever you give of your money to church, your time, your talents, or treasures, You are dying to self and building his kingdom. God gives life, satisfied in him.

每当你把你的钱，你的时间，你的才能或珍宝给教会，你是在向自己死和在建立他的国。上帝给予生命，在他里面得满足。

Whenever you witness to a friend you are dying to yourself and your own comfort to see a loved one saved. God gives life.

每当你向一个朋友作见证，你是置死自己和自己的安舒，去使心爱的人得救。上帝赐予生命。

Whenever you pickup your bible and read it, you are putting to death your control of your life and saying God, give me life, lead me.

每当你拿起圣经去读它，你把你对自己的生命的控制置死，并说上帝，给我生命，带领我。

Whenever you are faced with sin and choose to obey, you put to death the idea that you know what's best, and worship Jesus as king. Who gives the best life.

每当你面对罪，反而选择去服从。你是把你认为自己知道什么是最好的想法置死，去崇拜耶稣作王。给了你最好的生命的那位。

Every moment of dying to self and choosing God is a moment of life by the Spirit.

把自我置死，选择上帝，的每一刻，都是圣灵生命的时刻。

And this is God's weapon to build his kingdom. In us. And across the world.

这就是上帝建立他的国的武器。在我们身上里面，以致全世界。