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OT-504 Hebrew  
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Vision is a word that will be used to do an in-depth analysis of Proverbs 29:18. The Kings James version will be the primary reference to cross-examine the use and feeling for the word vision throughout other English translations. The Kings James Version (KJV) of Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Vision is seen here as the focal point of the cause and effect ideal of the scripture. The lack of vision serves as the causes of the destruction of a person's body, spirit, and soul.

The New International Version (NIV) of Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. In this version, the word vision is replaced with revelation. Revelation is defined in the Strong's concordance as an uncovering or revealing. This translation implies that where there is a void of the uncovering of truth, people lack self-control. While the KJV and NIV use different words for vision, its importance in the scripture is upheld as no revelation yields to anarchy.

New Living Translation (NLT) is my next scriptural comparison. This translation of Proverbs 29:18 declares, "When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful." In this text, divine guidance is used instead of vision. One benefit of the term divine guidance is that it shows God's nature on revealing the truth in visions. The other benefit that in using divine guidance versus vision is that it brings about the notion that God's truth in visions can be accepted. The Kings James version indicated that the consequence of people having a lack of vision brings about death. We can confer from the New Living Translation that when people refuse divine guidance, they run wild into self-destruction.

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The International Standard Version (ISV) is the last English translation of Proverbs 29:18 used to cross-reference vision. In this version, the scripture states, "Without prophetic vision, people abandon restraint, but those who obey the Law are happy." This translation uses vision just as the Kings James version. Prophetic is the adjective used to provide clarity of how vision is used in the scripture. The foretelling of events relating to the characteristics of a prophet is the Webster's definition of prophetic. Prophetic shows that the meaning of vision in this scripture is not about physical sight but the spiritual insight of the Word of God.

The Hebrew word for vision is *chizzayon*.(Young, 1983). Strong's concordance states that *chizzayon* is a masculine noun. *Chazah* is the Hebrew root word for vision. (Strong n.d.) According to the KJV, lexicon *chazah* is defined as mental sight. Dreams, revelation, prophecy, and oracles are examples of mental sight. Mental sight is given through divine communication with God. The ability to physically see during the day and night is another type of vision (Walter, 1997). *Vision*, as the title of a book of prophecy, is the last type that Strong provides. The book of revelation is an example of this type of vision.

Vision is used quite a bit throughout the Old Testament. Throughout the Old Testament, the word vision is used 34 times (Strong, n.d) The places in the Old Testament where vision can be found in 1 Samuel 3:1, 1 Chronicles, 2,Chronicles 32:32, Psalm 80:19, Proverbs 29:18, Isaiah 1:1, Jeremiah 14:14, Jeremiah 23:16, Lamentations 2:9, Ezekiel 7:13, Ezekiel 7:26, Ezekiel 12:22-24, Ezekiel 12: 27, Ezekiel 13:16, Daniel 1:17,Daniel 8:1-2, Daniel 8: 13,Daniel 8:15, Daniel 8:17, Daniel 8:26, Daniel 9:21, Daniel 9:24, Daniel 10:14, 11:14, Hosea 12:10, Obadiah 1:1, Micah 3:6, Nahum 1:1 and Habakkuk 2:2-3. Each occurrence of vision was used to describe

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the divine communication that took place between God and the prophets. Beginning with 1 Samuel to Habakkuk, God revealed the truth about the present and future state of the people in Israel through visions. (Proverbs 22:21) The word vision was used the most in the book of Daniel. In this book, prophecy provides the vision for both the current time that Daniel lived in exclusive revelations of the end times that we see being fulfilled today.

Vision is used in Proverbs 29:18 in a variety of ways. This prophetic scripture states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Vision can be broken down into the physical, mental, and spiritual context with a cause and effect notion using the phrase, "If a person does not see." Vision in the context of this scripture can be made relatable for school-age children, bible scholars, and everyone in between. The first definition that comes to mind when people think of vision is the ability to be able to use eyes to see physically. At first glance, the usage of vision in this scripture could be taken with the original meaning for face value. If a person does not see where they are going, they can walk into danger and or be fatally harmed. A lesson from American history provides an example of how the loss of sight can change the momentum of the war. During 1776, the American Revolution, General George Washington found himself surrounded in a small Brooklyn town by the British soldiers. (Klein, 2018) Washington and 8,000 soldiers escaped the imminent danger as a dense fog left them undetectable by the British soldiers. (Klein, 2018) The lack of vision in this example destroyed the chance for the British to end the American Revolution. (Klein, 2018). If a person cannot see the enemy they cannot attack.

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Vision in the mental sense is defined as what a person thinks, dreams, or imagines. A common phrase that is used in elementary schools is, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." This optimistic motto encourages children to start planning for their future early. If children in our society are taught to think about their future today, then it only makes sense that as stated in Proverbs 29:18, people perish when they cannot see what to envision mentally. The term vision in this scripture represents a logical plan for the future. Businesses, relationships, goals, even churches fail when there is not a rational plan put in place to govern the existing practices for the future. If a person cannot see mentally, they cannot prepare for the future.

A more in-depth study of vision has revealed that the physical and mental definition of vision is predicated on its spiritual and biblical meaning. Life experiences, society, and our schools affirm the idea that when a person does not see, they perish. Spiritual meaning of vision addresses how we gain the ability to see. The gift of sight, whether physical, mental, or spiritual, comes from God. (James 1:17) From Genesis to Revelation, God has provided a divine vision for people through messages from his prophets. (Amos 3:7) These messages from God brought to light the physical and spiritual consequences of sin, which is death. God has given humankind the freedom to accept the truth that he gives us or remain blinded by our sin. Vision in Proverbs 29:18 represents God's protection from ourselves. Proverb 29:18 can be translated to say, "When people turn a blind eye to the messages of God, they forfeit God's protection over their life and soul and ultimately perish in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 59: 2) If a person refuses God's direction than they cannot see what to do physically, mentally or spiritually in life.

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Proverb 29:18 shows two distinctive ways of how the quality of vision matters in life. The beginning part of Proverb 29:18 declares, where there is no vision, which implies that people either have a vision or not. In other words, this piece of scripture shows that everyone does not have a vision (the will to see and receive God's message). There is a common phrase that states, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I believe beauty should be replaced by vision. Vision is in the eye of the beholder, as the quality of vision changes from person to person. Just as what appears to be beautiful to one person can be perceived as distasteful to another, the element of God's truth in visions can be observed by one person and displaced by another.

The last part of the scripture from Proverbs 29:18 provides the second distinctive role that vision plays in life, which is the consequence of choosing to be blind. The latter part of the verse states, "People perish" and happy is he that kept the law. In this context, it shows the different lives of people that have vision versus the people that do not.

This new reading of the verse draws the attention of modern readers in this age of information and technology. Most people are on the search for the truth through the news, internet, and social media. Proverbs 29:18 reminds us that these things are not the source of truth. The truth comes from God, and only through accepting God can we have the vision to discern the truth. (Hebrew 5:14) Every day we can choose the truth of God or fall for the lie of the devil. People that hold on to the visions that God has made available to them have a blessed and happy life, and people that reject it live a life that leads to self-destruction.

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The visual perception of our eyes, mind, and spirit is regulated through the lens of truth that we accept as humankind. This lens is brought to light with Chazah, which is the Hebrew word for vision. Chazah means to behold or see. This Hebrew definition of the word colors the text because it shows that what a person beholds with their physical senses influences the strength of their spiritual senses. Psalm 34:8 says, "O taste and see that the Lord is good." This scripture provides an example of what happens when we put our trust in the Lord. It shows that our senses come alive, and we can discern the truth. (Hebrews 12:2) Once we can discern God's truth, sin is not a blinder. Our eyes are open to behold divine messages that are sent by God through the various forms of visions. Armed with God's visions for our life, we and we have the opportunity to walk into the wisdom from Proverbs 29:18.

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