

## The Power of Declaration . . .

I'm freshly aware of the power we have in making our declarations to men and to the celestials. We're in a war, not with "blood and flesh," *"but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.* (Eph. 6:12)

Throughout the scriptures, God's action was always preceded by His declaration...and God said, 'Let there be light.' "Let us make man in our image." He always told his sovereign vessels what He was going to do before He did it. He always declared the blessing and the curse before He visited either one on those to whom He made His declaration.

He declared to Abraham and Moses personally. He declared to Joseph in dreams (his and others). He declared to the prophets in words, visions and dreams, which they declared to the people.

We could say that the scriptures themselves are God's declaration of Who He is, what He has done and is doing, what His purpose is, what His will is, who and what we are to Him, what our importance is to His purpose, why we should pay attention to His word.

It seems to me that God's declaration and His revelation are perhaps one and the same.

The author of Hebrews declared,

### Hebrews 1

1 By many portions and many modes, **of old, God, speaking to the fathers in the prophets,**

**2 in the last of these days speaks to us in a Son,** Whom He appoints enjoyer of the allotment of all, through Whom He also makes the eons;

3 Who, being the Effulgence of His **[the]** glory and Emblem of His **[the]** assumption, besides **carrying on [the] all by His [the] powerful [the] declaration,** making a cleansing of **[the]** sins, is seated at the right hand of **the** `Majesty in the heights;

4 becoming so much better than the messengers as He enjoys the allotment of a more excellent name than they.

*Effulgence:* "reflected brightness;" shining forth, of a light coming from a luminous body

*Assumption:* that under which the mind takes its stand, what is taken for granted.

Look at all the definite articles in verse 3: there are 7 in the actual text. Others are inserted for readability's sake, but the actual inspired scripture contains 7.

Read verse 3 again...

The “WHO” in this verse is Christ. He carried on THE all by His THE powerful THE declaration.

Now look at what Paul wrote in

**Eph. 6:17**

**17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.**

Notice that the helmet and sword must be RECEIVED, and that they are in a particular order. We must RECEIVE – we must admit into our presence, recognition, or favor – first the helmet of salvation (our salvation is the casing for our heads, our minds); then the sword (the means of fighting – the word in Greek literally means “fight” – it is a symbol of **authority** or of **offensive warfare**).

The sword of the spirit is God’s declaration, and we are to receive it as our symbol of His authority, to be used in offensive warfare. The sword is part of the panoply of God, which Paul begins to describe in verse 11:

**11 Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,**

12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.

13 Therefore **take up** the panoply of God that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and having effected all *[having gone through every struggle]*, to stand.

We have looked at the panoply of God in detail many months ago, and we’ve referred to it many times throughout these studies.

The concept that captivates my attention tonight is the authority which is God’s, carried in His declaration, symbolized by the sword of the spirit. Notice that there is no article in front of the word declaration. It’s not any specific declaration of God that the sword of the spirit symbolizes; we could say that **A** declaration – **ANY** declaration of God carries His authority. When we declare out of our spirits what is declared in or by THE spirit, we step into or wield the agency of almighty God – that by which He gets things done!

What we declare puts the celestials on notice; it may be heard by men, and it often needs to be, but it is even more importantly our authority to address the celestials to whom, you’ll recall, is the display of God’s multifarious wisdom through the ecclesia (see Ephesians 3:10):

10 that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, **through the ecclesia**, the multifarious wisdom of God,

11 in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord;  
12 in Whom we have **[the] boldness and [the] access with confidence**, through His [the] faith.

**Boldness** = “All-Gush” - freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech openly, frankly, i.e without concealment without ambiguity or circumlocution without the use of figures and comparisons; free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage; assurance; the deportment by which one becomes conspicuous or secures publicity

**Access** = the act of bringing to, a moving to; approach

Barbara has a saying, “***Wimpy saints won’t make it.***”

If we declare the truth about who we are to God and Who God is to us tentatively, absent of boldness, as if we had not the access with confidence, we will **not** be wielding the sword – at least not properly. We will be weak wristed and weak-armed...we may be overcome by the adversary and the celestials with whom we are at war.

What is the war? It is in the unseen, rather than the seen. This is where we began our study tonight:

Eph 6:

11 Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,

12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.

How does this battle look? How is it formed? How do we recognize the enemy? How do we realize the fight itself so that we battle efficiently and effectively?

Look at **generational curses** – those things carried throughout our ancestry. Fears, doubts and thought patterns that seem completely irrational.

I know we aren’t Old Testatment Israelites, about whom the scriptures declare:

10 Wherefore, "I am disgusted with this generation, and said, 'Ever are they straying in heart; Yet they know not My ways.' (Hebrews 3:10)

And yet, Barbara and I see people who come for ministry, who are playing out their family history, in the manner of Romans 1:

21 because, knowing God, not as God do they glorify or thank Him, but vain were they made in their reasonings, and darkened is their unintelligent heart.

22 Alleging themselves to be wise, they are made stupid

even though the Apostle Paul declared in 2 Cor. 5:17,

“...if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new!”

**Word curses** – those things that have been spoken to us or over us by parents, siblings, teachers, ministers – anyone whom we trusted or on whom we depended for our lives at various times...especially when we are very young and innocent...defenseless.

Disempowering, dishonoring, personality-forming or personality-destroying behavior by others toward us – looks, tones of voice, mannerisms

Where we may have grown up in these kinds of “vain reasoning and darkened, unintelligent hearts,” however well-meaning our ancestors may have been; wherever we have bought into lies about us—brought about by the acceptance of those lies by the ones who brought them to us—we have formed agreements, alliances, contracts we must break. Indeed, we are the only ones who can.

Our empowerment in Christ Jesus is in armoring up and withstanding these “**strategems of the adversary**” Paul addressed in Eph. 6, and “**the systematizing of the deception**” he wrote about in Eph. 4.

The agency of the sword of the spirit, wielded when we are completely armored up with the panoply – every implement – of God, is the only way we can cut through, cut off, cut down the strongholds of our lineage...what James called “the wheel of our lineage.” (James 3:6).

Let’s look at that passage:

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of injustice. The tongue is constituted among our members that which is spotting the whole body, and setting the wheel of our lineage aflame, and is set aflame by Gehenna.

If a world of injustice can set a fire...If our tongues – by which we make our declarations -- be spotting our whole body (and, by extension, the Body of Christ, by the way?) then it stands to reason that the same instrument of our declaration, when in agreement with word of God, can just as powerfully set aright, set at peace, and actually co-create the New humanity that we may put on in Christ Jesus!

Eph 4:

22 to put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,

23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind,

24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.

25 Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, for we are members of one another.

26 Are you indignant, and not sinning? Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation,

27 nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.

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Running to the battle...look at David.

How do we recognize the curses, agreements? Give examples

Fears, doubts, thought patterns

How do we break them?