



SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER - 10AM
DECLARATION

Prayer Diary - Advent - The Divine Conspiracy – Week 2 - Declaration

His declaration – our destiny

We are now in Advent proper. The countdown to Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The intervention into history of God, in order to change the hearts and lives of all people. The event that, for us at least, split time in two. Not as a powerful, demanding and directive force, but as a baby, born into an ordinary working-class family. If that's not conspiracy, then I don't know what is.

But the amazing thing is that it was all predicted. An unfolding of prophesy, of declaration, from over 1,400 years before it actually happened. Moses predicted that a prophet would come, who like him, would speak God's words and we should listen to him; (Deut. 18:15) David, in Ps 16:10, foretold that Jesus would rise from the dead; Isaiah (7:14) let us know that Immanuel (God with us) would be born by a virgin conceiving; and Micah, (5:2) around 700 years before, told us where it would be – Bethlehem in case you didn't know -, to mention just a few. God declared it and it became Jesus Destiny. What God said happened!!

We so easily accept this as a simple story that perhaps sometimes we fail to appreciate just how awesome this is. And again, we all quote Jer.29:11 - ***For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*** But do we always really believe it of ourselves?

As you consider what God predicted about Jesus, about the declaration of God over his son, which we know happened, let's dare to believe that for us as well, **Gods' Declarations are our Destiny!**

As a church, that part of the body of Christ we belong to, God has spoken many things over us, telling us that he has plans for us. That where he is taking us is going to be more glorious than where we have come from. And over us as individuals similarly he has spoken, he has declared good things. He has called and commanded us to step into things. He will equip and release us.

As Joshua led the people of Israel, God led them into the Promised Land, through the Jordan. He declared "You have never been this way before" (Josh 3:4) also promising that he would lead them. I believe that we are moving into the promise even now because he has declared that over us and so it is our destiny. Like the story I shared about my journey on Sunday (28/11), it may not be the simplest route, it may be roundabout, we may have to leave even good things in the past, but we will get to where He intends.

Last week the focus was Isaiah 60, and naturally, this is followed by Isaiah 61 –

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who

grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.

This was about Jesus, but it is also about us! His declaration over us is that His Spirit is upon us. His spirit has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor and step into all these things that impact those around us. **US – YOU.** Not somebody else, not just the leaders, not just Pastors, but each and every one of us. We may all have particular giftings and callings, but we are all called and, therefore I believe, equipped to do it. So, this week, let the truth of this declaration propel you towards your destiny!

Monday: Start the week by reading the passage from Is 61 (If you've got time read the whole chapter but focus mainly of the first 3 verses. Ask God to reveal to you starting today, what this means for you. How you can hear this declaration of God over you and then walk into your destiny. You will probably want to read the passage everyday and let it become embedded in your heart, mind and spirit, and link with every aspect of this declaration.

Tuesday: Take some time to reflect on your journey as a follower of Jesus so far, whether this is very long, or has been just a short while. What have been the not so good things, or things that you have got wrong? Release these, maybe repenting and asking for forgiveness, then leave them behind. What have been the good things, the things that you have done well? Thank God for these and ask him to show you which ones you need to grow further in, or even though good, which ones need to be left in the past. After all we have never been this way before.

Wednesday: Today think about words that God has given to you directly or through others, of scripture that you believe is a declaration over you. It might be good to write them down and even share them with people who you trust and will encourage you. Pray into them, asking God to aid you in living into and through these words, to live out the destiny that He has declared over you.

Thursday: Now start to ask God what you need to do differently to move further into the destiny that he has declared for you. Just as the prophets predicted what would happen in Jesus' life, so God has a plan for you. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt and guide you further along that route. Be open to following God into unexpected.

Friday: Isaiah 61, that has been declared over followers of Jesus really is focussed on others and the impact that the anointing has on their needs. Turn your focus deliberately outwards, towards others. Maybe family members, friends, work colleagues, neighbours or whoever, who you know have a need, or maybe are just laid on your heart. Pray for them. Pray Isaiah 61 for them and that God can touch their lives. And within that be open to being part of God's destiny for their lives.

God's declaration – your destiny

You are destined for a great week!

Love and blessings

Phil