

THE FOUR PROCLAMATIONS

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PREAMBLE

The four Proclamations which occurred during the time covered by Daniel’s 4th Vision are worth examining. Note that they form a progression: (a) the most powerful mortal monarch of the time, (b) the most powerful archangel in Heaven, (c) Almighty God himself, and (d) the Son of God, whom God has appointed King of kings and Lord of Lords to rule over the heavens and the earth.

SECTION 1 - THE PROCLAMATION OF CYRUS

The *Proclamation of Cyrus* in 485 BC (a) ended the Exilic Period and (b) began the Postexilic Period. It is described in the Book of Ezra as follows:

1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia,

The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in

Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. 6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.¹ 7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; 8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar,² the prince of Judah. 9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, 10 Thirty basins of gold, silver basins of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. 11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem. (KJV Ezra 1:1-11).

SECTION 2 - THE PROCLAMATION OF GABRIEL

The *Proclamation of Gabriel* in 2 BC (a) ended the Postexilic Period and (b) began the Private Life of Jesus. Appearing in the sky above the heads of a group of shepherds tending their flocks by night, Gabriel announced:

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (KJV Luke 2:10-12)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying Glory to God in the highest, (KJV Luke 2:13-14a),

and on earth peace, toward men of goodwill (JH Luke 2:10-14b).³

¹ There appears to be two categories of precious things which the Jews took with them to Jerusalem: (1) the willing gifts of gold and silver vessels, goods, beasts, and other precious things which they received from the Babylonians and (2) the temple treasures (a) which Nebuchadnezzar removed from Jerusalem before he destroyed it in 555 BC and (b) which Cyrus entrusted to Sheshbazzar at the start of the *Return to Jerusalem* in 485 BC, which he instructed were to be put back in the temple after it was rebuilt. The willing gifts in 485 BC remind me of the willing gifts that the Jews received from the Egyptians at the start of the Exodus in 1464 BC.

² Sheshbazzar, Prince of Judah, and Tirshatha (Governor) were other names for Daniel, who undoubtedly informed Cyrus of what Jeremiah had said about 70 years, and in whom Cyrus had come to trust implicitly.

³ After the Archangel Gabriel issued his Proclamation to the shepherds in the fields outside Bethlehem, the heavenly host which accompanied him sang out, as translated in the King James Version: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men” (KJV Luke 2:14). Note the unconditional nature of the second phrase in this sentence. Modern translations render it differently -e.g. the English Standard Version states: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (ESV Luke 2:14). The second phrase is now clearly conditional. God’s peace is reserved for those with whom he is pleased. This phrase conforms to the Biblical Gospel, which makes clear that salvation will be granted only to people who repent of their sins and accept God’s Son as their divine Savior and Lord.

SECTION 3 - THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD

The *Proclamation of God* in 29 AD (a) ended Messiah's Private Life and (b) began Messiah's Public Life or Ministry.

Probably in mid-August of 29 AD, while Jesus is being baptized by John-the-Baptist, God speaks from heaven, identifying Jesus as His Son, in whom he is well pleased, which is recorded three times in the synoptic gospels:

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my *beloved* Son, in whom I am well pleased” (KJV Matthew 3:16-17).

“And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my *beloved* Son, in whom I am well pleased” KJV Mark 1:10-11).

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my *beloved* Son; in thee I am well pleased” (KJV Luke 3:21-22).

SECTION 4 - THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S SON

The *Proclamation of God's Son* in 33 AD (a) ended Messiah's Public Life or Ministry and the Mosaic Covenantal Period and (b) began the New Covenantal Period.

Subsection 4A – The Seven Last Sayings of Jesus

Jesus had been hanging on the a cross at Golgotha for six hours, from the third hour (9:00 am) to the ninth hour (3:00 pm) on Passover in 33 AD, during which he spoke seven times:

4A-1 - The Word of Forgiveness - “Then said Jesus, ‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do’” (Luke 23:34).

4A-2 - The Word of Salvation - “And [the dying thief] said unto Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.’ And Jesus said unto him, “Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise”” (Luke 23: 42-43).

4A-3 - The Word of Affection - “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He

Because I treasure the beauty of the KJV's language – particularly in Luke's rendition of the Nativity story - I have changed the phrase in the KJV only slightly to “peace toward men of goodwill.” It is not perfect, but it clearly indicates that the granting of peace between God and his creatures is conditional upon what he sees in their hearts.

saith unto His mother, ‘Woman, behold thy Son!’ Then saith He to the disciple, ‘Behold thy mother!’” (John 19: 25-26).

4A-4 - The Word of Anguish - “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, Saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ - that is to say, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?’” (Matthew 27: 46).

4A-5 - The Word of Suffering - “Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, ‘I thirst’” (John 19: 28).⁴

4A-6 - The Word of Victory - When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, “It is finished” (John 19: 30).

4A-7 - The Word of Contentment - And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, “Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit;” and having said thus, He gave up His spirit (Luke 23: 46).

Subsection 4B – The Proclamation of Jesus

4B-1 - Messiah’s Mission

At the ninth hour (3:00 pm), several things occurred simultaneously:

4B-1A - Jesus died, which constituted the *unique, one-time, all-sufficient, never-to-be-repeated* sacrifice for the sins of mankind;

4B-1B - The veil before the Holy of Holies was rent from top to bottom, which indicated that the *Shekinah Glory* had (2a) departed from the *physical* temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and (2b) entered the spiritual *Temple of the Holy Spirit* in the hearts of the saints forever after.

4B-1C - The *Mosaic Covenant*, which God had established with Abraham’s *physical* descendants, expired and the *New Covenant*, which God established with Abraham’s *spiritual* descendants, replaced and superseded it.

4B-1D - Israel underwent a significant change, splitting into two parts: (1) **Israel of the Spirit**, which consists of (1a) **believing Jews**, who are the *Faithful Remnant of Israel* and remain in the *Cultivated Olive Tree*, and (1b) **believing Gentiles**, who are pruned from the *Wild Olive Tree* and grafted into the *Cultivated Olive Tree*, and (2) **Israel of the Flesh**, which consists of **unbelieving Jews**, who are pruned out of the *Cultivated Olive Tree* and cast away. **Unbelieving Gentiles** remain in the *Wild Olive Tree*.

⁴ What Jesus thirsts for here is a drink from the Cup of Wrath that will be poured out (a) on Him to atone for the sins of all those men, women, and children whose names were written in the *Book of Life* by God-the-Father before the foundations of the world were laid and (b) on all the rest of mankind for their failure to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

4B-2 - Messiah's Proclamation

Immediately before He died, Jesus declared: "It is Finished." His Father's plan to redeem and form an unblemished bride and "helpmete" for his Son had been accomplished.