

Unstoppable Victory in Christ

By

Elder Enoch Ofori Jnr

(Mini-Camp Meeting Sabbath, 1st July, 2017)

The day of His Power has dawned!

“Messiah reigns” is a shout of triumph which resounds through the realms of heaven and is heard in the pit of hell reducing demonic principalities and powers to trembling wrecks cowering in fear!

But it’s a shout that should reverberate in your own soul too with joy, for we reign together with the Messiah on His exalted throne (Eph. 2:6 & Php. 2:9-11). It’s a victory song which the Spirit inspired King Davis to sing some 1000 years before Messiah’s physical birth:

“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

“The LORD shall send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion: rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies.

“Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: Thou hast the dew of Thy youth” (Psalm 110:1-3).

It’s a divine fiat from the Father to His beloved Son, David’s Adonai: ‘Sit at My right hand as King until I make mincemeat of your enemies. Your scepter (royal power) is not of this world but out of Zion enabling you to rule in the midst of your enemies’!

The combined effect of the divine decree and scepter is that the individuals who will otherwise oppose Him will be willing in the day of His power – the day He marshals His forces! He’s One who never loses the vigour of youth; the unfading glory of youth is His!

He never ages, weakening in power and strength; His enemies will never outfox Him. The divine arrangement is that Messiah rules over His enemies around Him! They don’t impede His rule, even though they are His sworn enemies. To this day, He reigns every single day, hour, minute and second (over His enemies) until all His enemies are routed!

Pentecostal Power!

Messiah’s day of power arrived on the first post-ascension feast day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost was poured out on the church, an event which coincided with His glorification in heaven (John 7:39).

That was when He began to marshal His forces in the enemy territory of the earth, sending forth His church in power to extend His rule over the hearts and destinies of people, beginning in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to the far ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

And they did go forth in “great power” and “great grace” as they bore witness to His Resurrection power!

And the results were stupendous! Hearts of stone melted in Spirit-led conversion; the demon-possessed were set free, and the operations of the enemy frustrated in a thousand other ways. A new era of manifest power never before known among the people of God was on display on the world stage. It shook Jerusalem; it shook Samaria, and it shook the Gentile nations.

The Pentecostal Power of the Risen Christ was simply unstoppable, and His enemies cried out in frustration and alarm on seeing the believers in Thessalonica:

“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too!” (Acts 17:6).

It was an outburst of anger directed at Christ and His gospel through His proxies. Yet the tour of the gospel in the nations was not buried in Thessalonica. It reached Corinth and Ephesus and even Rome itself, the then world capital of pagan civilization. The enemies were not happy, but they could not stop Christ. Surely, our God reigns as Isaiah 52:7 triumphantly declares:

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!”

King at the Father’s Pleasure

In Psalm 2, the supreme Father God declares of His Son, the Messiah:

“I Myself have installed My King on Tziyon, My holy mountain.

“I will proclaim the decree ADONAI said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I became your Father.

“Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance; the whole wide world will be your possession.

“You will break them with an iron rod, shatter them like a clay pot” (Tehillim [Ps.] 2:6-9 CJB).

The King’s will prevail at all times despite opposition. He reigns not because some people will it, but in spite of their opposition because He’s destined to rule at the behest of the Father, and He’s destined to rule by His power forever (Ps. 66:7).

This was in evidence even in His earthly life. And it’s so to this day.

From the cradle to the cross, Jesus was persecuted because He's King. The wise men from the east sought Him as a baby in a manger to worship Him as "King of the Jews", but Herod the king sought to kill Him. He was hailed "Hosanna, Son of David" in the face of objections from His enemies, "Master, rebuke Thy disciples." But He replied them, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Matt. 21:7-9; Luke 19:37-40).

Finally, He was condemned to death on a trumped-up charge of treason against the Roman government (Luke 23:2; John 19:12), but not even death could rob Him of His position and title as King. Amid the fiercest official protestations, Pilate had it affixed to His cross the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews."

Although His enemies still persecute His truth and followers – these days in the most brazen of ways with official endorsement of 'gay marriage' and violent Christian persecution in the Middle East – they have failed to dethrone Him to date. The Satan-inspired "princes of this world" plotted His death only to regret for the rest of their lives because His death only brought Him greater glory evidenced by His triumphant resurrection from the dead three days later (1 Cor. 2:8). Indeed, "it was impossible that death could keep its hold on Him" (Acts 2:24 CJB).

As it turned out, Christ's death and subsequent resurrection attested to with miracles of healing and mighty proclamation of His Word brought Him more popularity than when He Himself walked the earth, so much so that the Sanhedrin, the religious leaders of the Yehudim (Jews), protested to the apostles, "ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine" (Acts 5:28).

Tried as they did, they could not stop Christ from reigning! From His exalted throne in heaven, He literally stopped Shaul, the zealous persecutor of the church, right in his tracks as he journeyed to Damascus to harass the believers there. The overpowering presence of His glory sent the persecutor reeling to the ground. Before long, His voice tore through the curtain of heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou Me? And he said, Who art Thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 9:3-5).

Christ's unrepentant enemies and detractors had better be forewarned!

It's instructive that this same Shaul (now Paul) later wrote: "... I bear in my body the marks [scars] of the Lord Jesus" (Gal. 6:17). The once great opposer is now the bond-servant of Christ to the point of suffering for His sake!

Despite all the conscious de-emphasis on faith and the values of Christianity in our current westernized world of Babylon, Messiah will yet Reign! He will emerge from beyond the skies at the end of time wearing not a crown of thorns but a glittering diadem of "many crowns" as King of kings and Lord of lords! (Rev. 19:12, 16).

His Victory is Ours

Defeat is not our portion because it was never His! Many will hate us and oppose us, but our destiny of victory in Christ cannot be dislodged. Even if we fall seven times, we will rise ever and ever again (Prov. 24:16; Micah 7:8).

So we must make progress and realize our God-given potential in full despite opposition – like Joseph, the “fruitful bough by a well”, who the “archers shot at” but to no avail. Instead, “his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel)” (Gen. 49:22-24).

So then, the activities of the enemies will only produce the opposite effect of making us even stronger. More persecution will draw superior strength from heaven! God will “cause everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with His purpose” (Rom. 8:28 CJB).

There’s no stopping our victory march towards glory, even though forces are arrayed against us. The tabernacle of David has been set up in a time of spiritual war stirring into action a swarm of enemies (2 Sam. 5:17-21), but it continues to stand as a place of refuge for you and me who seek after the Lord (Acts 15:16-17). It can’t be toppled under any circumstances. Just as David won all his battles because of the anointing (Ps. 89:20-23), so we will never experience defeat as warriors in the restored tabernacle of the Messianic King David, Yeshua, the King. The presence of enemies merely indicates their opposition but not their victory over us or successful obstruction!

This is how we ought to understand Paul’s statement in 1 Cor. 16:9, “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries”. There were “many adversaries” but “a great door and effectual” was still “opened” to him. The intention of the many adversaries was obviously to prevent him from using the great and effective door that had already been opened to him, but the record of Paul’s ministry work shows that the enemies failed miserably in their opposition. He made a success of his ministry. Writing in Romans 15, he said:

“I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,
“Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ” (vv. 18-19).

In 2 Timothy 4, he wrote:

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (vv. 6-8).

The Apostle Paul was opposed in his work of evangelism but he prevailed in the power of the exalted Christ. “For”, wrote he, “I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).

Paul’s “Christ Jesus” is the same exalted Lord who has given us “power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). Indeed, we shall “tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet” (Ps. 91:13).

It’s not their nature that has changed – they are still wild animals, representing wicked demons and their human proxies; they are still deadly enemies. But we have been endowed with greater power!

The scepter out of Zion dwells in us as the greater One – in comparison with the lesser powers of the enemy (1 John 4:4)!

Our victory has been foreordained in heaven through Him that loved us. We have been made “more than conquerors” through Him (Rom. 8:37), and there’s no reversing our invincibility. Like our exalted Lord, we rule – i.e. make headway and achieve success – in the midst of our enemies. Our reigning King has prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies (who still hate us and if they had their way would overturn the table of goodies); our cup runneth over!

Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall forever dwell in His Presence! Amen!