

# THE PROCLAMATION

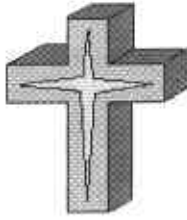
“...the Lord hath anointed me ... to proclaim liberty to the captives ...” Isaiah 61:1

By  
Dennis Walton



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220 Drew Street  
P.O. Box 206  
Willow Springs, MO 65793

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# CrossWay Fellowship Church

220 Drew St.  
P.O. Box 206  
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Dear Family and Friends,

Never fear the Proclamation is here! (Finally!)

Wow, what a busy summer! It's been several months since the last Proclamation due to the fact that there are only 24 hours in a day. I prayed and asked God to bump it up to 36 hours but He didn't find it in His will to answer that particular prayer. Instead, He decided to show me how to better manage the 24 hours!

Anyway, I appreciate all those who have been asking about the Proclamation and your comments about how you enjoy it. My goal is to keep it going until Jesus comes!

I trust this message will be a blessing to you and magnify your view of how great God is!

In Christ's love,

Dennis J. Walton  
Pastor

## Service Times

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship (Children's church and nursery provided)	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Children's church provided)	6:00 p.m.

## “JESUS CHRIST, HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD”

1 Samuel 17:47

**“And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hands.”**

Mohammad Ali, Mike Tyson, and George Forman. What do these men have in common? You don’t have to have a subscription to ESPN to know the answer to that question. All these men have been the professional boxing heavy weight champion of the world. The toughest of the tough. The strongest of the strong. Among men that is. However, among the God Head these men would compare something like that of a chigger up against a rhinoceros. Our God is so great and so mighty that the strongest man on his best day is scrawny compared to God on a bad day. *(If He were to have one)* For example, Mohammad Ali floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee. But Jesus *created* the butterflies and the bees. And then there is Mike Tyson. He bit people’s ears off, but Jesus put people’s ears back on. Jesus is the true heavyweight champion of the world and nobody will ever take his title away from Him.

In the verse we just read, David tapped into that truth when he was a young man. This is the story where David stands face to knee caps with Goliath, a champion warrior that was three times as big as him. All of Israel’s soldiers were too chicken to fight Goliath but not David. Why? How could this runt have the courage to stand up and fight with a giant? Because he understood that this fight he was about to engage in went much deeper than just a bully picking on someone smaller than him. He understood that it even went deeper than two countries battling over power and land. He understood that the battle was really between God and Satan, and that it started long before time began. That’s why David said, **“This battle is not mine, this battle is God’s and he will fight it.”** People pay big money to go watch two guys beat

the slobbers out of each other in a boxing match, but the truth is, everyday we are witnessing the most exciting fight ever fought. If we can get a hold of this truth folks it will change the way we live our life, and it will also change the way we pray. We need to realize that every battle we face in life, when you strip away all the hurtful words, spiteful glares, and plain ole meanness, is not really a battle between people but rather it is part of the on going battle between God and Satan and we are caught smack dab in the middle of it. God loves us and Satan hates God. Therefore, Satan attacks us as part of his feeble attempt to defeat God. *(As if...)*

So let’s go back in time, before time began. Back to the moment when the bell rang and the great match in Heaven began.

In this corner, weighing in at infinity, The Alpha and Omega, The King of King and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ! And in this corner *(hoooooooooooo)* weighing in at limited and temporary power, the God wantabe and Heaven reject, Satan.

**Revelation 12:7-10** describes the scene like this, **“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

**And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”**

There are several scriptures like this that reveal to us that at one time Satan was an angel that dwelled in Heaven with God. Until he got cocky that is. He got too big for his britches and tried to overthrow God and take over. He led a revolt that ended up

getting him, and one third of all the other angels that followed him, kicked out of Heaven. Jesus Himself said, **“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven.”** **(Luke 10:18.)** How can this be you say? It’s simple. God has never forced any of His creation to serve Him. Not us and not the angels. He always gives us a choice if we want to serve Him or not. God is not an egotistical bully that forces people into slavery. He simply loves us and hopes that we will choose on our own to love Him back. That’s a pretty fair God if you ask me. But Satan, like many people still today, decided not to serve God. So after he declared war against God and God gave him his first thumping, the battle between them has been raging ever since.

Okay, so round one goes to God. Satan is now homeless. He is also steaming mad because his attempt to overthrow God back fired. So what does he do? Since his attack on God failed, he decided to attack God’s most prized possession. Man-kind. Adam and Eve to be specific. **Genesis 3:1-15** reveals that Satan possessed a snake and deceitfully convinced them to disobey God by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil that God had forbidden them to eat from. *(again, it’s all about God giving His creation the opportunity to make their own choice)* So Adam got his judgment, then Eve, now it’s the Satan filled snake’s turn. God’s voice thunders out, **“You and your seed (or descendents) will be enemies with the seed of the woman. You will bruise his heel but he will bruise your head.”** And the war between snake and man has been raging on ever since. They still try to bite us and we still stomp their heads. *(Or chop it off with an occasional weed eater.)* Oooh I hate those critters. The only good snake is a dead snake. I know there are those who feel we should live in harmony with the snakes but the last time I almost stepped on a copperhead he didn’t seem to be too interested in making friends.

Anyway, so was Adam and Eve's problem really with the snake? No. Their problem was with Satan. And every descendant from then until now has been at war with the works of Satan. But the good news is, as long as we put our trust in Christ, the worst damage Satan can do to us is bruise our heel. But God has given us authority over Satan. Therefore we can send Satan away with a severe headache through God's power.

So even though Satan came in with a right hook by messing up the purity of the human race, God came back with a left jab by forgiving Adam and Eve and covering their nakedness. And He also gave the promise of the Messiah that would eventually come to purify the whole human race once again. So round two goes to God.

Now take a look at **Matthew 1:1-17** and you will see the war that continued on between Eve's seed and Satan's seed from that moment forward. That's right, the dreaded "begats." These are the scriptures that we tend to skip over because we think they are just a bunch of names that we really can't pronounce anyway. But the begats are not irrelevant. They are there to prove that Jesus was indeed a descendant of David and Abraham, just like it was prophesied he would be. But another thing the begats prove is the point I am making right now. In every generation Satan has wreaked havoc in the human race, but he has always been defeated by men who trusted in God.

So let's go where no man has gone before and take a look at the begats. There we can see this on going boxing match between God and Satan play out in the human race.

We will start with Abraham. God chose him to get this whole thing started by giving him this promise, "Through you and your seed I will bless all the families of the earth." Now there were a lot of good things wrapped up in that promise but the main

one was the fact that Jesus would eventually be born from Abraham's lineage and deliver the world from sin. So that obviously got Satan's attention because he would rather see the human race end up in Hell. So he swung a right hook. You see Abraham was seventy-five years old and his wife Sarah was sixty-five years old when God promised to give them a son that He could fulfill His promise through. The problem was Sarah was barren, which meant she wasn't physically able to have children. Yet, anyway. Years go by and they still haven't had a child like God said they would. So Satan convinces them to take matters into their own hands. Abraham got tired of waiting on God and decided to take Sarah's handmaiden, Hagar, and have a child with her instead. Big mistake! That decision caused him and every Jew since, a lot of grief. Let's just say the son that Hagar gave Abraham and the son that Sarah eventually gave him didn't get along so well. But the story ends happy when God comes in swinging a left jab. About twenty-five years later, when Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old, Isaac was born. "Abraham begat Isaac..." And the lineage toward the birth of the Messiah continued. Round three? You guessed it. God.

Moving right along in the begats we find that Isaac's wife, Rebekah, was barren also. Kind of hard to believe God is going to bless your seed when you have no seed. But just like God touched Sarah's womb, he also touched Rebekah's womb and she had a son that God could fulfill His promise through. Actually she had twin sons to be exact. "Isaac begat Jacob..." What about the other child you ask? That would be Esau. And the reason why he's not listed in the begats is an interesting one to say the least. The short story is this: Esau was the oldest son and therefore was in line to receive his father's blessing and birthright, which basically gave him dibs on daddy's cash when he died. But Jacob, during a

moment of Esau's weakness, swindled his big brother out of his birthright through a trade for food. Then to top it off, he dressed up like Esau and tricked his blind father, Isaac, into giving him the coveted father's blessing that was supposed to go to Esau. Needless to say, Jacob was no longer on Esau's Christmas list. In fact, Esau was so mad that he vowed to kill Jacob. Okay so pause right here. Is Jacob or Esau really the problem here? If you look deeper into the story you can see how Satan is behind this whole mess. He thinks to himself, "if I can breed hatred and get these two brothers to kill each other, then Abraham's seed will cease and, badabing, no Jesus." But God had a counter punch all planned out. He led Jacob into a far away land to teach him a lesson or two, and to give Esau a chance to cool off. Years later God brings them back together again with forgiveness in their hearts and it was a beautiful family reunion. Let me tell you something, nothing makes Satan's head spin anymore than for people to show forgiveness towards each other. So Abraham's seed lives on and the prophecy of Christ can still be fulfilled. Who wins round four? Who else. God of course.

Now let's skip down the begat list a little bit to David. Nobody has ever gotten caught in the middle of God and Satan's fight like David did. Take his battle with Goliath for starters. It was like Satan was looking through the eyes of Goliath and saying, "okay this time I'll surely win. That scrawny little seed of Abraham doesn't stand a chance against this massive warrior. The lineage of Christ finally stops here." Wrong. David swings the sling but God guided the rock. He beamed Goliath in the noggin and brought him, and Satan, flat on their faces.

Then later in David's life, after he became king, Satan tries another tactic on him since the first one didn't work. He attacked him with the biggest temptation of his life. He caught David in a weak moment

when he saw a beautiful woman bathing. After asking around to see who she was, he found out that she was married. But the devil was really swinging hard, so David did a big no. He committed adultery with the woman and had her husband murdered. Under the law, someone who committed adultery was to be stoned. Another attempt of Satan to destroy the lineage of Christ? I believe so. But did it work. Nope. Though there were consequences to pay, as their always are when we sin, David cried out to God in repentance and God restored him and continued to establish his kingdom.

And these are only two examples of Satan's attempt to destroy David. I won't go into the details but there was the time that King Saul threw javelins at him then formed a posse to hunt him down and kill him. Then on another occasion David's own son, Absalom, decided he would be a better king and formed a conspiracy to take David's throne. But like I said earlier, the reason why David was able to overcome all of this was because he had discovered the secret of what I am trying to explain in this message. He realized, **"the battle is the Lord's, and He will fight it for me."** (I Samuel 17:45-47) He knew that Goliath, Bathsheba, Saul, and Absalom were not the real problem. He knew that Satan was his problem but God was his answer. So after duking it out, God comes away with another round.

We could go line by line and man by man down the list of begets and find the same pattern through each of their lives. But let's save a few trees and skip all the way down to the second to last name on the list. Jesus' daddy, Joseph.

You know the story. Joseph's fiancé, Mary, informs him that she is pregnant and says, "An angel told me that I'm going to have God's baby." And Joseph says, "uh huh. See ya." He's obviously heart broken because he knows the baby isn't his since they had never "been together." But rather

than make a public spectacle out of her, he decided to privately call off the wedding.

Someone might say, "well what does it matter if Mary was married to Joseph anyway. After all, she was going to give birth to Jesus one way or the other." Here is why. Joseph was the descendant of Abraham. Mary was not. Remember? God promised Abraham that he would bless all the families of the earth by bringing the Messiah from his seed. If Joseph didn't marry Mary (*no pun intended*) then the whole prophecy would have been messed up. That's why Satan was planting thoughts in Joseph's head to dump Mary. But God stopped that plan dead in it's tracks by sending an angel to Joseph to let him know that what Mary had told him was the truth. So Joseph married Mary (*that never gets old*) and then... "Joseph begat Jesus." Round six to the God column.

So since Satan wasn't able to stop the lineage and birth of Jesus, he decided to focus on destroying Him now that He is born. That attempt started with King Herod.

Picture a nativity scene in your mind. Most of them we see around Christmas time are pretty much the same. There is always a baby Jesus of course. Then there is a Joseph and Mary standing next to three wise men and a few shepherds. Then the fancy ones will have a couple sheep, camels, and a white angel. But one character you never see in a nativity scene is King Herod. Why? Because Herod is the instrument Satan used to try to put an end to the original nativity scene. When the wise men came to Herod, the king of the Jews, they said, "a new King of the Jews was just born, where is he? We want to worship him." Well needless to say, Herod took that personal. He was determined to make sure this diaper wearing little king would never grow up to take his throne. So he had all the baby boys of Bethlehem murdered in hopes of killing Jesus. But again, was the fact that Herod was trying to create job security really the problem here?

Look deeper. Satan knew that baby Jesus would eventually be the man Jesus who would preach about the kingdom of God and then hang on the cross to set mankind free from sin. Satan was trying to Barney Fife it and "Nip it in the bud." Kill him while he's small. But God foiled that plan by sending an angel to Joseph and telling him to take baby Jesus to Egypt until Herod was dead. God's on a roll as He comes away with round seven.

Now skip ahead about thirty years when Jesus is a man. Satan is now in a desperate attempt to put Jesus out of commission. He launches an all out temptation attack on Jesus to try to get Him to slip up. He knew that if he could get Jesus to sin just once then He wouldn't be the perfect sacrifice that was required to redeem man from sin. But much to Satan's dismay, Jesus was like a rock and was unaffected by Satan's tricky tactics. Now Satan really turns up the heat and starts swinging with all his might. Just hours before Jesus is to be taken prisoner and eventually led to his crucifixion, Satan finds Him all alone in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was agonizing over the thought of what He was about to go through. He knew the pain that He was going to have to endure would be so excruciating and unbearable. He even prayed and asked God not to make Him go through with it. Satan saw his opportunity and seized it, "look around you Jesus. Where are all the people you healed? Gone. You helped them and they ditched you. Where are your disciples Jesus? You are weeping and they are over there sleeping like babies. They don't care about you. What do you have to show for all your good deeds? Nothing. You have went out of your way to show love to mankind and now here you are, all alone. Mankind isn't worth dying for. Give it up. Go back to Heaven where you have it made and let these people rot in Hell." At that moment, the expression on Jesus' face went from sorrowful to stone determination.

Loyalty to His Father in Heaven and love for you and me swelled up in His heart. He wiped the tears from His eyes, stood to His feet like a giant, cracked His knuckles and said, "Heavenly Father. Forget my will. Your will be done!" And every goose bump on my arms right now awards round eight to God.

In round nine the battle really gets bloody. Every attempt is made by Satan to get Jesus to call it off. He knew that thousands of angels stood at attention just waiting for Jesus to give the signal to abort the mission and come rescue Him. Working through the soldiers, Satan begins by taking Jesus to the whipping post and beating him to the point that the bones in his spine and ribs were literally exposed. Like a bully picking on a defenseless child, he yanked his beard out by the roots, spit in His face, and made fun of him. As the crown of thorns was shoved down on Jesus' head it seemed as though Satan had Him up against the ropes. Then Satan grabs a handful of nails and swings a right jab as he drives a nail into Jesus' right hand. Then he swings a left jab as he drives a nail into His left hand. Then a final punch as he drives the long nail through Jesus' feet and hoists Him up to hang on the cross. Hours go by as Satan prances around saying, "I got Him now. He will cave any minute. After all these years I've finally won!" But wait a minute. A sudden look of concern on Satan's face as Jesus yells out to the top of His lungs, "**It is finished!!**" Jesus dies, the earth shakes, the sky goes dark, the mountains crumble, and the thunder rolls. The referee slaps his hand to the mat, "One day! Two days!" And just as his hand was coming down on the third day Jesus came out of the tomb swinging! When Jesus conquered death, Hell, and the grave He punched Satan so hard that he didn't know his tail from his horns. Ever since then, all we have to do is mention the name of Jesus and Satan curls up in the fetal position and starts sucking his thumb. I know I don't even have to tell you who won round nine.

So that brings us to the last and final round. Round ten. Unfortunately, we are still in round ten. Satan still continues to fight against us, but because of what Jesus

did in round nine, he can never defeat us. But the good news is that we can look ahead and see how the fight ends.

**Revelation 20:10**

**"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."**

Ding, ding!! The fight's over! The big K.O.! Knock out! The bell has rung! The match that started back before time began will eventually come to an end. Almighty God will give one final punch and Satan will land in Hell where he belongs. God is the winner and Satan is the loser. Simple as that. And the really good news is that everyone in God's corner wins too. But you have to choose to be in God's corner. How do you do that? First of all you have to recognize your sinful condition. Realize that up until now you've been in Satan's corner. Repent of your sin and turn away from it. Most of all, believe that what Jesus went through in round nine he did for you. Put your trust in God's grace and mercy. When you do that, you will soon find out that no matter how hard Satan fights *against* you, Jesus Christ will fight much harder *for* you. He deserves your trust and He deserves the title of "The Heavy Weight Champion of the World."

## “Decision Time”

The main thing you need to understand is that God loves you. He would not have sent His Son to die for you if He didn't. **John 3:17** says, **“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

It doesn't matter what you have done in the past. What matters is how you will spend the rest of your life. And most importantly, where you will spend eternity. **II Peter 3:9** says that God is *“... longsuffering (which means patient) towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all (that includes you) should come to repentance.”*

The Bible says that you must be “born again” in order to go to heaven when you die. (**John 3:3**) What does it mean to be “born again?” It means you become a new person. **II Corinthians 5:17** says, **“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

How do you become this new person? First of all, you admit that you are a sinner. That's easy enough because we've all sinned. Then, open your heart and let the Holy Spirit reveal to you that Jesus died on that cross in your place, and took the judgment for your sin so that you wouldn't have to. Next, ask Jesus to forgive you for all your sins and help you to become the person He created you to be. Then, don't be ashamed to confess Him as your Lord and Savior.

**Romans 10:9-13** says, **“That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture says, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

Give your heart and life to Jesus right now, while His Spirit is dealing with you. You can't just let Him tag along, you have to give Him control. Reach out to Him by faith, and He will reach out to you with His love and grace. If you put your trust in Him, he will be a comfort to you no matter what life throws your way.

If you have made that decision to give your heart to Jesus, please write to us and share your testimony. We will be sure that you receive a Bible and answer any questions you may have. Or better yet, visit us for church services and we will give you a Bible in person, and do our best to encourage you in your new walk with God.

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*An Outreach Ministry of CrossWay Fellowship Church*