ROAR!

Release of Adonai's Revelations

"A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?"
-Amos 3:8 NKJV

7th October 2021
Vindication by the Spirit

Dear Friends,

We praise God for these times and seasons – times of pronounced cleansing and times of pronounced mercies. A time of new beginnings and a time of endings. As those called by His name, come together in a time like this to arise and build – like **a Nehemiah people**, there is something that the Spirit of God is highlighting and encouraging us with, as we put our hands to the plough! **A vindication that comes from the Spirit of God.**

1 Timothy 3:16 "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh ***vindicated by the Spirit****, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."*

When the Israelites crossed over the Jordan on dry land, God ordered Joshua to circumcise all the men who had been born since they had left Egypt forty years before (Joshua 5:5) When the circumcision was completed, the Lord told Joshua *"Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you."* (Joshua 5:9b)

'*Reproach*' means shame, to be discredited, dishonoured, or disgraced. It refers to the way we are perceived or how we think we are perceived. It is embarrassing because it punctures our pride. Sadly, Christians are often laughed at, poked fun at and put down. In that respect, we are like the Israelites before the reproach of Egypt was rolled away from them. The reproach of Egypt refers in part to the way we perceive ourselves. It is traceable to the way we are perceived by the world.

But we resist listening to the mocking of the world; which is the same as listening to the devil. The devil is a liar (John 8:44). He will not only quote scripture but also remind us of what the world has to say about us. The purpose remains the same as old – to halt the work of God, by intimidating and demoralizing us.

God does not want us to have the reproach of Egypt, but there is a reproach He does want us to have, namely, bearing the reproach for the glory of Christ's name. That is an internal vindication, vindication by the Spirit.

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Jesus was vindicated by the Spirit- it was what He had in His heart, the approval of His Father. This approval was noted at His baptism: *"This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3:17b). It was manifested again at the transfiguration: *"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."* (Matthew 17:5b)

Jesus was never vindicated externally. The Pharisees did not believe in Him. The five thousand who followed Him after He fed them with the loaves and the fish dwindled to twelve. (John 6:66-67). Herod did not vindicate Him, neither did Pilate. The Jews demanded His crucifixion. His vindication came from the Father alone by the Spirit. Even after His resurrection, there was no external vindication. He could have, **but His vindication would continue to be internal, that is what was revealed by the Holy Spirit.**

The pattern of the Kingdom remains the same for us, His sons and daughters. We must also receive our vindication by the Spirit as Jesus did. We do not look to people for approval. We let people say what they have to say, even things that may discredit and embarrass us. **Yet if we truly embrace the reproach for the name of Christ, we will be like Peter and John. They rejoiced at the privilege of suffering dishonour for the name.** (Acts 5:41).

How do we do this? With the TRUTH within us – the only thing that counts in courts of heaven. The Truth which is the best vindication against slander. Vindication is God's prerogative. God said to Moses *"Vengeance is mine, and recompense; for the time when their foot will slip."* (Deut 32:35a). Vengeance and vindication are similar but not the same. Vengeance is essentially God working out justice by punishing wickedness. God's ultimate punishment of sin was when He punished our sins in the body of His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 19:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Vindication however, is essentially positive- it may not always be followed by vengeance. It is when God absolves us of blame or false accusation. Vindication without vengeance is equally God's prerogative.

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When God withholds vindication, it may be God's way of refining us. Delayed vindication is an invitation to practice total forgiveness. It positions us for the blessing that is ahead. Suffering is "not for nothing". If we choose not to complain, we will soon see that such a trial was worth more than gold. (1 Peter 1:7)

How then do we dignify a trial?

- Do not complain.
- Forgive the enemy.
- Maintain a heart of thanksgiving.
- Do not try to hasten the end of the trial. Every trial has a built-in time scale. It will soon be over. The righteous judge, Jesus Christ, will render the verdict.

It is not His way when we try to vindicate ourselves, making ourselves look good or clearing our own names. This is God's business; it is what He does. So, let God take over our case at the time He has kept. Time is God's domain. **Vindication by the Spirit is thus a secret vindication. It is between us and God.** Let us be those who esteem and pursue the internal vindication by the Spirit. It is worth more than 10,000 compliments from people. It is that inward witness of the Holy Spirit that testifies, "This is the way, walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

"Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying to intimidate me. ***So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days."*** (Nehemiah 6:14-15)

Let us be those who press on with the work, expecting our personal vindication and reward only from the Lord and no one else.

"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelations 2:29

With great anticipation,
The ROAR Team

(Roar is a Mustard Ministries initiative to bring the NOW word, Revelations of the Lord to the Body of Christ.)
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