



DECREE SERIES 2016: True Fasting

Ps Andrew Cavanagh

17th April 2016

7 months of Prayer and Fasting

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April 1 - October 31

Nehemiah 2:1

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Nehemiah 6:15

*So the wall was completed on the **twenty-fifth of Elul**, in fifty-two days.*

***From the month of Nisan to the 25th of Elul
is 7 months from the commendation of King Artaxerxes
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The 7 month Prophetic Word from God to us

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FAST - Go without food once per week

PRAY - Watch in prayer once per week

Why Fast?

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1. Fasting strengthens the spirit-man while weakening the flesh-man
2. Fasting sharpens our ears to God's voice and increases the anointing of the Holy Spirit
3. Fasting brings breakthrough in difficult times

Praying as a watchman on the walls

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1. Watching with prophetic insight not in vain
2. Watching as one
3. Watching in order to rebuild walls, take cities and impact nations

What to pray for in this 7 month season

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1. Rebuilding the broken down walls of society.
2. Watching over walls of family, city, nation. Seeing rebuilding in our relationships and all our spheres of influence.
3. SOP 15 sessions - meditating on word, praying it into our hearts.
4. A new move of the Holy Spirit and breakthrough in the spirit-realm for all that God is doing through us.
5. Grace increase on your God given assignment - Move from stature of a cup bearer to that of a Governor.

Fasting is more than just not eating

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Fasting impacts

- Our spirit
- Our communication
- Our workplaces
- Our relationships
- Our communities
- Our country
- Us

How not to fast

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"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?"

How to fast

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Is not **THIS** the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe him, ... **THEN** your light will break forth like the dawn, ... **THEN** you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here I am. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, **THEN** your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. ... Your people will **rebuild the ancient ruins** and will raise up the age-old foundations; **you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.**

Jesus' Reiteration

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"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; **take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.** For I was **hungry** and you gave me something to eat, I was **thirsty** and you gave me something to drink, I was a **stranger** and you invited me in, I needed **clothes** and you clothed me, I was **sick** and you looked after me, I was **in prison** and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'**

Matthew 25:31-40 (NIV)

The role of contentment

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*If anyone advocates a different doctrine and ... suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness actually is a means of great gain **when accompanied by contentment**. ... If we have food and covering, **with these we shall be content**. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ... Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, **to be generous and ready to share**, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

1Timothy 6:3-19 (NASB)

Learn to be content

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*Not that I speak from want, for **I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am**. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*

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*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, **being content with what you have**; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"*

Hebrews 13:5 (NAU)

Build a treasury

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*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

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Focus on eternity

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*I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. He has made **everything appropriate in its time**. He has **also set eternity in their heart**, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:10 & 11 (NAU)

Seasons

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*There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven - A time **to give birth** and a time **to die**; A time **to plant** and a time **to uproot** what is planted. A time **to kill** and a time **to heal**; A time **to tear down** and a time **to build up**. A time **to weep** and a time **to laugh**; A time **to mourn** and a time **to dance**. A time **to throw** stones and a time **to gather** stones; A time **to embrace** and a time **to shun embracing**. A time **to search** and a time **to give up as lost**; A time **to keep** and a time **to throw away**. A time **to tear apart** and a time **to sew together**; A time **to be silent** and a time **to speak**. A time **to love** and a time **to hate**; A time **for war** and a time **for peace**.*

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Build capability

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Now the LORD was with **Judah**, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots. ... But the sons of **Benjamin** did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; ... But **Manasseh** did not take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; so the Canaanites persisted in living in that land...but they did not drive them out completely. ... **Ephraim** did not drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them. ... **Zebulun** did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them ... **Asher** did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob. ... **Naphtali** did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, ... Then the Amorites forced the sons of **Dan** into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the valley;

Judges 1:19-34 (NAU)

What then must we do?

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1. Deal with the enemy in our territory
2. Identify the times and appropriate actions
3. Do what is needed, when it is needed
4. Keep eternity in mind
5. Be generous, not contentious
6. Repair relationships
7. Repair walls & restore streets

True Fasting

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If our period of prayer and fasting DOES NOT change our RELATIONSHIPS with those both inside and outside the covenant community,

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