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CLAIMED
by
GOD

30 Declarations
of Your Identity
in Christ

FOREWORD BY JAMES BRYAN SMITH



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1

I AM CLAIMED

Anna

*Then all the nations of the world will see
that you are a people claimed by the LORD,
and they will stand in awe of you.*

DEUTERONOMY 28:10

DECLARATION: *I am claimed. God has
chosen me to live a life of divine distinction.*

WHO ARE YOU?

Before you were named, before you were judged, before you had aspirations, *God created you*. He carefully curated every aspect of your personality. He intricately designed your physical attributes. He spared no detail in forming you.

In my life, it has been my unspoken mission to *not fit in*. I don't follow trends. I don't like popular music. Throughout high school, I was the girl who would eat lunch with her Latin



teacher. I organized a three-day *Lord of the Rings* celebration each year. I was vice president of the improv club. To this day, I study US presidential history for fun. And I still listen to music on CDs and a decades-old iPod that's miraculously chugging along. I often encounter the Lord in dreams. I find it easier to converse with him through music rather than words. I'm a wonderfully messy amalgamation of quirks, passions, and spiritual gifts—just as my Creator intended.

You and I were created with a divine distinction. We're not supposed to fit into this world.

The idea of divine distinction is a significant theme throughout the book of Deuteronomy. Each chapter highlights the various laws and commands given by God to his chosen people, the Israelites. These laws were meant to help the Israelites live in contrast to the world. God wanted everyone to know they were claimed by him. But the Israelites were prone to disobedience and complaint, proving no better than the sinful nations around them.

Time and time again, God demonstrated his incredible power to the Israelites. He freed them from slavery. He performed miracles right in front of their eyes. Still, somehow they failed to remember God's faithfulness. Even in their newfound freedom, they argued, rebelled, and betrayed their friends and family. Yet God extended grace to them. As Deuteronomy 28:1 says, he

desired to set Israel “high above all the nations of the world,” so long as they repented and obeyed. Even in their waywardness, God still considered the Israelites his *chosen people*.

Like the Israelites, we live in a world plagued by dishonesty, incivility, corruption, and self-centeredness. We might be tempted to participate in these things ourselves. But if Israel’s messy story proves anything, no matter how far we wander, we cannot escape our God-given identity. God invites us to live a distinctly different life, one aligned with his values. This set-apart way of living encourages us to be honest, love graciously, promote justice, and serve others. It’s countercultural. We don’t belong to the world; we belong to our Father in heaven. He created us, defines us, and claims us as his own.

You are God’s chosen daughter! He formed you and claimed you. Commit to live a life of divine distinction—one that reflects the Lord’s goodness, kindness, justice, and mercy, so that everyone knows you belong to the Lord.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for choosing me, setting me apart, and claiming me as your daughter. When I am tempted to stray from my identity in you, call me back and extend grace to me. Strengthen me to live with conviction in a world that mocks and belittles this countercultural life. Amen.

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