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## **Episode 38 - Revelation 12: 12 Stars**

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Putting a magnifying glass on Revelation 11, this discussion includes James 2:14-22 concerning righteousness by works, and the growth of Zion into "the woman clothed with the sun."

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries. We're continuing to explore the deep things of God, and we're in the book of Revelation. We just finished up to the end of the sixth trumpet in our last podcast. Revelation 11, the sixth trumpet, doesn't actually end in Revelation 11:14 because Revelation chapter 12 is a continuation of Revelation 11. It's like putting a magnifying glass on Revelation chapter 11.

To understand it, there are just a few concepts that fit in right here. For instance, Revelation 12:1 begins with,

Rev 12:1 There's a great wonder in the heavens; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars:

That is Zion. Remember in Jeremiah 6:2 where God likens Zion to a delicate and comely woman? Well, this is it. It is Zion declaring the message in Revelation 11, described as

two witnesses. But they become the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars. How does that happen?

There is a concept that we have called "Righteousness by faith," and what it amounts to is, you're told the truth, and you believe it. But after you're told the truth, you have to live it. This is brought out in the book of James, chapter 2. I want to just read a portion of this.

Jas 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and has not works? can faith save him?

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is naked, and destitute of daily food,

Jas 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit?

Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead, alone.

Jas 2:18 A man may say, You have faith, and I have works: well, show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith with my works.

If I'm going to show you my faith without works, I'm going to tell you what I believe. But James is saying, *You live what you believe.*

Jas 2:20 ... faith without works is dead.

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered Isaac upon the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see how faith wrought with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

So you have Zion, or the church of God, in the last day, by faith, receiving the fullness of Christ.

Now, how do I know that? Because the way Paul defines Isaiah 59:20-21. He says in Romans 11,

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel (literal Israel), until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Rom 11:26 Then all Israel will be saved ...

Well, the Gentiles reach the fullness when they go forward to give the message to Jacob. But reaching that fullness is a description of their faith. Now, you've got what James said

coming to pass... where living by your works, that will perfect your faith. So in Revelation 11, when you see this 1260-day prophecy, which we covered in one of the podcasts, this 1260-day prophecy is a complete understanding of how God sees the fullness of man: 3 times 10 times 7 times 6 is 1260 days. In giving this message, the Elijah message to Jacob, they come to the end of their prophecy. The end of their prophecy is Revelation 11:7, *When they shall have finished their testimony.*

See, remember verse 3, their testimony lasts 1260 days. But when they finish the end of their testimony, they have lived what they believed, and they become the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars.

Now, I'm going to get into what that means. The point I'm trying to make here is that your salvation is a process of learning the truth, then living the truth, and remaining faithful. That is what Paul meant in Philippians when he said, *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.* So Revelation 12:1 picks up at that point of Revelation 11. Now in Revelation 11, you have Jacob receiving the truth, and twelve thousand names of men die.

They have received the truth. Remember, the Spirit of life from God enters into those truths. You could say it's at that point God is showing you that the truth of the Elijah message made sense to them. But now they need to live what they believe.

Hence, you've got the Gentiles becoming the woman clothed with the sun, ending that process of salvation... and you have the Jews at the same time starting that process of living what they believe. The Gentile church or Zion at this point is there to help them.

Now, I don't know that you need a lot of explanation of a woman being clothed with the sun. The sun is Christ and his righteousness. Here is a woman, a mindset, an emotional side. It is Zion. She is clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and the moon is under her feet. I have seen the moon as the law, or you could just say the scripture, the instruction from God.

But to have that under her feet... remember one thing that God intends to do is put all things under our feet, making you in his image (Rom 16:20), and one thing that needs to be put under our feet is all the iniquity that we have about the scriptures. Iniquity is the enemy. That needs to be put under our feet. But you have iniquity that's doctrinal, and you have personal iniquity.

This is saying that the moon is under her feet; the scriptures are under her feet. She doesn't have all of that twisted thinking about the Bible... and a crown of twelve stars

upon her head. What does that mean? Remember, two kinds of iniquity: doctrinal and personal. To have the twelve crowns, she's overcome the personal too. This woman, Zion, at this point, is what all the churches refer to as "saved." She has gone through the process of salvation.

So why twelve stars? Four is earthly completeness. See, you have four seasons make a year, four directions, north, south, east, and west. Four simply refers to earthly completeness.

I'm going to use myself as an example because I pray that all of us have been through this ourselves. I was 28 years old. My life was a mess, and I reached a point in my life where I said I can't do this anymore. Father, please save me. Christ portrayed that on the cross when he said, "I feel forsaken. I thirst. I still thirst. I'm not going to do this anymore. It's finished. I'm finished trying to do this myself. Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit."

That is a four. That is a depiction of coming to the end of earthly completeness. I quit drinking. I quit drugs. I quit trying to find it all myself, and I gave it to the Lord. That's a four.

The second four is depicted in Revelation in the fifth seal. See you start off on the white, red, black, pale horses until you realize, "God is not in what I'm doing," and you cry out for help to be delivered from your earthly thoughts, from the things that are keeping you from understanding the truth. You've reached the end of yourself again, and that allows God to step in and start interpreting the Bible for you and giving you that information.

You have another four. You have to come to the end of another four, and that is when God starts giving you the truth. You let him teach you the fullness of Christ, and then you live it. When you have lived it to the end of the 1260 days, having a complete understanding of how God sees the fullness of man, you've reached your third four. This church in Revelation 12 has done that. At the same time, the Jews are just beginning.

Now, what is meant when he says in verse 2,

Rev 12:2 She being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Well, you get a picture of this in Galatians chapter 4, verse 19. Paul makes the statement,

Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

See, in helping another person, as Paul was trying to help the church grow in their understanding, he referred to it as travailing in birth. Well, that is what is happening in Revelation 12:2. Zion is travailing with those of Jacob who have accepted the truth and become spiritual Israel. Now this prophecy goes back to Isaiah 66, and I want to read verses 7 and 8.

Isa 66:7 Before she travailed, she brought forth ...

Now, what do we mean? We're talking about prevailing to help somebody. So what if I just put this in here?

Isa 66:7 Before she travailed with another person, trying to help another person see it, she brought forth the truth in herself. Before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

So what do you mean by the pain? The pain comes from helping another person. When you're struggling, say, learning the Godhead, you go through that process of learning that truth, and eventually you see it. But the labor begins when you start to tell another person. That is the labor. That is when you're travailing to help them see the truth. So before she travailed with Israel, with Jacob becoming Israel, she brought forth the truth in herself.

Zion already had it. Before she had pain in helping another person, she herself was delivered of a man child. Now verse 8.

Isa 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at one time? as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Isa 66:9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith Jehovah: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.

So this is what you're seeing in Revelation chapter 12:2,

Rev 12:2 She being with child cried, travailing in birth (trying to help Israel), and she pained to be delivered.

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in the heavens; a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and crowns upon his heads.

What is meant here? If you look at verse 9,

Rev 12:9 This dragon is the old one, the serpent (which is the whisperer). You call it the Devil, and you call it *the* Satan. It deceives the whole world...

This is the adversarial part of your thinking. This is adversity. This is the adversary within your own heart. Notice it's in the heavens. So you've got two women here, obviously. You've got the one that has reached the righteousness of Christ, the moon under her feet, a crown of twelve stars, but you've got another woman.

How do I know it's a woman? Because Satan is there. The dragon is there. The dragon only speaks to the emotional side. Go read Genesis 3. You have an Adam side, an Eve side, and a serpent that whispers to your emotional side. This has to be another woman. So you've got two women here. The dragon has seven heads and ten horns and crowns upon the heads... that is taken from what is described in Revelation 17 to show us (which we will get into).

But this dragon has always been there. For it to have seven heads, it has been there since humanity has been there. So this is something that all of us have had to deal with, all of us have to battle. Notice in verse 4.

Rev 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth: ...

Well, in Revelation 16:19, Babylon is divided into thirds. What part of Babylon are you in? Paganism, Catholicism, or Protestantism? Which one are you in? Because they all teach that God needs to be appeased. He's angry, and he needs someone to appease his anger. Hence, Jesus' dying on the cross appeases him. That's paganism. He needed a human sacrifice.

Well, this dragon's tail (and sometimes I look at that as T A L E), his tail drew the third part of the stars that you're in. Are you a Catholic? Are you a Baptist?

The dragon, the whisperer, is taking the truths of God and casting them to the earth. "Earth" is "self." It's taken how many times for me to see this? You see a TV evangelist take the word of God and read it earthly. That's all he sees out of it, his earth. He makes it the way he wants to see it. He has no idea of spiritual truth, that salvation is happening between his ears, that he is to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. You learn the truth. You apply the truth. They don't even know the truth of the cross.

So this dragon takes a third part, the third therein, which would be Paganism, because the Jews, actually, the way they interpreted their own law was pagan, thinking that that sacrifice was appeasing God's anger, that that animal was dying to pay their penalty... when God says, *I laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Rev 12:4 ... The dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Now, when I first read this, I see Zion is winning this person over. Zion is helping this Jewish person grow in knowledge of the truth, and it's ready to be delivered, but "*her child as soon as it was born...*" Now, we can look at that as Christ, when you look at the next verse.

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man son, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Now, that sounds like Christ until you look at verse 5 again, in its future. *The child was to be caught up.* Well, there's a prophecy in Revelation chapter 2, looking at the church of Thyatira, and it's quoting a verse out of Psalms chapter 2.

Now, let me read this in Revelation chapter 2, verse 26.

Rev 2:26 He that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give authority over the nations:

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Well, that happens. That promise is given to Christ in Psalm 2. We can also see in Ephesians chapter 1 that Christ is caught up to the heavens, but in chapter 2 verse 6, he's raised us up together to sit in the heavenlies with Christ (Eph 1:20, 2:6).

Verse 20 in chapter 1, he raised Christ from the dead and set him at his own right hand. In Ephesians chapter 2 verse 6, he raised us up to sit with him. So when I'm looking at this in Revelation chapter 12, I realize it's a picture of Christ. But you know what? It's a picture of the believer and the growth in their understanding, and that's what you're seeing here, as Zion is trying to help Jacob become Israel and help them, now that they're spiritual Israel, to learn the truth. Again, it's reiterated in verse 6.

Rev 12:6 The woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of God (see, this woman is now Israel. It's the church. They have become the church). The

woman has fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of God, that they (Zion) should feed her (nourish her there for what?), until she comes to a full understanding that God has of the fullness of man.

See, they have their 1260-day prophecy also, and this is not literal. It's a spiritual number.

So basically, in a nutshell, you see Zion coming to have their faith perfected. They give their message of God to Jacob, who becomes Israel, and she labors with Israel. Zion labors with Israel until she is able to help Israel be set in the heavens with Christ in their understanding. They have that process now to work through for a 1260-day period, the Jew.

So here you see in chapters 11 and 12 (again, 12 is just an extension of 11), you see the Gentile or Zion, the Gentile church at that time, reaches the end of 1260 days. They bring the message to the Jew, and you see the Jew being nourished by Zion for 1260 days.

Heavenly Father, we worship you and can only pray for your help in leading and direction. You are Yah, the only true and living God. We need you every step of the way. We pray to glorify you in Jesus' name. Amen.