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Episode 46 - Revelation 14: Power Over Fire

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What happens between the two resurrections? After the first resurrection will be a length of days for those who sleep in Christ.

Modified Transcript:

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

This is Scott Stanley, DTG Ministries. We are continuing our look in this podcast at the resurrection of the church and the wicked. We really are getting into some deeper things of God. Something that you really need to have your Bibles and consider what I'm saying, because God is giving us answers... Giving us an understanding that all of us need to stretch our hearts to receive.

Looking at Proverbs chapter 3, starting at verse 1.

Pro 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let your heart keep my commandments:

The commandments today, reading this from the standpoint of the New Testament, the commandments of God are to walk in love. To love God and love your neighbors as yourself. So,

Pro 3:1 ... let your heart keep my commandments:

Pro 3:2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to you.

Well, on the surface, these two verses look like the law and the commandments will add to you. But the way this actually reads in verse 2, "*for length of days, will add long life and peace.*" When I think of long life, another way you could say that is "many days" or a "length of days," but this length of days means something entirely different. *Length of days will add to you peace, and long life.* I have looked at Psalm 21 as being about Christ, but, let me start at verse 1.

Psa 21:1 The king shall joy in your strength, O Jehovah; and in your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

Psa 21:2 You have given him his heart's desire, you have not withheld the request of his lips.

Psa 21:3 You went before him with the blessings of goodness: you set a crown of pure gold on his head.

Psa 21:4 He asked life of you, and you gave it to him, length of days for ever and ever.

Now, this point that he asked life of God, that is resurrected life. You can see that in Hebrews chapter 5, verse 7. Let me just share this.

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him out of death (King James put 'from death'), ...

Well, he wasn't saved from death. He was saved out of it. He had to die, but he was saved out of it. How? Well, he was raised from the dead, and he was heard by God in that he feared God. He was saved.

Heb 5:7 ... with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him out of death, and he was heard in that he feared.

He was raised from the dead. So, I look at Psalm 21 and realize that he asked for resurrected life and "*you gave him length of days.*" Well, what exactly is "length of days"? I want to go back to Proverbs 3, and I want to start reading at verse 13.

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and the man that draws out God's understanding.

Wisdom, we know in Proverbs 8, Paul says that *we preach the wisdom of God in a*

mystery. If you just boiled it all down, the wisdom of God that he is talking about, *we preach nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified...* the wisdom of God is seen at the cross. I have learned when I read Proverbs to put "*happy is the man that finds the understanding of the cross,*" because the understanding of the cross is an outward picture of how God perceives us, humanity. So,

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man who finds the meaning of the cross, and the man that can draw out God's understanding.

That word "understanding" is Strong's [8394]. I have learned it's simply the way God perceives. It's God's understanding. So what we're seeing here, the understanding of the cross and God's understanding of it is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is what Christ portrayed, showing the iniquity of man and how to overcome it.

Pro 3:14 For the merchandise of the Holy Spirit is better than the merchandise of silver, and the fruit of fine gold.

Pro 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things that you can desire are not to be compared to the Holy Spirit of God (New Jerusalem, the mother of us all – Gal 4:26)

Pro 3:16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and honour.

That word "honor" is "glory" or "the character of God." But here, *length of days is in her right hand*. The right hand is her power. It's her strength. Her power is in length of days.

Pro 3:17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. (It's talking again, about the Holy Spirit.)

Pro 3:18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retains her.

Pro 3:19 Jehovah, by his wisdom (by the instruction of the cross, helping you understand that), he founded the earth. By his understanding, he establishes the heavens.

Pro 3:20 And by the knowledge he is giving you through that, the depths of the sea are broken up, and the clouds of witnesses can drop the dew.

So I see Christ asking for resurrected life and the Lord, his Father, giving him length of days. The Holy Spirit is the understanding of God the Father. Its strength, in its right hand, is length of days. Well, turn to Deuteronomy chapter 30, verse 19.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you, to record, that I have

set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live:

Deu 30:20 That you may love Jehovah your God (first commandment), and that you may obey his voice (second commandment is to love your neighbor. This is why you love God. To manifest your love, you obey what he tells you which is to love your neighbor), so that you may cleave to him:

That word "cleave," if you go to Genesis 2:24, "*A man will cleave to his wife,*" and New Jerusalem or the Holy Spirit, the mother of us all, will marry her children (Isa 62:5). Well, you will cleave to him, to his truth, to his spirit, to his understanding of your problem and how to fix it.

Deu 30:21 ... For he is your life (your resurrected life) and the length of days. He is the length of days, that you may dwell in the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.

That right there is another proof that he is going to resurrect these men, that they may enter the land he has promised them. It isn't a literal land. It's a spiritual truth.

Now, what then are these days? How can these length of days be spiritual? I want you to consider creation week, and I know all of our Christian life, we've looked at that literally, Genesis chapter 1.

If it is totally, absolutely literal, the point of all creation is to bring humanity to the place where God can place his Spirit in the human agent. This is the goal. The Son of God was slain from the foundation of the world, Revelation 13:8. Why would he have been slain? Well, he says, I came to bear witness to the truth. "*For this reason was I born, for this cause came I end of the world*" (Jhn 18:37). He's going to bear witness to the truth.

Well, the truth he bore witness to was the love of God and the problem of humanity and how to fix it. That's what happened on the cross. So, looking at creation week literally, the idea is for God to make us in his image. He makes us into the image of his only begotten Son, who is in his image. Christ is the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15). Well, for you to be in God's image, you have to possess his Spirit. So he wants to put his Spirit within you.

If I make creation week spiritual, I get a more detailed picture of how he is going to do that. What do you mean by "make it spiritual"? Day 1, you begin, "*And the earth is without form and void.*" That right there tells me that this is not literal, that God did not

create the earth without form and void. He created the earth, literally speaking, beautiful. He wouldn't create anything empty, void, and dark.

But what you're seeing is a picture of humanity before they have a true conversion to God. And he says, *"Let there be light,"* and suddenly, in your understanding, you can discern light and dark. You know there is a God. You know there is darkness. You know there's his understanding. You know there's darkness.

Second day, he separates the water from the water. Water is a symbol of understanding, and God's understanding is in the heavens. Man's understanding is on the earth. On the second day, the second stage of your being made complete, you recognize there is a heavenly truth and an earthly. There is the way God sees it and the way man sees it.

On the third day, he takes the sea and moves it off the earth. Spiritually speaking, the sea is what you've been taught all your life. He has founded your earth with the sea, Psalm 24. It isn't until he can push the sea off the earth that you're able to have seeds planted in your earth and water them and let them grow. When you have that conversion experience and you put away the worldly thinking, now you have an earth that you can plant seed.

Another picture of this is seen in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. Egypt was the iron furnace, a picture, a similitude of the world. He brings you out of Egypt. You're in a wilderness eating manna, but at least you have made a step out of the world. When I first came to the Lord, I turned from worldly thinking, picked up a Bible, and began to plant seed and water it as people were teaching me and helping me.

It's on the fourth day that he puts the sun, the moon, and the stars in the heavens. The sun is the true understanding of the Son of God. The moon is the scripture, and the stars are the children from the sun and the moon.

Go back and read the story of Joseph and what he told his father. *"I saw in a dream, everyone is bowing to me. The sun, the moon, and the stars."* And his father says, *"Oh, you mean me and your mother and your brethren are going to bow to you?"* He equated the sun and the moon and the children of the sun and the moon. Well, on the fourth day of creation, you finally have an understanding that Christ is the Son of God. See, he's put in the heavens. The Bible is spiritual, and the stars are when you unite those two truths.

On the fifth day, everything in the sea is given life. Well, the sea is that iniquity that you had, that he pushes it away from the earth. But once you see the truth of the scriptures, the sun, the moon, and the stars, he can begin to redeem all the things you learned all

your life. You were taught things about heaven and hell and Satan, the cross, all of it, but it needs to be corrected. He doesn't take it away. He fixes it. So on the fifth day, that is a picture of him correcting, redeeming the truth you have...

So that on the sixth day, he makes you in his image. On the sixth day, he puts all things under your feet. Paul says in Hebrews chapter 2 that hasn't even happened yet (Heb 2:8). When he puts all things under our feet, 1 Corinthians 15, he can then take the kingdom to the Father because this is the goal - to put all things under our feet.

We are living in the sixth day of creation, where he is trying to put all things under our feet. That is the only day that God looked at it, and he said it was very good. The other days are good, not the sixth day. When he makes you in his image, it's very good, and you enter the seventh day, and there is no end to it.

For God to give you a length of days... the Holy Spirit, that is the mind of God. Christ asked for resurrected life, and he gave him length of days because it's in the length of those days that you go through the changes, you are made in the image of God, and to enter into the seventh day is eternal. It's forever and ever. For him to give you a promise of length of days is to give you salvation.

Salvation is not taking you to heaven. 1 Peter 1:9, *Salvation is the perfection of your faith.* You are taught truth, you live it, and your works will perfect your faith. So we need a length of time or a length of those days to be made ready, to be made complete, to be saved. So look at Luke chapter 23, Christ is on the cross. Let me just read this starting at verse 39.

Luk 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If you be the Christ, save yourself and us.

Luk 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, and he said, Do you not fear God, seeing you are in the same condemnation?

Luk 23:41 We indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man has done nothing amiss.

Luk 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Luk 23:43 And Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, This day shall you be with me in paradise.

What do you mean? He's talking about creation week. How do I know? Because the sixth day was Friday. Friday was a picture of the sixth day, where you prepare for Sabbath. You prepare to not think your own thoughts and work your own works. The

literal Sabbath was a picture of Genesis 2, the Sabbath where God can rest. But if Paul says in Hebrews 2, the sixth day hasn't happened yet. Well, neither had the Sabbath, where God can rest. He continues to work for us daily.

Jesus said, *"I'm telling you today, this is Friday. This is the sixth day, a symbol. You'll be with me in paradise."* Well, turn to Revelation chapter 2, and we see the seven churches. The first church is Ephesus.

Rev 2:7 He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

That promise to the thief was that on this day, the sixth day, you will be with me in paradise. Let's turn back to Psalm 103, verse 17.

Psa 103:17 The mercy of the Jehovah is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, ...

Now remember, that thief on the cross feared God.

Psa 103:17 ... From everlasting to everlasting (from eternity past to the eternity that's coming) ... from everlasting to everlasting, his mercy is upon those who fear him. His righteousness is unto your children's children. (Well, children are thoughts.)

Psa 103:18 To such as keep his covenant, to those that remember his path of the eternal spirit (the word is "commandments," Strongs [6490], is the path of the eternal spirit).

Psa 103:19 Jehovah has prepared his throne (which is your conscience) in the heavens. (His kingdom which is within... the kingdom of God, doesn't come with outward observation. It's inward. It's within you, Luk 17:21) ... The LORD has prepared his throne in the heavens (in your heavenly understanding); his kingdom rules over all.

Psa 103:20 Bless Jehovah, you messengers, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Psa 103:21 Bless ye Jehovah, all ye his hosts; and ministers that do his pleasure.

Psa 103:22 Bless Jehovah, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless Jehovah, O my soul (from everlasting to everlasting).

Turn to Hebrews 11, verse 39.

Heb 11:39 And these all (all of the heroes of our faith), having obtained a good report through what they were taught, received not the promise (of the Holy Spirit):

John 7:38-39 – the Holy Spirit...

Jhn 7:38 ... out of your belly will flow rivers of living water.

Jhn 7:39 (This spake he of the Spirit... which was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The spirit is God's understanding of humanity's problem and how to correct it. Jesus lived that on the cross. Well, the people in the Old Testament didn't receive that truth. They did not receive the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Heb 11:40 God provided some better thing for us (of the new covenant), that they without us should not be made perfect.

The thief on the cross is going to enter into the paradise of God. He is going to be given length of days so that he can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit after he's raised from the dead. The people who are in the grave will be raised from the dead and given that length of days. They will have an opportunity to overcome all of their sin and iniquity. That is why in Revelation 14:14, it says,

Rev 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:15 ... The voice of God tells him, It's time for you to reap, and the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Rev 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

That's the first resurrection. The second resurrection is the harvesting of the vine, the grapes. But in between those two resurrections,

Rev 14:17 Another messenger came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also had a sharp sickle.

That also is Christ, as I pointed out in the last podcast.

Rev 14:18 Another messenger came out from the altar, which had authority over fire...

What fire? That is Gehenna fire. Christ told us in Matthew 5, in the sermon on the

mount, about how you were told not to commit adultery. You were told not to kill. But he says, *"I tell you, don't even look on a woman to lust. Don't even get angry. If those things begin to happen, pluck out your eye, cut off your hand,"* spiritually speaking. Pluck out the eye of your understanding. It's better for you to enter life maimed without that understanding than Gehenna, to carry that eye into Gehenna fire.

In James 3:6, King James used the word "hell." It's Gehenna. Gehenna is what moves the tongue. It is the fire, the passion, that passion of rage, or in anger, that passion of lust that moves you to commit adultery or moves you to hate a person, that's Gehenna. Here in Revelation 14:18, this messenger has authority now over fire. That is what is going to be given to the thief on the cross, as he is being promised, "you'll enter into paradise, you can eat from the tree of life."

Let me go back to Proverbs chapter 3 and remind you of verse 18, speaking of the Holy Spirit, *"she is a tree of life."* See, it's the Holy Spirit, the understanding of the cross that gives you the power to overcome your lusts and your anger. And here is a messenger, see, raised from the dead. The first resurrection, these people come up.

That thief on the cross is coming up. He was given the promise. But he is going to have to be taught the meaning of the cross. He is going to have to be taught how to possess the Holy Spirit and make an atonement for others. He's going to have to be taught how God is able to look at him and give him forgiveness.

God does not need a human sacrifice to do that. The thief on the cross needs to be taught that. Everybody in the Old Testament died without having received the promise. When they receive the promise, it will give them authority over fire, and when the risen church has authority over fire, that is the sign. That is the message to Christ, in Revelation 14:18, that it's time to thrust in the sickle and gather the clusters of the vine.

In other words, the wicked will not be raised until God's church, all of them, are made whole and complete and possess the power of the Holy Spirit. What does it mean?

It means when you're raised from the dead, you're going to be raised with the same understanding you had before you died, and you're going to have to learn and grow, and the smoke of Babylon enters into the age of the ages. That confusion about God enters into the next stage, where God is going to heal his people and make them perfect in Jesus Christ. Then he will raise the wicked.

Heavenly Father, thank you. Oh, God, help us. Help us to see through the darkness into the light and possess your perfect understanding. In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.