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Episode 2 - Spirit and Kingdom

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Scott Stanley discusses the complexities of understanding the Book of Revelation, emphasizing that each study builds upon the previous ones, making it challenging for those who haven't followed from the beginning. He highlights the importance of interpreting Revelation spiritually rather than literally, as God's wisdom is hidden and revealed through His Spirit, not through worldly understanding.

Stanley explains that the Kingdom of God is within us, residing in our minds and hearts, and can only be comprehended by receiving God's spirit and words. He concludes by encouraging listeners to approach the study of Revelation with a spiritual mindset to grasp its true meaning.

Modified Transcript:

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

This is Scott Stanley exploring the deep things of God, especially today. This is a DTG (Deep Things of God) Revelation podcast. I hope you don't look at this like you would any other Revelation study because it isn't. When I consider what I want to share today, I have to pull back on the reins to keep from making it so difficult for people to understand what I'm trying to say.

The truth is, in the studies that DTG Ministries puts out, each study builds upon the one before it. And, eventually, as you put out study 1, 2, 3, 4, you come to a place where, if you haven't heard everything before, you're not going to understand how we got to where we are in the study you're listening to. This is no different. This is going to be, maybe for some people, some pretty deep things, and it's going to challenge us. Maybe you'll feel challenged in this, but keep listening, go back to the beginning and listen again, take notes, write it down, and look up the verses. Don't just listen to me talk, but read it in your own Bible, see it for yourself, and you'll begin to get a handle on the study today, how Revelation has been written in these symbols.

Now, in the last podcast, we looked at Revelation 1:1 and the fact that God signified this and gave it to Christ. He signified it. We spent some time looking at the word "signified." Sign-ified is what it looks like when you write it, but it's signified- signs. Revelation is full of signs, and all we're going to do today is stretch that out a little further, maybe put a magnifying glass on it, and come to a realization of what we're looking at in the Book of Revelation.

So to do this, I want to begin in 1 Corinthians 2. Now again, this podcast is on the Book of Revelation. But when you talk about Revelation, you're talking about everything. The concepts you see in Revelation are found from Genesis to Malachi; in fact, from Genesis to Revelation. And so you need to go back through scripture and put things in perspective. That's what I want to do with this. 1 Corinthians, chapter 2, let me read starting at verse 6.

1 Co 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect (or complete): yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

Now, notice, he says we're speaking wisdom to people who are perfect or made complete. Who would that be? Do you look at yourself as being made complete? I wasn't going to deal with this right now, but he is talking about being made complete according to the conscience. You can see this in Hebrews 7, 8, 9, and 10. He'll talk about how God will make you complete according to the conscience. That is a study in and of itself. But let me go on to verse 7.

1Co 2:7 We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world to our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew. If they had known this, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory- if they had known the wisdom of God, which he speaks in a mystery.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him. (We're going to key on that in just a second. Let's keep reading.)

1Co 2:10 But God has revealed these things unto us through his Spirit: because the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. (Now, here is a definition of what he's talking about.)

1Co 2:11 What man knows the things of a man, except for the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the things of God know no man, but the Spirit of God (which is in him).

Now, I added that last part because it's what he's talking about. The spirit of man which is in him and the spirit of God which is in him. What is he talking about? What I want to do is go to Ecclesiastes, and I want to look at Chapter 3. In Ecclesiastes 3, there is a very important scripture that will help us understand the Book of Revelation. Ecclesiastes 3, I want to start reading at verse 10.

Ecc 3:10 I have seen the travail, which God has given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

Ecc 3:11 He has made every thing beautiful in his time: also he has set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end.

When you're reading Revelation, brother, you're reading the end. But from the beginning, you can't understand it. That is what Paul is saying, "*Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things of God.*" Why? Because the world is in our hearts, and God has made it so.

Let me give you an example. I came to the Lord on December 1, 1979. I had a conversion experience and gave my heart to the Lord. A week later, I bought a Bible, a good one, and began studying it and making notes. Until that day (I was 28 years old), the only thing I knew about God was what I had been told. Who told me? The world. What do you mean, the world? Everything I knew about God came from my parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, school teachers, on the job, or the world.

People in the world made comments about God, even in TV shows and movies, and I really had not searched the Bible for myself to discover anything. So, the only thing I knew about God was what I had been told. Now, I carried those thoughts with me to the book. As I read the book, I was trying, automatically, naturally, we all do this... we try to fit into what we read and what we've already been told. That's interesting. Isn't it? So Paul says, again,

1Co 2:9 Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But he has revealed them unto us by his Spirit....

What do we mean by His Spirit? Turn to Proverbs, chapter 1, and let's read this verse together. Again, right now, we're keying on the spirit because *the things of God know no man except the spirit of God which is in him*. So, if we're going to possess the spirit of God,

Pro 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words to you.

What is his spirit? It's found in words. How do I know that? Look at Ezekiel 2.

Eze 2:1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon your feet, and I will speak to you.

Eze 2:2 And the spirit entered into me when he spoke to me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spoke to me.

I'll pour out my spirit. I'll make known my words (Pro 1:23). The spirit entered into me when he spoke to me (Eze 2:2).

Jhn 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth (or that gives life); the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak to you are spirit and life.

So, unless God is revealing himself to you, and you're hearing his words, you're not receiving his spirit... pretty simple deduction. So, in 1 Corinthians 2:7, we're speaking the wisdom of God in a mystery, but it's not the wisdom of this world, verse 6,

1Co 2:6 ... Nor of the princes of this world that have come to naught.

1Co 2:7 We're speaking the wisdom of God in a mystery. It's hidden, which God ordained before the world to our glory,

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of the world knew. If they'd known it, they wouldn't have crucified Christ. (They didn't understand the words of God, the word of God, or the spirit of God.)

1Co 2:9 As it's written, eye hasn't seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.

It is not in you naturally or automatically. It doesn't happen like that. God will reveal this truth through his spirit, and you get his spirit as you believe his words. Now, I want to look at 1 Corinthians 2:11.

1Co 2:11 For what man will know the things of a man, except the spirit of the man? Same thing with God- the things of God, no one knows. It hasn't entered into your eyes or ears or heart, but God will reveal it to you through His Spirit.

1 Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, ...

Yet, we have the world in our hearts. We just read that in Ecclesiastes, chapter 3. We have the world in our hearts, but God says,

1Co 2:12 I'm not giving you the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, the words which are of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God,

1 Co 2:13 Which things we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches; we compare spiritual things with spiritual things.

1 Co 2:14 But the natural man doesn't receive the things of the Spirit of God: it's foolishness to him: ...

Let me give you an example. John, chapter 6.

Jhn 6:53 Then Jesus said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Jhn 6:54 Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jhn 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

Jhn 6:56 He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, remains in me, and I in him.

Jhn 6:57 As the living Father has sent me, and I live because of the Father: so he that eats me, even he shall live because of me.

Jhn 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers ate manna, and are dead: he that eats of this bread will live for ever.

Jhn 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Jhn 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?

Jhn 6:61 Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said, Does this offend you?

Jhn 6:62 What then if you see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

Jhn 6:63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh doesn't profit anything: the words I speak are spirit, and they are life.

What did Paul say? He said,

1Co 2:14 The natural man will not receive the things of the Spirit of God, because it will be foolishness to them. They can't know it because it has to be spiritually discerned.

Mind and spirit go hand in hand through the scriptures. To be "spiritual" means 'of the mind.' It's of the mind. When he said, "*Eat my flesh and drink my blood,*" they thought he meant that literally, and they were offended. But he meant that spiritually. The things of God's Spirit, if you don't discern his words spiritually, it's going to be offensive.

Now, when we read the Book of Revelation, what do you think we're reading in that? This is what God gave to Jesus, and he signified it- made signs. Do you think that means he was speaking about literal things? He was speaking about *actual* things. But he was speaking about them spiritually. Let me give you one more connection. This is in Luke, chapter 17, starting at verse 20.

Luk 17:20 When he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God does not come with outward observation:

What does that mean? It's not literal. Stop. People struggle with that because they look at this kingdom of God as some physical place you're going to go to. And I'm not saying God isn't in a physical place, but in the Bible, when he speaks about the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven, Jesus says again, let me read this:

Luk 17:20 The kingdom of God comes not with observation (or outward observation).
Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God... is where? The kingdom of God is within you.

Where is it in me? Is it in my arms, my legs, my chest? Where is his kingdom? It's in my mind, and it doesn't come with outward observation. The kingdom of God is within me. It dwells in... if you want to say your heart, but that's a spiritual thing too. It's not in your literal, physical heart. It's in your spiritual heart; it's in your mind. The kingdom of God is in your mind. Well, so is his spirit. If you possess the Spirit of God, those are words that come from words. Words are in your mind. Words and pictures.

So the kingdom of God does not come with outward observation. It is within you. Connect that to the Gospel of John, chapter 18.

Jhn 18:35 Pilate answered and said, Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you unto me: what have you done?

Jhn 18:36 Jesus said, My kingdom (which is within you) is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from here.

Okay. Well, the kingdom of God dwells within me. It has to come into me by means of words. Words are carried by the spirit, and God's kingdom is within us. So are his words; hence, so is his spirit. But his kingdom is not of this world. So, when we're talking about the kingdom of God, it isn't of this world.

Can I speak of the kingdom of God using words and earthly, worldly concepts? His kingdom is not of this world. Eye hasn't seen, nor has it entered into my heart, the things God has prepared because I've got the world in my heart, and I can't understand it. Someone will need to help me see and understand the meaning of God's words so that I can possess his spirit and have his kingdom within me. Quickly, let's compare Matthew 12:28 with what we're talking about.

Mat 12:28 If I cast out devils in the Spirit of God (King James put 'by the Spirit of God') ... If I cast out devils in the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come to you.

Get the connection. See, the kingdom of God is within me. Well, God's Spirit is within me. The spirit will blow, and you can't see it. Well, the kingdom doesn't come with outward observation, either. The Spirit of God contains the words of God, and when you can believe those and continue to build on the truth, you will possess his kingdom. His kingdom is truth. His kingdom is God's understanding. Now, just for the sake of it, let's look at Psalms 103, verse 19, and just put this together in your mind.

Psa 103:19 The LORD, or Jehovah, has prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom rules over all.

Now, can you put that within? See, his kingdom or his understanding governs you if you possess his thinking. If you possess his understanding, it will govern you. It will help you. Well, his kingdom is in the heavens, but his kingdom possesses his throne.

See, if the throne is in the heavens, well, his kingdom has to be, too, because the throne is in the kingdom. So the throne, I've realized, is a symbol of the conscience. The conscience is signified in that word "throne," where you make the decisions. God's throne is in the heavens, and his kingdom, which would contain the throne, is overall.

So, in God's kingdom, does God have a sun, a S U N, in his kingdom? Will there be a sun?

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory (or the character) of God; and the firmament shows his handywork.

Psa 19:2 Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge.

Psa 19:3 There is no speech or language, where their voice is not heard.

Psa 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psa 19:5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man to run a race.

Who is that bridegroom? Well, we know the sun is Christ. Is he ever referred to as a bridegroom? The Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 27.

Jhn 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Jhn 3:28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

Jhn 3:29 He that has the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

He was hearing the voice of the bridegroom. The S U N is a similitude of the S O N. In God's kingdom is a sun that gives light. His name is Jesus. He is the Son of God. Again, we can't understand the things of God because we have the world in our hearts. But his spirit will guide us and lead us into the deep things of God. That will happen to us when we get into the Book of Revelation, realizing that God's kingdom is within us, and it is not of this world.

God's kingdom is his understanding, and his spirit needs to be received as a child. Receive his words into your heart like a child; see and enter into his kingdom of truth. But his kingdom is not of this world. The words spoken to get you into that kingdom are not of this world.

"Eat my flesh. Drink my blood." "Oh, that's too hard for us. We can't understand that."

Well, they could if they had looked at it spiritually and let Christ explain it to them. That's what we're going to find in the Book of Revelation. To the natural man, it will seem like foolishness. To you who possess his spirit, to you who listen to his words and see the spiritual meaning of it, the Book of Revelation will make perfect sense because you'll see

it the way God devised it. This is God's prophecy through the risen Savior, unto those who have ears to hear.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, if you would help us see, help us understand. There's an excitement in serving you and in learning the truth. I just pray for your truth in my heart, for you to be glorified. I pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.