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Episode 55 - Unlocking the Mysteries of Revelation 20

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In this enlightening episode, Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries delves into the profound themes of the book of Revelation, focusing on Revelation 20. Discover the symbolism behind the 'thousand years' and the two resurrections, as Stanley offers a deep analysis of biblical texts and their spiritual implications.

Explore the battle against iniquity, represented by Gog and Magog, and uncover the meaning of salvation beyond just reaching heaven. This episode invites listeners to understand how truths are being revealed and corrected in the spiritual realm, bringing clarity to some of the most misunderstood chapters in the Bible.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi. This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries. We're exploring the deep things of God in the Book of Revelation. In our last podcast, we came to Revelation 20 and saw the fit man in verses 1 and 2 laying hold of the dragon, the serpent, leading away Azazel, and walking in harmony with Christ. The symbol for walking in harmony in the King James is 'a thousand years.' That is all that means, and that is not literal. We see that in Revelation 20:5.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead live not again until that thousand years is complete. This is the first resurrection.

So, you're going to have the last day church understand the cross, receive in their heart the meaning of it, and be able to put away iniquity and be the fit man. When that is finished, you'll have the first resurrection. There are only two resurrections. The first are the righteous (those who are dead in Christ), the second will be the wicked. So here, after this first thousand years, you have the first resurrection. Now, verse 6,

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power. (That will happen when he raises the wicked- the second death.) But they shall be priests of God and of Christ and reign with him a thousand years.

There is a second thousand right there. At the end of the first thousand is the first resurrection. Those people who are raised are going to be taught the truth, the truth that they never received. Again, salvation is not getting to go to heaven. Salvation is being free from all iniquity, all of it, and you quit listening to the adversary. So in verse 7,

Rev 20:7 When that first thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, (because Satan, or adversity, is in the hearts of those who are dead in Christ. Why?)

John 7:38 and 39, *"The Holy Spirit was not given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."* The last verse of Hebrews 11 talks about these heroes of the faith, *"They shall not be made complete without us"* (Heb 11:40). So they, too, will receive the truth of the cross to receive the Holy Spirit and be made complete, after they are raised from the dead. That's why Satan is let loose out of his prison. Again, he's in the heart of those people. Now, verse 8,

Rev 20:8 Satan will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog.

Remember that you're to be redeemed from all nations, kindred, tongue, and people. Well, here is a description by God of those nations, and he calls it Gog and Magog.

Rev 20:8 ... They gather them to battle, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

I just wrote in my Bible that you cannot number it; there are too many, there is too much iniquity- the lies that all these people have been told.

Rev 20:9 And they (Gog and Magog) went up on the breadth of the earth, they compassed the camp of the saints, (the beloved city which is New Jerusalem. Remember, *I'll give you a new heaven and a new earth, I create New Jerusalem* (Isa 65:17, Isa 66:22). Fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them.

Now, let's just stop right there. Two chapters in the Bible are horrendously misunderstood: Ezekiel 38 and 39. You just saw in Revelation 20 the way God expresses iniquity- Gog and Magog. When the truth is being taught, Gog and Magog will rise up and surround the holy city to destroy it, and the fire of God will devour it. That is not literal. That happens in the heart of each believer. That means every believer has a Gog and Magog.

Well, I wanted to go to Ezekiel 38, and let me tell you right up front, I don't have time to go over every verse in Ezekiel 38 and 39. You need to read this. You are learning symbols; you are learning new ones. You are learning to apply them. You need to do this. If you like, call me, whatever you want to do, get on our teleconferences, and share your faith. But let me give you a direction of what this is getting at. In Ezekiel 38,

Eze 38:1 The word of the Lord, or Jehovah, came to me, and he said,
Eze 38:2 Son of man, set your face against Gog, the land of Magog ...

Now, Gog simply means "a mountain." Mountains are symbols of doctrines. Magog is the land of Gog or the "land of doctrines." I think of the universal church, how their mind is the land of doctrines. Gog, according to this, when you read it, is the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. He says, "I want you to prophesy against him," but what in the world is Meshech and Tubal?" Meshech is extremely interesting to me, because, and again, if we just look this up in Brown Driver Briggs, it says "a drawing out." You can't look this up in the Ancient Hebrew because he doesn't cover proper names. But it means "a drawing out." Well, if you take this over to Gesenius, he says it's a drawing out, literal meaning, "the drawing out of seed."

Now, whenever I see the chief prince of anything, it's either Jesus or Satan. Jesus is the chief prince that God gave us. Satan is the god of this world, the prince of this world. Unless you're connected to the true Christ, Satan is your prince. The prince is the son of a king. You're the king on your own throne unless you're serving God in spirit and truth. So if I look at Meshech and say, "Well, okay, it is a drawing out, or a drawing out of seed," does anything come into your mind about the taking away or the drawing out of

seed? Matthew 13, the parable of the Sower of the Seed. I want to just read, starting in verse 3,

Mat 13:3 He spoke many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow.

Mat 13:4 And he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowl came and devoured them up.

Right there is the taking away of your seed. How does he explain that? Verse 18,

Mat 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Mat 13:19 When any one hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which receives seed by the wayside.

Well, who's the wicked one? It's the adversary, it's Satan. So when you come over to Ezekiel 38, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal is Gog in the land of Magog. Well, Meshech means "to take away your seed." Tubal is another one. Tubal means "to turn back." And you could say, when the seed is given to you, when the truth is given to you, Meshech will pluck up that seed, and Tubal will turn you around to go back, to go back into the apostasy that you're trying to get out of.

When I look at Gog, what is the mountain? Gog means "a mountain in the land of mountains." I thought about that. I thought about all of these false doctrines. When you take a statement of faith from one of these churches, many of them will say, "We believe the Bible is the Word of God," and then everything that they tell their church comes out of the Bible, but with their twist on it. I look at Gog as the Bible itself because these churches, when you give somebody the truth of the kingdom, they will take their twisted understanding of the Bible and pluck up that seed and bring you back into the apostasy.

Everybody will do that but the Catholic Church. They have something higher than the Bible. It's called tradition. If you haven't learned this yet, you need to learn it because I have talked to several Catholics, and they will say, "But tradition is over the Bible." And I would say, "Yeah, but the Bible, look what..." it doesn't matter. Tradition is over the Bible. Gog, in the land of doctrines, to me, it's either the Bible itself or tradition. By using their tradition and the Bible, they will take away your seed and draw you back into the apostasy.

So, look at Ezekiel 38 and remember what we are talking about. We are talking about a misinterpretation of the scripture. Whether you want to call it tradition or you are

reading the Bible and putting your own meaning to it, that is what we are talking about. When the saints of God are raised from the dead who have not yet heard and completed the understanding of the cross, what is going to come up in their minds when they're told the truth? All of the iniquity that they've been taught. That is what you're seeing in Revelation 20. It's an inward battle, the truth versus iniquity. I want to read just some of this, and I hope you are inspired to get into Ezekiel 38 and 39, understanding what it's about, because he says in Ezekiel 38:8,

Eze 38:8 After many days you'll be visited: in the latter years you're going to come into the land that's brought back from the sword.

What is that? Well, it's Revelation 13. There was a head slain with the sword, and the sword wound is healed.

Eze 38:8 ... You're going to come into a land (into the minds), a land that's been brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people. And you're going to come against the mountains of Israel (the doctrines of Israel, spiritual Israel, the true Israel).

Who's going to do this? Gog and Magog, which, these doctrines in verse 8, have always been waste. Again, let me finish the sentence...

Eze 38:8 ... But has brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Well, that's redeemed. You see, the truth of God was cast down, and God's people, the last generation church, redeem those truths. They are redeemed and brought back, that had been lying waste all these years. Why are they laying waste? Because there's a great apostasy beginning in 1 John 2:18, Paul says it will last to the end of the world, to the second coming. So these truths have to be brought back after having been laid waste. Now, look at verse 9, and again, remember Revelation 20 is what you're actually reading.

Eze 38:9 You shall ascend and come like a storm. You shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your bands, and many people with you.

Eze 38:10 Thus saith the Lord Jehovah; it will come to pass, that at that same time shall things come into your mind, and you're going to think an evil thought.

Eze 38:11 And you'll say I'm going to go up to the land of what? Unwalled villages.

Stop. What are walls a symbol of? It's the walls of salvation. In Revelation 21, the walls around the holy city have twelve foundations of the apostles. People who are raised

from the dead, who died in the apostasy with an open and pure heart to God, he is going to raise them up. But there is no way that they understand the cross and the apostles' interpretation of it. Why? Because of the apostasy. So they are living in unwalled villages.

Eze 38:11 You're going to say, I'm going to go up to this land of unwalled villages.

Who's going to say that? The people who are receiving truth and their iniquity springs up. Why would that happen? Because you've got a million questions. You know, I was told all my life—the Trinity, the Trinity, the trinity—all these things you've been told all your life will come up, and you're going to say, "Look, I need an answer. How do you explain this?"

Eze 38:11 So Gog is going to say, "I'm going to go up to the land of all unwalled villages. I'm going to go to them that are at rest, ...

Why are they at rest? Because they've been raised from the dead. In their mind, there's nothing else to worry about; they're being told the truth, and they want to get it straight.

Eze 38:11 ... I want to go to them that are at rest, that are dwelling safely, all of them dwelling without the walls of salvation, they don't have bars or gates.

Eze 38:12 I'm going to go up to take a spoil, and take a prey, you're going to turn your hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

Eze 38:13 Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions that are there, will say unto you, Have you come to take a spoil, this iniquity? Have you gathered your company to take a prey? To carry away my silver and gold? You want to take away my cattle and goods? To take a great spoil? (There's Meshech and Tubal.)

Eze 38:14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, thus says the Lord Yahweh, in that day when my people Israel dwell safely, aren't you going to know that? (Of course you are, because you're their iniquity.)

Eze 38:15 You'll come from the place out of the north parts (Babylon), you, and many people with you. Everyone's riding on horses, a great company, a mighty army. (Remember the four horses of the apocalypse... because you don't know any better.)

Eze 38:16 You'll come up against my people, as a cloud to cover the land, and it shall be in the latter days I am going to bring you against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I will be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes.

Eze 38:17 Thus saith the Lord Jehovah, you are he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, ...

Who? Iniquity, rebellion, and sin. That is who Gog is. It's being led by Azazel. It needs to be dealt with.

Eze 38:18 It'll come to pass at that time, Gog will come against the land of Israel, saith Lord Jehovah, that my fury (fury against iniquity) will come up in my face.

Eze 38:19 For in my jealousy, in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there is going to be a great shaking in the land of Israel.

These people have been raised from the dead, and they are going to be taught the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. For some of them, they are going to learn about Messiah for the first time and what it actually meant, what he actually did. Look at all the people in the Old Testament. Look at all the people in the faith chapter who are not being made complete without us (Heb 11:40). They've got to be told the truth.

Eze 38:20 So that the fish of the sea, the fowls of heaven, the beasts of the field, the creeping things that creep upon the earth, all the men that are upon the face (or the person) of the earth, will shake at my presence. The mountains (the doctrines of Gog and Magog) will be thrown down, and the steep places will fall, and every wall, their fake walls of salvation, are going to fall to the ground.

Remember the walls of Jericho. Jericho is the city of the moon. The moon's the book. The walls around Jericho were a symbol of the law. When Israel entered the promised land, they came to Jericho. What do they do? They blow the trumpets. Down falls the wall. That salvation they think they have in the law falls down.

Eze 38:21 And I will call for a sword of truth against him throughout all of my doctrines, saith Lord Jehovah: every man's sword will be against his brother (all nations, kindred, tongue, and people).

Eze 38:22 I will plead against him with pestilence, with blood; I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, great hailstone, fire, and brimstone.

Eze 38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord. I am Jehovah.

Revelation 20 again, verse 7:

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are expired, Satan will be loosed out of his prison (when the dead in Christ are raised),

Rev 20:8 And he is going to go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth... who? Gog (doctrines in the land of doctrines), he is going to gather those doctrines (that understanding), to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

The sea, not the stars of heaven, the sand of the sea. One is heavenly, one is earthly.

Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and compassed the camp of the saints about the beloved city (which is New Jerusalem): and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured those false teachings.

Just exactly what you're reading in Ezekiel 38 and 39, too, which I am not getting into in this podcast.

Rev 20:10 The devil (which is the whisperer) that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet already are.

The devil is the whisperer. The lake of fire is in your own heart. Look at Matthew 25:41.

Mat 25:41 And shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, that's been prepared for the devil and his messengers.

That everlasting fire is within every one of us. All of us are able to put things away so that they never come back. If you've ever been hooked on alcohol or cigarettes or whatever... for me, you can put the Trinity in there too. It's all been burned. There is no way you're going to tempt me to smoke a cigarette. You can blow smoke right in my face. It doesn't matter. I've put it away. It's been consumed out of me by God. There is an ability within each one of us to put it away – it is called the lake of fire.

It is the lake of fire. The devil is cast into the lake of fire. In other words, you make a determination: I am never going to listen to it again. The beast and the false prophet are already there. I look at this false prophet as depicted in Revelation 13, the beast that emerges from the earth and begins to make this image of the beast. Well, the beast in that scenario, I believe, is Catholicism, and the image of it is made by Azazel. Azazel, I believe, is the false prophet. The devil is Azazel, which is just a different aspect of it. To me, it's like saying my heart, my mind, my soul.

See all of these things, heart, mind, soul, spirit- all of these things are within you, and they basically mean the same thing, but they're all different. Well, so is the devil, and so is Azazel. Azazel is the reason for all your iniquity. Azazel is why you've rebelled and sinned. Azazel is that false prophet. When you're taught these truths, you put that away so that it is consumed. There is still Gog and Magog to deal with because those things have been planted in your thinking. Even people raised from the dead still need to deal with iniquity. Gog and Magog, the land of doctrines... Meshech and Tubal, take away that seed and pull them back into the apostasy.

The people raised from the dead will be corrected. They will be made right before God. They had an open heart when they died, and they still have an open heart when they're raised. They dwell safely in a land of unwalled villages, but they still have questions that need to be answered. They still have questions about their salvation, questions about God, and questions about this Messiah. All that needs to be answered, it all needs to fit in place, and it all will be as they find the salvation of Christ.

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, the truths that you are giving us are mind-blowing, and we worship you and thank you for that. May you bless this podcast and bless those who hear it. In Jesus' name. Amen.