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Episode 44 - Revelation 14: The Day and Hour

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When the harvest is ripe, immediately He puts in the sickle.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi, this is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, exploring the deep things of God in the book of Revelation. Last podcast, I began a discussion about the resurrection of the church, and we're going to continue that today. I think this is something that there are a lot of different aspects of it that we have yet to explore. I pray that as you listen to this study, you feel compelled to get into the Bible and look up these things and get a deep understanding of what we're talking about. I want to begin this in the Gospel of Mark, turning to Mark 4. Let's start at verse 26.

Mrk 4:26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

We know that the seed is the word of God. The ground is the mind.

Mrk 4:27 And he should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he doesn't know how that happens.

Mrk 4:28 For the earth will bring forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

Mrk 4:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Well, that ties into Revelation chapter 14, because in Revelation 14, we have in verse 14 the Son of man having a sharp sickle in his hand. This is significant because we know from our past podcast, our past discussions, that it is the Son of man or the Son of God who raises the dead. Jesus said this concerning himself. I want to read in John chapter 5, starting at verse 19.

Jhn 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things soever he does, these also do the Son likewise.

Jhn 5:20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that he himself does: and he will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

Jhn 5:21 For as the Father raises up the dead, and quickens them; even so the Son quickens whom he will.

Jhn 5:22 For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment (all determinations) unto the Son:

Jhn 5:23 So that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which sent him.

Jhn 5:24 Verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me (the Father), has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life.

Jhn 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and right now it is, when the dead (those people who are spiritually dead but literally living), they will hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

It's interesting that he would say "the Son of God" because it isn't like you hear his voice, which you don't know, "Well, who is that?" See, they hear the voice of the Son of God. They know, they believe it's the Son of God, and they will come alive. They're spiritually dead, but hearing the voice of the Son of God, they will come alive.

Jhn 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself; so has he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Jhn 5:27 And he has given him authority to execute the decision, because he is the Son of man.

Jhn 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, (Who? The Son of God.)

Jhn 5:29 And they shall come forth (these people are literally, physically dead); they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation.

Jhn 5:30 I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment (my decisions) are righteous (I'm innocent); because I'm not seeking my own will. I'm seeking the will of the Father who sent me.

So bringing this over to Revelation 14, verse 14,

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

This term, "Son of man," is used two times in the book of Revelation, and this is the last time. The first time is chapter 1, verse 13. But remember what we just read in John 5, that he has the authority to execute the decision made because he's the Son of man. They will hear the voice of the Son of God, but it's the Son of man who has the authority to execute the decision.

He has on his head a golden crown, which I know it means a lot of things. The first thing I think of is a king. The second thing I think of is a crown gained by resisting evil, and gold is faith.

In his hand is the sharp sickle, and that's what we were looking for. The one with the sharp sickle is the one who has the authority to reap, and we know the Son of God is the one who raises the dead, and the Son of man is the one who executes the resurrection, as we see in Revelation 14:14. So that brings us to Revelation 14, verse 15.

Rev 14:15 And another messenger came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in your sickle, and reap: for the time is come for you to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

This is extremely interesting. This is a message from another angel, another messenger. What I want to do is hold your place here in Revelation 14:15 and turn to Matthew chapter 24, and I want to read verse 36.

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Revelation 14 is a message from the Father to the Son, and it's interesting that we don't know the day or the hour of the second coming or of the resurrection, but right here is a

picture of it. This is the day and the hour. It is the Father who tells the Son to thrust in your sickle and reap, for the time has come. The harvest of the earth is ripe. He is the only one who knows when that is.

So, it's obvious that this is a message from the Father to the Son. We can get deeper into this by looking at 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. Now remember, we're talking about the resurrection, Christ is revealed, and the Father tells him it's now time to reap. This is the time. So in 2 Thessalonians, this is what Paul tells us, starting at verse 6.

2Th 1:6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense affliction to the people who trouble you (who are afflicting you);

2Th 1:7 And to you who are being afflicted rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

Let me just say, "the mighty angels," these are messengers of his ability. See, a mighty angel, that's one way to put it. But these are messages of his ability, the messengers who carry the message of his ability. That is the Gospel.

Remember that the wicked will have a form of God but deny the ability. Well, the message we give is that God has the ability to forgive you without a human sacrifice. He has the ability to place in your mind the Holy Spirit, which will give you the ability to walk in love. So he will be revealed with the messengers of his abilities. I love that.

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, ...

Now, I want to explain this because, see, God is love. He doesn't make a record. He is just. He won't condemn people for being blind or crippled. But the way this verse is written and the way it has come across to me, like, Jesus is going to cause this fire, and he's going to take vengeance on people that don't know God.

Well, that isn't what this means at all. Christ will be revealed, or you could say the resurrection will happen. In flaming fire, man will cause this fire. The fire is a fire of vengeance. It's man taking vengeance on other men. The people who are going to be hurt by this fire are the ones who don't know God, the people who did not obey the gospel when the trumpets were sounded. They're not being punished because they didn't believe the gospel. It's happening to them. The destruction is happening to them because they're not part of the family of Christ.

It's at this point that the Son of man or the Son of God, his voice will be heard. The Son of man has the authority to execute this judgment, and he will raise his family. He will

gather together in one all things that are in Christ (Eph 1:10). The people who are not in Christ, according to verse 9,

2Th 1:9 ... Will be punished with everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of his strength, of his power;

See, that is the punishment. The punishment is to never be with God, to never be with Christ. It's everlasting. They will never be with him. They are away from the presence of the Lord. When this happens, 2 Thessalonians 1:10,

2Th 1:10 Christ will come to be glorified in the ones who did believe it, and to be admired in all those who believe. (Why did they believe?) (because our testimony among you was believed) ...

2Th 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith in abilities.

See, you've got to understand, we have been given truth. That truth is an explanation of the cross. The explanation of the cross is the iniquity of humanity and how to overcome it. Understanding that gives you the ability to put it away. *So the work of faith in abilities.*

2Th 1:11 We pray that God would count you worthy and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and fulfill the things you have been taught in his abilities.

2Th 1:12 So that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you, and you would be in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So look again. You're in 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. Again, I want to read verse 7.

2Th 1:7 And you people who are being afflicted (at this time, at the end of the world, that's what it's going to be like)... For you who are being afflicted rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with messengers of his ability

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire...

There is going to come a message to the Son of God, and that message is going to come from his Father. That message is going to be, "Thrust in your sickle and reap." The time has come for you to reap, for the harvest of the earth is now ripe in flaming fire. The fire is taking vengeance on the people who resisted the gospel, the gospel being preached by those who possess the Holy Spirit, those who can bear witness to the ability God has given them... the abilities, the messengers of his abilities.

We need to be doing that right now. You need to be a messenger of the ability that God has given you to put away anger, jealousy, wrath, whatever is happening to you. And put away your pride and be willing to say God has the ability to heal my relationship with my daughter, my brother, my parents, my husband, my wife, whatever it is.

Be vulnerable before the church. You are a messenger of God's abilities. It is at this given point, what you're reading in 2 Thessalonians is the day and the hour. Revelation 14, the Son of man has the sickle. The Father says, *"This is it. This is the time for you to do this."* That is exciting to me. It's thrilling to me.

I want to add to this, Isaiah chapter 26, and this may be confusing to some. I don't know that I have a lot of time to get into all of this, but I'm going to go ahead and share some of what the Lord is helping me understand. Isaiah 26, verse 12,

Isa 26:12 Jehovah, you will ordain peace for us: for you also have wrought all our works in us. (Eph 2:10)

Isa 26:13 O Jehovah our God, other lords beside you have had dominion over us (Rom 6:14): but by you only will we make mention of your name.

Isa 26:14 They are dead (that have dominion over us) ... They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore you have visited and destroyed them, and you made all their memory to perish.

I would put right there Psalm 118, starting at verse 10.

Psa 118:10 All nations (this is inward) compassed me about (these were the enemies): but in the name of Jehovah will I destroy them. (Well, that word "destroy" is "circumcise." I'll circumcise them.)

Psa 118:11 They compassed me about; they compassed me about: but in the name of Jehovah I will circumcise them.

Psa 118:12 They compassed me about like bees: they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of Jehovah I will circumcise them.

Well, you tie that in to Colossians 2:9-12.

Col 2:9 For in Christ dwells all the fulness of divinity bodily.

Col 2:10 And you are complete in Christ. He is the head of all principality and authority.

Col 2:11 In Christ you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands (it's made with words), it puts off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ. (All the nations are circumcised.)

Col 2:12 Buried with him in immersion, wherein you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised him from the dead.

Isa 26:13 ... Other lords have had dominion over us ...

Isa 26:14 All that have dominion over me are dead, they shall not live, they're deceased, they shall not rise: therefore you have visited and destroyed all of those nations, all of those things that have dominion over me. You've made all their memory to perish.

Isa 26:15 You have increased the nation, O Jehovah, you have increased the nation: you're glorified: and you have removed it far to the ends of the earth.

Isa 26:16 Jehovah, in trouble the wicked visited you, they poured out a prayer when your chastening was upon them.

Isa 26:17 Like as a woman that's with child, that draws near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and cries out in her pain; so have we been in your sight ...

What do you mean? Well, you've been giving the message, and if you'll remember, Revelation chapter 12, the woman clothed with the sun is struggling to help another person bring forth the man child. She is in the pain of delivering, and Paul says, Galatians 4:19,

Gal 4:19 ... I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

What you're reading in Isaiah 26, verse 17, *Like as a woman with child, it draws near the time of her delivery...* see, you're giving the message to help form Christ in another person. That happens after Revelation 11, when the 7,000 names of men die. They give their heart to the Lord. Remember the truth of the two witnesses. The Spirit of God enters into that truth, and they ascend into the heavens, into God's understanding, and 7,000 names of men die. So Isaiah 26:17,

Isa 26:17 Like as a woman with child, that draws near the time of her delivery (in giving the message), is in pain and cries out in her pain, so have we been in your sight.

Isa 26:18 We have been with child, we have been in pain (trying to teach the truth to Jacob), we have as it were brought forth wind...

King James put "wind." That's the word "spirit." Now, if you say wind, it makes it sound like we brought forth nothing. We didn't help anybody. But that isn't the case because you see that they do have 7,000 names of men die. Enter chapter 12 of Revelation, and they are trying to teach them about the cross so they can receive the Holy Spirit and be free from iniquity.

Isa 26:18 We've been with child, we've been in pain. We have, as it were, brought forth spirit. (That word is "spirit," Strongs [7307]. We have brought forth truth.) We have not wrought deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the sea fallen.

See, the 7,000 who get it ascend into the heavens in God's understanding, and what you're seeing at the end of the world, the inhabitants of the earth and sea reject the truth. We brought forth truth, but we didn't have deliverance in the earth and sea. Then the answer from Christ,

Isa 26:19 Your dead (those 7,000 names of men), they're going to live, with my dead body, they'll arise ...

That is not the resurrection of the dead. That is the church uniting with Christ in his death and finding and possessing the Holy Spirit.

Isa 26:19 Your dead shall live. Together with my dead body shall they arise... (that, when he arose, we arose)

There's nothing literal about what you're reading. This is one of the verses that the apostles were able to take and say, *"Look. What happened to him on the cross happened to us. You're going to be raised. They'll be raised with me. With my dead body, they'll be raised."* Then he says,

Isa 26:19 ... Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust...

Well, wait a minute. I did a study called "Asleep in the Dust," and when you look at what is asleep in the dust, it's the truth. The wheat and the tares... the wheat have to be separated from the tares. The wheat, these are the children of the kingdom, the thoughts, the truths.

So when he says "awake and sing," remember Revelation 14:3, the only ones who can learn the song of the harpers are the 144,000, the redeemed truth. So "awake and sing" is directed to the truth.

Isa 26:19 ... Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust (your thoughts that need to be redeemed): for your dew (that water, distilled water that covers the grass), your dew is as the dew of light, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

That's the resurrection. See, we have been with child. We've been working with people. We've brought forth the truth. Now the people on the earth and sea weren't listening to

us, but there were 7,000 who the Spirit of God entered into that truth in their heart, and they understood that they are to love God and love their neighbor as themselves.

So Christ's message to you is that these people are going to go on to perfection. They will receive the Holy Spirit because their dead body, they are going to rise with my dead body. That's Romans 6. They're going to get it, and all of those thoughts that are asleep in the dust are going to wake up, and they're going to sing the song. Only the 144,000 can sing the song because your dew is the dew of light.

When that happens, the earth is going to cast out the dead. There will be a resurrection. You're talking about the end of the world.

Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter into the chambers (of your mind-Proverbs 18:8, 20:27, 30) ... Come, my people, enter into the chambers of your mind and shut the gates ...

The gates, to me, point to the scripture. The Jews, Israel, the children of Israel, a name of each one is at each gate, twelve gates into the holy city. It's the scriptures. It's the Bible.

Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter into the chamber (of your mind) and shut the gates. Hide yourself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. (What indignation? Zephaniah 3:8. I would also put Romans 2:8. There is an indignation coming.)

Isa 26:21 For, behold, Jehovah is coming out of his place to visit the inhabitants of the earth because of their iniquity: the earth will disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Again, that's the resurrection. What we're reading in Isaiah 26 is like summing up Revelation 11 and 12. We see in Revelation 14:16 the first resurrection. Remember, there will be two: the righteous and then the wicked.

Father, thank you for loving us, giving us understanding, and teaching us to be faithful in Jesus' name. Amen.