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## **Episode 109 - The Tree and the Truth: How God Creates a New Creation**

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Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries reflects on a Tucker Carlson interview with chemist James Tour and uses the scientist's wonder at a tree to explore biblical themes of creation, salvation, and the ongoing work of God in believers. The episode contrasts the literal marvel of physical creation with the deeper, spiritual creation God is forming in the church.

Stanley explains that all things were created through Christ and develops the idea that God's creative work continues as believers are formed into the image of Jesus. He emphasizes the "water of the word" — the Word of God explained by the Holy Spirit — as the active force that immerses us into Christ, sanctifies, and makes us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 5; Romans 6; Galatians 3).

Using the tree image from Psalms 1 and the Isaiah passages, Stanley shows how meditation on Scripture and receiving the Spirit produce spiritual fruit, peace, and assurance. He also explores biblical symbols such as Zion as the white horse, and the ass Jesus rode into Jerusalem, to illustrate different responses to God's work and understanding of Christ's death and exaltation.

The episode calls listeners to value the creative power of the Bible when understood through the Holy Spirit, to be immersed into the truth of Christ's death and resurrection, and to grow into a steadfast, fruitful life as trees planted by rivers of living water — ultimately being formed into the image of Jesus and the glory of God.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, exploring the deep things of God in the Book of Revelation. Recently, I saw a Tucker Carlson interview of an organic chemist, a biologist. His name is James Tour. This interview truly was a gift from God. The man is Jewish. He was converted to Christianity at the age of ten, and as he speaks concerning evolution and creation, there's an excitement that he exudes. It's so inspiring to see his love for God, his respect for God. As a scientist, he has been more convinced that there is a God.

I wish everybody could hear his interview. It truly is a gift; God has given us a gift in this. In the interview, at one point, he taps on the wooden table in front of him. He taps on that table, and starts talking about wood, and the makeup of wood – put it under a microscope, what are you going to find? He is just amazed as these words flow from him. He is just amazed at wood, at a tree. He starts talking about the makeup of it. He says, "I understand this. A tree, how did God do this?" He just goes on, "How did God... how is he able to do this?" He says, "You could take a tree, as hard as this is, you can run a car into it, but it still remains the same. It's unmoved. How did God ever do that?"

So, discussing the makeup of a tree, I wish I had been there. I would give anything to sit and talk to James Tour because I would remind him that, as you are amazed at this tree, according to the Word of God, everything you see is temporary. It's only temporary. As I consider God creating a tree, a flower... anything, water, dirt, a rock – as God creates these things, did he do that just in a second? I know that as people read Genesis chapter 1, they read it literally, and so they will see that God created everything in six days. But I have learned that creation week is spiritual, and you're seeing the creation of the church.

Each day in creation is a step a person goes through unto perfection. But looking at a literal tree, it's amazing how God did that. Did he take much time doing that? Or did he just say, "Let there be a tree"? Because everything God created, according to Ephesians 3:9, *God created everything through Jesus Christ*, and bear with me, Jesus Christ did not exist at creation. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and he became the Christ at his baptism. He became the author of eternal salvation so therefore, through his suffering, he was made perfect. So he was the perfect man.

God created all things through the perfect man, who didn't even exist yet. But God knew what it was that would make him perfect. All of creation, all of the universe, is an outward picture of the inward truth of a perfect man. So I said in one of my past studies, if you take a piece of paper, put a mark on it for God, a mark on it for Jesus, and a mark on it for what was created through Jesus – the universe. But then, put that universe inside the mind of the human agent.

So, God is creating a perfect man through the work of Jesus Christ, and it's taking him your lifetime. To make a literal tree, I agree, it's amazing to see what God has literally created. But you've got to understand, the creation that he's making in us is unfathomable. Is he creating in us? Can I say that? 2 Corinthians 5:17.

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation...

You're a new creation. How is he doing that? Ephesians 5, I want to start reading at verse 25.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water in the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Christ gave himself on the cross that he might sanctify and cleanse those who would hear it, those who would believe, by the washing of water in the word (Eph 5:26). The word of God, *If anybody be in Christ, he is a new creation*. It is the word of God, the

water of the word that is creating in us the image of Jesus Christ, who is in the image of God.

Therefore, if you look at your Bible, just run your fingers over those pages. There is creative power in this book. This book contains the creative power of God to make us in his image. The book is filled with words; if understood through the Holy Spirit, it will create in you the image of the invisible God.

Think about it. It seems funny to me that the Bible's all over the place, but nobody understands the power of it. They know there's power in it, but no one really understands the power of it. There really is no power in it unless God explains it to you. God has to give us the understanding for it to work in our lives. God has to give us that understanding. It's in the water of the word.

Now, I just read 2 Corinthians 5:17, *If any man be in Christ*. This is something I've talked about many times. But I want to carry this truth... This is so important. This is essential that we understand this.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have sunk into Christ.

King James put "put on." It really literally means "to sink into him." Now, do you think that means that you say, "I believe in Jesus, that he died for my sins," and somebody takes you to a tank of water, and they dunk you under the water, and they say, "In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit" ... do you think that's what that means?

Well, baptize is to immerse. We just saw in Ephesians 5, Jesus uses the water of the word. So if somebody can immerse you into Jesus, then you sink into Jesus. Where he says here in Galatians 3:28,

Gal 3:28 In this place, there's not Jew or Greek. There isn't bond or free. There isn't male or female. You're all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 It makes you Abraham's seed...

Remember, the promise was given to Abraham and his seed. That seed was Christ. That seed is singular, not plural. So you sink into him, and that promise given to Abraham and his seed becomes your promise.

What does it mean to be baptized into Christ? You need to follow this up with Romans 6. How many times have we read this? Again, it is essential that this really sink in.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in the sin? Shall we continue in iniquity that grace may abound?

Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we that are dead to iniquity live any longer in it?

Iniquity is your twisted thinking. It's the thought you have before you sin.

Rom 6:3 Know ye not that so many of us as are immersed into Jesus, are immersed into his death.

Now remember, 2 Corinthians 5, *if any man be in Christ, you're a new creation*. To be in Christ, you're baptized into Christ, Galatians 3. Romans 6, *if you're baptized into Christ, you have been baptized into his death by the water of the word*, meaning you have been taught about the death of Christ, and you have believed it. You are immersed in that water, in that truth of the death.

Rom 6:4 Therefore, we are buried with him through immersion into death... (Immersion into death is the water of the word. You are immersed through the immersion into death.) That like as Christ was raised from the dead (out of the dead) by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (like him being raised from the dead).

Rom 6:5 If we have been planted together (which is united), if we have been planted in the similitude of his death, we're also going to be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Now, again, look at verse 4: We are buried with him ... the burial. Again, literal baptism, to dunk somebody under the water, is an outward picture of an inward truth. When you dunk them under the water, they're submerged in the water. They're immersed in this water. They're surrounded by water. They're under the water. That water is the burial. You're buried in it.

Eph 6:4 Therefore, we are buried with him through immersion into death...

The water you're buried in is not just simply a belief that he died. It's an explanation of that death. It's an explanation of what happened on the cross, which we've talked about many times. So you're buried in that immersion, in that explanation of the death.

Eph 6:4 ... as Christ was raised out of the dead by the glory of the Father, so should we walk in newness of life.

Eph 6:5 If you have been planted in the similitude of his death...

*If you have been united...* if I say "united," that's a thing that happens in your mind. I can take this word "planted" and say that's an outward picture. But the word is, *if you have been united together in the similitude of his death...* Can you unite with him in his death?

If you can, then you see what he portrays on the cross as your own soul, affected by iniquity, and the sinner's prayer is what he said on the cross: "I feel forsaken. I'm still thirsting for your love and your truth. It's finished for me to continue to try to save myself and do what I think I need to do to be saved. That's finished. Into your hands, I commend my spirit."

So to be immersed into his death, that is the burial. It's interesting, the King James would put the word "planted" here, because this takes us back to Psalms chapter 1. Let's read this.

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful,

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah. And in his law does he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water...

Now, remember how James Tour was amazed at that tree. That tree is simply an outward picture of what God is creating in those who will believe him. If you look at this word "tree," it comes from the same word as the word "counsel" in verse 1. A counselor and a tree are the same Hebrew word. *You're going to be like a tree planted by the rivers of*

*water*. How does he do this? By the water of the word. He's going to make you a new creation by the water of the word. The words are going to be spoken to you and immerse you, bury you into the death of Christ, creating in you, as James Tour has pointed out, one of the most marvelous things... a tree.

"Look at this tree." He taps the table. "How did God do this?" God is creating this in you and me by using words... and if you delight in the law of Jehovah, let me remind you of Proverbs 6. The commandment is from the Father, but the law is of the mother. The mother is the Holy Spirit. This is what we have access to through the immersion into the death of the cross. It is putting within you the Holy Spirit – what if I just said the creative power of God?

When I began to see this, it was like the power that's in this book, if you let God explain it to you... the power that's in this! And we throw it on the shelf. We don't have time for it. We have to force ourselves sometimes to sit down and study it. Not me, brother. I'm telling you right now, the creative power of God is here, and God has answered prayers for me, which in the next podcast we're going to get into, just amazing things. But I want you to understand. The creative power of God is in the water of his word, but it's *in the spirit of it*. Life is in the spirit of His Word, as we understand it through the Holy Spirit.

Psa 1:2 If you meditate, if you delight in the law or the understanding of the Holy Spirit,  
Psa 1:3 You're going to be like a tree planted by the rivers of water. (See, get this.) That brings forth his fruit in his season. His leaf also shall not wither, whatsoever he does shall prosper.

It's just interesting that this man being interviewed, keyed on a tree, and the fact that it's just an amazing creation when you begin to look at it. He says, "I've looked at this." He says, "I know what's in there. But how did he do this? How did he create this?" Well, again, it's an outward picture of the inward truth of what he's doing with his church. You could marvel over that tree all that you want, but the truth of the matter is, it's only temporary.

The true marvel is what he's working in his church. That is the marvel. It is marvelous to see what he's doing. Now, what I want to do is turn to Isaiah 32, starting at verse 13.

Isa 32:13 Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city.

Isa 32:14 Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks;

Isa 32:15 Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high... (What? An explanation of the death), and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest (of trees).

Isa 32:16 Then judgment (or God's decisions of life) shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness (which is actions of love) will remain in that fruitful field.

Now here's a verse we all need to get down, verse 17.

Isa 32:17 The work of actions of love shall be peace. The effect of actions of love are quietness and assurance forever.

Can you be immersed into his death, because when the spirit is poured out on you, the work of the actions of love is going to create in you peace, and the effect of those actions of love is quietness and assurance.

Isa 32:18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Isa 32:19 When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be humbled and subdued.

Isa 32:20 Blessed are you that sow beside all waters, that sends forth from there the feet of the ox and the ass.

Now again, "ass" was just mentioned in verse 14- wild asses. They don't have the Spirit yet. The ox and the ass... an ox is always a symbol of the priesthood. But what about the ass? Well, there's something I want you to see so that we can make this distinction, we can see the contrast. Zechariah 10:3, he says,

Zec 10:3 My anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I visited the goats, for Jehovah of hosts has visited his flock the house of Judah. He has made them as his goodly horse in battle.

Now, what I want you to see is Revelation 19, verse 11.

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse. (That white horse is Zion. The horse is Zion.) The rider of Zion is called Faithful and True. Acts of love he does, and he judges and makes war.

Jesus is riding the horse. Jesus is in control. Zion is the horse. And if you look, verse 14,

Rev 19:14 The armies which were in the heavens followed him on white horses...

White horses, it's the church. The armies of God, the servants of God, are the redeemed truth. You could say it's the 144,000. It's the truth that's redeemed, being carried by Zion.

Remember Psalm 32? Look at Psalm 32:8.

Psa 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you shall go, I'll guide you with my eye (my understanding. What is that? It's the Holy Spirit. I'll guide you with my eye).

Psa 32:9 Be ye not as the horse, or the mule, which has no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle (or the law), lest they fight against you.

The horse is Zion. The white horse in Revelation 19 is the church. Now, this opens doors to go even deeper, which I'm not doing today. But it's just like James Tour said. He said, "When I study a tree, when I study anything, I find a door, I open it, and suddenly it opens a thousand more doors." He says, "You never get to the end of it. God is brilliant. God is... the wisdom that God has! The intellect that he has!"

As I listened to that interview, I realized, "Good night, I'm experiencing this with the Bible. What this man is saying, what he is literally experiencing... I'm experiencing it with the Bible." As I study more, it just continues to open more doors. Well, one more door it has opened, if you go back to Zechariah 10, verse 3 again,

Zec 3:10 ... Zion is as the goodly horse ... (the house of Judah, which is Zion – Psa 78:68).

There, as the goodly horse in battle. But back up, Zachariah 9:9.

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming unto you. He is just, having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, a colt, the foal of an ass.

Which we just saw are people who don't have the spirit. Why did Jesus decide to ride an ass into Jerusalem? I want you to turn to the Gospel of John, chapter 12, starting at verse 12.

Jhn 12:12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem (what Jerusalem? New Jerusalem? No, old Jerusalem).

Jhn 12:13 Took branches of palm trees, and they went forth to meet him, and they cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the name of the Lord.

What was the sign that they put above Jesus' head on that cross?

Jhn 12:14 And Jesus, when he found a young ass, he sat on it; as it is written,

Jhn 12:15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, your King is coming sitting on an ass's colt.

Why would he do that?

Jhn 12:16 These things understood not his disciples at first: but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered the things that were written of him, they had done these things unto him.

Jhn 2:17 The people, therefore, that were with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave and raised him from the dead, bare record.

Jhn 2:18 For this cause the people also met him, for they heard that he had done this miracle.

Now, I'm not going to read all of this. I want you to just get down to verse 31, John 12:31.

Jhn 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Jhn 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Jhn 12:33 This is said signifying what death he should die.

Jhn 12:34 The people answered him, and they said, We have heard out of the law that Christ remains for ever: and how sayest thou then, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

Jhn 12:35 Jesus said, Just a little while is the light with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness comes upon you: for he that walks in darkness knows not where he goes.

Jhn 12:36 While you have light, believe in that light, that you may be the children of light. These things spoke Jesus, and departed, and he hid himself from them.

Jhn 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, they didn't believe on him:

Who is this Son of man? They had no idea what was happening. In one instance, *"Hosanna, behold the Son of David, the Son of man, here he comes."* But they had no understanding of his death.

You see, when he rode into Jerusalem, they were carrying him in their mind. He was on an ass. For him to ride in there on that ass was a picture of them carrying him... Just praising God for it, not having any idea of what any of it even meant. And the very people who were shouting for joy are the very people who cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him."

How is it any different today in the churches? In the universal church, they're asses. An ass is stubborn, as we saw in Isaiah 32. They do not possess the Spirit. They are wild asses, and Jesus understood this truth.

I think these are things that we all need to contemplate; we all need to consider what God is doing and how he's opening up the scripture. What is he doing with you? By means of the Spirit, by means of the water of the word, you are immersed and possess the Holy Spirit.

You sink into him. He is raised from the dead. You marry him as Jerusalem, New Jerusalem, the mother of us all, marries her children... (Isa 62:4-6) and he forms in you that wonderful miracle of a tree, a forest of trees, so that "when a car hits that tree," he says, "it remains unchanged."

It remains strong, a counsellor of God, filled with the Holy Spirit of God, because you have meditated in the law of God, and you are as a tree planted by the rivers of living water. God loves us. He's making us his church, making us in the image of Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, may you be forever glorified. May we hear you, understand you, love each other, and grow in your likeness. And I pray always in Jesus' name. Amen.