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Episode 94 - The Baptism That Begot Christ: 'This Day I Have Begotten You'

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In this episode, Scott Stanley examines Jesus' baptism as the moment God declares "You are my Son," explaining how that declaration awakens Christ to being born from above and how that same anointing gives believers authority to become children of God.

He walks through passages in John, 1 John, Colossians, and the Old Testament, considers the implications for who truly belongs to God, and emphasizes the central importance of recognizing Jesus as the only begotten Son.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi, this is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, continuing the Revelation podcast, searching the Deep Things of God in the book of Revelation. In our podcast today, I want to examine, again, the baptism of Christ, because that leads to an understanding of what it means to be born from above. When I search the Bible teachers on YouTube and elsewhere, I don't hear anyone addressing this, and they don't seem to grasp the fact

that Jesus emptied himself and became a man, and at his baptism, God speaks to him and says, "You're my Son," waking him up to that truth.

But more than that, reading it from Psalms 2, the Father says, "*I've anointed my king upon my holy hill of Zion,*" and then Jesus says, "*Well, I'll declare that decree. I'll declare the anointing. What did he say to me that made me the Christ? He said, 'You're my Son.'*" But it's the second part, "*This day have I begotten you,*" ... being begotten at his baptism, that is a born-again experience.

God was not making him his Son at that given moment. He was declaring "*You are my Son,*" and that waking up that Christ had, that he was born from above, is what he gave to Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Nicodemus, "*We know you're a teacher, come from God.*" Jesus, "*Well, you need to be born from above, too. You need to be told and understand I'm the Son of God. I'm not just a teacher, come from God, I'm the Son of God.*"

I have taught this before, and I want to delve a little deeper into it, because when God said, "*You are my Son,*" He was also saying, "*I am your Father.*" The question that comes to me... and I'm saying this because I've had people tell me, "We are all children of God. All of us are children of God. The whole world, we're all children of God." When I'm told that, I now have a different perspective on it. Back when I first heard it, I didn't have anything to say about it.

But what does it mean, "we're all children of God"? Well, if that is true, if that be the truth, then why in the world did John say in the Gospel of John, chapter 1, I want to start reading at, verse 11,

Jhn 1:11 He came unto his own, his own received him not.

Jhn 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he authority to become the children of God...

If we're all already children of God, why do you need Jesus to give you the authority to say you're a child of God, because I know not everybody believes in Jesus, as we saw in 1 John? I'm just going to go ahead and read this, 1 John 2:20.

1Jn 2:20 You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

1Jn 2:21 I have not written unto you because you don't know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Now, the anointing he's given you is the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, exactly like he did to Jesus, *"I've anointed my king, you're my Son."* Without God telling you that, that's what is being addressed when he says that *"You're born not of blood nor the will of flesh or the will of man but God"* (Jhn 1:13). God gives you that born-again experience of realizing Jesus is his Son. Without God doing that, you are not born from above. So carrying that, again, 1 John 2:20,

1Jn 2:20 You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

1Jn 2:21 I have not written unto you because you don't know the truth, but you do know it. (So he is talking about knowing Jesus is the Son of God.)

1Jn 2:22 Who's a liar, but he that denies Jesus is the Christ? (Like the Jews) But he's antichrist, that denies Father and Son.

1Jn 2:23 Whosoever denies the Son, the same doesn't have the Father.

Now stop right there. If you deny the Son, see, Jesus gives you the authority to be called a child of God. Why? Because that was the price God was willing to pay to redeem us from iniquity. Hence, he loves you just as much. So if you deny the Son, you don't have the Father. So these people are not children of God. They're not children of God if they deny the Son of God... if they're worshiping the Trinity, which doesn't exist, and they have completely changed Jesus' place in the Godhead.

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, and he portrayed on the cross, God's understanding of humanity. In so doing, he is the personification of that portrayal, of that truth. He is the Holy Spirit. So it's the Son of God that trinitarians have attacked and dissembled the truth and created something that doesn't even exist. In so doing, they are not children of God.

Now that's a heavy statement because we've learned this truth about there's no such thing as "praying the prayer" and "you're saved" ... all the stuff that I was raised with, being brought up in the Baptist church, then all the denominational groups I was

associated with after. None of these people were children of God, because they denied the Son of God. I'm not making this up. I mean, this literally is what the Bible says.

So God speaking to you, anointing you with the truth that Jesus is his Son, his only begotten Son, and you believe that, you are now born from above. You've been given life from God, and you are now his child if you have believed that. You are now in his family. Remember in the Gospel of John chapter 14, Jesus says, starting in verse 1,

Jhn 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, well, believe also in me.

Jhn 14:2 In my Father's house... (Now, does he mean a literal physical house? No. The house of God is the family of God.) In my Father's family, there are many places for you to abide; there are many places for you to remain in love (because that's what "abide" means, you remain in love, 1Jn 2:24, 3:11). There are many places for you. If that wasn't so, I would have told you. Well, I'm going to go prepare a place for you to abide.

That's what he did. He went to the cross, and dying on that cross, he portrayed the Holy Spirit. He helped you understand that God has never made a record. He has never condemned you, and he wants you to live that way, too: Do not condemn others. He says in verse 3,

Jhn 14:3 If I go and prepare a place, I'm going to come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also (and that "where I am" is in his understanding).

Yeah, I believe he wants us to live with him. I'm not saying that. What's more important is that you think the way he thinks. *"Where I am in my understanding, where I am, there you may be, too."*

So it's interesting that God told him, *"You are my Son,"* waking him up to that fact, because he had emptied himself and become a man. So, God anoints him with that truth. Then later on, Paul writes, *"He is the author of our faith. He is the first one to believe God"* (Heb 12:2). To believe God what? He is the first one to know who the Son of God is. It was him. So, he was the first one to know that. When he understood and believed that, he was born from above. So again, this is what Paul said in Colossians 1:18.

Col 1:18 He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the spiritually dead...

He is the firstborn, the first one to have a born-again experience. He is the firstborn from the dead. That makes so much more sense to me that when God said, "*You're my Son this day, I've begotten you,*" well, that hadn't happened to anybody before. He is the first one that that happened to. So, God, being the one who anointed us, we see this in James chapter 1. I'm going to start reading at verse 16,

Jam 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Jam 1:17 Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable, neither shadow of turning.

Jam 1:18 Of his own will... (and again, this plays into what you read in the Gospel of John, chapter 1) of his own will, begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

What was that word of truth? That Jesus is his Son! That's the anointing he gave you. This is exactly what he did with Christ. *Of his own free will, he begat Christ with the word of truth.* See, the baptism is huge. To be able to see what it means to be born again is huge, but to be able to understand how Christ gives you the authority to say you're a child of God... and if you don't have the Son, you don't have the Father, you're not his child (1Jn 2:23). I just found all of that interesting.

Here we see that, "*God the Father, of his own will begat he us with the word of truth.*" Well, that's the word of truth, that Jesus is his Son. When you believe that, again, he puts you on the narrow way, and *few there be that will find that* (Mat 7:14). But I got to thinking about the Old Testament, and I want to read some of these verses from the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 32, I want to start reading at verse 4.

Deu 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: all of his ways are judgment: a God of truth, he is without iniquity, just and right is he.

Deu 32:5 They have corrupted themselves. Their spot is not the spot of his children. They are a perverse and crooked generation.

Deu 32:6 Do you thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? Is not he thy father that bought you? and has he not made thee, and established you?

So here, they're referring to God as their Father. Remember, the New Testament explanation of God being your Father is accepting that Jesus is the Son. I want to show you something about that. First, let's turn to Isaiah 64, and just simply read from verse 8.

Isa 64:8 But now, O Jehovah, you are our father. We're the clay, you're the potter. We are the work of your hand.

So again, calling Jehovah or calling the Lord their Father, I just found that interesting. I think that's why people would read these verses and say, "Ah, we're all children of God." But I think that there's more that plays into this, and I'm saying this because of 1 Chronicles 29:10.

1Ch 29:10 Wherefore David blessed Jehovah before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be you, Jehovah, God of Israel our father...

Now, I know the God of Israel is the Son of God. How do I know that? I know the God of Israel is who gave the law on Sinai, and he had to give his life to fulfill it... and I know that's Jesus. Then I began to remember "father" verses, for instance, Isaiah 9:6.

Isa 9:6 Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

For him to be called "*The everlasting Father*," I have tried to understand "how could he be the Father?" I would always turn to Isaiah 22, speaking about Eliakim, and how Eliakim, if you'll read, let me just start at verse 20.

Isa 22:20 It will come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah.

Isa 22:21 I'll clothe him with your robe, and strengthen him with your girdle. I will commit your government into his hand, and he'll be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem...

So I began to realize, well, the king, of course, is the father of the land, and Jesus is the king. I was somehow able to make that connection, but now I'm realizing that Jesus is your father in the sense that through him you're born from above. Now we just read in James where God has given you life. He's begotten you through the word of truth, and it is God who confirms that in your heart when you hear it spoken. But Jesus came declaring himself as the Son of God, and through him you are born from above.

So in that sense, he is your father; he is *The everlasting Father*, because through him you are learning who the Son of God is. That is not far-fetched because, if you look at 1 Corinthians 4:15...

1Co 4:15 Though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers. For in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

So the one who gives you that Godhead truth, the one who speaks that truth to you, and you enter into the Godhead truth, in that sense, that person is your father. God begets you through the word of truth, but he uses messengers to do it. I'm just simply saying that to reject the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, to reject that truth, you cannot, or I should say, you have no authority to say you're a child of God. Remember Romans 8:14, *the sons of God are those who follow the Spirit of God. The sons of God are those who are led by His Spirit.*

Since I'm on this level, I've got to point this out, too, that in 1 Corinthians 12:3, *"No man can say Jesus is the Lord of his life except in the Holy Spirit."* See, these truths are absolute. You cannot say Jesus is the Lord of your life except in the Holy Spirit, and the universal church has the Holy Spirit being a third God. They don't realize it's Jesus himself. So they deny the Son... they're not born from above. They are not children of God, and they cannot say Jesus is the Lord of their lives. Yet they will stand and defend a Trinity God which doesn't even exist, and accuse you, us, of being a cult.

I stand amazed. We truly are living in perilous times, just like Paul said, *Perilous times have come upon us* (2Ti 3:1), and to think you cannot teach the truth without risking your reputation and eventually probably risking your life, because everybody has their own definitions of God and they're taking it from their understanding of the Bible. They're consuming their own flesh.

I just want to say this again. God the Father told us who his Son is. The Son of God has shown us by the work he did, by what he portrayed on the cross, and by the resurrection of the dead... he has shown us who the Son of God is. We have the writings of the apostles and the prophets. Again, when I look at the Old Testament, and I think, well, was God their Father? Would it have been possible to see the truth of Messiah being the Son of God? Would that have even been possible in the Old Testament?

I want you to consider this with me. If you were a Bible student, and I mean a good one in the Old Testament times, and you saw how Messiah would be born in eternity in Micah 5. He'll be born in eternity, and he'll be born in Bethlehem. So you just trace these verses through the Old Testament about your Messiah, and you realize that he is the one who gave the covenant at Sinai. He is the one who institutes the new covenant, and to do that, he's going to have to give his life. By giving his life according to the Psalms, *a body you have prepared me, sacrifice and offering you have not required* (Psa 40:6; Heb 10:5), he's going to replace the sacrificial system.

In fact, the fact that God says *"You're a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek,"* (Psa 110:4) shows God's going to replace the priesthood and if the priesthood is being changed *there is of necessity a change of the law* (Heb 7:12). So all of that is going to change at Messiah and because he's replacing animal sacrifice then we should be able to look at those sacrifices and see Messiah. Now again, what I'm saying to you... Look, I'm the Monday morning quarterback. I can look back and see all of this.

Jesus himself saw these things. Jesus saw this. Did anybody before him see it? I don't think so. But this was how he could know he was going to die, he's going to replace animal sacrifice, and he's going to be raised from the dead. Now, if you're living back then and you see this, you could say, "God is my Father," because he has revealed to you Messiah will die, the animal sacrifices represent him, and he is the Son of God. He was born in eternity past, born in Bethlehem.

I'm just saying that for God to say, "Well, I'm your Father," for anybody to say, "Well, you're our Father," I know God calls those things *which be not as though they were* (Rom 4:17). I know that. But to realize God is your Father, maybe who they're talking about is the God of Israel, because he will be *The everlasting Father*. I know that Jesus, or the God

of Israel, created Israel. I know that he was brought forth in eternity. He could see the invisible God, and he became the head messenger for the invisible God. Through his words and through his teaching, he led and created the children of Israel.

So when they say, "We know you're our father" (Isa 64:8), maybe they were talking about him without realizing that's the Messiah you're talking about. For us today, referring to God as our Father, again, I know he's the Creator, but he is your Father because he gave you life. He gave you a born-again experience by revealing Jesus as His Son. In that sense, he is your father. Again, the Universal Church, if they deny the Son, they don't have the Father.

Well, that is how we have the Father. We acknowledge that Jesus is His Son. So I want to read something. This isn't anything new, but it is new for me. In 1 Thessalonians (we could pick a lot of different places in the New Testament), I'm going to start at 1 Thessalonians 1.

1Th 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. (I could say, from God, the one who gave us a born-again experience.)

1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God, always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

1Th 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, your labor of love, your patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of the God and Father of us;

1Th 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

See, many are called, but few are chosen (Mat 22:14), and those who will enter into the truth that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, God is their Father. *If you don't have the Son, you don't have the Father* (1Jn 2:23). God is your Father, and you are born from above, and you are on the narrow way; you are being prepared for a perfected faith.

From now on, when we read "God our Father," I don't ever want to forget this. Again, God would not be your Father if you did not accept Jesus as his only begotten Son. This is another reason why the most important doctrine in the whole Bible is the fact that

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. That is going to create the controversy. That's going to create the tribulation. That is going to create problems for God's people at the very end because they will stand on that truth and not be moved.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, may we have your help. May we have your presence. May we have your connection to us in every way. May you be glorified in Jesus' name. Amen.