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Episode 86 - Unveiling the Abomination of Desolation

2025-07-09

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In this episode, Scott Stanley delves into the concept of the "abomination of desolation" and its significance in prophecy. He explores its absence in the book of Revelation, while examining its presence in the book of Daniel and the New Testament gospels.

Scott discusses the metaphorical understanding of "daily bread" as it relates to the teachings of Christ and the remembrance of His sacrifice. He challenges traditional interpretations of redemption through the lens of understanding God's love and intention, emphasizing that the cross is meant to transform our perception of God, not to appease divine anger.

By analyzing passages from prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Scott provides insights on spiritual desolation, linking it to a loss of divine understanding and replacing it with confusion and iniquity. This episode encourages listeners to seek true spiritual nourishment and to transform inner turmoil into peace by embracing the true message of the cross.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi. This is Scott Stanley continuing the Revelation podcast. One thing that is in prophecy that you don't really see in the book of Revelation is the words "the abomination of desolation," but once you know what it is, you begin to recognize it. What is the abomination of desolation?

We see it and hear it being used in prophecy studies, prophecy discussions, but I've never heard anybody actually explain what it is. I know that we can see this abomination of desolation in the book of Daniel, in the New Testament in Matthew, in Mark, and Luke... but it's in Daniel, chapter 11, that helps me understand what it is.

Dan 11:31 Arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and they'll take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate.

Now, who is that talking about? What is that talking about? It doesn't matter. What matters is that the abomination that leaves you desolate, that makes desolate, replaces the daily. So if I could understand the daily, it would help me understand the abomination of desolation.

Well, over the years, looking at this daily, several things happened in that sanctuary daily. But I always key on the shewbread and having that bread put in there daily because Jesus speaks of *"give us this day our daily bread."* Now, why would that even fit in here? Because I know that the daily bread Jesus is talking about is the understanding of God as portrayed on the cross. How do I get that?

Because Jesus took the bread. He broke it. He said, *"This is my body, which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me"* (Luk 22:19). We're to have our daily remembrance so that we can die daily and try to walk in harmony with Christ... stay in harmony with the Son of God by eating our daily bread (1Co 15:31). I used to think, "Well, that daily bread has to be the Bible." Again, I've realized it's what the Bible explains about the Son of God's death and how we can unite with him in death.

So if I were to go into any universal church and ask, "Why did Christ die?" I would be told, "He died to pay our sin debt," yet the Bible says, "*He died to redeem us from iniquity... from all iniquity*" (Titus 2:14). So when they take away your daily bread, they will replace it with the abomination that leaves you desolate.

To say that God needed to have a human sacrifice before he could forgive you is heathenism. That is an abomination, and if you believe that, it will leave you desolate inside. There is no redemption in telling somebody Jesus paid your sin debt. The redemption happens when you say, "Well, God is love. Love never made a record of sin." He did not die so God could look at you differently. He died so you could look at God differently. If he died to pay a sin debt, then the sacrifice is for God to accept. If he died to redeem you from iniquity, that sacrifice is from God to you to straighten out your thinking.

It's a completely different thing. It's a full reversal of what people are telling us. Again, the cross is not to appease God's anger. The cross is to remove our anger from us, and if the cross is not understood, then the effect of the cross is nullified. That isn't going to happen to you. That isn't going to happen for you. You can try to be a good guy and not get angry, and that will last, you know, for so long.

But eventually, you're going to begin to realize that you have no power over sin. Well, so now you've got to invent a doctrine. "Well, I'll quit sinning when he gives me a new body." I mean, all these things start coming about. They begin to evolve into Bible doctrines because we don't understand what happened on the cross.

So if my daily bread is an understanding of the body of Christ and I am to eat this bread in remembrance of him on that cross, and pray that God give me my daily bread... so that why? I can die daily, I can take up my cross daily, and follow him. That's what it's about. That's what it's all about. If you're not doing that, your house or your mind is going to be left desolate.

Now, what is desolate? What do we mean by "*your house is left unto you desolate*"? Well, there are several verses we can read about "desolate," and I guess I would like to... I could spend a lot of time on this word, "desolate." Let's look at Jeremiah 7:34, and we'll just kind of start building our understanding here. It says,

Jer 7:34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

So we can see here the desolation. You do not hear the bridegroom. You do not hear the bride. You don't have, you could just say, the joy of the Lord... the land is desolate. Well, I want to compare this with chapter 25 of Jeremiah. I want to start reading at verse 8.

Jer 25:8 Therefore, thus saith Jehovah of hosts; Because you have not heard my words.
Jer 25:9 Behold, I'm going to send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, saith Jehovah, and Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant.

Now, if I'm reading this spiritually, we're talking about the land of Babylon, which means you have confusion about God. The king of Babylon ultimately is yourself, as you rule over this kingdom of understanding you have... but you're confused about God.

Jer 25:9 ... Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants of it, and against all these nations round about, and I'll utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Jer 25:10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, the voice of the bride, the voice of the millstones, and the light of the candlestick.

Now here he's added the millstones and candlestick. When I look at these millstones, that's how they would grind the corn and the wheat. The millstones and stones are concepts. I've always looked at these millstones as the Son of God, Jesus... I should say, the Branch and the Priest, grinding out all the understanding of the doctrines that we have, the food that we eat. But here, you lose the light of the candlestick or the lampstand. We know the lampstand, Jesus said, are the seven churches (Rev 1:20). So look at what he says.

Jer 25:11 This whole land shall be a desolation, an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

The nations are not going to be serving God and being put under your feet. They serve Nebuchadnezzar. So, again, we're still looking at "desolate." There's more. We need to read Jeremiah 32. Again, starting in verse 36, we're talking about the king of Babylon. We're talking about Babylon or confusion about God coming in, and he says, verse 38,

Jer 32:38 They shall be my people. I'll be their God.

So he's talking about turning you away, saving you from the confusion of Babylon. Verse 39.

Jer 32:39 I'll give them one heart, one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them.

Jer 32:40 I'll make an everlasting covenant with them. I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their heart, that they shall not depart from me.

Jer 32:41 I will rejoice over them to do them good. I'll plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart, with my whole soul.

Then look at verse 43.

Jer 32:43 Fields shall be bought in this land, whereof you say, This land is desolate (define it...), it's without man or beast...

That is a desolation. Well, we're in Jeremiah. This will then make more sense to you in Jeremiah 31, looking at verse 27.

Jer 31:27 Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and the seed of beast.

Jer 31:28 And it will come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, break down, throw down, and destroy, and afflict, so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant.

So when he's adding the seed of man and the seed of beast, that is a positive thing. Because if you don't have man or beast, your land is desolate. Well, let's turn to Ezekiel 36. In Ezekiel 36, look at verse 11.

Eze 36:11 I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and I will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and you'll know that I am Jehovah.

So if he's adding men and beasts, then your land is not desolate. It's when you don't have man or beast, your land is desolate. I've thought about this beast because, you know, if you go back, say, the days of Abraham, the more servants you had and the more sheep or cattle or whatever it is, the richer you were considered. I know that today, the riches, the true riches, are in your mind. It's in your understanding.

So if I were to look at grass, green grass grows out of the earth, and the earth is self. Green grass is righteousness, or what you think is righteous... it grows out of the earth. Well, what causes the grass to grow? Water and sunshine, and all of that, come from the heavens. Why do I want grass? Because my cattle feed on grass, and cattle, because they're animals, it has to represent the understanding you're carrying, the thoughts that you have. Your thoughts will feed on righteousness that has grown out of the earth based on the water and sunlight God has given you in your understanding.

Now, there is in Revelation... giving the message of truth will burn all green grass (Rev 8:7). That's because if I were to walk into a universal church and see what they deemed to be righteous... that's growing out of their earth. See, they put two and two together, and they have a form of righteousness, but they don't have any fear of God or understanding.

They may be telling you, "Well, our righteousness says you have to go to church on Saturday. You have to do this. You have to do that. You can't do this or that." You see, their righteousness is growing out of the earth. It's okay if it's accurate. If it isn't accurate, then you're in complete darkness. So, looking at man and beast, this is a positive thing. Well, in Ezekiel 36, I want to read starting at verse 33.

Eze 36:33 Thus saith Lord Jehovah; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquity, I'll also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

Eze 36:34 The desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

Eze 36:35 They shall say, This land that was desolate has become now like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities have become fenced, and inhabited. (Of course, I'm reading this spiritually.)

Eze 36:36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I Jehovah build the ruined places, I plant that that was desolate. I, Jehovah, have spoken it, I will do it.

Eze 36:37 Thus saith the Lord Jehovah; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock (and the word flock is sheep. It isn't just any sheep).

Eze 36:38 It's the holy sheep, the sheep of Jerusalem, during a solemn feast. So shall the waste cities be filled with sheep of men: They shall know that I am Jehovah.

So when he says he's going to increase your land with men, it isn't just any man. It's sheep of men. These sheep are like the sheep offered at solemn feasts in Jerusalem. They're freewill offerings. These are offerings made to God. These sheep represent our understanding, the different things that we carry within ourselves, that we're able to die to self and live in peace. What do I mean? In every one of us are people... we're different people depending on the situation we're in.

I can remember somebody telling a story about being on the highway and somebody making them angry, and they got so angry, they couldn't believe how angry they got. The way they described it is, "You know, I thought I was over that. I thought I'd seen the last of that guy." What guy? "The guy I became when this happened on the highway." How about the guy you become when your doctrines are challenged, the guy you become if somebody flirts with your spouse, the guy you become when somebody starts knocking your children, the guy you become when... whenever.

Well, God is going to take all of those guys and give you sheep of men, people who can die to self and not lose their composure and lose their standing with God and lose themselves in anger. God will do that. He depicts this in Psalm 47 when it says, verse 3,

Psa 47:3 He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

Well, the nations and the people, that's iniquity. That is a lack of understanding of truth. He says it again in Psalms 18:47.

Psa 18:47 It is God that avenges me, and subdues the people under me.

That is not literal. It is spiritual. It is you, being set free from iniquity and understanding the atonement, enabled to walk in harmony with Christ, stay in harmony with Jesus, and be prepared for what's coming on this planet, the giving of the message. It would be hard to give this message to the universal church when the people within you are not subdued, that you're not going to start manifesting a different person.

You're supposed to be dead to self. You die daily. Well, the true message of the cross gives you the ability to do that. The false understanding is the abomination that will leave you, what? Desolate. You don't have men like sheep dwelling within you. You have men who have appeased the angry God and who are reading the Bible and trying to hide behind those verses and make themselves look like they're Christians when they're serving a God that doesn't even exist. Reading from Matthew 23, verse 37,

Mat 23:37 O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, you stone them which are sent unto you. How often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not!

Mat 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Does he mean their house or "their house"? Their house is their mind. *Your house is left unto you desolate.*

Mat 23:39 For I say unto you, You shall not see me henceforth, until you shall say, Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Well, I have tied this in to Micah chapter 6, and I want to read this to you. I'm going to start at verse 10.

Mic 6:10 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?

Mic 6:11 Shall I count them pure with wicked balances, with the bag of deceitful weight? (In other words, he isn't going to lie.)

Mic 6:12 For the rich men of it are full of violence, and the inhabitants of it have spoken lies. Their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

Mic 6:13 Therefore also will I make you sick in smiting you, in making you desolate because of your sins.

Mic 6:14 You shall eat, but you won't be satisfied. Your casting down shall be in the midst of you. You shall take hold, but shall not deliver; and that which you deliver, I'll give up to the sword.

Mic 6:15 You shall sow, but not reap. You'll tread the olives, but you're not going to anoint yourself with the oil; and sweet wine, but shall not drink wine.

Mic 6:16 For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and you walk in their counsel; that I should make you a desolation, and the inhabitants of it a hissing. Therefore, you shall bear the reproach of my people.

See, it's interesting that when you reject God, when you're rejecting truth, the only thing you have left is iniquity. That's all you have going for you. It's your own understanding. It's iniquity. I see this in Matthew 24, remember verse 14 that *the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness, and then shall the end come*. And what does he say immediately after that? When you see the abomination of desolation, not if you do. When the gospel is preached, you will see the abomination that leaves people desolate (Mat 24:14-15).

Only certain people are going to see the abomination of desolation and realize what is happening. But in order for them to see it, they're going to have to hear the trumpets, hear the gospel proclaimed concerning the love of God, and those who reject it, reject the gospel, are going to be fighting against those who are declaring the truth. It's going to be a mighty movement against us because you're taking away the God they serve. You're taking away what they depend on for salvation. You're challenging everything they think.

But we have to make the choice. Are we going to give people an opportunity to receive their daily bread so that things on earth can be done like they're done in the heavens?

Are you going to eat this daily bread, or do you want to look at this sacrifice of the cross as something that God is able, now, to look at you differently because you accepted a human sacrifice for him? That's just pure paganism.

The people within us need to become sheep, and it is a work in progress. It is working out your own salvation, and sometimes we don't see what's within us until something triggers that, and then you realize that person that just spoke up, that person that just got angry, is not sheep. It's iniquity, and it needs to be put away.

God is setting us free from all iniquity, and it should be changing our lives, and we should be able to put away all pride and be as the sheep in Jerusalem on the solemn feast days. That's our prayer... to overcome all iniquity and sin and glorify God.

Most gracious heavenly Father, I thank you for your love, and I thank you for this time and the truth and for people who want to do what's right and live according to your truth and Holy Spirit. Father, I pray in Jesus' name.