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Episode 9 - Ascending from the East

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This podcast is a continuation of the seals of Revelation. How does God create a new heaven for His church? We will discover the truth of Revelation chapter 7 and what it means to ascend from the east.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi. This is Scott Stanley continuing to explore the deep things of God. In our last podcast, which was a question-and-answer period, one question was, "If the 'heavens' equal 'God's understanding,' why do I need a new heavens?" I'm glad that question came up, and I could answer it. I want to start there to continue our understanding of the seals and what's happening.

The reason we need a new heavens is because of the apostasy. What we have been told God thinks and what we have been told God believes is in error because we've been in apostasy all of our church lives. We have believed in God and been with people in our churches who believe in God, but they don't know God, and that's completely different. That's apples and oranges. You believe in God, but do you know God?

You see, Caiaphas, the high priest, believed in God. That's why he was the high priest, but he didn't know God because he didn't know the Son of God. If you know God and understand God, your heavens would not need to be made new. But none of us come into this having a conversion experience, wanting to serve God, getting on that white horse. None of us understands the truth about God.

And that's why you've got all these different denominations. Everybody interprets the Bible differently, but it's the last generation church that will understand it, who will come out of the apostasy. And, really, the main doctrine of the apostasy is the Trinity, denying the Father and Son in eternity past and denying that Christ came in the flesh. So we have to come to a place where God can give us the truth concerning himself, and we receive it.

Now, if the Lord is going to describe us, people who need a new heaven, people who believe the apostasy they've been taught, then one way to describe that would be to use the number "four." Why? Because four stands for earthly completeness. Another symbol of self and needing a new heaven would be the earth. You can have an earthly heaven.

What do you mean? Earth is self, and you can have an understanding, what you think God believes, the way you think God thinks, but it's earthly because you put your own meanings to it. Or you've allowed other people to say this is what God demands of you; this is what God wants- this is what he'll do if you don't. All of the things that we say about God, and really, it's of the earth. They're earthly. It's just mainly self.

Another symbol of self is east, the word "east." When you literally look at this planet in outer space, it's turning. It's always turning to the east because the people on this planet follow their own selves. Look at the building of God's sanctuary back in Exodus. When you enter into that sanctuary, your back is to the east, and you're headed west. If you follow the sun, you're headed west. The sun, of course, is a symbol of Christ. Turn your back on self (east), and follow the sun.

So I want you to look at Revelation 7:1. Why turn here? Because if you look at the sixth seal, God is closing the heavens. When you cry out for help, he'll answer you with "*your sun is as black as sackcloth of hair*" (Rev 6:12). Meaning the way you're reading the book,

the law, the Bible- you're putting your own definitions to it. In all of the things that you have devised with your wrong interpretation of Christ and reading the book according to your own self, those messages need to fall to the earth. He says we're going to roll the heaven together like a scroll (Rev 6:14). He shuts it because he's getting ready to give you a new heaven.

If you really want help in your life, you will have to turn away from your denominational teaching, turn to God, and let him teach you his understanding. Jesus's understanding is called the faith of Christ, and you see that in Galatians 2:16. That's a very important scripture because it helps define and get something through to us. Let me put it like that.

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified (or made righteous) by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, ... (That word is not "in," it's "of." If your Bible says faith in Jesus Christ, it's wrong. It's the faith of Jesus Christ.) ... Even we have believed in Jesus, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ...

See, it's two different things. You can have faith in Jesus, but you want the faith of Jesus. Paul literally says right there, *we believe in him to have the faith of him*. Well, the faith of Christ will produce in you a new heaven, a new understanding of how God sees things. So when I look at this closing of the heavens, God is going to have to give us the new heaven. This is Revelation 7. The way this begins is-

Rev 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels ...

I could just say earthly angels or earthly messengers. I think sometimes we get it in our head that when we see the word "angel," we think of heavenly beings flying around, and we have this literal picture. But in the Book of Revelation, angels are people, and it's a description of a messenger. Now, if you'll look at Revelation 21:9,

Rev 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven messengers which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.

So here you have an angel who pours out the plagues, who is telling John, I'll show you the Lamb's wife.

Rev 21:15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates of it, and the wall of it.

Rev 21:16 And the city lies foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth, and the height of it are equal.

Rev 21:17 And he measured the wall of it, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

So I began to realize that if angels are simply the word "messenger," it's a symbol of a person who can deliver a message. Then, looking at Revelation 7:1,

Rev 7:1 ... I saw four messengers...

Another way to say that is just earthly people, people whose understanding was of the earth. They're carrying the apostasy. They're standing on the four corners of the earth. See, their base, what they're standing on, is the earth, self, their own determinations of God, their own determinations of the scripture, and they're holding the four winds of the earth, the earthly spirits. That word "wind" is simply "spirits." They hold to earthly understanding so that no wind- King James says, "*that the wind should not blow on the earth...*" That's actually "no wind."

Rev 7:1 ...so that no wind or no truth should blow on the earth or the sea or any tree.

Now, here you have a picture God has painted for you of the entire universal church. They're earthly spirits. They are standing on the earth, and they don't want any wind, any truth, any spirit to blow on their earth or the sea or any tree. If you walk into a church today, a universal church, and the spirit begins to come out of your mouth, they don't want you teaching that in their church, nor do they want you giving it to the sea, the rest of the people in the world. They want you shut down.

What about the trees? They don't want this on any tree. Well, trees, if you go back to the Old Testament, the same word for tree is a counselor- the scriptures are our counselors.

They don't want your wind in that church changing any doctrine they believe. They're going to fight you. Here is a group of people in that place, but they are being addressed by another messenger in verse 2.

Rev 7:2 I saw another messenger, he is ascending away from the east, ...

Well, the word ascending is to ascend away from the earth. Here is a messenger who is not standing on the earth. He is understanding the heavenly truth of God. Look at what it says about it.

Rev 7:2 ... he has the seal (confirmation) of the living God: ...

In other words, he knows the truth. He is growing in that truth because he is ascending away from the earth and away from the east, from self, and he has the truth of God.

Rev 7:2 ... and he cries with a loud voice to those four messengers who are standing on the earth, and he tells these four earthly messengers... to whom it was given to hurt (to act unjustly) the earth and the sea...

King James rendered this "hurt." It means "to act unjustly." These four angels are acting unjustly toward the earth and sea. How? They're trying to prevent the truth from being told. They are acting unjustly. If I walk into a church and begin to share the truth about the Son of God, and they shut me down, they are acting unjustly toward their church. How can you say that strongly enough? They're acting unjustly when they prevent the truth from being told. We know that. No one has to tell us that. Here, God has used these symbols to show us how he's going to give you a new heaven.

Let's look at this. This messenger who is ascending into the heavens away from the earth, away from the east, he is saying (to the messengers in verse 1),

Rev 7:3 Hurt not (or don't act unjustly) toward the earth, or sea, nor the trees (counselors), till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Don't act unjustly. In other words, don't prevent yourself or anyone else from hearing the truth,

Rev 7:3 ... until the servants of our God are sealed in their foreheads.

He's going to give a message, and he is going to seal, put God's stamp of approval on the servants of God, who are his servants and who are not his servants.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed (which were confirmed to be true): and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Now this is where people who do not understand what they're reading go way off with this 144,000. I want you to turn to Revelation 14, and just bear with me as we read this. Look in your Bible. I am not making this up.

Rev 14:1 I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, ...

Now Mount Zion is the church, Hebrews 12. The Lamb, of course, is the risen Savior.

Rev 14:1 I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on Mount Zion and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having the Lamb's Father's name written in their foreheads.

And I think one of the first things I noticed about that is that it's the name of the Father in the forehead- it's not Father, Son, Holy Ghost. They have the name of the Father in their forehead, but my question is, who would the 144,000 be? What are we talking about here?

Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice from the heavens (God's understanding), as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder (rebuke): and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

Rev 14:3 And the harpers sung a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures, and the elders: and no one could learn that song but the hundred and forty-four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. (Read the next verse carefully now.)

Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; ...

Now, what people assume is, well, that's talking about the 144,000. It isn't. It's talking about the harpers, those who were playing the harps. How do I know? Because let's continue reading this verse.

Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from humanity, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

So here you've got the 144,000 being redeemed from the earth. The harpers are redeemed from humanity. See, when you look at Revelation 7, you see the messenger is a human being, a person who, in his understanding, is turning away from self and heading west, following the Lord, giving a message. He's confirming what's true and what isn't- having that understanding to redeem the doctrines that have been cast to the earth. Do you remember reading in Daniel 8 about the little horn? He takes the truth and casts it to the ground.

Dan 8:10 And it waxed great, to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.

Those hosts are stars. What are we talking about? What is he stamping to the ground? The truth. And it's at this point in Revelation 7, the messengers of God pick it back up, dust it off, and put the seal of God on it and say, "This is what is true."

So you see in Revelation 14, the 144,000 are redeemed from the earth because they have been cast to the earth and stamped down. The 144,000 are the truths of God that have been made earthly. Man has put his definition to God's word. The harpers are those who have grown in compassion toward people. How does that happen?

Because they're understanding the cross. In their learning, the truths that were cast down need to be picked up and put back into the heavens. We need to take this literal explanation of the Son of God, this explanation that they have of the Trinity, and put God's meaning to it. God says through Paul, there's only one God, the Father, 1 Corinthians 8:6, and it's all of these truths. What you're seeing in Revelation 7 takes time, and I'm telling you I have lived through that process.

I have lived through this process of years, discovering what the truth really is, coming to an understanding that Jesus is the Son of God, that symbols are the truth- God uses symbols to teach us that we have a sin problem called iniquity. When you start putting all that truth together, you come back to the Bible, and you begin to discover what you thought God thought was wrong. Thank God he sent a messenger to confirm what the truth was. Thank God there was a group of people all coming out of that apostasy together and discovering the truth about the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the church, life, death, immortality. All of these things needed to be dusted off from the earth and placed back into the heavens.

It is here where God is giving the church a new heavens. Now, if I am a newcomer to this truth and hearing this maybe for the first time, it would be the struggle of my life because it is so hard to believe when we look at our churches that they're deceiving us. They're not doing it on purpose. They're doing it because they themselves are deceived. And when you start to come out of that, just like you see in Revelation 18, when you start coming out of Babylon, and God says come out of her, my people, come out of that confusion, they begin to wail because they think this is such a great city, a great understanding to have, to live in.

God is calling you into New Jerusalem, to live in an accurate understanding of him (how he sees us as portrayed on the cross), and these truths can shake you to the core. Remember when he says I'm going to shake the heavens and the earth? Well, to shake the earth is to bring you to a place where maybe you're not so sure what you're believing is true. Maybe you're not overcoming sin. Maybe you're facing the truth of it.

Maybe you're seeing problems in your church. So if you're questioning it, the Lord will send you the truth about the heavens, and that will shake the earth. You're at the end of the world. There isn't a more important time to live. This is it, and we've been lied to. Maybe I shouldn't say lied. People aren't lying to you. They're just misleading you because they don't know the truth. We've been misled long enough. It's time to pick up your Bible and let God help you through it so that you can be set free.

Jesus died to redeem us from all iniquity (Tit 2:14). *He died to redeem you from iniquity.* Iniquity is twisted thinking. He died so you could possess the truth of God. You want the truth. You want to possess the keys to the kingdom. You want to understand what it

means to be in the kingdom of God. You want to know what it means that he is saving you by sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth. Believing the truth will show you how to grow in sanctification of the spirit.

Again, all of this can be overwhelming. I beg you, send me questions. Get in touch with me. Contact me. Let me know what you're thinking. Let me know how I can help you.

Listen. If I'm wrong, you need to help me see the truth. But if I'm right, then I would say, come into the ark with the rest of us because God is sending rain from heaven, and the water from the earth will come up and clash with it. If you're not in the ark, you're going to be carried away in that flood, and you will miss the meaning of life.

I pray that you're seeing light in what you're hearing, and I pray God is glorified in our lives as he opens up the truth to move us out of the apostasy of the universal church.

Father, thank you for loving us and helping us to see truth. We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.