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Episode 16 - Living Creatures and Elders

2024-02-28

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What are the four living creatures in Revelation chapters 4 and 5? Who are the twenty-four elders?

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi. This is Scott Stanley, exploring the deep things of God, hopefully declaring the deep things of God. Today, I would like to sum up some of the things we've been looking at, because in order to understand Revelation, you need to understand the symbols. But you need to be able to read between the lines, realizing the apostasy that has happened and how the Book of Revelation is explaining how we came out of apostasy. Well, this discussion today keys on that.

If I could reiterate what I have touched on before... Looking at the seals in Revelation chapter 6, the four horses, what you're seeing is the progression of a person. I believe it's all of us. We all go through this. You give your heart to God, and you're on this white

horse. The horse turns red, then black, then pale. Fifth seal, you cry out for God to help you, and in the 6th seal, he changes your sun and moon, and the stars fall. In other words, the way you're looking at the Son of God and the Bible needs to change because the sun is black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon is red as blood. You could say you're putting your own meanings to it. So all of the stars, all of the truths that you think are true, have to fall to the earth, and he closes the heavens.

Then you see the process of someone ascending, going up from the Earth, away from the east, which is self, up from the literal self-interpretation, away from the east, away from self. The result of that sealing that takes place is the 144,000. The 144,000 are truths. The truth of the matter is that it is a symbolic number. Why symbolic? Because it is telling you these are the truths that heal, and they come from all the tribes of the house of Israel. These are the truths that bring healing. Well, how many truths does God actually have? Is it 144,000 literally? No. It's a multitude that is immeasurable.

The thoughts of God are infinite. To refer to his thoughts, his truth as the 144,000, is simply telling you this will heal you. So you go through those horses, cry for help... he steps in and begins to help change the way you think. Then, taking that new understanding, you're able to seal the truth and put the character of God, the name of God, in the forehead. Why forehead?

Because he's personifying truth. And you're putting the stamp of God on the 144,000, saying this is of God. Well, question: What were they before they were healed? What were the 144,000? What were those "truths" before they were corrected in your thinking, because they're there in your thinking? You're just not thinking right. You might be thinking Trinity, and God will redeem that from that earthly thinking, so that you'll know there's one God and one Lord. There are all kinds of things we have thought about the cross and salvation, and the list goes on and on. But when he fixes it, it becomes a truth that can bring healing, or the 144,000.

Before he fixes it, you see the white horse, the red horse. The white becomes red. A sword, the great sword is given to it, and that horse becomes red, and it's "self." Then that horse becomes black. What are you doing? Well, you are determining which verses are more important than the other verses... the black horse. You're weighing, you've got a scale in your hand, and then the horse turns pale.

So those thoughts that you're carrying during that time, leading up to Revelation chapter 7, where those things can be fixed, those are the thoughts that need to be redeemed. Now, how does the Lord convey that to us? Well, each horse has a rider, and the one riding that horse is you.

Where does this come from? You have 24 elders; "six" is the number of "man." There are four men, four elders. Twenty-four elders- six is the number of man, so there are four people. Each one is on a horse. Each one represents you before the Lord was able to help you see truth and change the way you think... (4 times 6 is 24- 24 elders). You cry out for help. He moves in and says, "Okay. You're not looking at the Son of God accurately. You're not reading the Bible accurately." So those elders, 24 elders (4x6) or 4 elders... "elder" is just another word for "old man." It is your old man before you came to the knowledge of the truth.

What are the living creatures? The "living creatures" represent "the understanding of each of the elders." When you look at Revelation 6:1.

Rev 6:1 When the Lamb (notice it's the Lamb, the Lamb standing. He has been slain) ... He's opening your book (to help you see where you came from). When the Lamb opened one of the seals, I heard as a noise (a voice) of thunder (a voice of rebuke), and one of the four beasts (or 4 living creatures) saying, Come and see.

Well, that is the first living creature, because on each horse, on each seal, you'll see the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. How does he describe these living creatures? Well, in Revelation 4:7, the first beast or the first living creature is Strong's number [2226].

Rev 4:7 The first was like a lion, and the second a calf, and the third had the face of a man, and the fourth, that of a flying eagle.

So if I were to come back and say, "Okay, this is the way you were thinking before you cried out for help, and he is able to help you seal the truth. All of these truths, these 4 living creatures and the elders have to be redeemed. They have to be redeemed from iniquity. They represent your iniquity." Look at Revelation 5, starting at verse 8.

Rev 5:8 When he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

The fact that they have a harp... remember, in Revelation 14, the harpers are harping, and they sing a song that no one can learn but the 144,000 truths which were redeemed from the earth. The harpers were redeemed from humanity.

Rev 5:9 They sung a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the book (That book is the book of you. It's yourself). You can take the book and open the seals of it, for you were slain and you have redeemed us (the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders) ... you redeemed us to God by your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, people, and nation;

Rev 5:10 And you have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on earth.

Remember, Revelation 1:6, how Christ is making us kings and priests. That's significant here, because again, what are the four faces, the four parts of these living creatures? A lion, a calf, a man, and a flying eagle... unsanctified, before they are redeemed. These thoughts, this understanding, remember it's all earthly, because you haven't been given the truth. You're in the apostasy, and you need to come out of the apostasy. So you begin on the white horse, going forth conquering and to conquer. That living creature, that understanding you're carrying is that of a lion, which is pride.

The second living creature is of an ox (or calf). Remember, the horse turns red, and red is self, or iniquity. This ox or calf is a servant animal, and you're serving iniquity. You're a servant to sin because no one has told you the truth of the cross.

The next is the face of a man, but he's weighing the verses, claiming one is more important than the other. He's a Pharisee, not redeemed yet.

The last one, the flying eagle. I think of a flying eagle as a bird that feeds on flesh. It too represents self. It is an animal of prey. It will prey on and eat the flesh.

What happens when these things are redeemed? Well, go back to the white horse. The white horse, going forth conquering and to conquer, being a lion or pride... once that lion is redeemed, it becomes a king.

The second living creature, the ox or the calf, once it is redeemed, becomes a priest. It's a servant animal. Instead of serving iniquity, it becomes a servant of God once it's redeemed. Remember, it's the 144,000 truths that redeem these things in our lives.

Next, the face of a man. Well, at first, you're a Pharisee. You're weighing the verses. But he redeems you, and you become a son of man. A son of man is seen in Daniel 7:13 as receiving the kingdom of God.

Next, the eagle, a flying eagle. This horse is pale. It is godless. But redeemed, that eagle becomes divine nature. Isn't that exactly what Peter says in 2 Peter 1:4, that we partake of these promises and receive divine nature... being able to receive the truth from God and apply it to self, to our own hearts to be redeemed from all iniquity.

Our salvation begins in the apostasy. But if you carry on, if you hold on to know the truth, if you remain faithful, he will redeem us from this iniquity and bring us to the place where we can work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Php 2:12). What does that even mean? I can't express it strongly enough that to receive the truth is only part of the story. We need to receive the truth and be redeemed from doctrinal iniquity, which is what you're seeing in Revelation 7... doctrinal iniquity.

But taking the truth of God, we need to allow God to give us his knowledge of ourselves. We need his knowledge of why we tick, why we do what we do. We want him to tell us why we are the way we are, so that we can seek him for answers to understand that, and overcome it. Jesus said to the Jews who believed on him, *"Now if you'll continue in my word, then you'll be my disciples, and you're going to know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* (Jhn 8:31-32).

When you read that, he's talking about the sin. The definite article is before the word sin (Jhn 8:34). It's talking about iniquity. *If you continue in my word, then you're my disciples indeed, and you're going to know the truth, and the truth will set you free from all iniquity.*

We can't stop just because we understand the Godhead, or we understand "heaven and earth and sea." See, all of those things are redeemed so we can use them to be free of the blemishes of the pain, of the darkness. Everything that Christ portrayed on that cross is a symbol of a problem that we're carrying in our own hearts, and we need to be able to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Again, it begins with learning the truth, but we apply that truth and go through the process of the redemption of our hearts, redeeming our souls and being made in the image of Jesus Christ.

So I've gone through these things today pretty fast. I want you to see the big picture before we go in and start filling in the gaps... before we go in and start coloring it all in and explaining what each thing actually means and what it all represents. We want to get a hold of the big picture of what has happened and what is going to happen.

Now I would like to welcome you, invite you to go to the website, thelamblove.org. You can go to the answer page and read what other people have asked after listening to these studies. Contact me. In fact, write me a question. Send me questions. If you want to contact me, feel free to do so. You can share with me where you think I'm wrong, or you can ask me to give you a better definition of what it is I'm trying to say.

I believe with all my heart we're at the end of the world, especially after looking at 1 John 2:18 and so on, about the antichrist, and realizing this is what has happened throughout all of history. Christ was not proclaimed. The Trinity was proclaimed. The cross was not explained as redeeming you from iniquity. The cross was explained as paying your sin debt. So I look at all the confusion that is out there, and I pray that those who have ears to hear would find this message because this message has begun.

The gospel, the true gospel, has begun, and it's going to go to all the world for a witness, and then the end will come (Mat 24:14). There are a lot of things to be understood. There are a lot of things that we can explain. There are a lot of ways that we can help you, but on your part, it's going to take an open heart and courage. And you know what else? A love for the truth. You need to love the truth and humble yourself so that you can walk with God. Humble yourself to receive God's understanding and allow him, his truth, to come into your inner man and change you and make you whole... and then share your truth with God's church. I pray that these studies are a blessing to you and that Christ is glorified in your life.

Heavenly Father, we worship you. You are Yah, the only true and living God. We worship you and pray to be in your perfect will and to bring others into the truth. We pray and ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Living Creatures (Beast)
Rev 4:7

Horses (Seals) Rev 6

Redeemed

Lion – Pride

White Horse

King

Calf – servant to iniquity

Red Horse (serving
self/iniquity)

Priest (servant of God)

Face of a man (Pharisee
Unredeemed)

Black Horse

Son of man (Dan 7:13-
receives the kingdom)

Flying Eagle (feeds on
flesh, fleshly wisdom.

Pale Horse (godless)

Divine nature (2Pt 1:4)