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Episode 22 - Trumpet 4: The Big Picture

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Using the fourth trumpet, we can begin to understand the big picture of Revelation and God's path out of the apostasy.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi. This is Scott Stanley, declaring the deep things of God, studying the book of Revelation in this podcast. We have come to Revelation, chapter 8, and we're looking at the fourth trumpet. I pointed out in the last podcast how the first four trumpets are positive. They're positive because the hearers are listening and they're able to make changes in their lives.

When you look at this fourth trumpet, it's the same thing. This is very positive that their sun, moon, and stars are smitten, because they're listening to the truth. I believe the message being given is what is described in Revelation 14:6, the first, second, and third angels giving a message to fear God and give glory to him through the Son. This

message is the gospel going to all nations. The effect it's having on this fourth trumpet is very similar to what you see happening in the sixth seal.

In the sixth seal, this group of people realizes that the way they have looked at Christ is black as sackcloth of hair (Rev 6:12). The way they have been reading the Bible is as red as blood, and all the things they believe to be true just fall to the earth. It's basically the same thing in the sixth seal as in the fourth trumpet. Why? How could this be?

I want to tell you the difference between the seals and the trumpets. When we read the seals, remember, the Lord is showing us how his church comes out of apostasy because we've all been born in this apostasy. We're coming out of apostasy. So you see us on the white horse, it turns red, it turns black, it turns pale, we ask for help, and he shows us we haven't been discerning Christ accurately or the Bible accurately. That has to be revealed to us.

The next thing you see happen to the "seal" people is in Revelation 7, where there is a messenger ascending from the east, and he is able to seal the truths that are of God and determine what's of God and what isn't. He ends up with the 144,000 truths, or the truths that bring healing. The seals show you the people working through that process of being rid of doctrinal iniquity. So what if I just call them group A? Group A then gives the message of the gospel to the world.

That is what you're seeing in the trumpets. The people who hear that message in the trumpets have not gone through the process that group A underwent. The people hearing and receiving the trumpets are being told by group A. Group A has worked through it, and they are able to cut through all the questions and get right to what the truth of the gospel is, and give it to what I'm going to call group B. So what you're seeing in the trumpets, in the first four trumpets, is group B being told by group A.

Again, group A worked through this process. You see it in the seals, and God is confirming each step of the way. But once they have it, they can then give this message of the gospel to the world and the people in the world, who hear it given by group A, become group B. They have now entered into the truth of the gospel. Now, just like you see group A in the seals, they work through the process of understanding the scriptures, and you see in Revelation, chapter 7, an angel ascending from the east, and here they

are working through determining the truths that heal.

Well, group B has a similar experience. It's found in Revelation, chapter 10. In Revelation 10, you see Christ clothed with a cloud. That cloud is group A. That cloud represents the people, a cloud of witnesses who have received the truth and Christ is in their heart.

Christ is clothed with a cloud, and he comes down with his feet on fire to cleanse (fire will cleanse). He puts one foot on the earth and one in the sea. For Christ to cleanse the earth and the sea, he is cleansing and helping group B, the people who have come into the truth through the message proclaimed by the "seal" people, group A. So they have to go through their process of having all their questions answered, that's Revelation 10.

Just like group A had their questions answered in Revelation 7, Revelation 10 represents the people who have received the truth when the gospel went to all the world. Here they are having their final cleansing. From who? Christ comes down, he's clothed with a cloud, and he comes down, feet on fire, to cleanse the earth and sea. This is very similar, in fact, I think it's the same thing as what you read in Daniel, chapter 7, verse 13.

Dan 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds to the Father,

Dan 7:14 And he receives the kingdom...

Now, just back up and look at this. What if I said, one like the son of man would be the people in group B who have heard the gospel. Just like in Revelation 10, that person comes with the clouds of heaven. Those clouds of heaven are the people in group A. The people in group A are able to bring a person to the Father so they can receive the kingdom, which happens when you understand the cross.

Here again, "*Fear God. Give glory to Him* (Rev 14:7). *Every knee should bow to Christ to the glory of the Father* (Php 2:10-11)." When you're teaching about Jesus, you're teaching the cross, giving God the glory. When you're teaching the gospel, you're bringing people to the Ancient of Days so they can receive the kingdom of understanding the cross, understanding the atonement, and be able to live in harmony with Christ, walking with him repeatedly. Not falling, walking with him, Revelation 20.

What happens when the gospel is given? This brings you to Matthew 24:14. This gospel will go to all the world for a witness (Mat 24:14). Who's going to give it? The "seal" people. The people who receive the message through the process of the seals, group A, will be sent to all the world. The gospel will go to all the world to be a witness to all nations. So, group A gives the message of the gospel. That is the same thing as the trumpets. The trumpets will be given.

During the process of giving the gospel, there will be a great tribulation such as has never been. When the tribulation is over, the sun and the moon, and the stars will have no light. Again, see, it looks like the sixth seal, it looks like the fourth trumpet. But looking at Matthew 24, let's just read the verse together.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days (of the giving of the gospel), the sun will be darkened, and the moon won't give its light, and the stars will fall, the powers of the heavens will be shaken:

What does that mean? Well, I go to Revelation 10 and I'm able to distinguish between group A and B. Group A, Christ is clothed with the cloud, and he comes down to cleanse the earth and the sea of the people who have come into the message through the trumpets, group B. When that happens, John is told to give the message again. When he does, it goes right into Revelation 11.

Rev 11:1 There was given me a reed like a rod: the messenger stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, the altar, and them that worship in it.

Rev 11:2 The court which is outside the temple leave out, don't measure it; it's given to the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty-two months.

Forty-two months means until it has perfected wickedness, which we may not have gotten into that number yet, but we will. *Don't give the message to the Gentiles because they're treading underfoot the holy city.* Well, that only leaves the Jew, and for him to say they're trampling underfoot the holy city is equivalent to Matthew 24:29... immediately after the tribulation, the sun and the moon and the stars have no light.

That's the Gentiles who have rejected the truth. Those who received it during the sounding of the trumpets have stepped into God's church, being led to the Father by

the people who gave that message, teaching them to overcome iniquity and be in the kingdom of God. And the Lord says, "Let's go to the Jew." Now, that is entirely scriptural because Paul in Romans 11 speaks of this very thing, and this is what we need to see.

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceit; blindness in part is happened to literal Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

I've always taken this fullness and equated it to the fullness mentioned in Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 13.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

That fullness is the same word used in Romans 11, written by the same guy, the apostle Paul. But now I see when I read this fullness, there will be a time in this world's history when not another Gentile will come into the truth. There will be a fullness in number of the Gentiles.

You've got those in the seals who have worked through the truth, who give the message, sound the trumpets, and the people who receive that message in the trumpets being cleansed and brought to the Father to receive the kingdom in Revelation chapter 10. Then those two groups are now one (A and B), and they are sent to the Jew, fulfilling what Paul is saying in Romans 11:25. Again, let me just read it.

Rom 11:25 I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceit; blindness in part is happened to literal Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (groups A and B- the seals and the giving of the message... the gospel going into all the world.)

Rom 11:26 And so all spiritual Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and will turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

He is quoting Isaiah 59:20-21. Zion today is the Gentile church. The Gentiles are those who are in it, who have received the Holy Spirit of God. There will be more Gentiles who come into this truth during the sounding of the trumpets, and then they will be sent to

the Jew, who will be the last to come in... the last people to come into this truth. The Jew and the Gentile will be one church.

That is why, as we're going through Revelation, we see a lot of similar things happening because the same thing is happening to different groups of people. All of us, having been born in this apostasy and been in it all of our lives, somebody had to come out of it and study their way through it to become group A and be able to give the gospel to the world.

Those in the world who hear the truth and come out and step into the light with God's church did not work their way through it by themselves. They were preached that truth. They were given that message. If we were to go back and take a look at how the people in the seals come through it, they are given the Godhead message. They are given the message of symbols and similitudes, how God teaches us using similitudes.

They're given and they receive the message of the sin problem of iniquity. And they're able to take those things, enter into the process seen in Revelation, chapter 7, of determining what the truth actually is and ending up with the truths that heal or the 144,000. Those are the truths found in the gospel of Revelation 14, starting at verse 6 of the three angels. As God says, the message will go to all the world. Somebody has to give it, that's group A. Those who accept it become group B.

The Gentiles who reject it enter into utter darkness, and God will then send his church to the Jew, fulfilling Isaiah 59:20-21. That is a big picture. So, again, that is why the fourth trumpet looks so much like the sixth seal. We see how God is using the sun, the moon, and the stars throughout the scripture to help us understand the changes that need to be made in our thinking.

Again, the seals... the people work through it. The trumpets, the people in the trumpets, are being preached to by those who worked through the truth and got it. Those two groups will come together in Revelation 10 for a final cleansing for group B. They will be taken to the Father in the cloud (the church) to receive the kingdom.

I like the idea that I'm in a place where I can teach you what happened on the cross and lead you to the Father by means of Jesus Christ and show you the love of God... and

then allow him (once we see Jesus takes us to the Father), allow the Father to open our eyes to what happened on the cross; to be able to take you to the Father, teach you the cross, and allow you to see the kingdom of God and enter into his kingdom... knowing that the day is coming, there will be no more Gentiles coming into the church. It will be over.

Before that happens, there will be a great tribulation. I think the tribulation is to shake the church awake. That tribulation is going to happen to cause people to consider maybe what they have isn't right. Maybe what they're believing isn't true. Maybe they will open their ears to hear the proclamation of the gospel, which goes to all the world. Maybe they will enter into the church, be brought to the Father, receive the kingdom, and be used to help Jacob.

Now, I've tried to simplify this as much as I possibly could, and I think I have. I pray that I have.

Most gracious heavenly Father, may you be forever glorified in what we do. May you be forever glorified. You cannot be if we're not believing the truth. May we hear the truth, believe the truth, receive the truth, and glorify you in every way. In Jesus' name. Amen.