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## **Episode 139 - God-Given Growth: Revelation's Hidden Symbols**

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Hey friend — pull up a chair. In this episode, Scott walks us through Revelation's symbolism and two Greek words for growth, showing the difference between what God gives and what we try to force ourselves.

If you've ever felt lost trying to figure the Bible out alone, this talk feels like a calm conversation: why hearing the Word matters, how the Spirit confirms truth, and why the 144,000 and the Scriptures matter for real transformation.

Modified Transcript:

This transcript has been edited. Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley. This is the DTG Ministries Revelation podcast, continuing to search the deep things of God. As we get deeper into the book of Revelation, things do get deep. It can't help but get deep. The Bible is like a flow of thought or a river that is carrying symbols, similitudes, likenesses, and when you come to the book of Revelation, it's like a net that captures all of them.

So when you read Revelation, I'm going to make a statement that might turn a lot of people off, but there is nothing in it that is not symbolic. Because our salvation is dealing with redemption from iniquity, God is redeeming all of the things that we have been told from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. All of those things need to be corrected.

Men come into this world not knowing God. It is God's design, according to 1 Corinthians 1:21, that we need to learn through the foolishness of preaching. But men will continually pick up the Bible, trying to figure it out themselves. Everybody wants to be an independent atom- you don't need anyone. Oh, you're going to trust God to teach you. And yet God has a gospel order of how he would like to see us be taught.

Today in this podcast, I want to cover a couple of different words. One word in particular, one that we want to key on, but one that we're going to see is a synonym of it. This is going to be in the Greek, and the first word I want to look at is [837]. I would probably be better off just not even trying to pronounce these things; just use the Strong's number [837]. But it looks like it's called auxanō. This word means "to grow." Now, the other word is prokoptō, and it means "to grow or to increase." What's the difference between the two words? Auxanō, or [837], is used in explaining, say, how the lilies grow, Matthew 6:28. Let me read this.

Mat 6:28 And why do you take thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow [837]. They toil not, neither do they spin.

Another one is Matthew 13:32, speaking of the mustard seed. It says,

Mat 13:32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown [837], it becomes the greatest among herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

What are we seeing here? In these instances, you're seeing something living that can grow because of the element of life within it. Let me say it again. The lilies, the mustard seed are able to grow because of the element of life that's within it. This growth is not because of any special ability of that seed. It's because of what God himself has implanted in that seed.

The other word, [4298] prokoptō- I'm going to read this. This is from Strong's: "To drive forward (as if by beating)." Thayer's: "To lengthen out by hammering." In other words, there is an effort made for this growth. "To beat or drive forward as if with repeated strokes." So what is the difference between the two? Prokoptō has in it human achievement. In other words, human effort. The other word [837] is something given to it by God that will make it grow.

Both of these words are applied to Jesus as a child. Now, I'm going to read the first one in Luke 2:40: "*The child grew, and waxed strong in spirit...*" That word "grew" is [837]. It's something within the child that helps him to grow, that makes him grow. It is the way God has designed it. The other word is seen in Luke 2:52: "*Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.*" That "increased" is [4298], and that implies a human effort- *He increased in wisdom and stature.*

So look at the two words, and I want to play mainly off of [837] because any time I'm looking at a Greek word and trying to better understand it, I always take it back to the Hebrew, because I know the men who wrote the Gospels were Hebrew; and they're giving you Hebrew concepts using Greek words. I am able to understand it better if I take it back to the Hebrew.

Remember when Paul was preaching in Berea, and they would always go to the Bible to search out what he was teaching them (Act 17:10-11). They only had the Old Testament. So anything Paul was teaching could be proved from the Old Testament. Well, I want to go back to Genesis chapter 12. This is the promise to Abraham, and we're going to look at the Hebrew equivalent to the Greek [837].

Gen 12:2 I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

This is God's promise to Abraham, and the word he is using is "I will make your name great," or "I will make great your name," that is [1431], and it means "to increase it." You could say it increases in size, it increases in honor, it increases in authority, but this increase is of God. God is going to do this. *I will make of you a great nation.*

See, when you follow Abraham's reasoning, and what he was trying to understand in Genesis 15, he is thinking that this promise of God, *"I'm going to make you a great nation"* ... he says, "Well, I've only got this Eliezer in my family. This is going to be my seed, and who are you going to give me?" He was totally looking at this promise as if he would be fulfilling it; he would do this.

And yet, looking at the meaning of the words, God was saying he would do it. So what he had to do was circumcise Abraham's thinking. He circumcised his thinking, and in Genesis 15:4,

Gen 15:4 The word of Jehovah came unto him, saying, This shall not be your heir. He that shall come forth out of your own bowels shall be your heir.

Well, when we read this "out of your own bowels," I think we have a tendency to take it literally. Paul explains to us in Galatians that there's nothing literal about it- that what he was telling Abraham, *this is going to be people who think like you*. They will come out of your bowels. You could say the bowels of your compassion, the bowels of your mind, not literally, spiritually. I know this because when I read in Galatians 3:6,

Gal 3:6 Abraham believed God. That belief was counted for righteousness.

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore... (Now, get this) Know ye, they which are of faith are the children of Abraham.

Gal 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, he preached the gospel to Abraham, saying, In you shall all nations be blessed.

Gal 3:9 So then they which are of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

In other words, Abraham could share what God had told him. But if God did not give the people understanding, they would never believe it. And you've got to remember that the promise to Abraham was to him and his seed, talking about Jesus. And this is why 1 Corinthians 3:6,

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1Co 3:7 So then neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters. It's God who gives the increase.

See, consider this. In fact, look at 2 Timothy 2:7. Paul says,

2Ti 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give you understanding in all things.

You know, I know of people who would read 2 Timothy 2:7 and think, "I'm going to tell you something, and God's going to have to tell you what it means" ... such a prideful arrogance. But it's the opposite. I'm going to share something with you, and I cannot make you understand it. I can't help you there. God is going to have to give you that understanding. There's no pride in this. But I hope you see this is what he was saying to Abraham, and the promise was to the seed of Abraham.

So we want to believe like Abraham. We want to believe in Christ, and God will have those who plant in water. But it has to be God himself that gives the increase. This is important because Jesus tells us in John chapter 3... and it's interesting to me how many times I have referred to John 3 after finally realizing what he's talking about, and I'm going to say it again here. In John 3, he is telling Nicodemus that he must be born again. Jesus is referring to his baptism. The prophecy concerning his baptism is in Psalm 2. God says,

Psa 2:6 I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. (Set or poured upon or anointed.) I've anointed my king.

Psa 2:7 (And then the Son of God says), I'll declare that decree. (I'll tell you what he said. Let me tell you, this is what he said to me.) He said, You're my Son. This day have I begotten you.

That was the decree. It was at that time the Son of God became the Christ. It was that anointing. He became the Christ. God gave his testimony, "You're my Son," and the Son of God says, "This is what he said. He said, 'You're my Son.'"

So here you have the testimony of the Father and the Son. Those who believe become Israel, and Psalm 122:4 speaks of the testimony of Israel, which would be the same testimony: Jesus is the Son of God. For a person to be in that place, according to Christ, John 3:3,

Jhn 3:3 ... Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jhn 3:4 Nicodemus says, How can a man be born when he is old? ...

Jhn 3:5 ... Except a man be born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Water is the word spoken. Spirit is God himself impressing your heart that that's true. If that doesn't happen, you can never enter into the kingdom of God. And remember what we read: Paul said, *Consider what I said, and God give you understanding*. So there is an element for all of us to play in this. The point I'm trying to make is the fact that someone has to tell us: 1 Corinthians 1:21- *It's by the foolishness of preaching that we shall be saved. Faith comes by hearing; hearing by the word of God*, Romans 10:17.

It has to be spoken to us in order for us to understand and enter the kingdom. And I'm going to say this. I know that Jesus is keying in on the fact that he is the Son of God, and somebody needs to say it, and God needs to back it up. But the truth is, it's virtually everything we believe. The things about God, we like to think we're just going to pick up this Bible and start reading it. We're going to get all this information. Yet our heart is in the world, or I should say the world is in our heart, and understanding the things of God is not always that simple.

So, looking at the Son of God, which is the most important doctrine in the whole Bible, to realize Jesus truly is the Son of God... and let me say this: since we're on this level, for me, when I consider him being the Son of God, I have gone beyond John 17:3 and 1 Corinthians 8:6. I go to John 1, verse 1: Jesus Christ was a concept in the mind of God. If you'll just consider with me, he was a concept in God's mind, according to Proverbs chapter 8, that God considered four things about humanity before he even created them.

In his mind, he was already planning to anoint his Son. And if he is going to anoint his Son, he knows his Son is going to empty himself and become a man and reach the point of the baptism where God will say to him, *"You are my Son,"* anointing him as Christ. Why is he going to do that?

Number one: We have an abyss. We have a mind that is infinite, and it is full of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. It needs to be corrected. Christ is Messiah. He is the

anointed one. He is the one who will save you from your sin. You have to be redeemed from all iniquity. You are a troubled fountain.

Point number two: You have an abyss, and you're a troubled fountain. Out of your mouth is coming bitter water and sweet water. This needs to be corrected.

Third point: You have no foundation for what you believe and how you live your life. There's no foundation. We come into this world being taught worldly things by worldly people, and we try to build our house on sand because that's all we have. So Christ is going to give you a foundation, a solid rock that you can begin to build on.

Point number four: Why have the Christ come into the world? Because of Satan and our adversity and our ability to talk ourselves out of what we need to do and talk ourselves into doing things we don't need to do.

Those four points are why he anointed his Son before the foundation of the world. Now, in order to enter into the salvation, to be saved from those things, you need to believe Jesus is the Son of God. Why? Number one: If he is the Son of God, then we can look at God and realize he isn't out to get us. He's trying to help us. God so loved you that he's giving you his only begotten Son, and this was his plan from the beginning.

Jesus Christ did not come into this world on his own to try to fix the sin problem, but God sent him. He is a sacrifice from God to you, so that you can take what happened at the cross, and by his stripes you'll be healed. On the cross, he portrays God's understanding of man's problem and how to fix it. That understanding is called the Holy Spirit, and through the Christ, you can receive the Holy Spirit, be rid of guilt and shame, and your stripes be healed- or what other people have done to you, you can forgive it, you can let it go, and you can help another person.

By Jesus's death on the cross, he can destroy the works of the devil. The four things mentioned in Proverbs, again: Your abyss (full of iniquity), being a troubled fountain, having no foundation, having to deal with the adversary - the Christ takes care of all of that, if you rightly understand it. You've got to understand it. You're not going to pick up the Bible and understand it all by yourself. This is God's design.

So let me ask a question. We have to be born from above by water and Spirit. Water is what is spoken. The Spirit is God's confirmation that that is the truth; what you're hearing is truth. How does he give you that confirmation? How does that happen? Is it something that when you hear the truth, you just, "Well, I get it. I believe it." See, there has to be a way that God can impress you that, yes, what you're hearing is absolutely the truth. How does he do that?

I can remember one time being with my wife's parents, and they wanted to call Martha on the phone, talk to her about Jesus being the Son of God. Now, they had already delivered that truth to her, and she had taken this to her pastor, who told her the Trinity is true, that it's really God A, God B, and God C. She was realizing the folly of what this guy was saying to her.

I remember walking into the room, and they had her on the phone so that everyone could hear. It was just the three of us talking to Martha. I began to share verses with her, and at that point, I had never met Martha. I began to share verses with her in the Gospel of John about how Jesus spoke of being born twice and other Godhead verses.

The other day, all of that came into my mind. Martha and I were having our morning discussions and talking about it all. I remembered this verse, 1 Corinthians 4:15.

1Co 4:15 For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ (which I think is an exaggeration), you don't have many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Some time ago, the Lord showed me: If you are the one giving the water, remember, God will give the increase. He will give the increase if they consider what you say. Many times, people won't even consider it, but if you consider what is said, that person who gives you that information that Jesus really is the Son of God, and you come to the true light, and you see that, that person has begotten you through the gospel.

1Co 4:15 ... You have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you.

At that given moment, being on the phone, Martha's spiritual father, the one who had begotten her, was her father. He had given her the Godhead message, and she had

believed it and was proving it through the scriptures. Before that ever took place, maybe two or three years before that happened, her parents had come to visit me, and he asked me the question. We were in line getting food, and he asked me the question. He said, "What did you preach on the other day?"

I said, "The Trinity." And he goes, "What? How can you preach on that? Nobody even understands it." And I said, "Well, that's what I preached on, because it isn't true," and I began to explain it. I realized, spiritually speaking, I was his father. I had given him the Godhead message, and he had passed that to his daughter. And here, at this particular time, Martha is speaking with her father and her future husband, declaring Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.

I look at God, and I realize his depth of understanding and how my heavenly Father knew all along who I would marry, who would be the best for me, who would be the best for her, how we could heal one another... and that time has special meaning to me, and considering that. What is it... I should say, how is it that God gives you that backup truth when somebody says, "This is the Son of God"? How does God then impress your heart? How does he do that? You've got to have that Spirit come in.

Well, you have to consider it. And I'm going to tell you how it happens. It happens through the word of God. When somebody gives a message of the Son of God, and they back it up with Scripture, that Scripture is the word of God, and God is giving you his support that that is a true statement. If you're talking to somebody who fears God, if you're talking to somebody who has already settled on the word of God, that is the backup. That is, here comes the water and here comes the Spirit.

That is why in Revelation, God has elevated and magnified his word so highly. It is the 144,000. It is what you see in Revelation 14:1.

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

The 144,000 is the redeemed truth, using the scripture that redeems us from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Without the scripture, all of these things are meaningless. I can try to fix for you what you have been told about God and what you

have been told doctrinally. But without the Bible, there isn't that support coming from God. Jesus Christ and the 144,000, the faith of Christ and the 144,000... In this text, Revelation 14:2,

Rev 14:2 I heard a voice from the heavens, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of great thunder (which is conviction): and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.

The harpers are the people who have received the truth and understand and show compassion, bowels of compassion.

Rev 14:3 They sung a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders: and no one could learn that song but the redeemed truth. They had been redeemed from the earth.

Earth is self. They had been redeemed from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people that is within your mind when you first come to the Lord. Verse 4.

Rev 14:4 These are they which are not defiled with women; they're virgins. They are they which follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among men.

He shifts gears and starts talking about the harpers. See, look at it one more time.

Rev 14:3 The harpers sung a new song before the four living creatures and elders. No one could learn that song but the one hundred forty-four thousand which had been redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These harpers are they which are not defiled with women; they're virgins. They are they which follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were redeemed from among men. They're the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.

This is something you've got to decide on. This is something you've got to realize. So what are you going to do? Hear what I'm saying and consider it. It is an angel, according to Revelation 7, a messenger of God ascending from the east that redeems the 144,000 from the earth. The 144,000 are not people. Angels don't redeem people. Only God redeems people. The 144,000 are redeemed by an angel, which is a man carrying the

seal of God, able to compare that truth, having that seal of God, realizing God is love, and he doesn't make a record, taking that as the foundation and being able to interpret the scripture a step at a time.

The truth is profound. That's what makes it difficult. We have to trust another person. God's plan from the very beginning: *Abraham, I'm going to make of thee a great nation, and I'm making this promise to you and your seed.* If you're going to believe Jesus is the Son of God, it isn't going to happen except by water and Spirit. That Spirit is the word of God as God understands it.

You can plant, and you can water. But it is God who gives the increase. And that is what he is doing for his church at the end of the world. He is preparing us to give a message. Learn your Bible. Learn your Bible because that is what gives you credibility when you give a message. You can show it. You can help another person see the truth.

We love the Lord. We love him. And if we love him, we are going to love each other and try to help everyone we can to walk in unity and peace and glorify God.

Heavenly Father, we worship you. We praise you. We thank you. We pray to glorify you in every way. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.