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## **Episode 130 - When the Beast Rises: Ages 3**

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Hey — I'm Scott Stanley. In this episode, I trace Revelation and church history through seven ages: how apostasy grew from the apostles into the papacy, how the Protestant Reformation wounded and later healed the beast, and why the final generation is being prepared as God's living ark.

It's a personal, urgent look at prophecy, the man of perdition, Azazel, and what standing firm will cost — but also how God's truth will set His people free. Come listen if you want a clear, hope-filled take on how history, Scripture, and the end-time message all connect.

Modified Transcript:

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

Hi, my name is Scott Stanley. I am continuing a podcast. Really, this is the third podcast in this series concerning the ages of time. We learned that God prepared the ages through Jesus using the Word of God, that there would be seven ages of time where God would pull his people out, referring to them as kings, but eventually they would go into apostasy, becoming a head on the beast.

The beast heads in Revelation 17 are not atheists. They're not unbelievers. They're people who went into apostasy. By the time you come to the apostles, they are the sixth grouping of kings. Before this, you had pre-flood, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Zerubbabel (the timing of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah). But the apostles represent the sixth grouping of kings. Hebrews 9:26 tells us that Christ died at the end of the age. So a new age began after his death, and we see this, you could say, Pentecost, where it's the apostles who are giving the Holy Spirit, who are teaching these truths. But there was an apostasy to take place.

Now, according to Revelation 17, there would be two more apostasies. There are two more heads to the beast. He states in Revelation 17:8 that the next apostasy would happen when *the beast that you saw was, right now it isn't because the apostles are there, but it's going to ascend out of the abyss and go into perdition.* Now, what I want you to understand is that when he uses this word "perdition," I'm applying this to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, because in 2 Thessalonians 2, we have the son of perdition. Let me just share this, 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you in any way. That day shall not come, except there come a falling away first. (The word "falling away" is "apostasy, apostasia.") The falling away will happen first, and the man of sin will be revealed, the son of perdition.

So you're going to have an apostasy, which we see in 1 John 2, verse 18. John says there are antichrists now. How do we know it's the last time? Well, there's antichrist. This is how we know. These antichrists walked away from us, the apostles. Now, I tried to point out, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15, verses 1 through 4, he says, *I'm going to tell you that which I was told, that Jesus Christ died according to the scripture for our sin. He was buried. He rose according to the scripture on the third day and was seen.*

So these points of believing Jesus is Christ, believing he died for your sin, believing he was buried, believing he rose from the dead, and believing he was seen after the resurrection, are things everyone believed when they came into the church. But in 1 John 2:18, you have people who are in the church walking away from the apostles. They're still carrying with them those things Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. But there are certain things the apostles are teaching that they don't agree with. Now, what I want you to see in 2 Thessalonians 2:4,

2Th 2:4 This son of perdition opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what's holding him back, that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity is already working: only he who is restraining will restrain, until he's taken out of the way.

So if I look at the apostles and I say, "Well, there is another apostasy going to happen," it began in their day. And Paul says that this mystery of iniquity is already at work. John says the Antichrists are already here. There has to be an apostasy first. Then the man of sin will be revealed, and he uses the word "perdition" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, "*the son of perdition.*"

Revelation 17:8, *the beast will ascend out of the abyss and go into perdition.* The abyss is the mind. Your mind is infinite. The bottomless pit, the abyss, is the mind. It will ascend out of the mind, out of the mind of men, and will go into perdition, this apostasy, the man of sin, the son of perdition. Keeping that in mind, 2 Thessalonians 2:7 again,

2Th 2:7 The mystery of iniquity is already working: only he who is restraining will restrain, until he's taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 Then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy with the brightness of his coming.

What restrained the man of sin? Because remember, again, Paul says it's already working here. What restrained the man of sin from being revealed was the Caesar. The Caesar claimed to be the son of God, and if someone were to stand up and claim what he says the next guy is going to claim, in verse 4, he opposes and exalts himself above all that's called God, well, Caesar would have killed him on the spot. So it's obvious Caesar was holding back the man of sin from being revealed. So what happened? What happened to Caesar? Eventually, they had a Caesar accept Christianity, Constantine, I think, in the fourth century.

When he did, he became not only head of the state, but head of the church. As it turns out, it was the papacy that became the son of perdition. So if I look at the apostles, the next head on the beast, there's going to be an apostasy. It's going to come up out of the abyss, out of the minds of men, and go into perdition. It will last until the second coming of Christ. But I want you to see again, read again, 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

2Th 2:8 That wicked will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of his mouth, and render inactive when he comes.

There are two things right there. Christ is going to consume this with the spirit of his mouth, with words, with truth, and then render it inactive when he comes. So there is a "being set free" from this apostasy. He'll consume with the spirit of his mouth and then render it inactive when he comes. This is what you see in both Revelation 17 and Revelation 13.

Revelation 13 puts a magnifying glass on the last two heads of the beast. If I can come to grips with the fact that after the apostles, the church went into apostasy and up springs the papacy from that apostasy, what actually happened in history? If you look at Revelation 13:3,

Rev 13:3 I saw one of his heads wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed... (How was he wounded? Verse 14.)

Rev 13:14 ... With a sword. He had a wound by a sword, and did live.

What happened to Catholicism? The apostasy is in place, and up springs the papacy. But the papacy, for many people, is just too much wickedness. They just can't... They realize this can't be true. This can't be right. So using the word of God, they put to death that beast head. And suddenly now you've got the Protestant Reformation. But what the Protestants didn't do was stop the apostasy. See, you have an apostasy which gives way to the papacy. But the Protestants take the sword, the word of God, and get rid of the papacy. But they stay in the apostasy.

So in this case, instead of there being kings like the apostles, then an apostasy, then pulling out more kings, what you have at the end of the world are the apostles, the

kings. The church goes into apostasy, and there is still a continuation of the apostasy. There are two beast heads in a row! Then, at the end, the last grouping of kings is made manifest, and that is the last generation church.

So as I'm looking at Revelation 13, I'm realizing that when I see in verse 3, one of the heads is wounded to death, and I realize that the wound is with the sword or the word of God... I realize Revelation 13:3 is talking about the Protestant Reformation. But this wound is healed, and Catholicism is able to come back. You see this in Revelation 17, verse 11.

Rev 17:11 The beast that was, and right now isn't (as John is writing), even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and (there's your word) goes into perdition.

So what happened? The sixth head of the beast is wounded to death by the Protestant Reformation. The Protestant Reformation, therefore, is the seventh head of the beast. But Catholicism comes back and becomes the eighth head, but it's of the seven. So there's still only seven heads, but he comes back again after the Protestant Reformation happens. So what I want to do is read to you out of Revelation 13. In Revelation 13, verse 3,

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of this beast is wounded to death (we know by a sword). His deadly wound is healed (Catholicism comes back), and all the world wonders after that beast head.

Rev 13:4 They worship the dragon (which is Satan) which gave authority to the beast...

Remember the bottomless pit, out of the abyss, he ascends out of the abyss. Well, the abyss is the mind, and coming up out of that mind is iniquity governed by the author of iniquity, Satan.

Rev 13:4 ... They worship the beast, and they say, Who's like the beast? Who's able to make war with him?

Rev 13:5 There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and authority was given unto him to continue forty-two months. (That is perfected wickedness. Now notice what it states in verse 6.)

Rev 13:6 He opens his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme God's name, God's tabernacle, and them that dwell in the heavens.

Now, why mention that here at this part of the text? Because if he is blaspheming God's name, God's tabernacle, and them that dwell in the heavens, he must be hearing a message, or he wouldn't be doing that. He must be hearing something for him to come back and blaspheme the name of God. He must be hearing something to blaspheme people who dwell in the heavens. It's because people who dwell in the heavens are sounding the trumpets.

So at this point of the text, Revelation 13:6, the trumpets are being sounded, or he would not be doing those three things. There's no reason to do it except to defend your kingdom. So, as I read this, verse 7,

Rev 13:7 It was given unto him to make war with the saints (or those who dwell in the heavens). In fact, to overcome them, an authority was given him over all kindreds, tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:8 The people that dwell on the earth (not in the heavens) worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

We know the book of life of the Lamb... we know this is Christ, his book of life. It is his mind. He does not know them. They're workers of iniquity. These people dwell on the earth. Their names are not in the mind of Christ. Now, remember the message of the trumpets is being given.

Rev 13:9 If any man has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. In this, you'll see the patience and faith of the saints.

So there is a battle going on, a sword fight. Who has the truth? Well, they're blaspheming the name of God, so they must be being told God is love, and he doesn't make a record of sin. They will contradict that.

If I were to ask a person, "Can God forgive you without the cross?" the universal church would say "No." So let me rephrase that for you. Can God forgive you without a human sacrifice? See, they don't realize what they're saying. They're blaspheming the character of God. The tabernacle of God is personified in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit. Those who dwell in the heavens are the church. So there is a battle going on, and what happens? Verse 11.

Rev 13:11 There is another beast that comes up out of the earth. He has two horns like a lamb, and he speaks like a dragon.

He has two horns like a lamb because he's a goat. This goat is Azazel. Now, let me remind you of Azazel. There's a thing about Azazel that we need to understand. The picture in Leviticus 16, verse 21,

Lev 16:21 Aaron shall lay both of his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquity of the children of Israel, all of their rebellion and all of their sin, putting upon the head of the goat (this is Azazel), and send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness.

Lev 16:22 The goat shall bear upon him all the iniquity unto a land not inhabited...

This is what is standing up in Revelation 13:11. This is the cause of all iniquity. Why is this happening now? This is happening because the message is being given, contradicting everything they believe. And they finally double down. They're going to fight back in a way not seen before. And what does he do? Verse 12, Revelation 13:12.

Rev 13:12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast before him, and causes the earth and them which dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Now, all of a sudden, you've got three entities on this planet. You've got the people in apostasy. You've got the people in apostasy who have a pope. But then you have a group of people who had put away the papacy but allow the wound to be healed, and they make an image to the beast that was slain with the sword, the papacy. They make an image to that, and they cause those who dwell on the earth to worship that. As you keep reading this, if you look at verse 14, Revelation 13:14,

Rev 13:14 He deceives them that dwell on the earth by means of those signs which he had authority to do in the sight of the beast. He says to them that dwell on the earth, they should make an image to Catholicism, which had a wound by the sword and did live.

Rev 13:15 And there's given to it to give life (or spirit) unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause... He will be able to speak, and cause that as many as will not worship the image should be killed.

This has never happened before. In the days of the apostles, the church begins to go into apostasy. Evolving from that is the papacy. Coming from that is the Protestant Reformation, which never came out of apostasy. They remained in apostasy. They just didn't accept the Pope, but they remained in apostasy. As the message of the trumpets is given, as they begin to blaspheme the name of God, the tabernacle of God, and the church of God, Azazel comes up and doubles down and says, "We're going to make an image to that beast that was slain with a sword. In fact, anybody who doesn't worship it should be killed."

You know, I went online, and I asked AI a question. Will Protestants embrace the papacy? Answer: "That's exceedingly unlikely. While ecumenical dialogues and shared social causes like Christianity today have fostered better relations between some Protestants and Rome, a formal reunion or embrace of the Pope as a spiritual leader remains improbable. The core theological divides that sparked the Reformation, such as papal infallibility, justification by faith alone, the role of Scripture, remain mostly unresolved."

Well, guess what? At the end of the world, something's going to change. Let me give you an example. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, stands before the high priest, Caiaphas. Caiaphas has had enough of it. He's had enough of this fellow that people are following and listening to. Jesus stood face to face with Azazel. How do I know that? Because Azazel is the reason for all of our iniquity. He was toe to toe, face to face with Azazel, and he was put to death. At the end, Azazel is going to rise up and demand that an image to the papacy, an image to Catholicism be made. And whosoever will not worship it should be put to death.

Same thing. *And he will be given spirit to speak, and cause.* That sounds political to me. Like he can speak it and cause it to happen. Again, this has never happened in history. Nobody is expecting anything like this, but nobody is expecting God's church to rise up and declare a message like the one we have. It contradicts everybody. It proves everybody wrong, and it's totally scriptural. It's absolutely scriptural, giving an opportunity for God's people wherever they are to stand up and be counted. All of us need to stand up and be counted.

The last two heads of this beast are Catholicism and apostate Protestants. The Protestants have never been anything but apostate. But coming out of that is the last generation church. This is what the book of Revelation is about. And I have questioned, I mean, as I look at Noah, as I look at Christ, Hebrews 9:26, I realize that Christ died at the end of that age. Before he died, he prepared the apostles. God used Noah to prepare an ark. When Noah prepared the ark, he condemned the people of the world.

At the end of this thing, God's people are going to prepare the ark. We understand what it means to be in Jesus Christ. To be in him, I have to be baptized into his death. We understand what that means, and we are preparing for this message to go forward. We're preparing the ark. And the day will come that this gospel will go to all the world for a witness. I believe that is the beginning of the seventh age of kings. That's the beginning of that age. God will have pulled his people out of the two apostasies, the sixth and seventh heads, which become the seventh and eighth heads, making an image to Catholicism.

God's people will come out and have the truth to remain in Jesus Christ as the flood of iniquity tries to carry them away. And he does say in Revelation 13:7, that when he blasphemes God's name and tabernacle, those that dwell in the heavens, he isn't going to be doing that unless you're giving the message. But it is given unto him to make war with the saints and overcome them.

Jesus has tried to give us a warning that there hasn't been as great a tribulation since the creation of the world as what's getting ready to happen. You will face Azazel. That's what this is all about. He will demand your death if you do not worship the image of the beast. That amount of pressure on the people of God will cause many of those people to

give up and go back into the churches. When they do that, it will spare those of us who are there giving the message because the tribulation will come to an end.

When you reach the end of that tribulation, they have no light. Their sun, moon, and stars do not give any light anymore. They are trampling underfoot the holy city. It is at that point that God will send his church to Jacob. After having gone through what they've gone through with this tribulation, he says that they will become willing offerings to God. When he calls them to go to Jacob, they will go. After having been through what they've been through, they're willing to go to Jacob.

In so doing, they are showing a love for these people. *Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life* (Jhn 15:13). Already having gone through this tribulation, they're getting ready to help Jacob, and they know they will go through it again, and that is what will perfect them. Your works will perfect your faith (Jas 2:22).

You know, I went online, and I looked up Martin Luther's understanding of the book of James. He didn't like it. He said James was a straw man because Martin Luther was saying righteousness by faith alone. James says, "*Was not Abraham saved by works?*" So there was a conflict in Martin Luther's mind. He didn't understand that righteousness, coming to an understanding, is by faith. Faith is what you're taught. But that faith is perfected by your life. Martin Luther did not understand that. He was in and remained in apostasy. He just did not accept the papacy, which is a good thing. But he never came out of apostasy himself. He did not understand salvation, which is what I'm trying to say.

The people who followed after him do not understand salvation either. They pray a prayer, and they're saved. The people of God will give themselves willingly to God to help Jacob after having experienced a very traumatic time giving this message.

Remember, *this image will be given a spirit to speak and cause*. Now, in my mind, I see that as political. I see that as political people or religious people in power being able to speak and cause... to put an end to this message being given. In so doing, pressure will be put on the people who believe it, and many will give up and go back to the churches, and the rest of the people will be spared and then go to Jacob.

So I could just keep talking about this. I feel like I'm going in circles trying to explain it, but I just pray God give us wisdom and understanding to get it and to glorify him.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us. I know that this podcast, this is only the beginning. Please open our hearts to see truth in Jesus' name. Amen.