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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

In our last podcast, we studied 10 horns and how the Beast marginalizes himself, despite his greatness, by possessing the man we call the Antichrist. In that process, he pulls out three horns from the seven heads, but since he is also the “little horn” the count goes from 10 to seven to eight, the number of the Messiah. The horns are intent on war. They are authorized to act only during the hour of judgment, and giving themselves to the Beast, they war on his behalf primarily to destroy the great Harlot, the woman who rides the Best. But they will war against Jesus, but Jesus will overcome them because He is the Lord of lords and the King of Kings, He is victory itself.

EP146 Revelation 17 verse 14

Since this is a very targeted study, let’s back up and read the larger passage to retain our context.

Revelation 17:9-14

Here is the mind which is **now** having wisdom. The seven heads **now** are seven mountains on which the woman **now** chooses to sit, and they **now** are seven kings; five fell, one **now** is, the other has not yet come; and when he may come, he **now** must remain a little while.

The Beast which was and **now** is not, is **now** himself also an eighth and **now** is one of the seven, and he **now** goes to destruction.

The ten horns which you saw **now** are ten kings who have **now** not yet received a kingdom, but they **now** receive authority as kings with the Beast for one hour. These **now** have one mind, and they **now** give their power and authority to the Beast.

These will in the **future** wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb in the **future** will overcome them, because He **now** is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him **Called and Chosen and Faithful.**”

Called and Chosen and Faithful

“... and those with Him **Called and Chosen and Faithful.**”

Being a string of adjectives, this is a description of those to whom He said, “*If anyone **now** may serve Me, he is commanded to **now** follow Me; and where I **now** am, there My servant will in the **future** choose*

to be also; if anyone may **now** serve Me, the Father will in the **future** honor him.”¹ “If I may be caused to go and may prepare a place for you, I will choose to **now** come again and, in the **future**, choose to receive you to Myself, that where I **now** am, there you may **now** be also.”²

They have been called into the Kingdom of God, they have chosen to be dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things, and in so doing they have chosen to live like sons and not slaves, and they are faithful enduring in faith.

There is one key promise that the LORD OF LORDS, the KING OF KINGS has made to those who are now overcoming, to those who are found to now be believing, and that is that He will never leave nor forsake them. He is always with them, and they are always with Him.³ Therefore, when He returns, they will return with Him. In fact, He makes a promise that once He comes to get them at the time of the first harvest (the Rapture), they shall in the future choose to always be with Him.⁴ Where He goes, His Called and Chosen and Faithful go—a promise for all eternity.

The **Codex** makes it clear that when He returns to earth (at the Second Coming), He will bring all the holy ones with Him which includes the redeemed, those who are Called and Chosen and Faithful, as well as the “good” angels—the armies of God.⁵

At first, it seems odd that the Spirit would place this reference here as a tag line to this discussion of the Harlot and the Beast. But at second thought, He is juxtaposing those who follow the Beast and the Harlot with those who follow the Lamb. It may have looked like the followers of God had an untimely and unpleasant demise at the hand of the Beast and the Harlot; after all she is drunk with their blood. But the truth is that they are victorious because Jesus is not just victorious, He is victory, and they will come with Him and share in His victory. The same cannot be said for those who follow the Beast. Their demise will be utter desolation as they will follow him into the **Lake of Fire**, which is the **Second Death**.

Let us consider the meaning of each of these adjectives. However, take note that this list is **NOT** comprised of **the** Called, **the** Chosen, and **the** Faithful, for in the Greek the definite article “the” is nowhere to be found. Thus, this is not speaking of 3 different categories of people, but of one group that is described collectively as Called and Chosen and Faithful (all adjectives).

Called

The Called of God are all those who have been collected and brought into His household. The best illustration of this comes by way of the parable of the dragnet.

Matthew 13:47-50

"Again, the kingdom of heaven **now** is like a dragnet being cast into the sea and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was caused to be filled, they drew it up on the beach; and sitting down they and

¹ **John 12:26**

² **John 14:3**

³ **Hebrews 13:5**

⁴ See **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** (specifically **17**)

⁵ See **Zechariah 14:5; Isaiah 62:11-12; Matthew 16:27, 25:31**

gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So, in the **future** it will choose to be at the end of the age; the angels will in the **future** choose to come forth and, in the **future**, take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will in the **future** throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will in the **future** choose to be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The net is cast far and wide and drags into God’s household all sorts of individuals from every people, nation, tribe, and tongue. For example, 31.6% of the world identifies as being Christian, as believing in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That’s close to 2.5 billion people. And of that number, approximately 1 billion (between 31%-38% of all Christians) are protestants.

Once in His household, they all are given the opportunity to learn **WHY** they can trust **Yahweh** with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and **HOW** to trust Him in this manner. In other words, they are given the opportunity to choose to become like a little child (a son) dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things all the time, rejecting the requirements of the law which dictates what we can and cannot, must and must not do for God. Becoming a child of God, becoming a Chosen one, is necessary to live in the Kingdom of God, which extends far beyond the boundaries of His household.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave **the right to choose to become children of God**, even to those who are **now** believing in His name, who were caused to be born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.⁶

Matthew 18:3-4

Truly I **now** say to you, unless you may be converted (by God) **and** may choose to become like little children {*infants*}, you may not enter the kingdom of heaven.⁷

Luke 18:17

Truly I **now** say to you, whoever shall not choose to receive the kingdom of God like a little child {infant} may not enter it.

Let’s break this down.

Step-1. Identifying oneself as a Christian and going to church does not mean a person has been brought into God’s household. For a person to be brought into God’s household, they must be born again, or converted by God. They must by faith receive Jesus into their heart now believing in His name, which is **Yahweh**. In other words, they must believe that Jesus is God, and they are not. This is what it means to

⁶ “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle infinitive*; “believe” is rendered in the *present active participle*

⁷ “converted” is rendered in the *aorist passive subjunctive*; “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle subjunctive*

repent, or literally to think differently about Jesus. As the Apostle Peter, by the Spirit of God, phrased it:

Acts 2:38-39

You are commanded to think differently (to repent), and you are commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the freedom of your sins; and you will in the **future** choose to take hold of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This first step is an essential part to becoming a child of God, believing that Jesus, God, whose name is **Yahweh**, died for your sins, but this step does not guarantee that a person will choose to be a child of God and live free from their sins. It merely gives them both the opportunity and the right to choose.

That is **Step-1**. Those who have taken **Step-1** are the “**Called**” of God. From the masses of humanity, they have been called into the household of God.

The Pivotal Conjunction

In Western Christianity, we have been lied to, over-and-over again. In far too many Christian evangelical circles, we have been told that taking **Step-1**, being “born-again,” comes with a guarantee that a person goes to heaven and enters the Kingdom of God. There is just one huge and problematic issue that has largely been ignored, and that is the epic and monumental conjunction, “**and**” which describes the step one must take to be able to enter the Kingdom of God, without which they may not enter the Kingdom of God.

*“Truly I **now** say to you, unless you may be converted (by God) **and** may choose to become like little children {infants}, you may not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Chosen

Once in the household of God, a person is privileged with a the right *to choose to become* a child of God. This is a choice to no longer live like a servant, or a slave of God, who is beholden to the law, but to live at rest in absolute **unrestrained freedom** like a son. This is **Step-2**.

Step-2 is a process which begins when a person starts to exercise the *right*, or the authority, they have been given to dig down deep in their soul and choose to become dependent upon God for all things all the time. This is the process by which one becomes like a little child dependent only upon **Yahweh**.

The pathway to becoming like little children (becoming a Chosen one) is the pathway of tribulation where one’s *flesh* is being put to death as a result of a freewill sacrifice of one’s body, an offering to **Yahweh**.⁸ A person must be **willing** to give **Yahweh** the right to go to war against everything within them that stands in the way of Him, **Yahweh**, being their **I AM**. Through this process, God wants us to learn to look to Him for all things all the time, just like a little child would look to its parent for all his or her provision and needs.

We have seen a picture of this dynamic in **Revelation 15:2** where those who are now overcoming the

⁸ See **Romans 12:1-2**

Beast, his image, the number of his name, the woman who rides the Beast, and their own religious delusion, have been standing on something like a sea of glass caused to be mixed with fire. We learned that these are the “*fires of mercy*,” the fires of suffering through which we will be saved from the wrath of God.

The *fire* is the impetus to our now overcoming, as this *fire* is intended to burn off everything in our being that would otherwise burn with desire for the Beast and religious apostasy (that woman who rides the Beast). We must never forget that her concoction of drink is intoxicating and very hard to resist and this is why the “*fires of mercy*” are necessary. Standing in the *fires of mercy* is how we choose to abstain from falling into religious apostasy, unlike those at the churches of Ephesus and Sardis.

Though it does not feel like it, fire is a gift of mercy, it is compassionate, it is measured, it is personal (it occurs before the throne of God), and it is loving. The *fire* is literally saving our lives.

We who “*have been standing*” are **now** victorious because God graciously and mercifully provides the means to remove, or burn off, everything in our lives that is susceptible to the Beast, everything in us that does not want **Yahweh** to reign over our lives as our **I AM**. But as always, we must be *willing*. This means that we must not run from the *fire*, we must stand in the *fire* and learn to become dependent upon Jesus for every aspect of our lives. The glorious gift of the fire teaches us to rely only upon the grace of God – only upon what comes from Him.

Due to the difficulty of this path, and the many antagonists both within and without, many of the Called do not choose to make the journey into the fire, whereas others may start but do not complete the journey through the proverbial “valley of the shadow of death.” “*For the gate is small (obstacles all about) and the way is narrow (a path of squeezing) that now is leading to life, and there are few who are now finding it.*”⁹

Sadly, far too many of those who have been Called into the household of God flee the *fires of mercy* wanting to escape its pain, humiliation, shame, and so on. The process of embracing our freedom is indeed an ugly process wrought with all manner of embarrassing sin and failure, still the Spirit of God invites us to join Jesus, outside the gates of the Great City of religious apostasy, and fellowship with Him in His reproach, pain, humiliation, and the shame of the sin which He not just embraced but became.¹⁰

Those who do not want to bear this reproach outside of the gates of the Great City of religious apostasy choose instead to live like Ishmael, as sons of the bondwomen, as slaves, doing all they can to earn favor and blessing from God.¹¹ Thus, they cling to religion and to its practices to find their purpose, identity, and belonging, as they strive to be good and acceptable to God; and they do it all in Jesus name. Many even ramp up their service for God and their ministry efforts, believing that through these works of their hands, they will find the safety and security they seek.

The sad reality is that in their hearts they are still residents of *Babylon the Great City*, and they choose to dwell on this earth instead of in the heavens. As Jesus said: “*No one, after putting his hand to the plow and now looking back, is now fit for the kingdom of God.*”¹²

⁹ **Matthew 7:14.** Note: “leads” and “finds” are rendered in the *present active participle*

¹⁰ See **Hebrews 13:9-14; 2 Corinthians 5:21**

¹¹ See **Galatians 4:21-31**

¹² **Luke 9:62**

They will remain the Called and be judged like slaves. And the unfaithful slaves will find their eternity to be in outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth, **for many are called but few Chosen.**¹³ They will say to Jesus, “*Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?*” And Jesus will declare to them, “*I never knew you; you are commanded to now depart from me, you who choose to now be practicing, you who choose to now be practicing lawlessness.*”¹⁴

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we **now** desire that each one of you **now** choose to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not choose to be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience are **now** inheriting the promises.

In contrast to those who do not remain in the fire, there are those in God’s household, some of the Called, who understand that they have been adopted into sonship and that they are no longer slaves; as such, they are free to “rest” and live in **unrestrained freedom**. Accordingly, they exercise their *right to become* a child of God and they dig down deep into their souls and choose to live free like sons, free from the law (the law, your law, my law, anyone’s law), free from Babylon and all the tenets of religion, free from the harlot, free from the Beast, and free from this world.

These are those who embrace the fire and invite God to remove out of their lives everything that stands in opposition to His lordship of their lives – to their believing that He is **Yahweh** and the **I AM** of their lives. They let Him destroy their own personal *Abomination of Desolation* – the **ME** – and seek to have Him cause them to be submitted only to His desire and His will for their lives.

We have all faced many traumas and have all been deeply wounded in our lives, and for many this is a reason why they run from the fire. They no longer want to be dominated by outside forces that have not protected them but have only hurt them and have only been self-seeking. But the Chosen of God come to realize that they are truly only safe and protected when they let their Father in Heaven become the one who dominates, rules, and controls their life, regardless of what that means for them practically.

In so doing, they choose to live as one who is **Chosen** of God.¹⁵ They choose the pathway of death knowing that it is the only path that leads to life. They are those who eventually declare with their heart, mind, soul, and strength: “*I have been caused to be crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who **now** live, but Christ **now** lives in me; and the life which I **now** live in the flesh I **now** live by faith in the Son of God, who was loving me and was giving Himself up for me.*”¹⁶ They have embraced the **Substitute Principle**: His life for theirs, His will for theirs, His desire for theirs, and so on.

¹³ See **Matthew 8:10-12, 13:36-43, 47-50, 22:1-14, 24:45-51, 25:1-13, 14-30; Luke 13:22-30; Galatians 1:6-9, 5:7-15; 1 Peter 2:21; 2 Peter 1:3-11**

¹⁴ **Matthew 7:22-23**

¹⁵ See **Matthew 22:14; Galatians 3:15-29, 4:1-3, 5:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-28; Colossians 3:12-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Titus 1:1-3; 1 Peter 1:1-2**

¹⁶ **Galatians 2:20**

Faithful

The faithful are Called and Chosen and they are the enduring bondservants of Jesus Christ, those who are now overcoming, who are now having ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches, those who are now following the Lamb wherever He goes, those who are even now digging down deep in their soul and choosing to come out of the great tribulation and who are now holding to the testimony of Jesus.¹⁷ These are those who endure to the end and provide an example for the Chosen to follow. This is why the Apostle Paul said,

2 Timothy 2:8-13

You are commanded to now remember Jesus Christ, caused to being raised from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I **now** suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God has not been caused to be imprisoned.

For this reason, I **now** endure all things for the sake of those who are **chosen**, so that they also **may** obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, and with it, eternal glory. It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also in the **future** live with Him; if we **now** endure, we will also in the **future** reign with Him; if we in the **future** choose to deny Him, He also will in the **future** choose to deny us; if we are **now** unbelieving (faithless), He **now** remains faithful, for He cannot **now** be caused to choose to deny Himself.

This passage provides additional insight to the culling in the Sanctuary that was explained in **Revelation 11:1** where only those “priests” (a picture of the Called and Chosen) who are now worshipping in the Sanctuary are measured off as belonging to God, and those “priests” of God who should be in the Sanctuary but are busy serving and worshipping in the Temple at large (a picture for the Great City of Religious Apostasy) are cut off and not included in this measurement. The whole scene was chilling and a bit shocking.

The point is that even those who have Chosen to invite Jesus to teach them how live like a little child, a son, and to no longer live like slaves to the law, still must continue to be those who are now overcoming. And they must endure *in believing* to the end no matter what God, in His mercy, takes them through. In effect, Paul says that he is himself an example of one who has and will endure all things, one who will stand in the *fires of mercy* and not flee, now believing that Jesus is **Yahweh**, his “**I AM**,” his only source for life. The fire which Paul endured, though measured, was nothing short of terrible.

2 Corinthians 11:24-29

Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers

¹⁷ See **Revelation 1:1, 2:7, 10-11, 17, 26-29, 3:5-6, 12-13, 21-22, 7:13-14, 12:17, 14:1-5**

among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

Then, despite all that trauma, the Lord sent Paul a thorn in the flesh, literally a messenger from Satan, a demon, to help Paul, to keep him from exalting himself because of all the amazing revelations God gave him. Yes, instead of transforming Paul's pride, God used the enemy to restrain Paul, to humble him, and to keep him dependent upon Jesus so that he, Paul, might not find strength or glory in his own gifting, ability, and outcomes.

Jesus told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is **now** caused to be perfected in weakness." As a result, Paul was able to tell the Corinthians: "Therefore, I **now** am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I may **now** be weak, then I **now** am strong."¹⁸

Like Paul, those who are now overcoming, and who choose to endure, are the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** and they are with Jesus, the Lord of lords and the King of kings.

Chapters 3 and 4 of the book of **Hebrews** is a plea for the Called and Chosen to continue believing, to endure, and to not turn back. It is a call to enter and remain in the believer's Sabbath Rest, completely resting from our own works and service. This is such an important issue that it is important that we read from the text, for we are called to continually remind each other of the need to choose to enter our rest, and to endure in our rest.

Hebrews 3:12-4:11

You are commanded to **now** take care, brethren, that there not in the **future** choose to be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the **now** living God. But you are commanded to **now** encourage one another day after day, as long as it is **now** still called "Today," so that none of you will be caused to be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

For we have become partakers of Christ, if we **may** hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is **now** caused to be said,

"TODAY IF YOU **MAY** HEAR HIS VOICE, **MAY** YOU NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."

For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who were sinning, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not in the **future** choose to enter His rest, but to those who were *unbelieving*? So, we **now** see that they were not caused to be able to enter because of *unbelief*.

Therefore, may we be caused to fear if, while a promise is **now** caused to remaining of entering His rest, any one of you **may** seem to have come short of it. For indeed we **now** have had good news

¹⁸ See **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

caused to be being preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not caused to being united by faith in those who were hearing. For we who have been believing choose to **now** enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT IN THE **FUTURE** CHOOSE TO ENTER MY REST," although His works were caused to being finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS"; and again, in this passage, "IF THEY SHALL IN THE FUTURE CHOOSE TO ENTER MY REST."

Therefore, since it is caused to **now** remain for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news caused to being preached to them failed to enter because of *unbelief*, He again **now** fixes a certain day, "Today," **now** saying through David after so long a time just as has been caused to be said before, "TODAY IF YOU **MAY** HEAR HIS VOICE, **MAY** YOU NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."

For if Joshua {Jesus} had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. So, there is caused to **now** remain a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God. For the one who has been entering His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore, **may** we be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall through following the same example of *unbelief*.

The **Called and Chosen and Faithful** enter their Sabbath rest, trusting that Jesus is responsible to do the works of the Father that He desires to do through their lives when He desires to do them. And that is why they follow the Lamb wherever He goes, and they wait on Him.¹⁹ They don't go before Him, but they follow Him.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

¹⁹ Revelation 14:4