

## Lightning Comes Before Thunder

In Rom 1:24,26,28 what is the noticeable phrase in those three verses? What is the outstanding phrase? *He gave them over.* What does it mean that He gave them over? What is the context? To whom did He give them over? What does that phrase mean in connection with the verse? If God gave you over, what would it mean? What did Paul say to do to that man in 1 Cor 5:5, since he was living such an ungodly life in front of the whole congregation? Turn him over. So God “gave them over.” What does it mean that God gave them over? Read verses 24, 26, and 28. So what does it mean to “give them over” in that context?

Remember the baby eagle story? What is outstanding about the baby eagle story? What is the outstanding point? It is an object lesson. What is the object? He is teaching the baby eagle how to fly, giving it countless chances to fly, always swooping down and catching it. But what if the baby eagle will *never* put its wings out and fly, what will eventually happen? The baby eagle would get so big, too big for another eagle to keep picking it up. So then, instead, the adult eagle would eventually let it go — let it fall to the earth and die.

So here in Rom 1:24,26,28, it says that God abandoned them. He turned them over, gave them over. He abandoned them to let them do what? To eat the fruit of their own ways. What happens when restraint is lifted? Today in the school systems they are lifting restraint on children regarding sexual behavior and everything else. What is the natural result of restraint being lifted? Chaos, destruction. Someday the restraining power will be lifted — totally, absolutely lifted. Right now the United States has elected a president who is doing everything possible to lift the restraining power over their country. The country elected him. So maybe God is turning the United States over to eat the fruit of its own choices, or He is teaching them an object lesson — to never make such a mistake again?

Because in Rom 24,26,28 we learn that God abandoned them to eat the fruit of their own choices. God permits all nations to go their own way. That is what it means when it says that

God *gave them over*. In 2 Ths 2 it says that the restraining power is removed so God turns them over.

If you have a son with a fear of heights, you expose him to high places. That is the only way to get over a phobia — by being exposed to it. A phobia is only in the mind. No one can get over anything except by being exposed to it.

Now let's look at Dan 2:44. *In* the time of those kings, during those days (Christians will always say *after*, but it says *in* the lifetime of those kings, *during* the time of those kings, when those kings are on earth), the God of heaven will set up a kingdom. It will not happen after those kings, but in the lifetime of those kings. This is the meaning of the vision of the stone cut out of the mountain without human hands, which will destroy all the kingdoms of the world.

In Mt 21 we can see that our Master took what was spoken in Daniel and spoke those words, telling the whole story in Mt 21:33-44, so that we could understand who the people were there — that nation that is taking the place of old Israel for a time, not forever, but for a time — and see who they are. It is difficult to read Mt 21:43 unless you start in verse 33 to see why the edah had to come about in order to take Israel's place, to understand why He had to have a special servant nation, a people to do what old Israel could not do and were not doing and were therefore always divided and against one another and worshipping idols and not keeping the Sabbath, not being the light of the world that they were supposed to have been. And so, therefore, He took it away from them (verse 43) and gave it to a people who will produce the fruit of it. It is talking about the stone that the builders rejected which became the capstone and it is marvelous in our eyes. And (verse 44) He who falls on the stone will be broken, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.

So in verse 44 He is talking about a stone that will crush (Dan 2:44; Mt 21:44).

What comes first, thunder or lightning? Why does lightning come first? Why do you see lightning before the thunder? Even if the thunder is right over your head, why do you see lightning before thunder? Because light travels faster than sound. Sound travels 600 or 700 feet/second. Light travels 186,000 miles/second. Thunder and lightning are a simultaneous event,

but you see the lightning before you hear the thunder. Have you ever wondered before about that? That's why good parents teach their children to stop, look, and listen before they cross the street. Since sound travels faster than the car, you hear the sound before the car gets there, so it gives you warning that the car is coming.

We see in Dan 2:44 that lightning comes before thunder. We see in Mt 24:14 that lightning comes before thunder, that sufficient warning is given. What does it say in Mt 24:14? You should not even have to look at it; everyone knows what it says because it is what you are doing, what you are bringing about. The gospel of the kingdom is going to be preached as a light to the nations before the end comes — lighting comes before thunder. So therefore there is going to be enlightenment before destruction. There always has to be enlightenment before destruction, just like there was in Sodom and Gomorrah. There always has to be a light.

It is the most idiotic thing that you were bathed in the lie that Jesus is going to come any minute, when the world has not been given sufficient warning and light. So Mt 21:43 is that Stone Kingdom that is going to be raised up to give the world sufficient warning. Why? Because God loves the world. He loves the people in the world so much that He wants them to grow in understanding. Even after the community is taken out of the world and into the wilderness, He still sends people out to the world to preach the everlasting eternal gospel. The eternal gospel that He preaches to the world is to give them one more chance not to take the mark of the beast. This is the eternal gospel that your sons are going to preach if you raise up a child who is worthy to do it. It is a gospel of living by your conscience.

When men did not live by their conscience, He came with the gospel to save us who were not living by our conscience. That is why we love Him so much, because most of us were already doomed to the lake of fire. We received the gospel of Yahshua. It is not the gospel of Yahshua that is preached at the very end, it is the eternal gospel. Rev 14:6-7 tells about it. It is a call to fear the God who made the oceans and the rivers and the trees and the flowers and all the creation, though it is all destroyed. There will be so few trees left on the earth that a child will be able to count them (Isa 10:17-19).

So you see that Dan 2:44, Mt 21:43, and Isa 49:6 is a light. Light has to come to the ends of the earth before destruction. And the seed has to produce offspring to create that light, to be that light (Rom 9:27). You see in Dan 2:35 that the wind swept them away without leaving a trace — not one trace of this wicked age, not one trace of this evil perverse society and government. It is just like there will not be a trace of chaff left in the edah after the winnowing process is over — all the insincere will be removed totally and absolutely. Dan 2:35 — The wind swept them away without leaving a trace, but the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. That is the next kingdom after the fourth kingdom. It is the fifth and final kingdom.

That is who you are — the eternal kingdom of God, built right on the ruins of the sinful kingdom, on the empires of man. And the last empire will be the most evil of all. Nothing will be compared to this last kingdom that is coming on the face of the earth. And the kingdom that you are will be raised up and will go on forever and ever, along with the overcomers of the first church. (They would not be anything without you.) That kingdom is going to be built right on the ruins of the last empire which will be blown away without a trace, and there will be a new heavens and new earth. The new kingdom is the kingdom of the servant people, the servant nation who brings everything about, the real spiritual seed of Abraham who obey like Abraham obeyed.

We know that anything that is not restrained goes to total chaos. Your children, if they are not restrained, go to chaos. If the church is not restrained, it goes to total chaos like the first church is today — Christianity, which is chaotic. There is nothing more chaotic than Christianity today.

Lk 12:49-50 says something that our Master is going to do. What was He distressed about? He voluntarily went into it. Do you think He was not distressed to think about what He had to undergo in order to bring about that fire on the earth! What is that fire going to do? It is going to save every person on the earth who can be saved, because He loved the world so much. It is also going to bring the world to an end, an end of this age. Isa 10:17 — *“The light of Israel*

*will become a fire.*” That is prophetic. Then it talks about when He will burn and consume what? What the beautiful garden produced — the thorns and the briars (Isa 10:17-19). The light of the world will become a fire. The light of the world first, then the fire. The light first before the fire — lighting before thunder, enlightenment before destruction. So He wants to get that fire started in us to bring this about on the earth. He came to bring a sword, to bring division. Therefore the world is going to be divided between those who obey that sword and those who do not. We have to be burning like a burnt offering that puts off heat and light for observation. We have to be kindling, to kindle that fire, ignite it, cause it to burn.

The word *stone* in Dan 2:34 means to begin to build, to begin to set up this kingdom. If you look up the word *stone*, it has something to do with building, setting up, building with stones for a purpose. This stone is living stones cut out of that mountain of the world (1 Pet 2:5).

Isa 1:9 speaks about a seed that will be preserved. And we know that seed causes a great light upon the earth. A remnant will come forth from it. “*Unless the Lord Almighty had left us a seed, we would all become like Sodom and Gomorrah.*” And what happened to them? They were destroyed, every last one, except a remnant. “*...unless He left us a seed.*” It does not say *survivors*, but a seed.

In Rom 9:29 it says a *seed*, in verse 27 it says a *remnant*. A remnant comes forth from a seed and that remnant is that stone. It says that YHWH Almighty will carry out destruction, which has already been decreed, on the whole earth (Isa 10:23; 11:4).

We can go on and on and on about our purpose in life and why we have been chosen and why we are living the way we are living. There is absolutely no salvation outside of the community.

One last thing is Jer 30:20. The correct translation is, “*Their children will be restored as in the days of old and their **community** will be established before me.*” It does not say any other word — it says *community* (*edah* #5713). The church cannot be anything different than community. *Edah* means witness, light, enlightenment, people who bring light into the dark world. Lightning comes before thunder, enlightenment before destruction. “*Their community*

*will be established before me; and I will punish all who oppress them.”* Verses 18-24 — *“I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents...”* If you know anything about Numbers and about Balem's prophecy, you know that he is talking about us and no one else. *“...and have compassion on his dwellings...”* Verse 24 — *“In later days you will understand this.”* It will be so clear. And you will be so enlightened and you will have such vision that you will know who you are. And then it says that at that very same time (Jer 31:1-2; Rev 12:14) they survive the sword, and He will give us rest in the wilderness and He will nourish us (verses 3-4).

You can see what our mission in life is — to bring about that life in the next age for ancient Israel. Isa 49:6 brings about Isa 49:8. In the promise of Gen 15:18, our God walked through those animals. And Jer 34:18 tells us it is a self-cursing oath. If the promise is not fulfilled, God will be cursed. He says, *“Let Me be cursed if My love does not win the hearts of some people on the face of the earth in the last days. Let Me be cursed if My love is not that great, if My lovingkindness does not move their hearts to be faithful and loyal to Me to the very end so that I can raise up a kingdom that will not be left to another people, but which will destroy all the other kingdoms on the earth and will bring about the next age so that the eternal age will begin. Then My way can be done in the universe. That's the reason I've created man in the first place.”*

**Hakam:** It was revelation to me in Isa 10:17 where it says the light of Israel will become a fire and the holy one a flame. And it goes on to talk about judgment that is going to come on the earth because of it. And what I saw this morning is that that light cannot become a fire on the earth without restraint. We can say that we want to be a light of the world, but unless our God, through His anointing, brings that restraint, we can't be it; you can't just be light. Because the way I thought of it is like if we've been saved and we have the essence of our Master Yahshua, then when restraint comes, all it does is purify us. It makes us pure it draws us near to our God, it burns up the flesh, it burns away all the excess of things that keep us from actually doing what's in our heart and being what's in our heart to be. So without that restraint, we will never be able to do or be what's in our heart to be, without the restraint, the fire of the refiner that comes to us through the anointing.

And so it made me really thankful for that and made me see how we can't take that fire in the wrong light, or it won't do its work, it won't properly cleanse us, it won't properly refine us, it won't properly make us into the gold — what's going to shine out on the earth.

And eventually that same judgment that's coming to us right now is going to come to the whole world. The judgment is coming to us now and through His judgment that comes every day, we're becoming the light. And like you said about children, if there's no restraint on children they become chaotic, without any light or focus like the world — worthless fellows.

So that's what's going to happen — the world is becoming more and more like that so that once the light is raised up to be the light of the world by allowing that work to go on in our heart everyday, our God raises us up to be the light of the world and He's going to send a fire to the world and He's going to send out the *zakar* and they're going to speak that word on the earth. They're going to speak the everlasting gospel and it's going to bring judgment on the whole world and it's going to burn up the whole world. The whole world is going to be burnt up because of what they did to the *zakar*. And so like if you put gold in the furnace, all the dross is burned off and you get pure gold. But if you put trash in the furnace it's completely destroyed, there's going to be nothing left of it. And that's how it's going to be when the stone hits the kingdoms of the world. It says that when it hits the statue it's like the chaff — it disintegrates like paper in the fire. I'm thankful for that restraining fire that's upon us right now.

We are living in the days when it says that judgment must come to the house of God first, before it comes to the world (1 Pet 4:17). This is because if it does not come to the house of God first, then it cannot come to the world because the house of God has to become the light of the world by their judgment (2 Ths 1:8-10).

**Ben Nabi:** That's why the community needs to be restored and chaff burned off so we could grow up into the image of Yahshua. The community is a place where our Master can speak to us, and He says, *Heb 12:25-29*. Hakam was saying last night that it's because we are in the hothouse of community, immersed in circumstances that are bringing the chaff up in our lives. But when those processes have been finished, then the true wheat is there for a purpose and therefore God *can* suddenly come to His temple because there is nothing left of earthly things. You do not have to keep beating the wheat. But right now there is no standard except what our Master is establishing in community. I'm thankful for this burning and inward preparation that our Master is doing. Many times I don't cry out unless I'm desperate. Our heart really wants to be like our Master

but when those circumstances come that make us like our Master, we look at our feet and we fall and they cause the opposite effect, if that discipline isn't working in our heart. He will remove the proud ones because it's the proud who won't let that work be done in their heart.

The difference with our children when they come into youthhood is that they have already been beaten with the rod. At this point they are in an age of responsibility and do not have to be beaten with the rod anymore, *if* the chaff has been burned away with the rod. Then you can really be useful to our Master, or to your parents until you become an adult.

And for us too, the day is going to come when He does not have to discipline us anymore. When we are sitting on the throne with Him, He does not have to discipline us — we have His mind; we know how to listen to Him like He listened to His Father. Then we are full-fledged sons with the word of our Father.