

## ***Session 6 Called To Song 8:6, Hephzibah, and Jesus in Red***

Well, this is the sixth out of the eight sessions that we are looking at in a series on the prophetic history of IHOP–KC, as we go through many prophetic testimonies, and how the Lord has emphasized from heaven the things that He promises to do. But, in promising us certain things, there is a message in those promises.

It is not only, “Wow, isn’t it going to be great?” But, the Lord is saying, “I want you to do something.” There is a message in the promise. There is a mandate. It is not just that we are to do it, but we are to do it in a certain way, with a right spirit before Him. Sometimes when we hear the message, or study the prophetic history, we are more focused on the dynamic events that will occur. I just feel excited that the events are glorious, and they speak of great things, power, events, finance, and supply: but there is a message. There is a mandate. There is a work to do. There is a work to do in a right spirit in a right way, and we have to say the message according to the Word of God.

In the last session, session five, we looked at the conviction of the Holy Spirit, the gift of anointed intercession, and where God is going to bring apostolic preaching, prophetic singing, drama, and these things for the power of conviction to supernaturally touch the heart.

### **JESUS CALLS US TO INVITE HIM TO COME TO US AS A JEALOUS BRIDEGROOM**

In this session, I want to continue on the subject of last night’s message. We are going to focus on how the Lord established the forerunner message in our midst. He emphasized this: we are to be forerunners. He established this in our midst in a process over years. Of course, He used the written Word of God, and He used the prophetic dreams and visions to highlight and emphasize that which is clearly in the written Word of God. So, dreams and visions are not to add anything to the written Word, but to bring a focus and a new insight into old truths. One of our primary callings is that of the forerunner spirit with the forerunner message. Now, when I think of the forerunner message, I think of three things: Jesus, as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

### **BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE**

As Bridegroom, He has great emotion and desire for His people. As King, He has great power, and He is going to take over all the nations. He will transform all of society, shift all the finance, and raise the dead. I mean, during the rapture of the Church, everybody is raised from the dead. He is King. He has power over money, nations, the great harvest, and over the end-time prayer movement. He is King. He is not only a Bridegroom King, but He is also Judge, and He is going to confront everything that hinders love.

Now, the message of Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge at first glance seems contradictory. People, initially, tend to pick one of the three. The third one is always Jesus the Judge. That is always the last one that is in their focus. People typically pick the King saying, “I like the power dimension, the transfer of indescribable wealth, the transformation of cities and nations, and revival. I like Jesus as King.”

Others say, “Oh, I love You. You love me. I like Jesus as Bridegroom. I do not know about the revival thing. I love Him, and He loves me.” Well, Jesus the King who is taking over the nations is doing it for love. And Jesus the Bridegroom who loves also says, “Hey, I want to take over the nations, so I can establish My love throughout the entire earth.”

But, Jesus the Judge says, “I am going to confront everything that hinders My love. I am going to move it out of the way.” In reality, there is no difference. At the core of these three truths, they are the same truth. They are different facets of one diamond. They are different facets of one glorious man—fully God and fully man—the God-man Jesus. I believe that we are in the early days of the generation of the Lord’s return, and that is my own personal opinion and conviction. I have that conviction not because of a dream, a vision, or a personal revelation. I have that conviction because of the biblical signs of the times. There are so many signs that are increasing in intensity from the biblical witness of what would happen in society, in the Church, in the nations, and then, in the created order with earthquakes, floods, and signs in the heavens.

### **BIBLICAL SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

By just the observation of the increase of biblical signs of the times, I have an increasing conviction that we are in the early days of that generation. I believe there are people alive on the earth right now who will actually see the coming of the Lord with their eyes. It may not be for some decades. I do not know. It may be three, four, five, six decades, or maybe longer, or shorter. Nobody knows the day, or the hour because of the signs of the times; but, I believe there will be people all over the earth who will know, as we get closer to that time, that we are living in the generation of His return. I believe that there are signs in the Word of God—biblical signs—that create in us a confidence and an awareness that we are getting closer to that hour.

Well, we are in that hour of those final decades, when the Holy Spirit is going to emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge with a greater focus. A lot of folks have been content with Jesus just as forgiver of sins. Then, another group came along about 100 years ago in the Pentecostal movement and said, “Hey, He doesn’t only forgive, He heals.” There is Jesus the forgiver, and Jesus the healer. In the last ten or twenty years with the prosperity doctrine being preached, they paint the picture that Jesus has all the money: “He gives us money too. He not only forgives us, but He heals us and gives us money.” But, there is more to what is on His heart: the forerunner message is not just that He forgives, He heals us, and He gives us money. He has global purpose, and He is raising up forerunners who get prepared first to prepare others to cooperate with Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

### **THE DIFFERENT FACES OF JESUS**

Jesus has three faces of one heart, or three facets of one diamond. When we first came to Kansas City twenty-seven years ago, we were into Jesus as King a little bit. We loved Jesus as King, but we did not realize how big that message was. It was the message of revival, a great harvest, and seeing souls saved. We would do anything to see souls saved. That was what we were about. It was Jesus who had power to release the harvest. He strengthened our intercession; He gave us words and promises about intercession, so we had more confidence to pray with more focus in a more ardent way with greater commitment.

He strengthened our intercession because the intercessors cried out for Jesus the King to show us the power to manifest His provision. Well, a few years go by, and He said, “I am going to add to it now. I want you to know Jesus, the Bridegroom, not just Jesus as the One with power only, but Jesus whose heart is filled with desire.” So, He captured us. It was an ambush. None of us were thinking of it. We thought of intimacy with God a little bit. We all thought of it a bit, but not with the kind of focus that the Bible makes clear. God began to say, “Preach on Jesus the Bridegroom. Encounter the Bridegroom.” Our response was like, “This is interesting.”

## **JESUS AS BRIDEGROOM**

We knew the King a little bit, the God of revival, the God of healing, the God of provision—and a little bit of His Kingship. Again, that is only the outer edges of His Kingship. There is a lot more to His Kingship than that. Then, He began to say, “The God, the King, with the burning heart. The Bridegroom King.”

That kind of threw us off for a few years. As people, we were grappling with it. We did not have language. We could not connect with it. It seemed contradictory as if we either had to pick the Jesus of revival, or the Jesus who loved us. Obviously, it is the same thing, but we were struggling. We had revival people, and we had intimacy people. These two camps were in conflict. A few years passed, and the Lord says, “I am going to add more to your foundation. Now, we will look at Jesus as Judge. He is not only a King with power, and a Bridegroom with love, desire, and emotion. In His judgments, He will remove everything that gets in the way of love. He is going to intervene to remove the hindrances. As a Bridegroom King, He can have His way with His people.” When we began to emphasize the judgment message, this created a whole kind of conflict.

## **PEOPLE WANTED TO CHOOSE ONE ASPECT OF HIS PERSONALITY**

We had three different groups in our midst: the Bridegroom God camp, the Jesus the King camp, and Jesus the Judge. Of course, they were in the minority, and they were like, “He is a Judge.” There were all kinds of dialogues and intense fellowship, as if people were asking, “Which one is the truth?” It took years for this to come together and to be integrated in our thinking as one seamless revelation of One God-man, Jesus Christ. We do not have to pick between the three.

Well, it is the forerunner message. I am going to give you just a few of the prophetic experiences that we had as the Lord took us on the journey. I already told you last night in the fifth session about how we emphasized the gift of prayer and the gift of revival. Again, that is Jesus as King. That is just dimensions of His kingship. He has power. He is going to show His power, and we are going to get healed. People will be saved. Then we are going to have provision, and there is going to be power as Jesus manifests Himself as the King. Now, in this session, I am going to talk about how He convinced us.

The Bible is good enough to convince us, but we were so dull of hearing that we could not see the obvious that was in the Bible. God gave us dreams and visions, and God brought us a particular focused gaze on the old truths of the Word of God. Some folks have said, “Wow, you have some new stuff.”

I say, “No, no. We just have a new look at an old truth. It is new to us. It has been in the Word of God the whole time. It is just new to us, but it is an old truth.”

## **IN JULY 1988, I WAS SURPRISED BY A WEDDING CARD WITH SONG OF SONGS 8:6**

This was the first shocker in July 1988. I cannot imagine God picking me for this truth—the truth of the Song of Solomon. I just was not a Song of Solomon guy, or at least I did not know that I was. Well, it is July of 1988, and I am in my office after a morning prayer meeting. I am reading a wedding card. On this wedding card, it has Song of Solomon 8:6: “Set Me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death.” In other words, “Nothing can overcome My love if it is yielded to.” I am reading this on a wedding card, and I said, “Wow.”

## **SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6**

Now, I have seen that on wedding cards before, but it never really grabbed my attention. It struck me. I said, “Set Me as a seal.” I just came out of a prayer meeting, and I was really focused on the Lord. I was going through my mail, and I stopped and said, “Lord, be the seal. Oh Jesus, seal my heart with Your love.” I just stopped for a second. The Spirit of the Lord came on me, and I began to weep; so I said, “Lord, fill my heart, Father.”

I prayed from John 17:26: “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

I prayed, “Fill my heart, Father, with the love You have for Your Son. Seal me with supernatural power.” It was really just a surprise of tenderness, and I began to weep. I picked up the phone, called the receptionist, and said, “Something unusual is happening right now, and if somebody calls or comes by, just do not let them interrupt me, no matter what. It is really a special moment.” And I hung the phone up.

Now, I have never in thirty plus years of ministry called the receptionist and said, “Do not for any reason let somebody call me because God is visiting me.” I wished that I had had that happen many times, but I have never done that before. It was just this one day. I am there, and I am just weeping. I am tender, and I am saying, “Lord, set Yourself, be the seal upon my heart. Touch me.” I just cannot think of anything sweeter and more tender than when God is revealing God to the human spirit.

There is nothing more dynamic than when God reveals God to the human spirit especially when He is revealing His love. Ten minutes later, the phone rings. Now, I cannot believe how quick I can go from the heights of tenderness to instantaneously in the flesh. I said “What?” How can you go from there to there that fast? Well, I am really good at it. I have had a lot of practice. I picked the phone up, and I said, “Hello?” The receptionist said, “I really apologize, but Bob Jones just called.”

## **BOBS HEARS THE AUDIBLE VOICE OF GOD CONFIRMING THE WORD**

By 1988, Bob Jones has been with us for five years, and he has quite a testimony in our midst because the stories are now well known. The receptionist says, “He said that he has heard the audible voice of God for you right now.”

She said, “I figured I should let God in. Is that good?”

I said, “That is good. That is OK. Always let God in.” It was just Bob Jones on the phone, but he had a testimony or prophetic word from God. So, I said, “Hello, Bob.”

Bob answered, “Mike, I have one minute. I am on my way to the airport. They are out in the car coming to pick me up. But, I have had a powerful encounter just now. I heard the audible voice of God when I was awake just now, just moments ago.”

It is early in the morning, and he is getting ready to go to the airport. He was running late, and the car was outside. They were saying, “Hurry up, hurry up, Bob.”

He said, “The Lord just spoke to me: Song of Solomon 8:6.”

I cannot believe this. I am still kneeling; I have got the phone in my hand, my Bible in the other hand, and I am looking at Song of Solomon 8:6. Bob Jones says, “The Lord gave me Song of Solomon 8:6 audibly just now, and He told me I must call you right now.” He said, “I will check in with you when I get back in town, but I want you to know these two things. This is going to be a primary focus of your ministry all the days of your life. Number two: whatever is in Song of Solomon 8:6”—he had not even looked it up yet—“God is going to do it in the Body of Christ worldwide. I have got to go.” And he hung the phone up.

The Spirit of the Lord just continued to minister to me, and I was so excited. I mean to get a divine mandate and clarity for your whole life. Now, I had had one of those divine mandates given to me by God five years earlier at the solemn assembly in May 1983.

### **TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID**

The Lord said, “Do twenty-four hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.” So, now I have a second mandate. “Do Song of Solomon 8:6. Focus on it.” It seems so strange to me now, but in that day there was a conflict. I thought, “Which is it? Is it the twenty-four hour prayer, or is it the Song of Solomon?” It is the same thing, but in that day, that was completely a dichotomy.

I said, “How am I going to do the prayer thing, if I do the intimacy thing?” I know it just sounds absurd in 2009 but we had prayer meetings for years, and they were “Rambo” prayer meetings. It was, “Devil, come out, or we are coming after you.” They were not, “Oh, how I love You. How You love me. Jesus, break in with power.” We were militant, strong, and going after the Devil. We are still militant, and there is still a strong resolve to bring the name of Jesus against the works of darkness. There is a resolve still internally, but back then, we only had the militant outward mode. We did not know that the King who will overthrow the works of darkness in society in a manifest way is not just a King, but a lovesick God as well. He is the Bridegroom King. So, this seemed like a dichotomy at first. I thought, “I have two life mandates.” Now, I look back and say, “It is one life mandate.”

### **TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN, OR TWO FACETS OF ONE GLORIOUS DIAMOND**

It is two sides of one coin, or different facets on that glorious diamond. So, I remember, I called Diane, “Diane, the most amazing this happened.”

She asked, “What?”

I said, “Bob Jones heard the audible voice of the Lord and said that I have this mandate the rest of my life, and He is going to do this throughout the Body of Christ in the whole world.” I do not mean that God is just going to do it through me. God is going to raise up many messengers who have this Song of Solomon focus, which is really the first commandment focus. Some people say, “Well, I do not really study the Song of Solomon.” It is really the message of the first commandment.

### **GRACE ACROSS THE BODY OF CHRIST WORLDWIDE TO WALK IN SONG OF SONGS 8:6**

This is the worldwide message of the Bridegroom God touching His people with His desire and awakening in them desire back for Him. The Holy Spirit restores the first commandment to first place. He is going to do that in the generation of His return. It is the first commandment mandate—really it is. This is the mandate to receive the love of God and to return it. We must love God with all of our heart because He loves us with all of His

heart. Imagine: we are to love God with all of our heart and mind because He loves us with all of His heart and all of His mind.

So, it is the message, “I love you with all of My mind and all of My heart.” That is the Bridegroom message that God is speaking to us. Imagine the message that God loves us with all of His mind: He loves us with all of His heart, with all of His strength, all of His soul, and we love Him in return. We are walking together in wholehearted love.

Now, our love is a lot smaller than His love, but it is our all. It is the all in our heart and the all of His heart. That is the Bridegroom message. So, I called Diane, and I said, “I had this encounter with the Lord, Bob Jones, and Song of Solomon.”

### **TWO PARTS TO THE SAME MANDATE: HOUSES OF PRAYER WITH INTIMACY FOCUS**

I received that other mandate five years ago; after that mandate, we put that sign on the wall announcing twenty-four-hour prayer. We reminded ourselves, “We are going to do that!” But just over the months and years, I would talk to Diane, and I would say, “I think I have two mandates: I have the prayer mandate and the Song of Solomon mandate. Hey, that works for me. Two mandates are fine.” I did not realize that it was one mandate.

So, I was excited and decided that since I am called to Song of Solomon, I ought to read it once. I had never read the Song of Solomon in a really serious way. I had read it in the early days to make some jokes to the youth groups, but I had never read it in a serious way, or in an “I love you God. What are you saying?” way. I read one verse here and one verse there. So, I said, “Great! The Song of Solomon: let’s start it.”

I am reading through it thinking, “OK, perfume, kisses, flowers, and fragrance.” By chapter eight—this is not a joke—I am depressed. I said, “I cannot do this. I really mean that I cannot do this.” I told the Lord, “You know, I am the son of a world champion boxer.” In the amateur arena, my father was a world champion in the army, and he boxed professionally for a number of years. I grew up in a boxing home, and a lot of his friends were boxers.

Here is the background of my childhood: I grew up in the bars and in the taverns. My dad had mafia friends and boxing friends. It sounds like a movie, but it was real. It was just tough guys, drinking, hard language, and everybody beat everybody up if they were the best. So, I said, “Lord, I am the son of a boxer. This, I do not know.” I did not think it was for men. I said, “Lord, give it to the women’s ministry. They like stuff like this. The ladies will love it. I am more of a coach, not a poet.”

So, I asked the Lord, “Give me the life of David, the book of Romans, or the book of Revelation. Give me one of those books, I will run with it with all of my heart.”

So, I came home that night, and Diane said, “What a great day.”

I said, “No.”

She said, “Well, this morning you called.”

I said, “Have you ever read the book?”

She said, “Yes, it is awesome.”

I said, “This is like a prison sentence.” I really said this. “This is a prison sentence.” I am thirty-two or thirty three years old at this time. I asked, “How am I going to do this the rest of my life?” Well, I gave myself to the book just by raw faith. The Song of Solomon has been in the Bible for a long time. It was not a new truth. It was an old truth. I just never had the Holy Spirit highlight it and push me in that direction. Boy, this was an ambush. This was the biggest ambush I think of my life theologically—the most extreme surprise.

### **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE**

When the Lord began to focus for this movement on Jesus the Judge in 1997 that was not nearly as radical as Jesus as the Bridegroom. I grew up on Jesus the King, meditating on the revival, healing, power, economic shift, and the takeover of nations. I love that message. But this Bridegroom was radical. The judge message was a shift. It was a tough one too, but the Bridegroom initially was the message that jolted me the most.

As we are hearing the history, I am telling my journey because many of you are on the same journey. Some of you have picked Bridegroom, King, or Judge, and you do not have to pick. You do not have to pick your heart, your liver, or your kidney. You can have all of them. You do not have to pick Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. You get to worship God in all three persons. We want Jesus in His fullness, whoever He is—not the Jesus of our denomination, of our background and tradition, but the Jesus of the Bible—He is the one we want.

Well, I gave myself to it for a couple of years, and suddenly it began to really change my heart. I look back and I say to the Lord over the years, “Oh, thank you. Thank you for the Song of Solomon. I am glad you did not listen to me in my initial prayer. You let me pray that a couple of years later and undo what I said in the early days.”

I could just imagine the Lord smiling and saying, “I just knew this would suit you well.” I did not hear Him say that, but I just imagined He did.

### **CALL THEM HEPHZIBAH**

Roman numeral II. It is November 1995, it is about seven years later, and I have a prophetic dream. In this dream, I am on this large platform in a big room. I am preaching, and I have a microphone, but the voice of God came like thunder over the whole room. The voice of God like thunder is speaking to me in front of this mass arena—this huge auditorium. The Lord says this: “Call them Hephzibah. Tell them the Lord delights in them. Call them Hephzibah. Tell them the Lord delights in them.” The people in the auditorium, their hearts were so shifted and changed.

There was such a shift in their emotional chemistry when this truth hit them. I mean it just changed their countenance. It just changed the very nature of their inner life. It is a Sunday morning, and I woke up very early. I tell you this story, so that you can relate to it in your own story.

I was excited. I was going to speak on Sunday morning, so I was going to get up at church and say, “You are Hephzibah.” After all, I heard God say this in a thunderous voice in a dream. Why not do it today? Why not

tell the people whom I was ministering to my dream and the message? Why wait until a big conference down the road?

So, I was looking for Hephzibah in the Bible thinking, “Where is it at?” I have studied the Bible a lot over the years. I think, “Wow! I know that verse somewhere. It is in Isaiah or Jeremiah. It is one of the prophets.” Well, there are the sixteen prophets in the Old Testament. I started with Isaiah, and it was early Sunday morning, so I still have time before church service. So I was going to go look for it. So, I looked through Isaiah chapter one, two, and three. I have lots of things marked. I was going really quickly. “I know that Hephzibah.” I get to Isaiah 62, but because I thought that I knew Isaiah 62 so well, I decided to skip it. Isaiah 62:6 was a key verse in my life. God said, “I will set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night.”

I preached on Isaiah 62:6 more times in my thirty-two years of preaching than any other passage. I had said Isaiah 62:6 probably more times in a message because I have had this mandate to call people to prayer. At conferences, that is what I would talk on. So, I got to Isaiah 60 and said, “No.” Isaiah 61, and I said, “No.”

I got to Isaiah 62. and here is what I said, “I know Isaiah 62, and I am in a hurry because I have to get ready for Sunday morning,” so I just turn the page to save time. Then I read Isaiah 63, 64, 65, 66 and continued onto Jeremiah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. I kept reading through: Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Malachi. It took me like thirty minutes or an hour. I thought, “Ah! I know that I have seen it.” I looked, and it was still early so I thought, “Well, I have got the message. I am going to call them Hephzibah, and see what happens.”

It is Sunday morning, so I said, “I will do it again. Isaiah, here we go!” Same thing. I skipped over Isaiah 62. Why? I thought I knew Isaiah 62. OK, Daniel, Micah, Malachi, I have wasted an hour. So, I did the unthinkable. I broke down and used the concordance. It had come to that. You know the men who do not want to look at the map and say, “I will find my way.” I was like that, but I decided, “OK, I am running out of time.” I looked up the word *Hephzibah* in the concordance. One reference I saw was Isaiah 62.

I said, “Impossible.” True to my manly way, I said, “The concordance is wrong.” How could that be? On a day like today, the concordance was wrong! Ahhh. I turned to Isaiah 62 out of desperation, and I said, “It is the two verses before my favorite passage.”

### **GOD DELIGHTS IN US AND REJOICES OVER US AS A BRIDEGROOM**

“You shall be called Hephzibah,” Isaiah 62:4, “for the LORD delights in you. For as the bridegroom rejoices over a bride, in the same way God rejoices over you. I have set watchmen on your walls.”

I said, “This cannot be. The ‘I delight in you’ message is the message that sets up and gives us the ability to pray night and day.” I said, “I have been trying to do this night-and-day thing for years with no Hephzibah.”

### **THE BRIDAL REVELATION IS ESSENTIAL TO SUSTAIN NIGHT-AND-DAY PRAYER**

I said, “Lord, do you understand the implications of this, and where this will bring the prayer movement? Lord, this is going to change everything! I mean the Rambos of the prayer world and these tough-guy intercessor warriors are going to proclaim the bridal message?”

Some casually say, “Well, the Bride has army boots.” That is true, but these warrior guys are going to be lovesick intercessors. Imagine David, the great warrior-king of Israel who was a lovesick worshiper, or John the

apostle, who was called by Jesus Himself, “son of thunder.” This powerful man laid his head on the Lord’s breast.

Imagine John the Baptist, the prophet in the wilderness who basically said, “I have heard the voice of the Bridegroom. The revelation of the Bridegroom God.” David, the apostle John, and John the Baptist were powerful men. The Lord began to put on my heart that the intimacy message does not undermine our masculinity. It establishes and gives us the ability to come to the fullness of our masculinity. The great men of God in the Bible touched the burning heart of God’s desire.

### **THE FOUNDATION OF THE FORERUNNER MESSAGE**

Beloved, I want to tell you this. Isaiah 62 has the intimacy message with verses 1-5, which is essential to the night and day prayer message. Then, the intimacy message with night-and-day prayer is essential to the judgment message that comes right afterwards. So, it is right in order, Bridegroom, King, and Judge. There will be an intimacy message, Jesus revealed as King in the intercessory revival message, and after that, Jesus will be revealed as Judge. We have Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge right there in Isaiah 62 in order. The forerunner message is laid out right there in Isaiah 62-63.

### **GOD, YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL**

Roman numeral III. A year goes by, and the Lord really wants this thing to continue to build. I was right here in this very auditorium as a matter of fact. This was the auditorium where our church was for years, and then when I started IHOP. Then, I resigned from the church, and Floyd McClung came, and took over the leadership of the church.

One day, Floyd got hold of me and said, “Hey, we are buying a new church building. How would you like to buy your old church back for IHOP, because we need a down payment for our new building?”

I said, “I would love to.” So, they blessed us, and let us buy it back; so here we are! The joke around the city was, “Mike Bickle bought the same church twice.” I was happy to because I wanted to sow into the new church—the one I used to pastor—in their new building. I was excited about that. So now that building is IHOP, but back in that day, it was the church I pastored for seventeen years.

So, I was right here, and we were having a Friday night prayer meeting. It became midnight. It went all night until five in the morning. We did that for a year or two. I just walked over here. I remember it like it was yesterday although it was over ten years ago. I said this sentence. I just said it because I had been thinking and meditating on the Song of Solomon. I said, “Jesus, you are so beautiful.”

When I said, “Jesus, you are so beautiful,” the surge of His presence came upon me. I said, “Wow. I am going to say that again. Jesus, you are so beautiful.” I was just walking up and down, “Jesus, You are so beautiful.” Again, another surge went through me. I said, “Wow! I love this feeling. Jesus, you are so beautiful.”

*Shwoooosh.* It was like I was being washed. That was mostly what I said. I went on for five hours. The Holy Spirit would not stop. I said, “If you keep touching me, I am going to keep saying it,” and He has a lot more strength and a lot more zeal than I have. So, it is 3:00am. “Jesus, you are beautiful.” *Shwoooosh.*

“Oh, Jesus, you are beautiful.” *Shwoooosh.* “Gosh, what is happening?” It was 4:00 in the morning, and I was starting to get tired. It was 5:00 in the morning and I said, “Jesus, you are so beautiful.” *Shwoooosh.* “My

goodness!” They said that the prayer meeting was over, and I am dead. I said, “Holy Spirit, you win. I am dead, but I love this.” Every now and then I said another sentence, but that is mostly what I said for five hours. I remember I also said, “Body of Christ, open up your gates to the beautiful God.” I was prophesying to the Body of Christ: “Open up your gates to the beautiful God, not just the God who heals you, forgives you, and gives you money. I am saying the beautiful God—the God who will ravish you. The God who will exhilarate you, not just the God who will give you stuff. He will exhilarate you. Open up your gates.” *Shwoosh. Shwoosh.* I went to bed. I woke up at 8:00 in the morning, and I said in my bed, “Oh, that was so wonderful. Oh, Lord, you are so beautiful.” *Shwoosh.* I said, “Oh! He is here again.”

So, I got in my car and got a big cup of coffee and came back to this auditorium. Of course, it was empty now. The Friday night prayer meeting that goes till Saturday morning was finished. I went to the same place that I walked for two hours. “You are beautiful.” *Shwoosh.* I said, “This is remarkable.”

### **A WOMAN HAD A DREAM ABOUT GOD CALLING THE CHURCH INTO HIS BEAUTY**

Paragraph B. Well, a week goes by, and I got a letter in the mail from a lady who said, “Mike, I had a dream about you and it was last Saturday night.” She had the dream during that exact night that the Holy Spirit was visiting me for five hours.”

“In this dream, He said that He would open up to you the revelation of his beauty, and you were to call the Church to the beauty of God and to the beautiful God.” She said, “I want you to consider this. I know it is from the Lord.”

I told the lady, “Trust me. That was totally from the Lord.” So, the Lord was saying, “Song of Solomon, Hephzibah, I delight in them.” But more than just proclaiming, “I delight in them,” God was saying, “I am the beautiful God.”

### **BACK IN MAY 1983, I PRAYED PSALM 27:4 FOR OVER TWELVE HOURS**

Paragraph C. We received the down payment of that truth in the solemn assembly of 1983 when I was praying Psalm 27:4: “One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.” I was quoting King David from Psalm 27 back twenty-five years ago.

I was not really thinking about me being captured with the beauty of God. David was captured with the beauty of God, and I wanted to be like David, but mostly because I wanted to be more of a warrior, not a gazer on the beauty of God. I was thinking more of a warrior David, not the lover-of-God David.

I looked at Psalm 27 and said, “I guess that was always in the calling of this place. God birthed IHOP on this revelation. I just never connected it with beauty. I connected it more with the night-and-day aspect of what David did, not the focus of David’s heart, but the external activity of the singers going night and day.” As I began to read the passage, I said, “It was there all along.”

Beloved, it is not just the night-and-day aspect of 24/7 prayer. People come and say, “How do you do 24/7 prayer?” They want to know a schedule.

I answer, “I can give you the schedule. I can give you our simple model. I can give you a layout with a few principles. I can give it to you in an hour or two. It is not the structure that makes IHOP. It is the Person. It is the man Jesus who we are looking at and encountering. That is why we do not quit. It is not just the vision of revival. That is what gets us going, but we encounter Him. We get renewed while we are laboring for revival.”

**FRIENDS OF THE BRIDEGROOM: ASSISI, MAY 7, 1997**

Roman numeral IV. This theme is not emphasized much in the Church today, but I want to tell you this, that before the Lord returns, the Church will be captured with the beauty of God.

In May 7, 1997, a few months later, I am in Assisi, Italy at St. Francis of Assisi’s monastery. I did not think that much about St. Francis. I knew that he was a really devoted man. I did not know much about his life. Here I am with all these Catholic monks, and they were going for it. They were the real deal. They all spoke Italian. The Holy Spirit stirs me one night. I was stirred. I was provoked in my spirit. I was really provoked, and I did not stay up the whole night. Now, they really do not have foyers and recreation rooms in monasteries. They do not have places like that in monasteries. There were bricks, and you sit down on stones.

It is kind of neat to read about, but it is another thing to be there. So, I am up all night, and I am out there in a foyer-type room, and it has three or four books in Italian with one book in English by St. Francis of Assisi. It is his biography. I thought, “Well, I am wide awake. I do not know who this guy is really. I have heard of him.” So, I read this whole biography, and I was so stirred at his abandonment to God and his commitment to the poor. It was in that context where the Holy Spirit touched me. He gave me a verse, one that I had referenced a little bit a time or two.

**JOHN 3:29: FRIENDS OF THE BRIDEGROOM FORERUNNER MESSENGERS**

I really had not developed it. It was always like a ninety-second point in a sermon on the Bride of Christ where I said, “And John the Baptist was a friend of the Bridegroom.” John 3:29: “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.” I mentioned it here and there, but I was not really connected to this. I will not go through the details, but the Lord really made it clear, and He said, “I am going to raise up 10,000 forerunners in the spirit of John the Baptist.”

What I mean by the spirit of John the Baptist was his dedication. I am not talking about people who go get a tent and live out in the desert. I am not talking about where they live, or whether they use electricity or not. I am talking about the dedication of John the Baptist, but not just his dedication. John the Baptist was the voice of one preparing for the coming of the Lord.

The Lord was saying to me, “I am going to raise up people with dedication like John the Baptist, and they are not going to prepare for the first coming, but they are going to prepare for the second coming. They are going to prepare the way of the Lord.” The Lord spoke to me there, and He said, “I am calling you to be a friend of the Bridegroom, and I am raising up a movement of friends of the Bridegroom.”

Again, IHOP was not really on my mind, though there was still a sign in our building, “Twenty-four-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.” The sign was still up. It was two years away, but I knew that that young adult movement would be a friend of the Bridegroom in the spirit of John the Baptist with prayer,

fasting, and preparing for the coming of the Lord. We would prepare for the Lord's coming through the paradigm of connecting with Jesus as a Bridegroom.

So, the Lord was establishing that truth in our midst. We need to constantly call people back to this truth of the Bridegroom heart with a forerunner message.

### **THE FIRST COMMANDMENT: LIGHTNING STRIKES OUR CHURCH BUILDING**

Roman numeral V. Noel Alexander was in one of our congregations. We had six congregations across the city for about five years. I was there with him, and we were dedicating our congregation on October 29, 1989. Noel said, "Here is my dedication passage," and he picked out Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Noel quoted this verse. He repeated it the second time, and he said, "I tell you, hear oh Israel, you shall..."

When he said, "shall," two bolts of lightning struck, and a fireball went rolling across the building. The congregation screamed. It was terrifying. He said, "I tell you, God wants you to know you shall love Him." Boom. Boom. Ball of fire. I saw fire rolling, and I said, "What?" The sound system screamed. The place was completely silent. The Lord was saying, "I am serious about My people loving Me." It was a lightning strike, and the Lord was emphasizing intimacy. This was 1989 and was only one year after I received this Song of Solomon call in 1988. At this time, I am not into it yet. I have the mandate, but I am not preaching it yet. I am still trying to figure out what this thing means.

We had a bunch of traveling pastors who were focused on Jesus as king, revival, power, harvest, and we are still very focused on that. But, this intimacy message was more difficult. Many would say, "Ah! I do not know about that? I love you, Oh God. I love you." That was not in our church culture.

### **GOD WAS EMPHASIZING THE PRIORITY OF THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

When the lightning struck this building, we began to talk. "You know what, we have got to really focus on this first commandment thing." This was a lightning strike from heaven. We were captured and knew, "We have to emphasize this."

There are ministries all over the world that have been tugged on by the Lord for this, but they have not truly given themselves to this yet. The Lord sent a lightning strike from heaven and said, "I really want you to do this 'love Me with all of your heart' thing." That is in essence what He was saying. "Go there."

I have had a lot of folks visit IHOP, and they say, "Do we have to do the intimacy thing? Can't we just do the revival? Bless God; I want to see power. Let's do it." I like those guys because I am one of them. I get it. I get what they are saying. It does not offend me at all because I was there for so long, but I feel sad because they do not have any idea what they are missing.

Now, the most recent thing over the last ten or twelve years is that people will now say, "OK, I do the intimacy, the revival, and the prayer thing. Do I have to do that judgment thing now?" Beloved, judgment is just removing the things that hinder love. That is what the judgment message is. Well, the Lord wants me to know that a season of transition is coming for our movement. This was a remarkable series of events that took place with the Holy Spirit orchestrating them; but these were movement-forming realities. They formed our history.

## **TRANSITIONAL SEASON IN THE SPIRIT, JULY 1993**

Roman numeral VI. It was July of 1993, I have this dream; in this dream, I am on this platform with Benny Hinn. I do not know Benny Hinn. I know of him, but I do not know him. Benny Hinn and I are on this platform, and there are about 20,000 people in this big arena, and I am standing to his right.

He is standing next to me, and I have a microphone in my hand. In this dream, the Lord makes it clear that, “When you are on this platform, you are in a season of transition. I am going to transition you.” So, I come out of this dream very aware that I have heard from God. I tell all of our leaders—these twenty, thirty guys and gals. We have a big leadership meeting, and a bunch of them are traveling on the outside.

I tell them, “Hey, I am on a platform with Benny Hinn, and one of these days, it is going to be transition.” Man, it was exciting. I probably told it four or five times. They loved it because it was so dynamic.

## **DTRANSITION**

Paragraph B. I described what a transition means. When we are in a transition as a movement, there are three things that happen at least. We transition the way we carry our heart with God. We transition in the way we function in our ministry, and there are new doors of opportunity. There are brand new fields of service and brand new relationships. There is a transition of opportunity. It is all three of those. A lot of times when people think of transition, they think mostly of function and of new doors, but a transition is also the way we carry our heart. The way we relate to God transitions too. So, if you have been transitioned, do not just say, “What do we do?” Say, “How do I relate to you differently now?”

Paragraph C. Transitions take years—not months. People think, “I am in transition in October, so I am going to be ready in November.” No, if you are in transition in October, in the next two, three, four, or five years, the transition will be complete. David’s transition was seven years; Joseph’s was twelve years, and Moses’ was forty years.

Transitions do not happen in a week or a month. They happen over a period of time because God rewires the way we carry our heart, and He gives us a new message with a new focus. A lot of people in the Body of Christ are in a season of transition right now. They are thinking, “What am I going to do differently?” and the Lord is saying, “I want you to talk to Me differently, not just do things differently. I want you to carry your heart differently.”

## **TORONTO, OCTOBER 1996: BENNY HINN**

Paragraph D. Three years goes by and October 1996, I went to Toronto. John Arnott was hosting a big conference called *Catch the Fire*. I was invited to come and speak. So, I went there. One of the mornings, a guy came to me and said, “Hey, Benny Hinn is in town. He’s having a big meeting too, at the convention center with 20,000 people, and here is a note: he would like to know if you can go over there and just fellowship with him for a while before the meeting?”

I said, “OK,” because I was not going to speak until the next day. So I went over there and said, “Hi, Benny. How are you doing?”

He said, “I have my meeting in an hour or so and just wanted to connect with you.” We talked, and he had heard about some things here and was interested, so we spent about an hour talking. He said, “Hey, I have a seat for you in the front row if you want to stay around. I know you are in a conference.”

I said, “Yes, I will stay around. This is great.” I was on the front row, and they worshiped. Then about an hour into it, Benny Hinn says, “I would like to introduce a friend of mine.” He was talking about me, but I did not know it. He said, “Mike Bickle.”

I said, “Argh!” That has happened to me a few times over the years, and I always say that I am never going to do that to my friends. That is just terrifying.

He said, “Mike Bickle,” and he points and says, “Come up here really quickly.” I stood there, and he handed me the microphone. I was only going to say something for thirty seconds. I was going to say something to the effect of, “Isn’t it something that on the other side of town John Arnott is having a meeting where they are honoring the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and here you are honoring the Holy Spirit? This is good because the Holy Spirit exalts Jesus when He is honored.” That is what I was going to say, but I did not say that. I was getting ready to say, “Isn’t it good,” and I prophesied. It is just a thirty-second prophecy, but it just kind of bypassed the brain.

When people tell me that prophecy bypassed their brain, I do not normally endorse that on my platform because I want to weigh the word before it is given, but I did it on Benny’s platform. I said, “The Holy Spirit is raising up intercessors all over the earth.” I prophesied about IHOP without even knowing it. It took me a while to connect the dots. I think it even took a couple of years before I figured it out. I said, “The Holy Spirit is raising up intercessors all over North America. That is what He is doing.” It was like a thirty-second burst. I handed the microphone back and sat down.

So, I am in transition and the first guy to prophesy on my transition was me. It did not even register at the moment that I was prophesying over myself. I thought, “What was that?” So, I am sitting on the front row, and I realize, “Hmmm, when have I been here before? Oh my goodness! It is the dream from 1993. I am on Benny Hinn’s platform, and I was standing at his right side. He handed me the microphone and when he called me out, he pointed to the stairs, so I came right to exactly where I was at in the dream and he handed me the microphone.”

### **“YOU ARE IN TRANSITION”**

And I said, “I am in transition. Wow!” I really loved my church and loved all the guys I was working with. But I realized that I had had this dream. They had all heard it five times in the last three years. So then I go back to the conference. I do not tell anybody what happened. I just go back to the conference and go back to the afternoon session.

I am just really preoccupied with asking God, “What meaneth thou this?” So, then the night meeting happens and Frank Damazio is preaching, and the place is packed. I do not know how many—four, five, six, seven thousand people are there in the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship church. They are excited and Frank Damazio gives this fiery prayer, and he has everybody stand up for ministry time.

If you were ever at a Toronto conference in those days, when ministry time happened, it really happened. So, when they said, “Stand up for ministry time,” there was so much enthusiasm that you could hear it. It was alive.

Then, the main prophetic man in this movement, Marc DuPont, gets up. He said, “Everybody sit down.” I thought, “Oh, that is a bad move. They are so excited. Who would have the nerve to sit people down after that fiery of a message when the people are all ready to receive?” Marc said, “Sit down. I have got to do something really important to say.” I know he is the main prophetic guy in their movement. I have met him a few times, and he has incredible prophetic history in the Toronto ministry. There are many stories of how God set up the revival beforehand through prophetic ministry. John Arnott is with him and he says, “Me and John want to do something, and we have to do it right now.”

Now, they do not know I have been to Benny Hinn. Nobody knows in Toronto that I have had this dream. It is a private dream. The guys in Kansas City know, but nobody in Toronto knows. None of our team is there except for me.

John Arnott and Mark DuPont, the two that are leading this revival in Toronto say, “Mike Bickle, come on up.”

I said, “Argh! Two times in one day.”

They said, “Come up,” and I am saying, “OK.”

They said, “We have got to prophesy to you.”

They laid hands on me and they said, “You are in transition, thus says the Lord.” I thought, “OK, I am in transition.” I came back to Kansas City, and I said to some of our leaders, “Something is happening—not just to Mike Bickle, but to our movement. We are in transition. It is more than just the Bridegroom God and Jesus the King who has power, healing, money, and is going to take over nations and transform society. It is more than that. There is more to it than this.” Of course, IHOP was coming.

### **1997–1998: IHOP–KC IS JUST TWO YEARS AWAY**

IHOP is just about two years away. I do not know that, but the Lord wants to set me up. He wants to clarify things for this forerunner message. What happens after that transition is that I go into a two-year period in 1997 and 1998 of the most extended fasting that I have ever done in my life. I do not want to go into details. It does not really matter, but those two years, I had a grace for fasting like no other time in my life. In that time of fasting, the Lord was downloading so much. Fasting does not cause you to earn anything. It tenderizes your spirit to receive more and to receive it faster. Fasting tenderizes you so that your receptivity is greater.

So, I was doing a lot of it for these two years. So when the Lord gave me the friends of the Bridegroom encounter in Assisi, Italy, I was ready. I knew God was calling me to help raise up a community with fasting, praying, lovesick Bridegroom-focused forerunners preparing the way of the Lord. So, the Lord in this two-year period started saying, “Add the judgment message.” So, in this two-year period, you have the King message who heals, forgives, brings revival, power, money, transformation, and takes over nations.

You have the King concept, at least the foundations of it. You have got the Bridegroom foundations, but you are missing one. In these two years of intensive fasting, He said it again and again: “You have to add the Judge message because it is not complete with only Bridegroom and King. That is very powerful, but not complete.” Some camps are happy to stay with King. Others are camping out at Bridegroom. But, the Lord is saying, “I

want you to camp out at Bridegroom, King, and Judge. The three together.” That is what was happening during this transition time.

### **JULY 1997, RICK JOYNER PROPHESED ABOUT A LIFE MANDATE**

Paragraph F. Rick Joyner comes, and I am in six months of this intense fasting season. He comes here to visit, and he gets a word and says, “In a few weeks, the Lord is going to visit you about your life mandate. You are in transition.”

A couple of weeks later, I have this dream. This is one of the first critical dreams where I begin to see the forerunner. Now, really the forerunner is Bridegroom, King, and Judge, but sometimes when people say “forerunner,” they think of only the judgment end-time message. But, really the forerunner is the Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

But, some again abbreviate it and say, “Well, we have the intimacy message, and we have the forerunner message,” and they mean the forerunner message is the judgment message.” The forerunner message is all three aspects of Jesus’ role: King, Bridegroom, and Judge.

### **ISAIAH 40:3: “PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD”**

I have this dream on August 27, 1997—and Rick Joyner had told me that I was in transition and that I was going to receive my life commission—and the Lord says, “Your commission is Isaiah 40:3” in the dream. The Lord said, “It is to build up the highways to prepare the way of the Lord.” Isaiah 40:3: “Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

In other words, prepare the people’s thinking to receive the Lord as Bridegroom, King, and Judge because the Lord will come to us. If we understand and cooperate with Him, we can receive more from Him in all of those ways. But, if He comes to us as Bridegroom, King, and Judge, but we do not have faith for Him, or repel the other aspects of His personality, we will not receive as much. If we receive the judgment message, but not the King message, we will understand His judgments a little bit, but we will not understand His kingship. So, preparing the way of the Lord means getting people to understand the broader message, so when the Lord touches them in the Word of God, they say, “Yes, I am with You,” and they cooperate instead of resisting the Lord in those areas.

So, the Lord was saying, “I want you to build highways.” Here it is in 1997. I just had the Assisi dream with the friends of the Bridegroom message in May 1997. This is August 1997. They were all forerunner mandates. The Lord is saying, “Forerunners, prepare for the Lord’s return.” Again, I think it is some decades away. I do not know if it is for my lifetime, but I believe it is in the lifetime of the young people. Again, that is the personal conviction I have.

### **THE PREACHING MANDATE OF THIS MOVEMENT**

Well, I am just going to give you two more stories, and then we are going to finish with this. The Lord really has touched me, but it really is not about Mike Bickle. These are movement-forming encounters, not just man-forming. They did form me, but the Lord was thinking, “I love you, Mike, but it is more than you. I am not just talking to you about you. I am talking to you about this movement that Bob Jones and so many others have been laboring for.”

Bob Jones was fifty-three when I first met him, and I remember how his white hair threw me off. I thought he was about late sixties. I never really thought about how old he was. You know when you are in your twenties, and some guy is in his fifties with white hair, you just think he is older.

But, my point is, this: I am fifty-four years old now, and I am a year older than Bob Jones was when I met him, and Bob Jones is not here in Kansas City. Now, the Lord wants me to keep the young people and the others as well, in the middle of this stream. So, I am in that Bob Jones role to the young people, and it is more about them than this is about me. Though these words touch me, and I have to respond to them, I am sharing these words in kind of a Bob Jones mode as an older guy to twenty-year-olds, so they stay in the middle of the stream. That is the purpose of why I am sharing this. I am not just hosting an hour with Mike Bickle: “Hey, tell me about your life.” I have no interest in just telling you my story. This is about the twenty-year-olds today.

Well, after I had this forerunner dream in late August, it was the next week. I was at our Wednesday morning prayer meeting, and the Holy Spirit came and rested on me. Now, it seems like the Holy Spirit was resting on me every day because I have told you all ten or twenty times in my life that it has happened. But, because I have told you all twenty of them, you could walk away from here saying, “Man, every single day that guy prays, the Holy Spirit falls on him.” But realize that the Holy Spirit fell more like twenty times in thirty plus years. Remember, there are 364 more days each year. Twenty times in thirty years is less than once a year.

So, I want you to have a right perspective. You hear this testimony, and you might think, “Wow. I want that to happen to me all the time.” Well, so do I! It does not happen all the time. I am giving you twenty-five years of stories in eight sessions.

I have lots of dry times. There are lots of times where I say, “Lord, what about two years ago when the fire was on me? Hey, how about one of those experiences again?” So, I do not want you to get an exaggerated idea as to how it is, because we all do that mundane daily activity with the Lord. Our goal is to be faithful. Some people have heard these prophetic stories and say, “I want God to tell me when to buy a car, and I want an open vision. I want to hear the voice on who to marry and what house to buy.”

These are not domestic decisions that I am making with an audible voice experience; these are movement-forming decision, not domestic decisions. Those domestic issues of my life—I have to hear God like everybody else does. I ask, “Well, Lord, is this how it works?” You do not get dreams, visions, and audible voices about domestic issues as a rule. Maybe one guy does here and there. I have heard about that, but certainly I do not get these in my life. These are movement-forming experiences. So, many young people have heard these stories, and then they apply it to domestic decisions. They want an audible voice, a comet, and I say, “No. I do not get those for my personal life. Those are about the movement, for you.”

Actually, it is not even mostly for me. I was in my twenties, thirties, and forties, and now my fifties. It is mostly for the twenty-year-olds now, and their children who we are laboring for. It is really the people who are twenty, and the children they are going to have in a few years. That is whom I am laboring for in a focused way. That is what these movement-forming events are about.

So, do not misapply them, exaggerate them, and think, “Wow, Mike Bickle gets fire and lightning every day. I want it every day. I want comets and lightning and thunder every day.” That is not how it works. OK, that was

just a little reality check. I want to give you these two last experiences. They are very similar, so I can narrate them really quickly.

Now, remember, May 1997, I receive the “friends of the Bridegroom” word when I am in Assisi, Italy. In July 1997, Rick Joyner says, “Transition.” August 1997, I have a dream: “Build up the highways. Prepare the way of the Lord. This is your mandate.”

### **THE PREACHING MANDATE OF THIS MOVEMENT**

Roman numeral VII. Now, it is the next week. A lot happens almost every month in 1997 because I am in transition, and the Lord is transitioning the way I am relating to Him and the way I am focusing my ministry. He is putting the judgment message alongside the Bridegroom and King message.

So, I am there in the prayer room on September 3, 1997, which was a Wednesday. The Spirit of the Lord is on me in a most unusual way with wind and fire. I mean real wind and fire. I feel currents, and I feel burning everywhere. I am thinking, “My goodness, what is happening?” I am feeling wind. I had never felt wind on me.

I looked for a fan, and there is no fan on me. I thought, “Where is this wind coming from?” I have an analytical dimension to me. So, I am looking around at all the vents and thinking, “OK, why is this wind hitting me? And the fire?” It goes on for two or three hours, and I am really captured by the Lord.

He is speaking three verses: Revelation 2:17, 3:12, and 19:12. God is talking to me and he tells me, “I am going to tell you My name.” In other words, “I am going to reveal Myself to you more. And I am going to tell you your name and how you are to identify with Me. I am going to tell you My name and give you new insights about Me.”

Jesus was basically saying, “I am going to tell you who I am as a Judge. It is not just as a Judge, but I am going to tell you who I am as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.” The idea of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge, each with their own attributes, is one thing, but when they come together, that holy synergism of divine truth is a different face. It is a different way for me to relate to God. He was saying, “I am going to tell you a new dimension of Me. Not just that I am Judge,” because that was the focal point in 1997. He was saying it over and over: “I am the Judge, not just the Bridegroom and King.” This was a new message to me. Technically, I knew He was Judge, but it was never a point of emphasis. It was never something I wrestled with. It was never something I talked with Him about. It was just a theological concept with a few Bible verses that we all know about.

But I was talking to Him as King and Bridegroom now. That had got into the language of my heart. When I closed my eyes and talked to Him, I had a King and Bridegroom I was dialoguing with, and He was saying, “I want you to know me as a Judge too. I want you to talk to Me this way. I want you to dream about Me this way, not just have a few verses that you technically relate to or quote.”

So, He was saying in these three verses, “I am going to show you more things about My name and My nature, and I am going to show you more things about your name and the way you are to relate to Me, the way you are to carry your heart, the way I see you, and the way you are supposed to see yourself.” I got fire and wind. I was burning. I was on fire from head to toe, just like that fire I felt back in May of 1983, when the fire touched my

hands, the healing anointing, and the Jehovah Rapha time came. It was that kind of burning fire, and I thought, “This is so intense.”

The wind and fire happened for two to three hours. That is a long time. I normally get a manifestation for a minute or two, but this was really long in terms of my experience. A guy comes up and gives me a note from a man named Terry Bennett, who I did not know. I had met him once and just said hi. I did not know him. It says, “From Terry Bennett.” It says, “Mike, I saw an angel standing over you and pouring fire over you. He was moving his wings and wind was encircling you. He told me to tell you that He wants to speak to you according to Revelation 2:17, 3:12, and 19:12.” Those were the exact same three verses I had for three hours.

I thought, “Who is this Terry Bennett guy? But forget him for now. Who is the God with this name? Who are You, God?” Because He is saying, “I am Bridegroom King, but there is more. There is more, and when you put them all together, it will touch you in a new way.” It became clear to me that the Lord was establishing new truths in the foundations of this movement. Bridegroom King is not enough. We have got to move into the next.

### **IT MUST BE BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE**

It is two weeks later in the same prayer meeting, and it was a Wednesday morning. I went there at six in the morning and stayed there till noon. So, I have this long period of time to sit there. The same thing happened, and the fire comes again. It is amazing—just like it had previously come two weeks ago. I had never had it before at this intensity except for the solemn assembly in 1983 when the fire touched my hand, my mouth, and my stomach for forty-five minutes. That was twenty-five years ago, but it was happening again. Now, it is two weeks later, and it is the same thing. It is fire and wind. I was saying, “What is happening? This is intense.” Two times in thirty-plus years, and this has happened within two weeks.

### **JESUS IN RED**

I am reading Isaiah 63. In Isaiah 63, the Lord is revealing Himself as the Jesus in red—the Jesus whose garments are red because He comes in judgment to touch the nations. In this, the Lord was highlighting Isaiah 63:3: “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled in My garments, and I have stained all My robes.” It was as if Jesus was saying, “My garments are red because of judgment. I stand alone. There is no nation in the earth that agrees with My judgments.”

The Lord was saying, “Will you agree with My judgments?”

I said, “Yes, Lord.”

The Lord said, “If you will take a stand and agree with My judgments, even some of My people will resist you.”

I said, “I will agree. I will stand with Your judgments.” I said, “The Jesus of Song of Solomon is a dazzling bright light in white garments.” In Song of Solomon 5:5: “I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the lock.” He is the dazzling one in white radiant. I said, “You are the Jesus in red. I will stand with the Jesus in red, not just the Jesus in dazzling white of the Song of Solomon.”

At that time, the fire and the wind were blowing, and Terry Bennett tapped me on the shoulder. He said, “I am the one who gave you the note from two weeks ago.” He said, “The same angel I saw is pouring fire on you again. This is remarkable. This is strange. He is pouring fire and wind.”

I said, “That is right.” I was reading Isaiah 63, and he said, “And He told me to tell you that He is going to reveal Isaiah 63 to you. He wants you to know the Jesus in red.” That is what I had been saying for an hour.

I said, “Lord, I will stand for the Jesus of judgment, not just the Jesus of intimacy, and the Jesus of power, because His judgments remove everything that hinders love.”

Amen. Let’s stand.