

Part 8 Our Call to Emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge

I. REVIEW: JESUS AS BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE

- A. The Word and the Spirit both emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the end of the age. These truths are central to the forerunner ministry, and are essential to correcting the increasing distortion of the truth about who Jesus is.
- B. ***Passionate Bridegroom:*** Jesus is revealed as One with ***burning desire*** for His people. The Spirit uses this revelation of Jesus to restore the first commandment to first place in the Church. The essence of the message of the Bride of Christ is the revelation of Jesus' beauty, His emotions for us, and commitments to us (to share His heart, throne, secrets, and beauty with us) as our Bridegroom God, and our response of abandonment, or wholehearted love and obedience.
- C. Jesus is responsive to our love. Foundational to the Bridegroom message is the truth about our impact on Jesus' heart and His impact on ours. Jesus desires the beauty of His people as they respond to Him with wholeheartedness (Ps. 45:10-11). We refuse all sensual overtones to the bridal message. Jesus is not our lover or boyfriend. We do not go on "dates" with Jesus.
- D. ***Sovereign King:*** Jesus is revealed as the One who ***possesses all power*** and who anoints His people with power in their lives and ministries. As King, Jesus restores individual lives, every sphere of society in the nations, and the earth itself (atmosphere, agriculture, and animals).
- E. ***Righteous Judge:*** Jesus is revealed as the One who ***removes everything that hinders love***; He intervenes with great zeal to confront all oppression, instead of ignoring it (Zech. 8:2; Rev. 19:2). There will be a great crisis on the earth related to misunderstanding Jesus' judgments. Those who misunderstand them will be more vulnerable to yield to fear, confusion, compromise, deception, and offense (anger) at Jesus' leadership. His judgments against the Antichrist's empire remove all that hinders love and stop oppression and corruption (Rev. 19:2). In the end times, the Spirit will give an increase of understanding of His loving purposes in judgment (Jer. 23:20).
- F. ***There are no contradictions:*** There is no contradiction in Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge. God never suspends one attribute to exercise another. The King uses His great power to express His burning desire for His people and to deliver them from everything that hinders love. The same furnace of Jesus' holy desire for His Bride is turned toward the oppressors of His people. In the 1970s, I began to see Jesus the King. In the 1980s, I began to see Jesus the Bridegroom. In the 1990s, I began to see Jesus the Judge. In 2000, I put them together (forerunner ministry).
- G. Jesus emphasized the revelation of God as Bridegroom, King, and Judge in His final public message to Israel (Mt. 22:1-14) and in His final message to the apostles before the last supper (Mt. 25). The final revelation in the Word reveals Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Rev. 19-22). Isaiah 61-63 is the clearest Old Testament description of the ministry of the Spirit in the generation the Lord returns, revealing the messianic redeemer as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

II. ENCOUNTERING THE BEAUTY OF JESUS

- A. During a 21-day fast in May 1983, the Spirit stirred me to pray Ps. 27:4 for over 12 hours. In speaking about a future young adult worship movement, the Lord spoke audibly, related to Psalm 27:4, saying: “I will establish 24-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.”

⁴One 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. (Ps. 27:4)

- B. Encountering the beauty of Jesus was to be the foundation and strength of this movement. This was the beginning of the Lord calling us to emphasize the bridal paradigm.

III. JESUS CALLS US TO BECKON HIM TO COME TO US AS THE JEALOUS BRIDEGROOM

⁶Set Me [Jesus] as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, [God's] jealousy as cruel [demanding] as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. ⁷Many waters [sin, pressure] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. (Song 8:6-7)

- A. In July 1988 while in my office reading a wedding card with Song of Solomon 8:6 on it, I began to pray, “Jesus, seal my heart with Your seal of love.” I began to weep. I asked the receptionist to hold all my calls. Ten minutes later, the receptionist said, “Bob Jones heard the audible voice of the Lord for you.” At that moment, I was on my knees weeping over the Song of Solomon.
- B. Bob Jones called to tell me at that very hour that the Lord spoke audibly to Him promising to ***release grace across the Body of Christ worldwide to walk in Song 8:6-7*** and that I was to focus on this theme throughout my ministry. I called Diane and told her what happened. It was only about 9:00 am. (This experience occurred just a month after June 1988, when we connected with John Wimber’s ministry, which emphasized compassion and worship, or intimacy).
- C. That day I read all of Song of Solomon in a serious way for the first time. I said to the Lord, “This is not going to work, I would rather teach on the life of David, or Revelation, or Romans.”

IV. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT: LIGHTNING STRIKES OUR CHURCH BUILDING

- A. On October 29, 1989, while preaching, Noel Alexander read, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one...***love the Lord your God with all your heart...***” He spoke this scripture twice. The second time he shouted, “Hear, O Israel!” At that moment, lightning struck the building. God emphasized the first commandment as foundational to intimacy with God in worship.

³⁷Love the Lord...with all your heart...³⁸The first and great commandment. (Mt. 22:37-38)

- B. God’s first priority *for us* is to love Him. This is the greatest way *for us* to live. This is what God desires most. Jesus’ inheritance as King is the obedience of all the nations; as a Bridegroom, it is the voluntary love of the people in the nations. As King, He is obeyed, but as Bridegroom, He is loved. He loves us with all His heart. Jesus’ inheritance is a people He fully possesses in love.

V. CALL THEM HEPHZIBAH

- A. In November of 1995, I had a prophetic dream on a Sunday morning, exhorting me to call God's people "Hephzibah." I was on a large platform and heard a loud voice like thunder say, "Call them Hephzibah, the Lord delights in you." I assume that it was the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- ⁴You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...⁵For as the bridegroom rejoices [enjoys] over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. ⁶I have set watchmen on your walls...they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NAS] day or night...⁷give Him no rest till He establishes...Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:4-7)*
- B. I woke up from the dream instantly with the Spirit resting on me. I wanted to speak on it that Sunday morning so I looked for it through the Old Testament. The "Hephzibah" message is that God delights in us and rejoices over us as a Bridegroom. It is the same as the Song of Solomon message. The bridal revelation of Isaiah 62:1-5 is essential to sustaining the night-and-day prayer of Isa. 62:6-7, which is essential to the forerunner ministry of Isa. 62:10-63:6.

VI. GOD, YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

- A. Just after midnight on November 30, 1996, I was touched by God's presence in an all-night prayer meeting as I continued to speak one statement. From about midnight until 5:00 am I said, "**Jesus, You are so beautiful.**" Every time I said it, I felt a surge of His presence on me. I said, "Body of Christ, open your gates to the beautiful God." The prayer meeting was over at 5:00 am. I went back to the church at 9:00 am that day and said, "**You are the beautiful God**" for another two hours. Again, every time I said it, I felt a surge of His presence on me. I was struck by how clearly the Spirit was bearing witness with His presence to me about declaring Jesus' beauty.
- B. The next week, a lady sent me a letter that said, "I had a dream about you early last Saturday morning, on November 30. In this dream the Lord said He would open up to you the revelation of His beauty and that He wants you to call the Church into His beauty."

VII. FRIENDS OF THE BRIDEGROOM: THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

On May 7, 1997, in Assisi, Italy, the Lord said, I will raise up "friends of the Bridegroom forerunner messengers" who will prepare the Bride. Doing this with other ministries is one of our primary callings.

²⁹The friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. (Jn. 3:29)

VIII. CALLED TO PROCLAIM JESUS' END-TIME JUDGMENTS

- A. In July of 1997, Rick Joyner prophesied to me: "In the next few weeks the Lord is going to visit you about your life mandate, because you are in transition." A month later on August 27, 1997, I had a prophetic dream revealing to me that part of my ministry was to be found in Isaiah 40:3. I was to begin to understand what it meant to prepare people and build up the Lord's highways.

³Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isa. 40:3)

- B. On September 3, 1997, during a prayer meeting, the Spirit highlighted three verses to me (Rev. 2:17; 3:12; 19:12). I felt the wind and fire of the Spirit manifesting on me for several hours.
- ¹⁷I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written... (Rev. 2:17)*
- ¹²I will write on him the name of My God...I will write on him My new name. (Rev. 3:12)*
- ¹²He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (Rev. 19:12)*
- C. On the way out of the prayer room, I received a note from Terry Bennett who said that he saw the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit resting on me and that the Lord was imparting a mantle related to three verses: Revelation 2:17, 3:12, and 19:12. It was clear to me that the Lord was continuing to establish more truths in the spiritual foundation of this young adult movement.
- D. On September 17, 1997, during a prayer meeting, the Holy Spirit highlighted Isa. 63:1-6 to me. Again, I felt the wind and fire of the Spirit manifesting on me for several hours. It spoke of Jesus the King wearing the red garments of a judge as He walked through the nations. I began to say, “Your red garments are glorious. Why are they red? A king should be in white garments.”
- ¹Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—“I [Jesus] who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” ²Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 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 upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. ⁵I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; My own fury, it sustained Me. ⁶I have trodden the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.” (Isa. 63:1-6)*
- E. Jesus will tread the winepress alone (Isa. 63:3). The Lord was saying to me, “There are no governments on earth that will agree with My judgments. They are against them. I will trample the nations alone even though none agree with Me. Will you agree with Me?” I repeatedly said yes. The wind and the fire of the Spirit came on me. He said, “You will be rejected even by some of My people. Some will rise up against you.” I promised the Lord: “I will preach the Jesus in the white dazzling garment from Song of Solomon 5:10 and the Jesus in red from Isaiah 63.”
- F. Terry came over and prophesied to me, saying, “The same angel that touched you two weeks ago with fire and wind is here again. Jesus is coming to you in red garments. He is putting the mantle of Isaiah 63 on you. You must study it because you will preach the Jesus in red.” I understood that I was to learn and then proclaim that rather than being a contradiction to His great love as the Bridegroom King, Jesus’ judgments will be released to remove all that hinders love.
- G. Terry said the Lord appeared to him wearing red garments. He saw the wind of God like a tornado swirling around my body as an angel poured fire on me. He told me, “Your ministry is to focus on revealing the name of God, even as it is seen in His end-time judgments.”