

## ***Session 1 The Revelation of Jesus: Bridegroom, King, and Judge***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. The years leading up to Jesus' return will see **unique dynamics**—*unprecedented pressures* (shaking, sin, darkness) and an *unprecedented outpouring of the Spirit* and revival. As the light gets brighter, so the darkness will get darker. Satan will rage against the human race and God's most severe judgments will be released against the Antichrist's empire.

***<sup>2</sup>For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)***

- B. Those engaged in the forerunner ministry prepare people to respond rightly to Jesus by giving them understanding of His heart and plans, so that they will be able to **agree** with what He is doing instead of **resisting** it and thus becoming more vulnerable to fear, offense, and deception.
- C. The Word and the Spirit emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the end of the age.
1. ***Passionate Bridegroom***: Jesus is revealed as One who **delights in relating** to and partnering with His people. The Spirit will use the revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom to establish the first commandment in first place in the Church worldwide before Jesus returns.
    - a. 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 wholehearted love and obedience.
    - b. 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).
    - c. We refuse all sensual overtones in this message—Jesus is not one's "lover/boyfriend."
  2. ***Sovereign King***: Jesus is revealed as the One who **possesses all power** and anoints His people with power. As King, He will heal and restore individual lives, every sphere of society in every nation, and even the earth itself (i.e. atmosphere, agriculture, and animals).
  3. ***Righteous Judge***: Jesus is revealed as the One who **removes everything that hinders love**.
    - a. He intervenes with zeal to confront the Antichrist's empire and its evil and oppression.
    - b. Those who misunderstand His judgments will be more vulnerable to yield to fear and offense (anger) at His leadership.
    - c. As God's judgments unfold, many will lose perspective and will question God's love and wisdom. They will need biblical understanding to rightly interpret the events as expressions of God's love and wisdom.

- D. There is no contradiction in Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge. It is one reality. The King uses His great power and intense judgments to express His love and bring great blessing to His people.
  
- E. Some ministries either refuse or emphasize one of these three truths over the other two.
  - 1. To understand Jesus as the **Bridegroom** without seeing Him as the King and Judge may lead to sentimentality without obedience and misunderstanding of His end-time plans.
  - 2. To understand Jesus as the **King** without seeing Him as the Bridegroom and Judge may lead to an authoritarian view of God or to a misunderstanding of why God releases power through His people. This leads some to be overly focused on growing in power for “their ministry.” He releases His power to reveal love and to establish the first commandment in the Church.
  - 3. To understand Jesus as the **Judge** without seeing Him as the Bridegroom King may lead to a harsh view of God or to a misunderstanding of why God releases His judgments. If we proclaim God’s judgments without encountering Him as the Bridegroom King, then we will be more likely to operate in a wrong spirit (Lk. 9:53-56).
  
- F. The Lord is calling some to embrace a season of rigorous preparation to equip them to more effectively experience and proclaim the forerunner message in the midst of the coming pressures. ***Because of love, they prepare themselves to prepare others for the greatest transition in history.***

## II. JESUS EMPHASIZED THIS 3-FOLD MESSAGE IN THE WEEK LEADING TO THE CROSS

- A. In Jesus’ final public message to Israel, He emphasized the Lord as a Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Mt. 22:1-14). He revealed the *nature of the kingdom* as a wedding that His Father planned.  
***<sup>2</sup>The kingdom...is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, <sup>3</sup>and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding...<sup>4</sup>He sent out other servants, saying, “... Come to the wedding.” <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. <sup>6</sup>And the rest seized his servants...and killed them. <sup>7</sup>When the king heard about it...He sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers [the Judge]...<sup>8</sup>Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready...<sup>9</sup>Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.” <sup>10</sup>So those servants went out...and the wedding hall was filled... (Mt. 22:2-10)***
  - 1. **The King:** Jesus fully expressed the Father’s personality (Jn. 14:9-10; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3).
  - 2. **Invited to the wedding:** Core to the gospel message is inviting people to the wedding.
  - 3. **He was furious:** God’s judgments are expressed to those who persecuted His messengers.
  
- B. Immediately after this parable, Jesus called Israel to love Him (Mt. 22:37).  
***<sup>37</sup>“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart.” (Mt. 22:37)***

- C. Jesus' final teaching to the disciples in the upper room emphasized themes related to the intensity of His love for them (Jn. 13-17). He gave His ultimate statement of love for us in John 15:9-11.

*<sup>9</sup>“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” (Jn. 15:9)*

- D. In His prayer for the Church, He prayed that they be with Him and love Him as the Father does.

*<sup>24</sup>“Father, I desire that they...may be with Me where I am...<sup>26</sup>I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them.” (Jn. 17:24-26)*

- E. In Jesus' final message to the apostles before the last supper in the upper room (Jn. 14-17), He revealed Himself as Bridegroom (25:1-13), King (25:31), and Judge (25:32-46).

*<sup>1</sup>Then the kingdom...shall be likened to ten virgins who...went to meet the Bridegroom...  
<sup>3</sup>Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps...<sup>6</sup>At midnight a cry was heard: “Behold, the bridegroom is coming” ...  
<sup>31</sup>When the Son of Man comes in His glory...He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them...<sup>34</sup>The King will say to those on His right hand, “Come, you blessed of My Father...” <sup>41</sup>He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me [Judge], you cursed, into the everlasting fire...” (Mt. 25:1-6, 31-41)*

### III. JESUS' LAST MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH (REV. 2-3)

- A. Jesus' last message to the Church is found in His message given to the seven churches (Rev. 2-3). He started with a call to wholehearted love (Rev. 2:4), warned them of His judgments if they continued in immorality, and then promised overcomers that they would rule with Him (Rev. 2:27).

*<sup>4</sup>“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love”...<sup>19</sup>“I know your works, love, service, faith...”<sup>20</sup>“I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel...to teach...My servants to commit sexual immorality...”<sup>22</sup>“I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery...unless they repent...”<sup>23</sup>“I will kill her children with death...”<sup>26</sup>“He who overcomes ...I will give power over the nations—”<sup>27</sup>“He shall rule them...” (Rev. 2:4, 19-27)*

- B. Jesus ended with a promise that they would both dine and rule “with Him” (Rev. 3:20-21).

*<sup>20</sup>“If anyone...opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”  
<sup>21</sup>“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.” (Rev. 3:20-21)*

### IV. THE FINAL MESSAGE IN THE WORD: BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE (REV. 19-22)

- A. The final revelation in the Word reveals Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Rev. 19-22).

*<sup>2</sup>“True and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth...and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her...”<sup>7</sup>“Give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready...”<sup>11</sup>“In righteousness He judges and makes war...”<sup>15</sup>“He should strike the nations...He Himself treads the winepress of ...the wrath of Almighty God...”<sup>16</sup>“on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS...” (Rev. 19:2-16)*

- B. The New Jerusalem is the very place that Jesus prepared for His Bride (Rev. 21:9; cf. Jn. 14:3). The City is called “the Bride” because it was tailor-made for her. Jesus prepared a place “for us” (Jn. 14:3). This City was designed for the Bride—the beauty, the light, the glory, the songs, the fragrances, the food, the water, and more—everything in the city energizes His people with love.

*<sup>9</sup>One of the seven angels...saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife”... (Rev. 21:9)*

*<sup>3</sup>“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (Jn. 14:3)*

## V. ISAIAH: BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE (ISA. 62-63)

- A. Isaiah 62-63 is the clearest Old Testament description of the ministry of the Spirit in the generation the Lord returns as He reveals Jesus, the messianic redeemer, as Bridegroom, King, and Judge. The primary face of the Lord in Isaiah is as a king (Isa. 6:5; 32:1; 33:17, 22; 41:21; 43:15; 44:6).
- B. Jesus delights in His people as a bridegroom rejoices over His bride (Isa. 62:4-5).

*<sup>4</sup>You shall be called Hephzibah...for the Lord delights in you...<sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you...<sup>10</sup>Prepare the way for the people...build up the highway [for King Jesus to enter Jerusalem; 63:1-6]...<sup>11</sup>The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the world: “...Your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him...” (Isa. 62:4-11)*

*<sup>1</sup>Who is this who comes from Edom...this One [Jesus] who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? ...<sup>2</sup>Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup>...I have trodden them [nations] in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. (Isa. 63:1-3)*

## VI. OTHERS WHO PROCLAIMED THE LORD AS BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE

- A. John the Baptist proclaimed the revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

*<sup>1</sup>John the Baptist came preaching...<sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven [a King is coming] is at hand...<sup>3</sup>Prepare the way of the LORD [the King]...” <sup>7</sup>When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming...he said to them, “...who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ...<sup>11</sup>He who is coming after me...He [the King] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>...He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire [the Judge].” (Mt. 3:1-12)*

*<sup>29</sup>He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice...<sup>31</sup>He who comes from above is above all [the King]... (Jn. 3:29-31)*

B. In Psalm 45, the great song of love, we see the Messiah as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

*<sup>1</sup>My heart is overflowing with a good theme...concerning the King...<sup>2</sup>You are fairer than the sons of men...<sup>3</sup>Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One [the Judge], with Your glory and Your majesty. <sup>5</sup>Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; the peoples fall under You...<sup>9</sup>At Your right hand stands the queen [the Bride]...<sup>10</sup>Listen, O daughter...forget your...father's house; <sup>11</sup>so the King will greatly desire your beauty... (Ps. 45:1-11)*

C. David identified three responses that Jesus wants from those who are His eternal inheritance.

*<sup>8</sup>I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance...<sup>9</sup> You shall dash them to pieces...<sup>10</sup>Be wise, O kings...<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way... (Ps. 2:8-12)*

1. *Kissing*: the response of extravagant devotion and loving obedience to our *Bridegroom God*
2. *Rejoicing*: the response of joy in seeing His manifestation of power as our *sovereign King*
3. *Trembling*: the response of awe in seeing the fierce judgments of our *righteous Judge*