

Session 2

My Journey: Proclaiming Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge

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

- A. The Word and the Spirit emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the end of the age. These truths are central to the forerunner message that helps prepare people for the return of Jesus.
- B. Jesus emphasized the revelation of God as Bridegroom, King, and Judge in His final public message (Mt. 22:1-14) and in His final message to the apostles before the last supper (Mt. 25). The final four chapters of the Scriptures reveal Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Rev. 19-22).
- C. **Bridegroom:** Jesus is revealed as One who *delights in relating to and partnering with His people*. The Spirit uses this truth about Jesus to establish the first commandment in first place in the Church.
- D. **King:** Jesus is revealed as the One who *possesses all power and anoints His people with power*.
- E. **Judge:** Jesus is revealed as the One who *removes everything that hinders love*.
- F. In the 1970s, I focused on Jesus as King. In 1988, I began to see Jesus as Bridegroom. In 1997, I was called to proclaim Jesus as Judge and to connect these three truths to the forerunner ministry.

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 24/7 prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David."*
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. (Ps. 27:4)
- B. Encountering the beauty of Jesus was to be a foundational focus in the IHOPKC prayer ministry.

III. THE SEAL OF FIERY LOVE (SONG 8:6-7)

- A. In July 1988, at the very moment that the Spirit was powerfully touching my heart related to loving Jesus as I prayed Song of Solomon 8:6-7, the Lord spoke audibly to Bob Jones confirming that I was to proclaim the message of Song of Solomon 8:6-7 for the rest of my ministry and that He would *release grace across the Body of Christ worldwide to walk in Song of Solomon 8:6-7*.
6Set Me [Jesus] as a seal upon your heart...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 [pressures] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. (Song 8:6-7)

- B. At that time, I understood the New Testament spiritual application of Song 8:6-7 is to walk out the first commandment in context to encountering Jesus as the Bridegroom King.

IV. CALL THEM HEPHZIBAH

- A. In November of 1995, I had a prophetic dream exhorting me to call God's people, "Hephzibah." I was on a large platform and heard a voice say, "Call them Hephzibah, the Lord delights in you." The "Hephzibah message" is that the Bridegroom God delights in and relates to His people.

⁴You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...⁵For as the bridegroom rejoices 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...[and will] not keep silent, ⁷and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:6-7)

- B. The Bridegroom revelation of Isaiah 62:4-5 is essential to sustaining the night-and-day prayer seen in Isaiah 62:6-7. These are essential to the forerunner ministry of Isaiah 62:10-12.

¹⁰...Prepare the way for the people...¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming...'" (Isa. 62:10-11)

V. 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 phrases like, "***Jesus, You are so beautiful.***"
- B. The next week, a lady sent me a letter that said, "I had a dream about you early Saturday morning, on November 30, in which the Lord said He wanted you to proclaim the beauty of Jesus."

VI. FRIENDS OF THE BRIDEGROOM: THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

- A. On May 7, 1997, in Assisi, Italy, the Lord said, "*I will raise up friends of the Bridegroom who will proclaim the forerunner message to prepare the Church as a Bride for the Lord's return.*"

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

- B. In July 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 informing me that part of my ministry was to be found in Isaiah 40:3.

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

- C. On September 3, 1997, the Spirit highlighted Revelation 2:17; 3:12; 19:12 to me (i.e., Jesus' name). On September 17, 1997, the Spirit highlighted Isaiah 63:1-6 to me, speaking of Jesus wearing the red garments of a Judge as He marches to Jerusalem to liberate it from the Antichrist's armies.

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...their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes...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...” (Isa. 63:1-5)