

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The years leading up to Jesus' return will see **unique dynamics**, both positive and negative. The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history is coming. It will surpass the book of Acts in power (Acts 2:17-21). All nations will receive the witness of the kingdom with power (Mt. 24:14). 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 poured out against the Antichrist's empire.

¹⁷In the last days...I will pour My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...²⁰before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. (Acts 2:17-20)

²¹There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time...²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved... (Mt. 24:21-22)

- B. Forerunners proclaim from the Scripture what will happen before it occurs. They prepare people to respond rightly to Jesus by giving them understanding of His plans, so that they will be able to **agree** with what He is doing in that hour instead of **resisting** it. If people lack understanding, they will be more vulnerable to yield to fear, offense, confusion, compromise, and deception.
- C. The Word and the Spirit emphasize Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the end of the age. As the **Bridegroom**, He is filled with **desire** for His people. As **King**, He possesses all **power**. As **Judge**, He is zealous to **intervene** and remove all that hinders love, as He confronts oppression.
- D. **Passionate Bridegroom:** Jesus is revealed as the One with burning desire for His people. The Holy Spirit will restore the first commandment to first place in the Church.
- E. **Sovereign King:** Jesus is revealed as the One who possesses all power and authority, causing His people to experience the supernatural power of God in their lives and ministries. As King, Jesus restores individual lives, all the nations, and the earth (atmosphere, agriculture, animals, etc.).
- F. **Righteous Judge:** Jesus is revealed as the One with great zeal to intervene and remove everything that hinders love, as He confronts all oppression instead of ignoring it (Zech. 1:14; 8:2; Ezek. 38:18-19; Rev. 19:2). Jesus is the only man worthy to judge the nations because, as Creator, He understands the design of the human spirit, and because He humbled Himself to become a man (2 Cor. 8:9). He alone understands God's plans and His story line for history.
- G. Those who misunderstand God's judgments will be tempted to be offended or angry with Jesus. As God's judgments unfold, many will lose their perspective and objectivity in seeing God's love and wisdom. They need biblical perspective and understanding in order to rightly interpret the events **as expressions of God's love and wisdom**. The purpose of God's end-time judgments against the Antichrist's empire is to remove all that hinders love and to stop oppression.

II. WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW THIS 3-FOLD REVELATION OF JESUS?

- A. **There are no contradictions:** There is no contradiction in Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge. It is one reality. 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 overwhelming furnace of desire for God's people is turned on the oppressors of God's people. In the last days, the Spirit will give increased revelation of God's loving purposes in judgment.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)

- B. ***We must not neglect truth:*** To neglect any one of these truths is to diminish the others. There are different camps in the Church that refuse or emphasize one of these truths over the other two. They feed their spirits primarily on one of these truths about Jesus to the exclusion of the others.
1. To understand Jesus as the Bridegroom without seeing Him as the King and Judge may lead to sentimentality without obedience and understanding 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 His power through us. He releases His power not only to reveal love to us, but to awaken love in us for God. The Spirit will restore the first commandment to first place 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 preach on God's judgments without encountering Him as the Bridegroom King, then we will be tempted to operate in a wrong spirit (Lk. 9:53-56).
 4. Jesus, our champion, is the avenger of the oppressed. David proclaimed: I have a God who fights for me, who avenges me even with flaring nostrils (Ps. 18:7-17). David understood that God was doing it for him. That God sees and cares enough to intervene on His own time and in His own way comforted David's heart in the midst of the battle.
- C. The Lord is calling some to embrace a season of rigorous preparation to equip them to more effectively proclaim the forerunner message in the midst of the coming pressures. Forerunners prepare themselves by going deep in God through studying the Scripture with prayer and fasting, walking in purity, ministering to people, and learning to flow in the Spirit's power. ***Because of love, they prepare themselves to prepare others for the greatest transition in history.***
- D. The importance of this 3-fold revelation of Jesus is that it expresses God's heart and personality, it is the way natural history ends as seen in Revelation 19, and it reflects how Jesus created the human spirit. Among the most beloved stories of the many diverse cultures of the earth is a kingly figure who selects a bride from lowly means and then rescues her from an oppressor to set her in a place of power, often on a throne with him.

III. JESUS BROUGHT TOGETHER THE 3-FOLD MESSAGE

- A. In Jesus' last public message to Israel, He emphasized the revelation of God as Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Mt. 22:1-14).
- ²The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding...⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying, "...Come to the wedding."⁵But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. ⁷When the king heard about it, he was furious. He sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready...⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding."¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. (Mt. 22:2-10)***
- B. In Jesus' last message before the upper room discourse (Jn. 14:17), He revealed Himself as Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Mt. 25).
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¹Then the kingdom...shall be likened to ten virgins who...went out to meet the bridegroom...
⁶At midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!"...
³¹"When the Son of Man comes in His glory...He will sit on the throne of His glory.³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them...³⁴The King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...' ⁴¹He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Mt. 25:1-41)

IV. LAST 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).

²True and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her...
⁷Give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready...
⁹Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! ...¹¹In righteousness He judges and makes war...¹⁵He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them...He Himself treads the winepress of...the wrath of Almighty God...¹⁶on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:2-16)

²I, John, saw the...New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...⁹One of the seven angels...talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife"...¹¹having the glory of God. (Rev. 21:2-11)

V. ISAIAH: BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE (ISA. 61-63)

- A. 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).

¹A king [Jesus] will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. (Isa. 32:1)

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer... (Isa. 44:6)

- B. 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.

¹For Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness...³You shall also be a crown of glory...and a royal diadem in the hand of your God...⁴You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...⁵As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you...⁸The LORD has sworn by His right hand... "Surely I will no longer give your grain as food for your enemies...¹⁰Prepare the way for the people...build up the highway!...¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world: "...Your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him." (Isa. 62:1-11)

¹Who is this who comes from Edom...this One [Jesus] who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?...²Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³...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. ⁴The day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. (Isa. 63:1-4)

VI. FORERUNNERS PROCLAIM JESUS AS BRIDEGROOM, KING, AND JUDGE

- A. John the Baptist was the first man in the New Testament to bring together the revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

*¹John the Baptist came preaching...²saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”...
³Prepare the way of the LORD...⁷When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?...
¹¹He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fan is in His hand...He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Mt. 3:1-12)*

²⁹He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice...³¹He who comes from above is above all... (Jn. 3:29-31)

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

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

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

*⁸I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance...⁹You shall dash them to pieces...
¹⁰Be wise, O kings...¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. (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 the midst of the fierce judgments of our righteous Judge