

Session 16

Who is Jesus When He Returns?

A. Introduction

1. The End Times is not simply about a series of events that will unfold. The series of events are a result of the returning of a Person — Jesus.
2. We need to get to know the man behind the plan and to know what He is looking for — a Bride who will partner with Him.
3. The destiny of the Bride is to partner with Jesus to push back every resistance from Satan, the Antichrist, evil people and even our own hearts that comes against His plan.
4. The more we know the Jesus who is returning, the more we will agree and long for His return.

B. The Question of the Hour (Matt. 16:15)

1. One of the fundamental questions for the generation that Jesus is returning in is “Who is Jesus?”
 - a. In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” This was one of the foundational issues Jesus was concerned about regarding the early apostles — who did they understand Jesus to be? This same issue will be emphasized by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time Church (Matt. 16:13–20).
 - b. This is not primarily a question for unbelievers. It is a question that is still relevant for us today. Jesus will build His Church on the revelation of who He is as seen in Matt. 16:13–27.
 - c. At His First Coming, Jesus came as a gentle and lowly Lamb of God, but at His Second Coming, He is coming back as the conquering King and the roaring Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

2. One of the great battles during the End Times is the battle of truth about who Jesus will be at His Second Coming. Knowing who Jesus will be when He returns will be the major battlefield at the End of the Age.

3. One of the strategies of Satan is to distort and confuse the truth of who Jesus is at His Second Coming.
 - a. The lack of understanding of who Jesus is will cause the End-Time Church to be vulnerable to fear (Lk. 21:26), confusion (Lk. 21:25), offense (Matt. 24:10), compromise (Matt. 24:12), deception (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3–4) and lust.

 - b. Not knowing who Jesus is will shake our confidence and trust in Him when things happen because we do not have a grid of who He will be at His Second Coming, just like how the disciples were confused at His First Coming.

 - c. Those who misunderstand God’s judgments will be tempted to be offended by Jesus or become angry with Him. As God’s judgments unfold, many will lose their perspective and objectivity in seeing God’s love and wisdom.

 - d. Thus, we need understanding from a biblical perspective so that we may rightly interpret the events through the lens of God’s love and wisdom.

 - e. The purpose of God’s End-Time judgments against the Antichrist’s empire is to remove all that hinders love and to stop oppression.

4. A correct revelation of Jesus is vital for the rise of a mature Bride at the End of the Age.
 - a. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus will only return in the context of a mature Bride who fully understands who He is and fully agrees with what is in His heart.

 - b. When we engage with who Jesus is, we will walk in true authority (Matt. 16:19). Revelation 3:7 also tells us that God desires to entrust us with the “key of David”, such that everything we shut, no one can open and everything that we open, no one can shut.

 - c. The book of Revelation is critical because it is especially about who Jesus is when He returns.

C. Jesus at His Second Coming

1. The Word and Holy Spirit emphasize Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the End of the Age.
2. Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge is not the full revelation of who Jesus is in the Bible (there are more than 300 titles and attributes of Jesus).
3. However, they are the most prominent concerning His Second Coming and the pre-eminent facets of who He is when He returns.
4. Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge are the primary identities emphasized at His Second Coming and there are reasons for this. They are to help us know Him, agree with Him and partner with Him.
5. Revelation 19 gives us the clearest picture of who Jesus is when He returns again and the picture of the Church walking in full maturity and partnership:
 - a. *“For true and righteous are His judgments”* (v1–2) — A Bride who fully agrees with Jesus as Judge;
 - b. *“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”* (v6) — A Bride who fully surrenders to Jesus as King;
 - c. *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”* (v7) — A Bride who fully longs for Jesus as Bridegroom.
6. Jesus will return as a Passionate Bridegroom
 - a. Jesus is revealed as the One with burning desire and jealous love for His people.
 - b. Through the book of Song of Songs, we see this reality of the ravished heart of Jesus as our Bridegroom.
“You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace.” (SoS. 4:9)
 - c. In Revelation 1:14; 2:18 and 19:12, Jesus is also described as having *“eyes like flames of fire”*.
 - i. This talks about His eyes of love and zeal for His people as our Bridegroom;

- ii. His eyes search through the inmost parts of our hearts to purify and impart that same zeal and love.
7. Jesus will return as a Sovereign King
- a. Jesus is revealed as the One who possesses all power and authority (Matt. 28:18), and causes His people to experience the supernatural power of God in their lives and ministries.
 - b. As King, Jesus will restore individual lives, all the nations and the earth (i.e. atmosphere, agriculture, and animals, etc.).
 - c. Jesus as the transcendent King reveals how He will establish and openly manifest His rule and reign over all the earth (Rev. 11:15; 19:6).
 - d. At His First Coming, He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (Matt. 21) with a shepherd's staff. His immature disciples followed behind Him. At His Second Coming, He will ride on a white horse (Rev. 19:11) with a rod of iron and scepter of righteousness (Rev. 19:15; Ps. 45:6). He will come with the armies of God and His victorious saints.
8. Jesus will return as a Righteous Judge
- a. Jesus is revealed as the One with great zeal to intervene and confront all oppression, sin and evil.
 - b. He will remove everything that hinders love as He confronts all oppression instead of ignoring it (Zech. 1:14; 8:2; Ezek. 38:18–9; Rev. 19:2).
 - c. He works redemptively to confront hatred of God and establish the truth in order to establish love across the earth (Rev. 16:5–7; 19:1–5; 20:11–14). The book of Revelation emphasizes a lot about Jesus as the Righteous Judge.
9. Jesus as King and Judge in the book of Revelation
- a. In Revelation 4, the Father is seen sitting on the throne. In Revelation 5, He is holding the scroll (which is the title deed of the earth and God's perfect plan for humanity) with the seven seals. He is looking for someone to take the scroll and to open the seals to bring judgment to cleanse the earth and establish the fullness of God's plan for mankind.
 - b. The one who can do this has to be fully man. This goes back to the Garden of Eden where the authority and dominion over the earth was given to a man — Adam (Ps. 8:6; Gen. 1:28).

- c. However, when Adam sinned, he gave that authority away to Satan who is now called the “ruler of this world” (Jn. 12:31).
- d. Jesus came as a man, laid down His life and overcame Satan, taking back that authority that was lost by Adam.
 - i. Thus, Jesus is the only man worthy to judge and rule the nations (Rev. 5:5–6).
 - ii. He has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seven seals. He is the Lamb that was slain but now stands victorious!

D. Conclusion

1. It is important to grow in our understanding of who Jesus is when He returns.
2. Even now, the Holy Spirit is inviting us to press in for this greater revelation and understanding of Jesus as our Bridegroom, King and Judge.
3. As we grow to know Him more in these aspects, we too will grow into the mature Bride that He is looking for when He returns.