

Session 17

Who is Jesus When He Returns? (Part 3)

A. Introduction

1. Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge reveals His personality, power and action plan at the End of the Age.
2. Jesus at His Second Coming is described as the “Jesus of Armageddon” because He is coming in the context of:
 - a. The greatest military conflict in human history — the Battle of Jerusalem (Zech. 12 – 14; Joel 3; Rev. 19:17–21);
 - b. The greatest justice movement in history — He will bring forth justice and vengeance upon wickedness on the earth (Isa. 42:1–9; 61:2; Lk. 18:7–8);
 - c. The great Wedding Day of the Lamb and His Bride (Rev. 19:7).

B. Scriptures that Emphasize Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge at His Second Coming

1. Isaiah 61 – 63
 - a. This is clearest Old Testament description of the ministry of the Spirit in the generation that the Lord returns, revealing the Messianic Redeemer as a Bridegroom (Isa. 62:3–5), King (Isa. 61:1–3), and Judge (Isa. 63:1–6).
2. Psalm 2:10–11
 - a. A powerful Messianic Psalm where David exhorts the End-Time generation to cultivate an understanding of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge and follow through with a three-fold response:
 - i. Serve the LORD with fear: the response of total submission and obedience to our sovereign King, who is full of power and authority;
 - ii. Rejoice with trembling: the response of awe in the midst of God’s fierce judgments and the joy of seeing justice manifested by our righteous Judge;

- iii. Kiss the Son: the response of extravagant devotion and loving obedience to our Bridegroom God.

- 3. Psalm 45
 - a. This is a great song of love that describes the Messiah as the Bridegroom, King and Judge.

- 4. Matthew 3:1–12 and John 3:29–31
 - 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.

- 5. Matthew 22:1–14
 - a. In Jesus' last public message to Israel, He emphasized the revelation of Himself as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

- 6. Matthew 25
 - a. In Jesus' last message before the upper room discourse, He revealed Himself as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

- 7. Revelation 19 – 22
 - a. These chapters in the book of Revelation especially reveal Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

C. The Importance of Knowing this Three-Fold Revelation of Jesus

- 1. There is no contradiction between Jesus as the jealous Bridegroom, transcendent King, and righteous Judge. It is one reality.
 - a. The King uses His great power to express His burning desire for His people and deliver them from everything that hinders love.

 - b. The same overwhelming furnace of desire for God's people is turned on those who oppress His people in judgment.

 - c. In the last days, the Spirit will give increased revelation of God's loving purposes in judgment (Jer. 23:20). His love is expressed and promoted by His redemptive judgments to remove all that hinder love by confronting those who aggressively oppose and hate His love and leadership.

 - d. We need to remember that everything Jesus does is inspired by His love and justice. The zealous Jesus of Armageddon who slays the wicked is the same Bridegroom God of love and tenderness.

2. **We must not neglect these truths** — to neglect any one of these truths is to diminish the others.
- a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - i. He releases His power not only to reveal His love to us, but to awaken love in us for God.
 - d. 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.
 - i. If we preach about God's judgments without encountering Him as the Bridegroom King, we will be tempted to operate in a wrong spirit (Lk. 9:53-56).
 - ii. The greatest crisis of the Church in today's day and age will occur when God manifests His judgment. Our lack of understanding and perspective about His judgments will cause many to be offended and angry at Jesus the Judge.

D. Conclusion

1. The importance of this three-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 reflects how God wants His mature Bride to relate to Him.
2. The Lord is calling us to embrace a season of rigorous preparation to equip ourselves to understand so that we will not be offended at Him in the midst of the coming pressures.
3. We are to prepare ourselves 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.

4. It is the Holy Spirit's greatest delight to reveal God to the human heart and it is in this moment that He is preparing the Church with the right understanding.

5. Let us take time to go deep in the passages that reveal who Jesus is at His Second Coming and grow deep in our knowledge of Him as we pray and converse with Him over these Scriptures.