

Session 7 Song 8:6, Hephzibah, God's Beauty, and Jesus in Red

I. ENCOUNTERING JESUS AS OUR BRIDEGROOM GOD—SONG 8:6 (JULY 1988)

- A. In July 1988, while in my office reading a wedding card with Song 8:6 on it, I began to pray, “Jesus, seal my heart with Your seal of love.” I began to weep. I asked the receptionist to hold all my calls. Ten minutes later, the receptionist called and said, “Bob Jones is on the phone. He heard the audible voice of God for you.” At that moment, I was on my knees weeping over the Song 8:6.
- 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... (Song 8:6)***
- B. Bob Jones called to tell me at that the Lord had just spoken audibly to Him promising to ***release grace across the Body of Christ worldwide to walk in Song 8:6-7*** and that for the rest of my ministry I was to focus on this theme—***the first commandment***. The month prior, in June 1988, we connected with John Wimber, who emphasized worship that was focused on intimacy with God.
- C. Around 9am, I called Diane to tell her what happened. Then I read all eight chapters of the Song of Solomon for the first time in a serious way. I said to the Lord, “This is not going to work.”

II. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT—LIGHTNING STRIKES (OCTOBER 29, 1989)

- A. Noel Alexander said, “Hear, O Israel...love the Lord with all your heart...” He spoke this scripture twice. The second time he shouted, “Hear, O Israel!” At that very moment, a bolt of lightning struck the building. God was emphasizing the priority of the first commandment and intimacy in worship.
- ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD...is one! ⁵You shall love the Lord...with all your heart. (Deut. 6:4-5)***
- B. For the first time, the Spirit will universally emphasize our spiritual identity as ***Jesus' Bride***. As sons of God, we are in the position to experience ***God's throne*** as heirs of His power. As the Bride, we are positioned to experience ***God's heart*** (emotions or affections for us).
- ¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” (Rev. 22:17)***

III. CALL THEM HEPHZIBAH (NOVEMBER 1995)

- A. In November of 1995, I had a prophetic dream exhorting me to call God's people, “Hephzibah.” I heard a loud voice like thunder say, “***Call them Hephzibah, the Lord delights in you.***” I suddenly woke up from the dream with the Spirit resting on me. I knew the Spirit had given me this message.
- 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 [intercessors] on your walls...they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NAS] day or night...” (Isa. 62:4-6)***
- B. The “Hephzibah message” is that God delights in us and rejoices over us as a Bridegroom rejoices over a bride. It is the same as the Song of Solomon message or David's “beauty of God” message. The message in Isaiah 62:4-5 is that the Lord is our Bridegroom God who delights in His people. This truth is essential to sustaining prayer in Isaiah 62:6. Both the message of the Bridegroom God (62:4) with continual prayer (62:6) are essential to the forerunner message in Isaiah. 62:10-63:6.

IV. TRANSITIONAL SEASON IN THE SPIRIT—BENNY HINN (OCTOBER 1996)

- A. In July of 1993, I had a prophetic dream in which I stood on a platform with Benny Hinn signaling that I was to begin a “transitional season” in the Lord. Transitions involve at least three dimensions. First, it is an issue of transitioning in the way we carry our heart with God or relate to God. Second, it involves changes in our function in ministry or the marketplace. Third, it includes the opening of new doors in our circumstances so that our new function can take place in a practical way.
- B. A season of transition often involves years, not months. For example, Paul’s transition in the Spirit involved 3 years in the Arabian Desert (Gal. 1:17). David’s was about 7 years while fleeing from Saul. Joseph’s was 12 years in and out of prison, and Moses’ was 40 years after he left Egypt.
- C. In October of 1996, I spoke at a conference with John Arnott in Toronto, Canada. Benny Hinn was hosting a healing meeting in Toronto. He asked me to meet with him before his meeting that day. I stood on the stage and prophesied something along the lines of, “*The Holy Spirit is raising up intercessors throughout the nations.*” That night at John Arnott’s conference, Mark DuPont, a key prophetic voice in their ministry, called me to the platform and prophesied, “*You are in transition.*”

V. GOD, YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL (NOVEMBER 30, 1996)

- 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 pray one prayer (midnight-5am). I said, “*Jesus, You are so beautiful.*” Every time I said it, I felt a surge of His presence on me. I said, “Body of Christ, open your gates to the beautiful God.” The prayer meeting was over at 5am. I went back to the church at 9am that day and continued to say, “*You are the beautiful God*” for another two hours. Again, every time I said it, I felt a surge of His presence on me. I was struck by how clearly the Spirit was bearing witness with His presence to me about the importance of this movement to make known the beauty of God.
- B. The next week, a lady sent me a letter that said, “I had a dream about you early last Saturday morning on November 30. In this dream the Lord said He would open up to you the revelation of His beauty, and He wants you to call the Church into His beauty.”

VI. FRIENDS OF THE BRIDEGROOM (MAY 7, 1997)

- A. On May 7, 1997, in Assisi, Italy, the Lord said, “I will raise up ‘friends of the Bridegroom with the forerunner message’ who will be used to prepare the Bride” (Jn. 3:29; Rev. 19:7). One of our primary callings is to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom in a “forerunner spirit.”
²⁹*The friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom’s voice. (Jn. 3:29)*
⁷*“...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Rev. 19:7)*
- B. The Bridegroom message includes God’s emotions for and commitments to us as a Bridegroom God as well as our abandonment to Him. The bridal paradigm refers to the “bridal perspective,” or view, of the kingdom of God. We see the kingdom through the eyes of a Bride with loyal, devoted love. If we do not feel love *from* God and *for* God, then we find it easier to compromise and to become spiritually bored.

VII. TRANSITION TO THE FORERUNNER MESSAGE—ISAIAH 40:3 (JULY 1997)

- A. In July of 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 a transition.”
- B. A month later, on August 27, 1997, I had a prophetic dream emphasizing that part of my ministry was to be found in Isaiah 40:3—to learn how to prepare people and build up a highway for God.
- ³**Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isa. 40:3)**
- ¹⁰**Prepare the way for the people...build up the highway!...Lift up a banner for the peoples! (Isa. 62:10)**

VIII. PROCLAIMING THE NAME OF THE LORD & JESUS IN RED (SEPTEMBER 1997)

- A. On September 3, 1997, during a prayer meeting, the Spirit powerfully highlighted three verses (Rev. 2:17; 3:12; 19:12). I felt the wind and fire of the Spirit manifesting on me for several hours.
- ¹⁷**I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written... (Rev. 2:17)**
- ¹²**I will write on him the name of My God...I will write on him My new name. (Rev. 3:12)**
- ¹²**He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (Rev. 19:12)**
- B. At the end of the prayer meeting, Terry Bennett sent me a note saying that he saw the wind and fire of the Spirit resting on me as the Lord spoke to me from Revelation 2:17, 3:12, and 19:12. It was clear to me that the Lord wanted to establish these truths in the foundation of this movement.
- C. On September 17, 1997, during a prayer meeting, the Spirit highlighted Isaiah 63:1-6 to me. Again, I felt the wind and fire of the Spirit manifesting on me for several hours. It spoke of Jesus the King wearing the red garments of a judge as He walked through the nations. I began to say, “Your red garments are glorious. Why are they red? A king should be in white garments.”
- ¹**Who is this who comes from Edom [Jordan], with dyed garments from Bozrah [capital of Edom], this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—“I [Jesus] who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”** ²**Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?** ³**“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from...[the nations] no one was with Me. For I have...trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes...”** ⁵**I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; My own fury, it sustained Me.” (Isa. 63:1-5)**
- D. Jesus will tread the winepress alone (63:3,5). I understood that no governments on earth will agree with His judgments. He will trample the nations alone. He asked me, “Will you agree with Me?” I repeatedly said yes. He said, “You will be rejected by some of My people who will rise up against you.” I promised the Lord: “I will preach the Jesus in the white dazzling garment from Song of Solomon 5:10 and the Jesus in red from Isaiah 63:2.” Terry came over and prophesied to me, saying, “The same angel that touched you two weeks ago with fire and wind is here again.” He said, “Jesus is coming to you in red garments. He is putting a mantle of Isaiah 63 on you. You must study it diligently because you are called also to preach the Jesus in red—together with other ministries.”