

Session 14 Jesus' Beauty Manifested in His Leadership

I. GOD'S LEADERSHIP OVER HISTORY

- A. God's beauty is seen in His leadership over history—over the nations corporately and our lives individually—by causing all things to work together for our good and to fulfill God's purpose to fill the earth and all of society with His love, humility, righteousness, etc.

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son... (Rom. 8:28-29)

- B. His beauty is seen in overruling all that what was meant for evil and using it for good.

²⁰But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day: to save many people alive. (Gen. 50:20)

II. JESUS' INHERITANCE: AN ETERNAL COMPANION

- A. God's ultimate purpose for His creation is to provide a family for Himself (2 Cor. 6:18) and a Bride for His Son as His eternal companion to reign with Him (Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 19:7-9). Natural history ends with a Bride who has been made ready for her marriage to Jesus.

⁷For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

- B. The inheritance that the Father promised Jesus is a people whom He fully possesses.

⁸I [the Father] will give You [Jesus], the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. (Ps. 2:8)

- C. The guiding principle of God's activity throughout history is to raise up a prepared Bride for His worthy Son. History is often interpreted through the lens of significant events such as scientific breakthroughs, military crises, political developments, and economic trends. However, we can only interpret history rightly through the lens of God preparing a Bride in love. This is the most reliable way to interpret the pains, struggles, and celebrations that we walk through in this life.

- D. God has orchestrated natural history so that God's people may seek, grope for, and find Jesus.

²⁶He has made from one blood every nation...and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him [to talk wholehearted]... (Acts 17:26-27)

1. ***Boundaries***: God has determined the physical boundaries of each nation.
2. ***Times***: God has determined the times in which each nation will rise and fall in power.
3. ***Grope***: God determined national boundaries and times to cause people to grope for Jesus.
4. ***Find***: God's purpose is that people "find" Jesus and walk in wholeheartedness with Him.

III. THE MYSTERY OF GOD: FIVE ASPECTS

- A. The mystery of God speaks of His plan that had been hidden until Jesus became a man, paid the debt of sin, and rose from the dead. God works from a “blueprint” that He established from the beginning of time (Eph. 3:9-11). The mystery of God contains His beautiful storyline for history.
⁹...to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God...¹⁰to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord... (Eph. 3:9-11)
- B. **Mystery:** Paul identified five specific aspects to the mystery of God—God’s masterplan. The Lord will *join the heavenly and earthly realms together* (Eph. 1:10) and will bring His people together in *deep unity* (Eph. 3:3-6) to relate to them as *His Bride* (Eph. 5:31-32). The Lord will give His people a *new heart* (Col. 1:27) and a *new resurrected body* (1 Cor. 15:51-58).
- C. **Wisdom:** God’s purpose is to be made known by the Church to the angelic principalities and powers (Eph. 3:10). The angels desire to look into the things of the gospel (1 Pet. 1:12).
- D. **Eternal:** Before the foundations of the world, God’s purpose was to have a people mature or blameless in love (Eph. 1:4). His plans are established from eternity (Eph. 3:11; cf. Acts 15:18).
⁴He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love... (Eph. 1:4)
- E. The Father prepared a kingdom for His family from the foundations of the world (Mt. 25:34).
³⁴“Come...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Mt. 25:34)

IV. ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER IN PREPARING A MATURE BRIDE FOR JESUS

- A. The guiding principle in God’s leadership throughout history is to use His power and wisdom to select, train, and prepare a Bride to reign with Jesus.
*²¹For all things are yours:²²*whether...the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours*.²³And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s. (1 Cor. 3:21-23)*
1. **World:** The earth including the entire created order (Gen. 1).
 2. **Life:** The life of humans, angels, animals, and plants are all for the benefit of the Bride.
 3. **Death:** The reality of death serves to develop the Bride in love.
 4. **Things present:** Both blessing and challenges work together to train the Bride.
 5. **Things to come:** The New Jerusalem and the end-of-the-age dynamics are for the Bride.
 6. **You are Christ’s:** God gives all to the Bride because she belongs to Jesus.

- B. The Father's original plan was to have a family who would rule creation with Jesus.
¹⁰*And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)*
- C. God has given His people an "eternal dominion mandate" to manifest His glory in on earth.
²⁶*God said, "Let Us make man in Our image...let them have dominion...over all the earth..."*
²⁸*God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion..."*
(Gen. 1:26, 28)
- ³*I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon, and the stars...⁴what is man that You are mindful of him...? ⁵You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You put all things under his feet. (Ps. 8:3-6)*

V. THE BEAUTY NARRATIVE

- A. Isaiah emphasized that the *beauty of the Messiah* would be seen by the redeemed in context to His end-time leadership over the nations (Isa. 4:2; 28:5; 33:17; 61:3; 62:3-5).
¹⁷*Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:17)*
- B. **The beauty narrative:** We embrace the truth about a beautiful God who has a beautiful plan for our life, in which He uses His power to impart incorruptible beauty into our life that continues forever. David was intentional about focusing on the "beauty narrative" of his life (27:4).
⁴*One thing...will I seek....all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD... (Ps. 27:4)*
- C. **The dark narrative:** The enemy wants to shift our life into a negative narrative of how badly we are treated, how hard things are, what we do not have, how much we fail, and how worthless our life is. We must refuse to let a dark narrative dominate our heart and internal conversation.
- D. Jesus will "ride prosperously" or go forth to fill the earth with humility and righteousness (Ps. 45:4). Psalm 45 is the Father's song about Jesus' beauty (Heb. 1:8). Jesus will be seen as the One more beautiful than all others in context to His activity in destroying the Antichrist in the Armageddon campaign. Jesus will gird His sword to remove wicked kings from the earth (45:3).
²*You are fairer than the sons of men...³Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One...*
⁴*In Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness...*
(Ps. 45:2-4)
- E. Jesus will establish the optimum environment for His people to walk in love, power, and purity. *He uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number to the deepest level of love.*
¹⁴*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD... (Hab. 2:14)*
- F. The book of Revelation is about the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1) and His plan to transition the earth to the age to come. It is not a doomsday prophecy about the end of the world, but a glorious love story of Jesus ushering in a new world order. It describes the *end* of the dark night of Satan's oppression of the human race and the *dawning* of Jesus' new day as He returns to rule.

VI. JESUS IMPARTS HIS BEAUTY

- A. The beauty that Jesus possesses is the very beauty that He imparts to His people. It starts in this age and comes to the fullness in the age to come.

¹*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me...³to give them beauty for ashes. (Isa. 61:1-3)*

¹⁷*Let the beauty of the LORD...be upon us, and establish the work of our hands... (Ps. 90:17)*

⁴*For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. (Ps. 149:4)*

- B. **Imparted beauty:** Our godly choices to obey Him results in more of His beauty imparted to us. We embrace what the Word says about how God sees beauty in us—in a gentle and quiet spirit.

⁴*...let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (1 Pet. 3:4)*

1. **Hidden beauty:** Peter provided significant insight when he taught on the hidden person of the heart. God sees incorruptible beauty in His people. (We do not see it clearly). We only know that God esteems humility as beautiful because the Scripture says He does.
2. **Very precious:** The beauty of humility is dear to God. Jesus sees our lives so differently than we do. Many believers see their life mostly as weak, broken, irrelevant, and a failure. Jesus sees beauty growing in them. He imparted it to them at their salvation. We can cultivate this beauty in our life. We will see it clearly in the age to come.
3. **Incorruptible:** God sees humility as incorruptible beauty—it never diminishes. It will last throughout the age to come. In the age to come there will be continuity with this life.
4. **Gentle spirit:** Some translate this as a humble or meek spirit. Every choice for humility or to respond with a quiet spirit is beautiful to God.
5. **Quiet spirit:** Having a quiet spirit speaks of trusting the Lord's leadership in our life, especially in times of difficulty, rather than being overcome with fear.

- C. The beauty of our life is “hidden” in Christ—it will be fully manifested when Jesus returns. When Jesus appears, then we will see the full story of our life.

³*...your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear [the hidden glory of God in you will be seen] with Him in glory [beauty]. (Col. 3:3-4)**

- D. The challenge with the beauty that God imparts to us is that it is hidden from our five senses, but the Word says it there. If the Word says it is, then this must be our confession or testimony. We are to be intentional in searching for God's beauty because it is hidden. This is a glorious, new way of looking at life. Many believers do not realize that God sees beauty in them. Thus, they live in despair because they cannot connect with the beauty that is growing in their life.

VII. JESUS' BEAUTIFUL LEADERSHIP: FIVE ASPECTS OF THE MILLENNIUM

- A. The Millennium is a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world (Rev. 20:4-6).
⁶They...shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6)
- B. The Father will bring the realms of heaven and earth together.
⁹Having made known to us the mystery [plan] of His will...¹⁰that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)
- C. God's purpose has always been to live with His people on earth.
³Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them. (Rev. 21:3)
- D. It is necessary for both realms to function together in order for God's people to experience and express the *fullness of God*—the fullness of God's personality, purpose, and presence (Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13). We experience this in part in this age and in fullness in the age to come.
¹⁹...to know the love of Christ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:19)
¹³...until we all come...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Eph. 4:13)
- E. There are at least five aspects of the millennial kingdom that are necessary for God's people to experience His fullness on the earth (Eph. 3:19). They bring a supernatural, physical, political, spiritual, and relational dimension to the Father's eternal plan for His people on the earth.
- F. **#1 The New Jerusalem** will come down to earth, bringing a *supernatural, eternal* dimension to the millennial kingdom. This will release a greater measure of resurrection life on the earth.
¹²“...the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.” (Rev. 3:12)
1. The heavenly Jerusalem will descend to earthly Jerusalem, connecting the two Jerusalems. When the New Jerusalem comes down, then heaven will literally be on earth. The veil between the natural and heavenly realms will be lifted on earth.
 2. Jesus' throne will be in *both* the millennial Jerusalem *and* the New Jerusalem. It is *one throne* with two expressions (Ezek. 43:4-7; Zech. 6:12-13; Rev. 22:3).
- G. **#2 The garden of Eden** will be restored, bringing a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.). Jesus will restore the *garden of Eden* (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12).
³⁵They will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden...” (Ezek. 36:35)
1. We will live in a resurrected physical body with supernatural capacities to enjoy an earthly paradise that is filled with beauty and pleasure.
 2. Scripture begins and ends with God living face to face with His people in Eden.

- H. **#3 The kingdom of David** will bring a *political and social* aspect to the Millennium. This will include governmental, economic, and social institutions. Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as the government of every nation is brought under Jesus.

⁷*Of the increase of His government...there will be no end, upon the throne of David...*
(Isa. 9:7)

1. All the kings of the earth will worship Jesus in the Millennium (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24). They will base their governments on God's Word.

¹¹*All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.* (Ps. 72:11)

2. Jesus will govern in partnership with resurrected saints ruling with Him (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12). This includes varying responsibilities and spheres of authority.

- I. **#4 The house of prayer** will bring a *spiritual* dimension to the kingdom. The millennial temple will be a global worship center from which Jesus will lead the nations in prayer.

⁷*“For My house [the temple] shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”* (Isa. 56:7)

1. He will call His people worldwide to encounter God and to rule with Him from a place of worship and prayer (Isa. 56:7).
2. The identity of the redeemed forever includes being and functioning as a house of prayer. In other words, God speaks and moves our heart, then we speak and move His heart in prayer, resulting in God's resource being released into the earthly realm.

- J. **#5 The family of God** will bring a *relational community* dimension as the saints live as sons of God, as the Bride of Christ, and as brothers and sisters in the fullness of love and unity (Jn. 17:21-26). God's people will dwell together forever as a vibrant family functioning as kingdom community. God's family will function as a Bride in partnership with the Father and Son.

1. Paul prayed that the Father would strengthen His whole family (Eph. 3:14-19).

¹⁴*I bow my knees to the Father...¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶that He would grant you...to be strengthened with might...¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*
(Eph. 3:14-19)

2. Jesus will release His glory in and through His people so that they will flow in the Spirit to bless, serve, and enjoy each other with supernatural unity.

²²*And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³...that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.* (Jn. 17:22-23)