

¹² ***Behold, I am coming quickly...16. I, Jesus...am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." 17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come...20 "Surely, I am coming quickly." Even so, "Come, Lord Jesus!"(Rev. 22:12, 16-17, 20)***

I. JOHN PROPHESED OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE END-TIME CHURCH (REV. 22:17)

- A. Rev. 22:17 is one of the most informative and significant prophecies in the Bible describing the End-Time Church. John tells what will happen in the Church, in the generation the Lord returns.
- B. ***This prophecy describes the Church in deep unity with the Holy Spirit, in saying and doing what the Holy Spirit is saying and doing.*** What is the Spirit doing in this passage? He is interceding for Jesus to come to His Church. What is the Spirit saying? He is revealing the Church's bridal identity (who we are as Jesus' Bride). In other words, the Word of God tells us what the Spirit of God will emphasize in the End-Times. There are many significant implications of this prophecy.
- C. This prophecy describes the highest function of the Church in 4 ways: 1). **anointed** with the Spirit, 2). **engaged** in intercession, 3). **established** in our bridal identity and 4). **effective** in the Harvest.
- D. This will be the **first time** in history, that the Church world wide will be in dynamic unity with the Spirit and therefore, the Spirit will be resting on and moving through the Church in great power.
- E. The prophecies given to John (Book of Revelation) awakened the spirit of intercession in him, as he cried, "***Even so, come Lord Jesus***" (v. 20). The book of Revelation stirs us to urgency in prayer. It reveals Jesus' coming as a Bridegroom King that will release great revival and terrifying judgments.
- F. God has chosen to release His power through intercessory worship. ***The Prayer Room in heaven and earth (now and forever) is God's governmental center for the universe.*** Prayer is transcendent (not limited by time and space) as it opens windows of grace on our heart, city and in society.

II. WHAT IS THE BRIDAL PARADIGM?

- A. The word paradigm means perspective or view. Thus, the Bridal paradigm refers to the "bridal perspective or view" of the kingdom of God. We see the Kingdom through the eyes of a wholehearted Bride with loyal devoted love. If we do not feel loved and in love, then we more easily compromise, lack courage and become spiritually bored.
- B. The Holy Spirit for the first time in history will universally emphasize the Church's spiritual identity as Jesus' Bride. Notice that John does not proclaim that the Spirit and the family say, "Come," nor the Spirit and the army, nor the kingdom, nor the body, nor the temple and not the Spirit and the priesthood. Rather, it is the Spirit resting on the Church as a Bride. Forever, we rejoice in the reality of our identity as God's army, family, body, temple, priesthood and kingdom.

III. THE BRIDEGROOM MESSAGE IS A CALL TO ACTIVE INTIMACY WITH GOD

The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...¹² we have received...the Spirit...that we might know (experience) the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:10-12)

A. God's invitation for us to experience the deep things of His heart (emotions, desire, affection and thoughts about us). Thus, to enjoy active intimacy with Jesus that includes understanding and feeling His heart. The Bridal message speaks of experiencing Jesus' emotions (desire, affections).

¹⁸ *You may be able to comprehend...the width and length and depth and height-- to know (experience) the love (affections or emotions) of Christ.. (Eph 3:18-19)*

⁵ *Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.. (Ps. 40:5)*

B. As sons of God, we are in the position to experience God's Throne as heirs of His power/authority (Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:17). As the Bride, we are in position to experience God's heart (emotions, affections or desire for us). Both are unique positions of privilege before God.

C. As women are the sons of God, so men are the Bride of Christ, both describe our position of privilege before God, rather than pointing to something that is intrinsically male or female. Most Christian women do not struggle with the idea of being sons of God because they do not see it as a call to be less feminine. However, often, men struggle with being the Bride of Christ because they wrongly conclude that it is a call to become less masculine.

D. Some of the greatest men of God functioned in the essential reality of the bridal identity.
King David was Israel's greatest warrior king, yet he was a lovesick worshipper, ravished by God's desire for him and fascinated by His beauty (Ps. 27:4). One of the central issues of David's life, as a man after God's own heart, was in being a student of God's emotions and affections.

John the apostle was called the Son of Thunder and he described himself five times as the one whom Jesus loved (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20).

John the Baptist was the fiery prophet that Jesus called the "greatest man" (Mt. 11:11). He understood Jesus as the Bridegroom God (Jn. 3:29).

E. In other words, experiencing the reality of being the Bride of Christ *does not undermine one's masculinity, but rather it strengthens and establishes it.*

F. To understand Jesus as a passionate Bridegroom is to soon see ourselves as a cherished Bride. Intimacy causes our hearts to be lovesick for Jesus (inflamed; enraptured; overcome by His love).

⁵ *Sustain me...refresh me...for I am lovesick. (Song 2:5)*

⁸ *If you find my Beloved (Jesus)...tell Him I am lovesick! (Song 5:8)*

IV. WHAT IS THE BRIDEGROOM MESSAGE? (MT. 22:2; 25:1)

A. The essence of the Bridegroom message is the revelation of Jesus' emotions and commitments as a lovesick Bridegroom God. Encounters with a lovesick God energizes the Church with a spirit of prayer with courage. We cry out, "Come", differently with the Bridal paradigm, both, upwardly to Jesus and outwardly to people (evangelism, discipleship).

B. Jesus the Bridegroom is filled with tender mercy – He is gentle with our weakness. We often confuse rebellion and immaturity. God is angry at rebellion, but He has a heart of tenderness towards sincere believers that seek to obey Him. He enjoys us even in our weakness.

¹⁹ He delivered me because He delighted in me. ³⁵ Your gentleness made me great. (Ps. 18:19,35)

³ If You, LORD, should mark iniquities...who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. (Ps. 130:3-4)

C. Jesus the Bridegroom has a heart of gladness (happy heart) – Jesus had more gladness than any man in history (Heb. 1:9). Most of Church history has viewed God as mostly mad or mostly sad when He relates to us. However, Jesus is mostly glad when He relates to us, even in our weakness.

⁹ God has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. (Heb. 1:9)

D. Jesus the Bridegroom has fiery affections – He has burning desire and longing. The Church will be cleansed by experiencing the cherishing heart of Jesus.

⁹ As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (Jn. 15:9)

²⁶ That He might...cleanse her...by the Word...27 present her...a glorious church...29 for no one ever hated his flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as the Lord does the Church. (Eph. 5:26-29)

E. Jesus the Bridegroom is zealous – He destroys all that hinders love and injures His Church (Zech. 1:14; 8:2; Ezek. 38:18-19; Rev. 19:2; Prov. 6:34)

¹ I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her. (Zech. 8:1-2)

F. Jesus the Bridegroom possesses indescribable beauty – He fascinates our hearts (Ps. 27:4).

One thing I have desired of the LORD...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD... (Ps. 27:4)

V. THE 3-FOLD INTERCESSORY CRY FOR JESUS TO COME (BREAKTHROUGH OF POWER)

- A. 1. Come NEAR US in intimacy (individual breakthrough of my heart in God)
2. Come TO US in revival (regional or national breakthrough of the Spirit in revival)
3. Come FOR US in the sky (historical breakthrough by the Second Coming of Jesus)

B. The 2-fold expression of the Bride's cry for Jesus to come (breakthrough)

1. **Worship** – "We love You, we worship You, we beckon You to come by our love."

2. **Intercession** – "We need You, we pray for You to come and release revival power."

- C. A two-dimensional cry: upward to God and outward to people (one billion new souls)
1. **Vertical** – an upward call to Jesus to come to us in breakthrough power (near us/to us/for us).
 2. **Horizontal** – an outward call to people to come to Jesus as the Bridegroom King. We call believers (*revival, discipleship*) and unbelievers (*evangelism*) to experience the Bridegroom God.
- D. We believe the Church will win over 1 billion new souls to Jesus before He returns. This prophecy emphasizes that the Church will “call out” in two different directions. First, we will call out to Jesus in intercession to “come to us,” and second we will call out to people who thirst to “come to Jesus.”
- E. Most of the Western Church today is out of sync with this purpose of God. Many things will change. What will help bring about this change? ***The Holy Spirit is raising up forerunners.*** ***Forerunners*** are those who are one short step ahead of others in walking out and announcing what the Holy Spirit will soon emphasize universally. The Spirit anoints what He emphasizes.
- F. Jesus will only come (near us/to us/for us) in response to a praying Church and not in a vacuum. He only comes by invitation of His covenant people. In the Father’s sovereignty, He has decreed to work only in partnership with a praying Church. Ministry programs can be helpful, but must not exist at the expense of the prayer ministry, which is the primary mandate of the Church.
- G. It is important to know where we are going and how to get there. The End-Time Church will surely be victorious as we are anointed in intercession in our bridal identity.
- ²⁶ *That He might present...a Glorious Church...that she should be holy... (Eph. 5:26-27)*
- ⁹ *A great multitude...of all nations...and tongues...before the Lamb... (Rev. 7:9)*
- ⁷ *His wife has made herself READY....arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright...*” (Rev. 19:7-8)

VI. JESUS DECLARES THAT HE IS A JEWISH KING WHO WILL GUIDE HIS PEOPLE

¹⁶ *I, Jesus...am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” ¹⁷ *The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” (Rev. 22:16-17)**

- A. Jesus reveals four things about Himself in Rev. 22:16 that are vital to the prophecy of Rev. 22:17 and that release the anointing on the End-Time Church as a Bride. The first titles two have to do with His human heritage. He is returning to earth in context to a military conflict around Jerusalem. He is coming as the ultimate King David who is mighty in battle (Ps. 24:8). The next two titles have to do with His deity.
- B. First, Jesus calls Himself the **Root** of David. He is God and therefore, existed before David and is the cause behind the kingdom of David. He stands behind all the promises to Israel. Second, Jesus is the **Offspring** of David. He was born in David’s family line, therefore, He submitted to being human. In other words, Jesus both God and human as the Alpha and Omega. Jesus emphasizes His Jewish heritage as the root and offspring of King David. He is saying, “I am a Jewish King that will sit on the Throne of David.”

- C. Third, Jesus revealed Himself as the **Bright star** that guides His people in the darkness of the Great Tribulation as He dazzles their heart with His beauty. We will be filled with bright righteousness even as nations are deep in sin (Isa. 62:1).

¹ *For Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness... (Is. 62:1)*

- D. Fourth, Jesus is the **Morning star** that gives His people the assurance of victory. (A morning star is a planet, especially Venus, that is visible in the east just before sunrise). In the time of deep darkness covering the earth, Jesus will come as the sure sign that the dawning of a Millennial day is at hand.

² *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; but the LORD (Jesus the Second Coming) will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)*