

Session 6 Called to Song 8:6, Hephzibah, and Jesus in Red

I. JESUS CALLS US TO INVITE HIM TO COME TO US AS THE JEALOUS BRIDEGROOM

“Set Me [Jesus] as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, [God’s] jealousy as cruel [demanding] as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. 7 Many waters [sin, pressure] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. (Song 8:6-7)

- A. In July 1988 while in my office reading a wedding card with Song of Solomon 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 she said, “Bob Jones heard the audible voice of the Lord for you.” I was on my knees with the Song of Solomon, weeping with the phone in my hand.
- B. Bob Jones called to tell me at that very moment that the Lord spoke audibly to Him promising to *release grace across the Body of Christ worldwide to walk in Song 8:6-7* and that I was to focus on this theme throughout my ministry. This happened immediately after June 1988, when we connected with John Wimber’s ministry which emphasized worship and compassion.
- C. I called Diane and told her what happened. It was only about 9:00am. I then immediately read all 8 chapters for the first time in a serious way. I said to the Lord, “This is not going to work.” I asked the Lord for a commission to teach the life of David or Revelation or Romans.

II. CALL THEM HEPHZIBAH

- A. In November of 1995, I had a prophetic dream on a Sunday morning exhorting me to call God’s people “Hephzibah.” I was on a large platform and this voice spoke. It was the voice of the Holy Spirit, like thunder. The voice said, “Call them Hephzibah, the Lord delights in you.”

4 You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...5 For as the bridegroom rejoices (enjoys) over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. 6 I have set watchmen on your walls...they shall never hold their peace (be silent, NAS) day or night...7 give Him no rest till He establishes...Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:4-7)
- B. I woke up from the dream instantly with the Spirit resting on me. I wanted to speak on it that Sunday morning so I looked for it through the Old Testament. 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.
- C. The bridal paradigm of Isaiah 62:1-5 is essential to sustaining the night and day prayer of Isa. 62:6-7, which itself is essential to the forerunner ministry of Isa. 62:10-63:6.
- D. I labored in prayer for years in intercession without the “Hephzibah” message. One of the reasons that intercessors get burned out and that forerunners preach with a harsh spirit is because they aren’t encountering Jesus’ heart.

III. GOD, YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

- 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 speak one statement. From about midnight until 5:00am I said, "Jesus, You are so beautiful." Every time I said it, I felt a surge of His presence. I said, "Body of Christ, open your gates to the beautiful God." The prayer meeting was over at 5:00am. I went back to the empty church at 9:00am and said, "You are the beautiful God" for two more hours.
- 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."
- C. During the 21-day fast in May of 1983, the Spirit stirred me to pray Ps. 27:4 for over 12 hours.
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, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)

IV. FRIENDS OF THE BRIDEGROOM

- A. On May 7, 1997, in Assisi, Italy the Lord said, I will raise up "friends of the Bridegroom forerunner messengers" who will prepare the Bride (Jn. 3:29).
²⁹ The friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. (Jn. 3:29)
- B. One of IHOP-KC's primary callings is to minister with a "forerunner spirit." We need to renew this spiritual identity and focus in our ministry foundation.

V. NOEL WITH LIGHTNING

- A. On Sunday Oct. 29, 1989, Noel preached on Deut. 6:4. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one... love the Lord your God." I spoke this scripture twice. The second time I shouted, "Hear, O Israel!" At that moment, a double thunderbolt hit the building. God was emphasizing the necessity of the first commandment and intimacy in worship (Vineyard movement).
- B. For the first time in history, the Spirit will universally emphasize our spiritual identity as Jesus' Bride. 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.
¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)

- C. The essence of the Bridegroom message is the revelation of Jesus' emotions and commitments to us as a Bridegroom God and our abandonment back 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 loved and in love, then we more easily compromise, lack courage, and become spiritually bored. 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). Both are unique positions of privilege before God.

VI. TRANSITIONAL SEASON IN THE SPIRIT: 1996 BENNY HINN

- A. In July of 1993, I had a prophetic dream in which I stood on a platform with Benny Hinn to begin a "transitional season in the Lord."
- B. A transitional season involves 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.
- C. A season of transition often involves years not months. Paul's transition in the Spirit involved 3 years in the Arabian Desert. David's was 7 years near the cave of Adullam. Joseph's was 12 years in and out of prison, and Moses' was 40 years of getting Egypt out of him.
- D. 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 early that day. I stood on the stage with Benny Hinn and prophesied, "***The Holy Spirit is raising up intercessors throughout the nations.***" That night at the other conference, Mark DuPont prophesied, "***You are in transition.***"
- E. Bill Bright called a forty-day fast (Jan. 1–Feb. 10, 1997).
- F. 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." A month later on August 27, 1997, I had a dream from the Lord saying my commission was ***Isaiah 40:3***, to build up the highways.

VII. THE PREACHING MANDATE OF THIS MOVEMENT

- A. On September 3, 1997, during a prayer meeting, the Holy Spirit highlighted three verses to me (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. On the way out of the prayer room, I received a note from Terry Bennett who said that he saw the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit resting on me and that the Lord was imparting a mantle related to 3 verses: Revelation 2:17, 3:12, and 19:12.
- C. It was clear to me that the Lord was continuing to establish more truths in the spiritual foundations of this movement.
- D. On September 17, 1997, during a prayer meeting, the Holy Spirit highlighted Isa. 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, with dyed garments from Bozrah, 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 peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 I have trodden the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth." (Isa. 63:1-6)

- E. Jesus will tread the winepress alone (Isa. 63:3). The Lord said to me, “There are no governments that will agree with My judgments. They are all against them. I will trample the nations alone even though none agree with Me. Will you agree with Me?” I repeatedly said yes. The wind and the fire of the Spirit came on me. He said, “You will be rejected even by My people. Some of them will rise up against you.” I made a promise to the Lord: “I will preach the Jesus in the white dazzling garment from Song of Solomon and the Jesus in red from Isaiah 63.”
- F. 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 the mantle of Isaiah 63 on you. You must study it because you will preach the Jesus in red.”
- G. Terry said the Lord appeared to him in the red robe. He saw the wind of God like a tornado swirling around my body as the angel was pouring fire on me. He told me, “Your ministry is to focus on revealing the name of God. He summoned you and others to prepare the way of the Lord by also teaching on the judgments of God.”

- H. In January of 2008, Terry Bennett wrote me with another prophecy. The wind and fire of the Spirit manifested on me as I read it. He wrote: the Lord is calling you again, a second time, to come up to the mountain of the Lord and to ***wrap your face in the mantle of His name.*** This is your primary anointing and purpose. Wrap this mantle around your face by ***setting the Lord and His Name before your face forever.*** This is a call to enter the King's chamber! You are called to be undistracted, unencumbered, and to free up time to seek the Lord. ***You were created to see, prophesy, and witness to His Name.***