

JESUS CHRIST, OUR BRIDEGROOM, KING & JUDGE

S03 OUR RIGHTEOUS JUDGE POSSESSES GREAT ZEAL – COREY STARK

I. THE END-TIME REVELATION OF JESUS, AS OUR BRIDEGROOM, KING AND JUDGE

A. As we approach the end of the age, the Holy Spirit is emphasizing the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Word of God, as Bridegroom, King and Judge across the whole Body of Christ in every nation (Rev. 1:1). This three-fold revelation of Jesus isn't random, but a very *strategic revelation* to awaken a very *specific response* in the heart of God's people, particularly in the generation of the LORD's return (2 Cor. 3:18).

B. As we come to Jesus and believe in Him "*as the Scriptures say*" (Jn. 7:38), our hearts are awakened to *respond* to Him in the specific ways He is *revealed* to us (2 Cor. 3:18). The "living waters" are different facets of the Holy Spirit's ministry revealing Christ *to us* (i.e. drink), *in us* (i.e. fountain) and *through us* (i.e. rivers).

Jn. 7:37 Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (Jn. 4:7-14)

C. The Scripture reveals hundred's of titles for God describing many different facets of His personality, character and nature. They are all very important to understand, yet at the end of the age these three will have a unique preeminence, being emphasized in an unusual way above all of the others.

1. As a *passionate Bridegroom* Jesus feels *burning desire* for His people. The revelation of His divine love, deep *delight* and jealous *affection* transforms the Church in love as a mature Bride with confidence even in weakness, which empowers a wholehearted devotion that releases the fragrance of worship.

Mt. 25:6 At midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

2. As the *sovereign King* Jesus received *all power* to restore, renew and rule. The revelation of His authority, abilities and resources strengthens the Church in faith as a House of Prayer, which inspires fervent intercession to contend for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Rev. 19:16 He has on His robe... a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

3. As the *righteous Judge* Jesus possesses *infinite wisdom* and *great zeal* to intervene in human history and establish justice by rewarding the righteous, while confronting the rebellious to remove everything that hinders love. The revelation of His *perfect insight* causes the Church to abound in hope, knowing that He has seen everything and will make all of the wrong things right. The revelation of His *great zeal* releases the fear of the LORD, producing forerunner messengers who are gripped by the urgency of the hour and for the sake of love prepare themselves by knowing His heart, power and plans to prepare others to prevail through the unique dynamics and unprecedented events of the end-times in great victory!

Rev. 19:11 Behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges... 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire... 13 His name is The Word of God.

D. There is a *dynamic connection* between these realities, so that we cannot fully understand any one without seeing the other two in context. All three facets belong to the same diamond of Jesus' glorious personality.

E. There is *no contradiction* in Jesus' personality. He is in perfect unity within Himself at all times. He never suspends His tender mercy as a Bridegroom-King to exercise His powerful judgment as a righteous Judge. In fact, His judgment is an expression of His mercy, as it removes everything that hinders His love.

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II. JESUS, OUR RIGHTEOUS JUDGE POSSESSES INFINITE WISDOM AND GREAT ZEAL

A. As the *righteous Judge* with infinite wisdom, Jesus is zealous to intervene in human history and establish justice by vindicating the righteous, while confronting the rebellious to remove everything that hinders love.

B. The Father has committed *all judgment* to His Son, Jesus (Jn. 5:22-23, 27-30; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 1 Cor. 4:4-5; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; 1 Pet. 4:5; Rev. 5:1-10; 6:1-17; 8:1-9:21; 11:15-19; 19:2; 11; 20:11-15).

Jn. 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.

C. Jesus is the *only One* found worthy to bear the responsibility of judgment (Rev. 5:5), because as the eternal God He understands the *design* of His creation and the human spirit (Mt. 6:22-23; 2 Cor. 3:18) and as a resurrected Man He understands our *capacity* for humility (Phil. 2:5-11) and *ability* to fully submit ourselves to live righteously by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; 8:9; 1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 Jn. 3:5).
Though He was never less than God, yet He never lived as more than Man!

Heb. 4:15 For [Jesus] was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

D. The created order that was spoken into existence by the Word of God in the beginning (Gen. 1; Jn. 1:1-3) will be evaluated and judged by the same Word of God when He returns at the end of the age (Rev. 19:11-16).

Jn. 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Rev. 19:11 Behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges... 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire... 13 and His name is called The Word of God...

E. Jesus isn't motivated by emotion, but divine zeal to *establish justice* in society and to *fully restore* creation back to its original design. In infinite wisdom, He will execute a very strategic plan that confronts the wicked to stop the oppression of His people and corruption of the planet forever (Ps. 12:5; Isa. 9:7; 19:1).

Isa. 42:1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him... 4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth..."

Hab. 3:12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people... You struck the head from the house of the wicked... (Isa. 63:4)

F. Judge is the least understood and most disliked facet of Jesus' personality. However, when His plan is fully executed we all say, "*True and righteous are your judgments!*" Why not begin to understand now what we will all say then? The Judge will be emphasized more as we near the end of the age, because He is about to transition the earth into the age-to-come, called the Millennium when truth, humility and righteous reigns!

Rev. 19:1 I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the LORD our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments....!"

Ps. 98:1 Sing to the Lord a new song! 4 Shout joyfully... rejoice, and sing praises... 9 For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity. (Ps. 96:7-13)

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III. UNDERSTANDING THE DELAY AND SEVERITY OF GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

A. Many, even within the Church question, “*How can a God of love judge the wicked?*” My question is, “*How can a God of love NOT judge the wicked?*” Can you imagine a police officer watching someone suffer injustice and do nothing to intervene, because he didn’t want to be misunderstood as being too harsh? The simple answer is *God’s judgment is an expression of love, because He is removing that which hinders it.*

B. When vindication for injustice doesn’t come immediately many are tempted to feel devalued as insignificant or worthless, because it seems as if God either *didn’t see* or *doesn’t care* about the injustice that they’ve suffered. However, understanding that God has *never* turned a “blind eye” to injustice, but in perfect righteousness will make all the wrong things right (Rev. 7:14-17; 21:4), empowers us to *trust* His leadership now, while causing our *hope* to abound for the future (Jer. 29:11), as it restores our *dignity* and *value* as ones that He deeply cares about. Once we are His, Jesus takes our suffering of injustice personally (Acts 9:1-9).

Acts 9:4 “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?... 5 I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.”

C. Jesus will accurately evaluate and reward *every person* according to their works (Mt. 16:27; 2 Tim. 4:14; Rev. 2:23; 18:6; 20:12-13; 22:12). His eyes of fire that blaze with perfect insight cannot be manipulated (Heb. 4:13; Rev. 1:14; 3:18; 19:12). At His return the righteous will inherit eternal life and at the end of the Millennium the wicked will receive eternal separation in the Lake of Fire (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:28-29). The day of vengeance belongs to the LORD (Lk. 21:22; Rom. 12:19; 2 Thes. 1:6-9; Heb. 10:30-31).

2 Thes. 1:7 The Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and... obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...

D. So why the long delay (Isa. 42:14)? The Lord has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11). In perfect love He’s not willing that any should perish, but all come to repentance and be saved, so He’s giving them more time (2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 2:20-23). In light of this delay, He asks us to trust His leadership for our vindication in His timing and in His way, as we *bless our enemies*, which may lead to their salvation (Mt. 5:44; Rom. 12:14-21) and *forgive our enemies*, confirming our salvation (Mt. 6:14-15; 18:35; Mk. 11:25-26).

2 Pet. 3:9 The LORD is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (Rev. 2:20-23)

E. At the end of the Millennium, all those who didn’t believe in Jesus and receive His righteousness by faith (2 Cor. 5:21), must stand before Almighty God on the merit of our own righteousness, which is as filthy rags, and be judged according to their evil deeds (Rev. 20:11-15). As we understand the severity of Jesus’ judgment upon the wicked, we are empowered to *love* them and motivated to *pray* for their salvation (Mt. 5:44).

F. Regardless of the injustice that we’ve experienced, Jesus is not only capable to use *all things* together for our good to learn more about Him, ourselves, grow in humility, gain eternal rewards, etc. (Rom. 8:28), but He will *reverse* all the negative affects of injustice against us in the age to come (Rev. 7:14-17; 21:4).

Rom. 8:28 We know that all things work together for good to those who love God...

Rev. 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

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IV. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST – LIVING BEFORE JESUS’ EYES OF FIRE

A. The *greatest appointment* of our lives is yet future. It is appointed for all to die once and be evaluated (Heb. 9:27). What Jesus says, as we look into His “*eyes of fire*” is the *most important* thing about our life. No one’s opinion counts and no other information can manipulate Jesus’ perfect evaluation of the truth of our life.

Heb. 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12)

B. We must all stand before the *judgment seat of Christ* or “evaluation seat” to *give an account* for two primary things (Mt. 25:14-30; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9-11). First, on how we responded to our personal assignments in light of our life circumstances and second, on how we invested what God entrusted to us – capacities, abilities and resources (Mt. 25:14-30). We then *receive eternal rewards* that never diminish.

Rom. 14:10 For we shall all stand before the judgment [evaluation] seat of Christ... 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1. Capacities - emotional, psychological, spiritual, physical, etc.
2. Abilities – natural abilities, spiritual gifting, anointing in ministry, etc.
3. Resources - time, money, energy, words, influence, authority, etc.

C. The judgment seat of Christ is not the place of *penalty*, but *reward*. Knowing that He *sees, values and rewards every sincere* act of righteousness, even the things we forget, gives *great significance to everything* we do, including our small, simple and secret acts of devotion, kind words, hours of service, money, etc.

Mt. 10:42 Whoever gives... only a cup of cold water... shall by no means lose his reward. (Mk. 9:41)

Heb. 6:10 God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love... you have shown toward His name...

D. Jesus gave *more teaching* on eternal rewards than anyone in Scripture, knowing their value, power and significance to believers (Mt. 5-7; Rev. 2-3). As Creator, He knows that the *desires* of our heart operate like a compass, *directing* the course of our life for good or evil (Pr. 4:23; Eccl. 3:11). Therefore, He uses the subject of eternal rewards to align, motivate, and sustain the human heart in righteousness for the long-term. Whether resisting *temptation*, enduring *persecution* or overcoming *boredom* associated with the mundane seasons of routine life, eternal rewards are designed to *strengthen our resolve* to overcome (Mt. 6:19-21; Lk. 12:33-34).

Mt. 6:19 Do not lay up... treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal; 20 but... treasures in heaven... 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be. (Lk. 12:33-34)

E. Our works can’t be accurately evaluated by anyone until the fullness of time at Jesus’ return (Rev. 11:18).

1 Cor. 4:5 Judge nothing before the time, when the Lord comes, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

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V. ETERNAL REWARDS - SEVEN TYPES

A. Capacity for God - He is our *great reward* (Gen. 15:1; Song 2:16; 6:3; Rev. 21:3, 7; 22:4). Our *capacity* to comprehend, commune and experience God in the age-to-come is multiplied, according to our love, desire and faithfulness to Him now. “*To him who has, more will be given*” (Mt. 13:12; 25:29; Mk. 4:24-25; Lk. 8:18).

Gen. 15:1 The LORD came to Abram, saying... “I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

B. Resurrected Glory - God will be glorified *in us* as He is physically revealed *through us*. Our physical resurrected *frames* will be uniquely glorified (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43) with perfected senses (1 Cor. 15:54). The intimacy we cultivated in the “secret place” will be openly manifest to all (Mk. 4:21-25; Lk. 8:16-18).

Mt. 13:43 The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom... (Dan. 12:3; 1 Cor. 15:35-49)

C. Beautiful Garments – All of the saints will receive various garments that are as diverse as our past *life choices*, current position of *authority* and the different *occasions* that we will participate in; each differing in varying degrees of *glory, beauty* and *brightness* with its unique design, texture, coloring, jewels, ornaments, fabric, fragrance, sound and story to express our faithful obedience and dedication (Rev. 3:5, 18; 19:8, 14).

Rev. 19:7 The marriage of the Lamb has come... 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright [leukos = light], for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

D. Kingdom Government - All of the saints will share in various degrees of administrating God’s kingdom government upon the earth forever (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 22:5)! There are many layers and spheres of authority within the governmental structure of the Kingdom (Hag. 2:23; Lk. 19:17-18; Rev. 2:26-27).

Rev. 20:4 I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat on them, and judgment [decision-making] was committed to them... and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

E. Eternal Gifts & Gold - Jesus invited all believers to earn gifts for the age-to-come, as reward for overcoming in this age (Mt. 6:19-21). In Revelation 2-3 Jesus gives *twenty-six eternal rewards* that are meant to *aid us in intimacy* with Him, while *equipping our hearts* to persevere in diligent faithfulness unto the end by being anchored in the reality of eternity (Mt. 5-7; Isa. 40:10; 62:11; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; Rev. 2-3; 11:18; 22:12).

Rev. 2:26 he who overcomes and keeps My works until the end... 28 I will give him...

F. New Jerusalem - We look for a City, prepared for us, which has foundations whose Builder and Maker is God (Jn. 14:2-3; Heb. 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:9-22:5). All resurrected believers will live in the New Jerusalem, while having various work assignments upon the earth. We will teach those with natural bodies by using our personal testimonies to impart faith and then afterwards return to the Eternal City, which is our home forever.

Jn. 14:2 In My Father’s house [New Jerusalem] are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you.

G. New Heavens and New Earth - Even as God prepared the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve, He will renovate the heavens and the earth as a perfect environment to dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with His people in paradise forever (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1, 5-7).

Rev. 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

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VI. UNDERSTANDING JESUS' GREAT ZEAL RELEASES THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

A. There is a progression of understanding Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge in Isaiah chapter 62.

1. The revelation of His *burning heart* for us as *Bridegroom* imparts love that awakens confidence in us, which produces a wholehearted devotion, releasing the fragrance of worship (vs. 4-5).

Isa. 62:4 You shall be called Hephzibah... for the LORD delights in you... 5 For as the bridegroom rejoices over [enjoys] the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

2. The revelation of His *transcendent power* as King imparts faith to contend in fervent intercession for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (vs. 6-7).

Isa. 62:6 I have set watchmen [intercessors] on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of [or remind NAS] the Lord, do not keep silent, 7 and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at His return].

3. As the *righteous Judge* Jesus possesses *infinite wisdom* and *great zeal* to intervene in human history and establish justice by vindicating the righteous, while confronting the rebellious to remove everything that hinders love. The revelation of His *perfect insight* causes the Church to abound in hope, knowing that He has seen everything and will make all of the wrong things right. The revelation of His *great zeal* releases the fear of the LORD, producing forerunner messengers who are gripped by the urgency of the hour and for the sake of love prepare themselves by knowing His heart, power and plans to prepare others to prevail through the unique dynamics and unprecedented events of the end-times in great victory (vs. 10-11)!

Isa. 62:10 Go through the gates! Prepare the way... build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner! 11 Indeed the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the world: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.’”

B. The *only safe* context to proclaim Jesus as Judge is by knowing Him as Bridegroom (Jn. 3:29; Mt. 3:7-12).

Jn. 3:29 The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly...

Mt. 3:11 He who is coming... 12 will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

C. The LORD is releasing forerunner messengers who proclaim *now* what the Spirit is soon to emphasize in a universal way across the nations. *Principle: the Kingdom progressively grows and unfolds* (Is. 9:7; Mk. 4:26-29). John proclaimed in a limited way (Mt. 3:2) what Jesus (Mt. 4:17), the twelve (Lk. 9:1-6), the seventy (Lk. 10:1-12) and the rest of His disciples were soon to openly emphasize everywhere (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

D. These Day-of-the-LORD preachers “eat the scroll” and digest the bitter-sweet nature of God’s unique end-time strategy to become voices in their generation (Jer. 15:16; 20:9; Ezek. 2:8-3:3; Eph. 3:8; Rev. 10:8-11).

Rev. 10:8 Then the voice... said, “Go, take the little book... and eat... it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”

Dan. 11:32 The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. 33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...