

JESUS CHRIST, OUR BRIDEGROOM, KING & JUDGE

S02 OUR SOVEREIGN KING RECEIVED TRANSCENDENT POWER – 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. 19:2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged the blood of His servants shed by her.

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 SOVEREIGN KING RECEIVED TRANSCENDENT POWER

A. As the *sovereign King* with transcendent power, Jesus received *all authority, ability and resources* to fully establish the Kingdom of God and manifest His Father's will on the earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10).

B. As God, Jesus has always had full authority in the heavens (Ps. 115:16). However, His authority as King over all the nations of the earth relates to His obedience to the Father's will as a fully submitted Man (Zech. 14:9; Rev. 5:9-10). Originally, Adam was the first man granted authority over the entire earth (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 115:16), but he forfeited that authority when he submitted to Satan by sinning in disobedience to God's will (Gen. 3; Lk. 4:6). Jesus, the second Man, won back Adam's original authority at the cross (2nd tree) and as the Last Adam will fully accomplish all that Adam failed to do in subduing the earth unto the Father's will and taking full dominion for the glory of God (Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 15:45, 47; Mt. 28:18; Rev. 5:1-7).

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

C. In the book of Revelation we see Jesus, the Lion of Judah prevailing in His earthly assignment to do the Father's will, even being obedient unto the point of death (Ps. 40:6-8; Heb. 10:5-7; Rev. 5:1-10). Because of this, only Jesus, the Lamb of God was found worthy to receive the scroll –the *title deed* to the earth (authority) and the *action plan* (ability, resource) to bring the mystery of God to completion (Rev. 5:3-4, 5-7; 10:7).

Rev. 5:9 They sang a new song, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation!

D. The unequalled measure of Jesus' *authority, ability and resource* is related to the matchless depth of His humility (Phil. 2:5-11). No man will ever reach the height of His *exaltation*, because no man will ever experience the depth of His *humiliation*. Our authority is related to submitting to the Father's will (Lk. 19:17).

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider [equality with God as something to be grasped or held on to] it robbery to be equal with God [glory, power, divine attributes], 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross [criminal]. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

E. Jesus' transcendent power means that He is infinitely superior to all. He's not just the first, best and most in every classification, but completely outside of the classification altogether! The greatness of His power is unsearchable (Ps. 145:3), meaning not only *past finding out* without the help of the Holy Spirit, but *impossible to exhaust* because He is infinite in His being (Job 5:9; Ps. 145:3; Isa. 55:8-9; Eph. 3:8; Rev. 5:1-7). A billion years from now we will be no closer to the center of understanding His greatness than the day we began. Jesus is not only transcendent in every known category, but even the categories we do not yet perceive.

Ps. 145:3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. (Job 5:9)

F. Jesus not only possesses the fullness of the Godhead bodily (2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 1:19; 2:9), and is fully anointed by the Holy Spirit without measure (Jn. 3:34; Rev. 3:1; 5:6), but has been fully endorsed and commissioned by the Father with all the infinite resources of heaven to fulfill His sovereign purpose on earth.

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III. JESUS' SECOND COMING - A ROYAL ESCHATOLOGICAL PROCESSION

A. Contrary to popular belief, Jesus is not *coming to go away*, but He is *coming to stay*, and when He does, the physical Kingdom of Heaven is coming with Him to earth forever (Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:19-20; Rev. 21:3, 10)!

Eph. 1:9 Having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will... 10 that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth- in Him.

Rev. 19:11 Behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him... judges and makes war... 14 The armies in heaven... followed Him on white horses... 16 He has on His robe... a name written: KING OF KINGS

B. The Father's desire has always been to dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with His people in the paradise-like conditions of the Garden of Eden on the earth forever (Rev. 21:3; 22:4)! The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is the full *convergence* of the heavens and the earth, as in the beginning (Gen. 1-3).

Rev. 21:3 Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men [on earth], and He will dwell with them... God Himself will be with them and... 22:4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

C. The triumphant return of the King of Kings is not a "secret event" (Mt. 24:23-27; Heb. 9:28), but a *royal eschatological procession* for all to see (Ps. 19:1-6; 68:24, 32-33, Zech. 9:9-10; Rev. 19:11-16). At the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15), Jesus comes with *all the saints* (1 Th. 3:13) and *all the angels* (Mt. 25:31), traveling on *clouds* around the entire earth for *every eye* to see (Ps. 19:1-6; Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7). He will descend with a *great shout* (1 Th. 4:16), the *voice of an archangel* and the *trump of God*, as He comes in His *Father's glory* (Mt. 16:27), *golden splendor* (Job 37:22) and *great power* (Mk. 13:26), traveling in the *brilliance of lightning* (Mt. 24:27; 2 Thes. 2:8), as *flaming fire* engulfs the darkened sky (2 Th. 1:8; Zech. 14:6), while He *raises* the dead, *raptures* the Church, *delivers* the captives and *defeats* His enemies.

Ps. 68:24 They have seen Your procession, O God, the procession of my God, my King... 29 scatter the peoples who delight in war... 32 Sing to God, you kingdoms... 33 To Him who rides on the heavens...

D. Jesus returns in response to the greatest night and day prayer movement for justice in human history!

1. *Saints on earth* worldwide (Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 42:10-16; Mal. 1:11; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17)

Lk. 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him...? 8 I tell you He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He... find faith on the earth?

2. *Saints in heaven* (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 4:4, 9-11; 5:8-10, 14; 6:9-11; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 15:2-8; 19:1-8).

Rev. 6:9 I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God... 10 They cried... "How long, O Lord... until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

3. *Remnant of Israel* (Zech. 12:10; Isa. 64:1-12; 30:18-33; Ps. 94:1-23; 98:1-9; 99:1-9). These God-fearing Jews are not yet saved and therefore not "raptured" at the seventh trumpet, however they will cry out to God for deliverance from the persecution of the Antichrist and eventually all be saved (Rev. 11:13).

Isa. 64:1 Oh, that You [Messiah] would rend the heavens! That You would come down! 2 To make Your name known to Your adversaries [Antichrist], that the nations may tremble at Your presence...

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IV. JESUS' ROYAL PROCESSION - THREE STAGES IN THE DAYS OF THE 7TH TRUMPET (REV. 10:7)

A. *Stage 1*: Jesus' procession travels across the sky on clouds to rapture the saints seen by every eye, as His Kingship is announced and asserted over every nation (Ps. 19:1-4; Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; Rev. 1:7).

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Jude 14; Rev. 11:15)

B. *Stage 2*: Jesus' royal procession marches up through the land of Egypt toward Edom, delivering the captives of Israel, as He releases 7 bowls of wrath upon His enemies on the way to Mount of Olives (Deut. 33:2; Ps. 45:3-5; 110:5-6; Isa. 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 34; 63:1-6, Mic. 7:15; Hab. 3; Zech. 9:11-17; 14:1-9).

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 [leaders] from the house of the wicked...

C. *Stage 3*: Jesus descends the Mount of Olives and triumphantly enters Jerusalem to be crowned “King over all the Earth”. As the “greater Moses”, Jesus splits the Mount to deliver His people from the Antichrist armies, even as Moses split the Red Sea to deliver Israel from the Egyptians (Ex. 14:1-31; Zech. 14:1-9).

Ps. 24:7 Lift up your heads, O you gates! you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

V. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ALIVE ON EARTH AT JESUS' RETURN

At Jesus' return there will be three types of people alive on earth. He will systematically evaluate each one for judgment or reward, according to their works (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 2:23; 20:12-13).

A. *Redeemed*: The *saints* who are gathered at the “rapture” during the first stage of Jesus' procession across the sky (Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 1:7; 10:7).

Mk. 13:26 They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the... earth [rapture] to heaven [resurrection].

B. *Reprobate*: The *wicked* who took the “mark of the Beast” and will be executed, imprisoned in Hades for 1000 years and finally sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever (Isa. 66:22-24; Rev. 14:9-11; 19:21).

Rev. 14:9 If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark... 10 he shall drink of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength... 11 the smoke of their torment ascends forever...

C. *Resistors*: These are the *unsaved survivors* of the Great Tribulation judgments that refused to worship the Antichrist, yet were not “born again” (Jn. 3:3-8). This includes the *unsaved remnant of Israel*, as well as, *Gentiles* from every nation. All will have an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior *after* He returns and populate the millennial earth. Scripture refers to those “*who are left*”, “*who survived*”, “*who escaped*”, “*who remain*”, the “*preserved ones*” or the “*remnant*” (Isa. 4:3-6; 10:20-23; 11:11-12; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:33-36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-12; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

Isa. 11:11 The Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt... 12 from the four corners of the earth...

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VI. UNDERSTANDING JESUS' 1000-YEAR MILLENNIAL REIGN ON EARTH AS KING OF KINGS

A. At Jesus' return, He will take legal, comprehensive and everlasting leadership of the earth in partnership with His Bride, physically confronting and ultimately destroying everything that hinders love by standing in opposition to His Father's will (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 11:15-19; 20).

Rev. 11:15 Then 7th angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven... "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord [Father] and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

B. As King, Jesus will establish truth, humility and righteousness throughout the earth (Ps. 45:4-6; Isa. 9:6-7), during the "restoration of all things" initiated at the *Millennium* (Acts 3:21). Jesus will do this by healing *individual lives* (Rev. 7:9-17), restoring *families* (Mal. 4:5-6), transforming *society* (Dan. 7:13-14, 27; Rev. 11:15), and restoring the entire *created order*, as He brings the mystery of God to completion (Rev. 10:7).

C. The "*Millennium*" (Latin 'mille' a thousand) is a *literal 1,000-year period* when Jesus will be crowned "King over all the Earth" (Zech. 14:9) and rule the nations, as the greater "*Son of David*" upon His Throne of Glory from the city of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 7:1-17; Ps. 132:11-18; Isa. 9:6-7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5-6; Lk. 1:31-33). John was the only person in Scripture to have insight into this 1000-year time frame (6x Rev. 20).

Isa. 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward... forever.

D. During the Millennium, Jesus will take legal dominion of *every sphere* of society in *every nation* of the earth in partnership with the saints (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 20:4-6). His kingdom is comprehensive, everlasting and incorruptible (Dan. 2:34-45; 7:13-14; Rev. 11:15-19). At this time the Kingdom will be openly manifest worldwide *affecting every sphere of life* (spiritual, political, judicial, social, financial, educational, technological, environmental).

Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him... 27 His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions [every sphere] shall serve Him. (Zech. 14:9)

E. Jesus will receive an unprecedented measure of favor in 7 specific spheres of life. The key to understanding this passage is in Jesus' ability, as a *resurrected human King*, to "*receive*" this directly from the Father and through the collective grace of the Holy Spirit upon His people. The Lamb who was "*worthy*" to *give everything* for the sake of love is now "*worthy*" to *receive everything* for the sake of love.

Rev. 5:11 I heard the voice of many angels... 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

1. Power - all of the political power and authority to govern every national government.
2. Riches - all of the financial wealth and resources of both heaven and earth to execute His plan.
3. Wisdom - all of the wisdom of the Spirit and collective insight of His people for His purposes.
4. Strength - an infinite supply of spiritual and emotional stamina, as He directs the strength of nations.
5. Honor - the most sought out Man throughout the nations as He receives the utmost relational honor.
6. Glory - every knee will bow and every tongue confess, as He receives all of the glory due His name.
7. Blessing - an unprecedented blessing from the Father and all the people for His purposes and plans.

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F. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth, as Jesus establishes righteousness, peace and prosperity in *society*, while progressively restoring the *atmosphere*, *agriculture* and *animal life* to the original conditions of paradise seen in the Garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1–6; Isa. 2:1–4; 9:6–9; 11:1–16; 51:1–8; 60–62; 65:17–25; Ps. 2:6–12; 110:1–7; Deut. 8; 28; Job. 5:23; Hos. 2:18; Zech. 6:12; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

1. *Atmospheric Conditions* - The heavens will operate perfectly again according to God's original design as an oxygen-rich global greenhouse (Gen. 2:4–6; Mt. 8:23–27; 1 Cor. 15:24–28; Eph. 1:10; 2 Pet. 3:10–13; Rev. 12:7–12; 21:1). The sun will be seven times brighter, yet ashamed by Jesus' glory (Isa. 24:23; 30:26).

Isa. 30:26 Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people...

2. *Agricultural Conditions* - Produce will thrive in quality, size and abundance due to *progressive removal* of the negative consequences of sin (drought, famine, etc.) and *progressive increase* of the positive benefits of righteousness (Job. 5:23; Isa. 35:1–6; 51:3; Ezek. 34:26–29; 36:30–35; 47:1–12; Joel 3:18).

Ezek. 36:35 They will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden...' 36 Then the nations... shall know that I... have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.

3. *Animal Life* - Jesus will break the curse of lawlessness seen in the animals due to sin (Rev. 6:8) by making a "covenant of peace" with them again (Job 5:23; Isa. 11:1–9; 65:25; Hos. 2:18).

Isa. 11:6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat... and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze together and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole... (Isa. 65:25)

4. *Life Span* - Due to multiple factors in the *environment* (increased oxygen in the atmosphere, enhanced nutrients in agriculture) the decrease of *sinful activity* and elimination of *Satan's influence*, the life spans of those with natural bodies will be reversed. Even those living up to 100 years will be considered as having a short life. It will be common to live for over 500 years, as it was before Noah's flood (Gen. 6:3).

Isa. 65:20 No more shall an infant live a few days... the child shall die one hundred years... 22 As the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

5. *Global Population* – The nations will rapidly increase in number as those with natural bodies marry and begin having children with extended life spans (Isa. 49:18–20; 60:22; 65:20, 22–23; Jer. 23:3).

Isa. 60:22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation.

G. Jesus' *primary mandate* in the Millennium is to *prepare the earth for the Father's permanent coming* by bringing the nations into a voluntary righteousness that has grown, matured and been tested (Rev. 20:7–10).

1 Cor. 15:24 Then comes the end [of Millennium], when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father... 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death... 28 then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him [Father]... that God may be all in all.

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VII. UNDERSTANDING JESUS' POWER STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH UNTO FERVENT INTERCESSION

A. As we encounter *Jesus' glory and heart* for us as a *passionate Bridegroom* we are transformed in love into a mature Bride (2 Cor. 3:18), who is confident to approach Him in intimacy (Song 2:14; Heb. 4:16) and empowered to sacrificially love Him with all of our heart in worship. As we gain greater insight into *Jesus' power and plans* as a *transcendent King* we are being prepared to partner with Him in fervent intercession as a House of Prayer (Mt. 16:18-19), who is strengthened in faith (1 Jn. 5:14) and inspired to contend for *His will* to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Isa. 62:4-5; 6-7; Mt. 6:10).

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace [divine influence upon heart] to help in time of need.

1 Jn. 5:14 This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us... we know that we have the petitions that we asked of Him.

B. There is a progression of understanding Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge in Isa. 62. The revelation of His *heart* for us as Bridegroom imparts love that awakens confidence in us, producing wholehearted devotion (vs. 4-5). The revelation of His *power* as King imparts faith that sustains fervent intercession, contending for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (vs. 6-7). The revelation of His *wisdom* and *zeal* as Judge imparts hope for our future, trust in His leadership and urgency to prepare ourselves and others for the unique dynamics and unprecedented events of His end-time plans (vs. 10-11). The *only safe* and beneficial context to proclaim Jesus as a righteous Judge is by understanding His heart as Bridegroom and His power as a King.

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.

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].

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.'

C. As a Bridegroom-King, Jesus wants us to know that we are lovely to Him, even in our weakness (Song 1:5; Mt. 26:41). Having this confidence empowers us to *run to Him* and not *run from Him* in our weakness, giving us access to the infinite resources of heaven (Mt. 5:3).

Song 1:5 I am dark, but lovely. (Mt. 26:41)

Mt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

D. As a Bridegroom-King, Jesus not only wants to empower us to walk in wholehearted love, but He loves to overwhelm us with His goodness and generosity by answering beyond what we can imagine (Eph. 3:20-21).

Eph. 3:20 To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think... 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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E. Many are content to live far below God's highest and best simply because they *do not* speak to Him in prayer (Isa. 30:18-19; Ezek. 22:30; Jas. 4:2). Prayer is much more than just *thinking* about our problems or *complaining* about our circumstances to our friends.

Jas. 4:2 *You do not have because you do not ask.*

F. To attain the fullness of God's sovereign desire and original design for our lives we *must speak* to God (Hos. 14:2). *God will not do our part and we cannot do His part.* If we do not do our part in intercession, some of the sovereignly ordained blessing that God joyfully longs to give is inaccessible. Think of God's grace as untold billions available by simply co-signing a two-signature check, which God has already signed!

Hos. 14:2 *Return to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled... 2 Take words with you, and return to the Lord. Say to Him... "Receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips."*

Isa. 30:18 *The LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you... For the LORD is a God of justice... 19 He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (Jas. 4:2)*

VIII. MATURE BRIDAL PARTNERSHIP THAT CHANGES HISTORY (REV. 22:17)!

A. Understanding Jesus' power and plans as King is very practical today because it not only strengthens our faith in His abilities, but our resolve to contend for nothing less than His best for us, our family and nation. *Principle: what God will do in fullness then, He will do in part now if we ask!* Our prayers determine the quality of life that we can experience in the grace of God right now (Jer. 29:7; Ezek. 22:30-31; Joel 2:12-17).

Ezek. 22:30 *I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me [*intercession*] on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 Therefore I have... consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and recompensed their deeds on their own heads... (Jer. 29:7)*

B. The measure of God's glory is released in response to the *praying Church* responsible for each geographic region of earth (Num. 14:21; 2 Chr. 7:14; Ps. 72:19; Isa. 11:9; Jer. 29:7; Ezek. 22:30; Hab. 2:14; Acts 17:26).

2 Chr. 7:14 *If My people... called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Hab. 2:14 *For the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

C. The *praying Church* or Bride functioning as a House of Prayer (Rev. 22:17) are the *only ones on earth* given the authority to "*bind*" the kingdom of darkness and "*loose*" the glory of God (Mt. 16:18-19). Tornado.

Mt. 16:19 *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

D. DREAM: "White House Breached" by radical Muslim extremists. USA military conflict was at a standstill. Those in the prayer room were unaware and praying "Bless the USA". I heard the Lord say, "Uninformed, ineffective, and irrelevant". *Uninformed* about His strategic end-time plans and therefore *ineffective* in their intercessory assignment to partner with Him to release them, making their current "bless me" prayer focus *irrelevant* to His specific emphasis. The most sophisticated weapons can't win this war; it's a spiritual battle.