

## ***An Introduction To The Intimacy/Urgency Bible Study***

### **I. The Intimacy & Urgency Message**

- a. Understanding the urgency of the hour in which we live will spiritually energize us to walk in whole-hearted agreement with God. When we grasp what God is doing on the earth right now and what He is about to do it will drive us to the place of prayer with fervency. Peter teaches that in light of how close the “end of all things” is we must grow in sound judgment and be of sober spirit at the end of the age (living intentional, purposeful, with self control) so that we can be fully given to God in prayer and agreement.

***(1 Peter 4:7 NASB), “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”***

- b. Urgency causes us to stand up and run the race of ministry but intimacy is what produces endurance and sustains the race of ministry. As we comprehend the urgency of the hour we live in we lay hold of the glorious plans of God yet to be unfolded. As we grow in intimacy with God we lay hold of the affections of God. Urgency without intimacy can lead to burn out, while intimacy without urgency can lead to an apathetic or passive attitude concerning the world around you.
- c. At the end of the age the Bible describes a mature bride who has made herself ready to be eternally bound to her bridegroom. He could have used any other picture to describe the Church at the end of the age but with intention He called the Church His bride. A mature bride at the end speaks of the intimacy of the Church that has produced holiness resulting in whole-hearted agreement (even to the point of death) with Jesus and His leadership.

***(Revelation 19:7-8 NASB), “Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”***

***(Revelation 22:17 NASB), “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.”***

- d. We focus on the intimacy/urgency message because we believe it will produce spiritual maturity in the bride. True spiritual maturity in the Church is seen when she learns to hear God’s voice, responds rightly to it, and walks in holiness. Jesus is coming back to a radiant and lovesick bride who is untainted from sin and compromise who loves what He loves and hates what He hates. It’s only by the empowering grace of the Holy Spirit and through the blood of Jesus that can we walk in holiness. Holy living is the result of intimate living, intimate lovesickness will produce urgent whole-heartedness.

***(1 Peter 1:13-15 NASB), “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written: “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”***

*(1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 NASB), “and may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”*

## II. A Whole-Hearted Bride At The End Of The Age

*(Revelation 22:17 NASB), “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.”*

- a. Before Jesus comes back to Earth, the Church will function as a mature Bride who is in whole-hearted agreement with the Spirit of God as they intimately cry out for the Bridegroom to “Come”. Despite the increase of darkness in the decades leading up to His return, the global Bride will become fully dependent on and in agreement with the leadership of the Bridegroom King as He comes to execute His end-times judgments on the Antichrist’s empire. A Global song from His bride will actually provoke His triumphant return to the planet.

*(Song of Solomon 8:5 NASB), “Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning on her beloved?”*

*(Isaiah 42:10-17 NASB), “Sing to the Lord a new song, Sing His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it; You islands, and those who live on them. 11 Let the wilderness and its cities raise their voices, The settlements which Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, Let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains. 12 Let them give glory to the Lord And declare His praise in the coastlands. 13 The Lord will go out like a warrior, He will stir His zeal like a man of war. He will shout, indeed, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies. 14 “I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. Now like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant. 15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills And wither all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into coastlands And dry up the ponds. 16 I will lead those who are blind by a way they have not known, In paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them And uneven land into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone.” 17 They will be turned back and be utterly put to shame, Who trust in idols, Who say to cast metal images, “You are our gods.”*

- b. Psalm 2 shows that The Father requires Jesus to intercede and ask for the nations as His eternal inheritance. Jesus will have His inheritance in the nations because He’s raising up a Bride from every nation that will partner with Him and ask the Father for the things He (*Jesus*) is asking for. Similar to how Queen Esther asked the king for justice for her people, The end-time bride will cry out for Jesus to make every wrong right in the nations.

*(Psalm 2:8 NASB), “Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession.”*

*(Esther 4:14, 16, 7:2-6, 9-10 NASB), “For if you keep silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this? ...then I will go in to the king, which is not in accordance with the law; and if I perish, I perish... 2 And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, “What is your request, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your wish? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be done.” 3 Then Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my request, and my people as my wish; 4 for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, killed, and eliminated. Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have kept silent, because the distress would not be sufficient reason to burden the king.” 5 Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do such a thing?” 6 And Esther said, “A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!” Then Haman*

*became terrified before the king and queen. 9...And the king said, “Hang him on it.” 10 So they hanged Haman on the wooden gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.”*

### III. Jesus our Bridegroom, King, & Judge

- a. The scriptures emphasize Jesus as a passionate Bridegroom, a sovereign King, and righteous Judge. There is no contradiction in these functions, they are one reality in one man. The Lord is calling the church (globally) to grow in experiential understanding of this revelation in order to help prepare those around them for the end of the age and the transition into the next age.
  1. **Passionate Bridegroom** – This reality speaks of His love toward us, His commitment to us, and His delight in relating to us. We reject all sensual overtones in this message. Jesus is not your boyfriend.
  2. **Sovereign King** – This reality speaks of how Jesus possesses all power and resources and is the perfect leader in every sphere of society.
  3. **Righteous Judge** – This reality speaks of Jesus making every wrong thing right by removing everything that hinders His bride from whole-hearted love.
- b. Mike Bickle (The Director of The International House of Prayer) has been an important voice in our generation who has taught frequently on the Bridegroom, King, and Judge reality. I love what He says:

*“To understand Jesus as the Bridegroom without seeing Him as the King and Judge may lead to sentimentality without obedience and misunderstanding of His end-time plans.*

*To understand Jesus as the King without seeing Him as the Bridegroom and Judge may lead to an authoritarian view of God or to a misunderstanding of why God releases power through His people. This leads some to be overly focused on growing in power for “their ministry.” He releases His power to reveal love and to establish the first commandment in the Church.*

*To understand Jesus as the Judge without seeing Him as the Bridegroom King may lead to a harsh view of God or to a misunderstanding of why God releases His judgments. If we proclaim God’s judgments without encountering Him as the Bridegroom King, then we will be more likely to operate in a wrong spirit.”*

### IV. The Bridegroom, King, & Judge In Scripture

- a. Jesus highlighted this 3-fold message as he taught on the nature of the Kingdom being like a wedding.

*(Matthew 22:1-10 NASB), “Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who held a wedding feast for his son. 3 And he sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened cattle are all butchered and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!”’ 5 But they paid no attention and went their separate ways, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 and the rest seized his slaves and treated them abusively, and then killed them. 7 Now the king was angry, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 So go to the main roads, and invite whomever you find there to the wedding feast.’ 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.”*

- b. Jesus highlighted the 3-fold message before the last supper with the apostles.

*(Matthew 25:1-6, 31-32, 34,41 NASB), “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take extra oil with them; 4 but the prudent ones took oil in flasks with their lamps. 5 Now while the groom was delaying, they all became drowsy and began to sleep. 6 But at midnight there finally was a shout: ‘Behold, the groom! Come out to meet him’... “31 But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...41 Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you accursed people, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels...’”*

- c. Psalm 45 is a royal wedding song that declares Jesus as Bridegroom, King, & Judge.

*(Psalm 45:1-4, 10-11 NASB), “For the music director; according to the Shoshannim. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. A \*Song of Love\*. 1 My heart is moved with a good theme; I address my verses to the King...2 You are the most handsome of the sons of mankind...3 Strap Your sword on Your thigh, Mighty One, In Your splendor and majesty! 4 And in Your majesty ride on victoriously, For the cause of truth, humility, and righteousness; Let Your right hand teach You awesome things. 10 Listen, daughter, look and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father’s house; 11 Then the King will crave your beauty. Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him.”*

- d. Psalm 2 is one of the most important and concise End-time passages in scripture. It also speaks to this 3-fold revelation.

*(Psalm 2:6,8-9), “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain...8 ‘Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware’... 12 Kiss the Son, that He not be angry and you perish on the way, For His wrath may be kindled quickly. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”*

- e. John saw Jesus clearly operating as Bridegroom, King, and Judge in His revelation about the end of the age.

*(Revelation 19:2,7, 11-16), “His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great prostitute who was corrupting the earth with her sexual immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her... 7 Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself... 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”*