# AMAN CALLED JESUS AND THE MAN TESUS CHRIST

BEN HOWARD

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## A MAN CALLED JESUS AND THE MAN JESUS CHRIST

It is so good to be here today and to see the great things that God is doing; not only here but everywhere else in the entire world, for the Wife of the Lamb is on the scene in a mighty way. And we thank God for it. There are so many good things taking place that we could not name them all, for we are in a great revival, and God is doing exactly what He has ordained to do.

Today we are reading in the Book of Matthew, Chapter One, about a man called Iesus and His miraculous birth. Iesus was even named before He was ever born, for an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him all about it. Prior to this, Joseph was debating whether to put Mary away or not because she was with child. She was a virgin, yet she was with child; and he thought that she had been unfaithful to him because what she was telling him, he was finding hard to believe. Something like this had never happened before; for this was the first time a virgin had ever conceived. So Joseph was having some struggles with believing it. (And sometimes we have struggles with certain things.) The Prophet Isaiah prophesied about this great event in the Book of Isaiah 7:14, saying, "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (meaning God with us)," and Joseph was well aware of what the scripture said. But Mary was just a simple girl, and she lived in a city called Nazareth. Joseph was thinking, "I know the scripture says it, but Mary, you are saying this scripture applies to you." And in that day the religious Jews would stone a woman to death for a transgression like Joseph thought Mary had done. But the point was, as Joseph thought about it, the Bible says, "He was minded to put her away privately." In other words, he did not want to make a public spectacle of her or have her stoned to death, but he would rather just put her away and go on his way. But while he was thinking on these things, God revealed His working to Joseph. God always makes His Word come to pass exactly as He says it will be; and He reveals His working to those that are involved that need to know certain things so that they will know—"This is God." Likewise, there are people that think it is too simple for us to be the Wife of the Lamb. And they think, "Yes, I know the scripture says it, but it is not time." Or maybe they think it will be a bigger group, or another group, or someone else—"You are applying that to yourself!" Yes, we are, for God has revealed it to us. So here, God moved on the scene by an angel coming to Joseph in a dream, and God revealed to him what the situation was all about.

So let us read Matthew, Chapter One, beginning with Verse 18. It says, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Notice, the words Holy Ghost, which means Holy Spirit in this scripture; for the Holy Ghost was not in existence at the time of this happening. But by the time it was written about in the Book of Matthew, the Holy Ghost had come, which was on the day of Pentecost, shown in Acts, Chapter 2. Notice—this is important—at the time of this writing of the Book of Matthew, the Holy Ghost had already come, so after this 'the Holy Ghost' became a common saying rather than saying the Spirit of God or Holy Spirit. So Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost can be interchangeable in some scriptures, yet it is not always the same; for when we say Holy Ghost after crucifixion, resurrection, and the ascension of Jesus Christ, we are talking about the very soul of Jesus Christ that became one with the Spirit of God, which could only be released after the death of Jesus Christ. So when we talk about the Holy Ghost, we are not only talking about the Spirit of God, but we are bringing in the attributes of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in the Book of John, Chapter 7, John let us know very clearly that until Jesus was crucified and resurrected into glorification and had released the Spirit, the Holy Ghost was not yet given. Because in Verse 38, Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." And Verse 39 tells us why He said it, "(But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" Therefore, it says here that Mary was found with child of the Holy Ghost (meaning Holy Spirit). And again, this was *written after* Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected into glorification; for the Holy Ghost began to be made mention of very vividly after the Jewish feast day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost first came. That was the first appearance of the Holy Ghost to come; He said, "If I do not go away, He will not come; but if I go away,

the Father will send Him." Then in John, Chapters 14-16, it tells about what the Holy Ghost was given for. But Jesus had to go away first. And He made it very clear that the Holy Ghost would not be here until He went away.

So Mary conceived a child by the Spirit of God, and when Joseph began to think on the things that had happened, the angel of the Lord came to him in a dream and gave him understanding of the things that were noted in the scripture. And you might say, "Well, how come Joseph could not believe it? The scripture was plainly lying there in the Book of Isaiah, saying, 'A virgin shall conceive.' He ought to have believed it!" Well, the scripture is lying here about the Wife of the Lamb, so why can people not believe? Very few believe, but we believe, and all who are ordained will believe. And if there is a little problem with our faith connecting just right, He will give us what we need to be assured. See, Joseph had to be assured; and God gave him blessed assurance to know what was going on.

So what happened? God let an angel come and straighten him out on it. Sometimes God has to straighten us out on certain things. And sometimes He will send an angel, and we may not see or hear the angel's voice while awake, but He may put us to sleep to do it. Joseph had a dream, and that dream cleared it up so much that he had no doubt. Sometimes we have dreams that we have to think about and wrestle with a bit, then as time passes, the meaning of the dream begins to come together. And there are other times that we do not quite understand a dream until we see something happen, and suddenly that dream will come to our mind, "Yes, that is what I dreamed about." But here, this was a quick move. In other words, it was a moment in the twinkling of an eye there for Joseph. It was a short, quick work; for God knew Joseph had to have a sure Word from Him in order to take this big leap of faith and declare that the Spirit of God got Mary pregnant. And that was something big! See, it had never been seen on this measure before.

Again, Verse 18, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit)." Verses 19-25, "Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things (while he was trying to reason out what to do), behold, the angel

of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit). And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS (Notice, thou shalt call his name JESUS. The 'Christ' part of the name came later, but now—'thou shalt call his name JESUS'): for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him (Watch, he had no doubt. I like to have dreams like this, where you have no doubt.), and took unto him his wife (That is what he wanted to do to begin with, but there was a big problem there, but the angel came and solved the problem.): And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

So the title of my message today is, *A Man Called Jesus and the Man Jesus Christ*. And this is very important because we are going to bring *the Christ* up to the time that we are living in and show that our Lord Jesus Christ has given the Christ part of His name to us, His Wife, making us *Christ the Wife of the Lamb*. And this is a progression of the revelation of Christ from Paul's day. Notice, in Paul's day he was the first to bring the revelation of the name *Christ Jesus* rather than *Jesus* or *Jesus Christ*, just as we were the first to bring the revelation of the name *Christ the Wife of the Lamb*. And having said that, let us have a word of prayer.

Heavenly Father, we come to you once again today, and we come with praise in our hearts knowing that when we pray that we are praying to a real God that answers real prayers, and you make things work according to your will. And 'may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,' as Jesus told the disciples. And, Father, I pray this morning that you will anoint us to bring forth the Word as you always do, and I pray that the people will be anointed to receive, in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

So we find that Jesus was born into this world and for the first thirty years of His life, He was a man that was in favor with God and man; and He developed into a super-good carpenter after His father, Joseph. Sometimes we say, "his father, Joseph," although we know God was His Father. But Joseph served there as the best father a child could have. He trained Him up, and He became such a good carpenter, and

He was wanted everywhere. I say that because the Bible says He grew in favor with God and man. He was a good man, and He did His work right, and you would never know that He was particularly something special because He went about and worked for a living like everyone else, and He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath just like all the other Jews. In the Book of Luke, Chapter 4, it says, "as His custom was, He went into the synagogue," and many times He would read scripture to them. But on this particular occasion when He read scripture to them, it was different, for now Jesus had become the Christ. He was no longer a carpenter, but the fullness of the Christ Spirit (the anointing) had come into Him, so now it was altogether different. And this gospel of the glorified flesh and bones, the last trump of God sounding, makes things altogether different for us. We cannot have this gospel and stay the same, because whatever caused us to accept it and receive it (which is revelation from God) caused us to be a different person, and we cannot help ourselves.

In last week's message, *The Wife Cannot Remember and Is Not Mindful of the Disappointments of the Past*, we spoke about how we do not even know how to turn back to our past life, for it does not even come into mind. All that past life is over. After Jesus was baptized of John, being filled with the fullness of Christ, He was never the same; and henceforth did not work as a carpenter, but He went forth doing the work of God, His Father. John had previously been told by God, "Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." So when Jesus asked to be baptized of him, he forbad Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?" So John knew that he was baptizing the Son of God. He did all the baptizing that he did in order to get to this one man. So John's ministry ended shortly thereafter; and Jesus was now *Jesus the Christ*—but no one else knew it. And it was a while before anyone did.

So for thirty years there was a man called Jesus who grew in favor with God and man, and He worked as a carpenter. The Pharisees knew Him, for in Luke, Chapter 4, when He read to them from the Book of Isaiah (saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

to preach the acceptable year of the Lord," and then He said in Verse 21, "This day this scripture is fulfilled in your ears."), they said, "Is this not the carpenter? Is this not Joseph's son? How does He know all these things that He is talking about?" And they were offended because He was applying these scriptures to Himself. So they went about to kill Him. But notice, before He was anointed of God, He was precious in their sight. They liked Him—because He grew in favor with God and man—"Oh, I love that Jesus. If you have some carpentry work to do, get Jesus to come and do it because He will do the job right." And He is still doing the job right. This is a spiritual job, and He is doing it right!

So after Jesus Christ was baptized, He went out and started His ministry, and God began to work through Him and do many marvelous works; but first, Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward hungered, and the tempter came to Him and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." But Jesus answered and said, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Then the devil took Him up into the holy city and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple and said unto Him, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." And Jesus said unto him, "It is written again, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Again, the devil took Him up into an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said unto Him, "All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Then said Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Then the devil left him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him. See, whatever the devil came at Him with, He stayed with the Word of God, saying only what the Father said.

Notice, one of the main things that Jesus did is He revealed the Father; whereas in the Old Testament God was not known as Father. But now God has a Son, begotten by His Word, whom He named Jesus, who began to say, "My Father." And do you know what they said?

They said, "You are blaspheming." And they got so upset because He called God *His Father*, and they said, "You were born illegitimate." They began to say all kinds of things against Him because He began to make known a revelation that God was His Father and that He came forth as the Son of God, saying, "I do nothing until the Father shows me."

In John, Chapter One, John bore witness of Jesus, saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh and dwelled among men." Jesus was the Word made flesh walking around here, and then the anointing came into Him when He was about thirty years old. First, He showed how mankind should live upon the earth. And that is how mankind will live as they go into eternity, for they will do what is right and the former things will not come to mind, it will just be the glorious family of God. I am not talking about the Wife of the Lamb; I am talking about natural people that God allows to go into the millennium and on into eternity. They will be trustworthy people, not wanting to do wrong in any way. That is the way it was with Jesus, for He came to do the will of God. Adam failed to do that because sin got in, but Jesus was born without sin and God could look down and say, "There is a real man! That is what I want in mankind." Then when He was baptized of John, the Christ came into Him without measure, and He became the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let us read in Matthew, Chapter 16, starting with Verse 13, and here is where the man Jesus takes on a new name, for He became the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the man whose name was Jesus became the man Jesus Christ when He was baptized of John in the Jordan River, but He kept it a secret. So here in this chapter, we see a revelation of God break forth as bright as the noonday sun concerning this man called Jesus. Verse 13 says, "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Now watch. Son of man, that is all they knew about Him; He began to call Himself Son of man. And in the Old Testament, the prophets of God were called son of man. And Moses even said unto the children of Israel in the Book of Deuteronomy 18:15, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear." So Jesus went forth calling Himself, Son of man. And we see this in the story of the Samaritan

woman at Jacobs well who Jesus revealed Himself to, saying, "You have been married five times and the one you are living with now is not your husband." She said, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." And over and over, Jesus did this, for He would tell them certain things. Then we see in the Book of Luke 17:30, God said He would reveal the Son of man again; for it says that in the end time when the world is in the situation as it is in now (deteriorated morally), at that time the Son of man would be revealed again. And the Son of man was revealed by the many miracles and discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart. Well, we saw that gift in this end time through His Prophet William Branham; and it was the Son of man being revealed again. But now Jesus Christ is revealed in His Wife, and He has given Her the Christ part of His name. That has taken place; and it is a secret to most people. Most people do not understand, they do not know we have come into a change.

Yes, Jesus could have gotten up on the riverbank after John baptized Him and the fullness of Christ came into Him without measure and said, "There has been a change in me. I am not a carpenter anymore. I am Jesus the Christ." But He kept it a secret. He let God move through Him. And He knew that when the time came, God would make it known. And God is making certain things known now. Take 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,' the short, quick work, He is making it known that it is now taking place and is on the scene.

Continuing Verse 13, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: Some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." See, the people had different opinions of who Jesus was, (and it is the same thing with us, for people have different opinions about who we are). And even the apostles did not know who this man was. Yes, they saw the mighty works He was doing, and they thought, "This man is doing mighty things. He was just a carpenter, but something happened to Him, for suddenly He is walking on the water, and He is healing the sick. He even spit on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the eyes of a blind man with the clay and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. And the man went and washed, and suddenly he was no longer blind but he could see." (We could go through all the recorded miracles Jesus Christ did, but we only want to go through a few of them here to show you this man.) But still they did not know He was the Christ (Jesus the

Christ). So after they went through all the ones the people thought He might be, He said unto them, and I love this part, Verse 15, "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?" Now that put it right on their shoulders. And that is the same thing with us today. Whom do you say that we are? Whom do you say the Wife of the Lamb is? Whom do you say the one that is dressed in fine linen, clean and white is? Whom do you say? "Well, some say this, and some say that." But we already know, God has already revealed to us who the Lamb's Wife is, plus He gave us to know who those are that are dressed in white robes. And it all fits so perfectly.

I want to point to the fact that in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 7, those dressed in white robes were praising God; they were honoring God. They had palms in their hands there before the throne; and they were just having a good time even though they are not the Wife of the Lamb but are the tribulation saints. So God has people that are tribulation saints that are dressed in white robes who are servants, and He also has natural people that are part of His family. And I will make mention here, there will come a time very soon that two prophets are going to come and be seen in the land of Israel. They are getting ready to step forth on the scene. And when the Wife of the Lamb is gone, they will begin to preach. And there will be 144,000 Jews thereafter; for they will hear them and see what is going on. And God will anoint them to the point that the Bible says in Revelation, Chapter 18, that the earth is lightened with His glory. They will go forth preaching the everlasting gospel; and there will be a revival taking place during that tribulation period as God finishes overturning this present world system so that He can take it into the millennium. And look at what is taking place in the world now. Yes, this present world system is being ripped apart and here is a big revival taking place! And we are rejoicing in the Lord and praising Him and walking in the Spirit of God!

So it is put on *our* shoulders now; what are we going to say about it? Let us praise God! Let us walk before God and hold our head high! We do not have to look down, for we are redeemed! We are the Wife of the Lamb! And there is nothing any better. And He has given us a house filled with good things! And He fills our soul with the joy of the Lord; and the joy of the Lord is our strength! That is why we go forth. I suppose after Moses saw the pillar of fire there in a burning bush and a voice began to speak with him, there was no stopping him then. He

was eighty years old when something changed in his life. In other words, he got a second wind. That is when He went down into Egypt and delivered the children of Israel. But then they wandered in the desert for forty years. But eventually he brought them right up to the banks of the Jordan River when he was one hundred and twenty years old; and the Bible says his eyesight did not fail and his strength did not fail. Why? It was God doing His work here in the earth; and when God is doing something, get out of His way! Do not get ran over!

So we see the man called Jesus, but when the Christ came into Him, He did not reveal immediately who He was. See, it was not told until Peter received the revelation from God. So it was on down the road before this revelation was given. But all the while, miracles were taking place, and there were people that knew this man was something great, and they believed on him, saying, "When Christ comes, will He do more miracles than these which this man hath done?" but still they had not associated Him as being the Christ. Yes, He was the man Jesus, but unbeknown to them He had now become Jesus Christ.

Let us read again Verse 15, and then Verse 16, "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." He spoke with confidence. He knew who Jesus was. How did he know? We are going to find out that part. And how do we know that we are the Wife of the Lamb? We are going to find that out too. Watch what Jesus said. Verse 17, "And Jesus answered and said unto him (talking to Peter here), Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee," In other words, this did not come by seeing all the miracles nor by watching Jesus discern the thoughts of the heart. Yes, everyone knew Jesus, and there were some that called Him a prophet as He went forth showing the works of God, for there were huge crowds that came out to see Him and hear Him speak, and they said, "This is a prophet indeed." But this happening of Jesus Christ saying to Peter 'flesh and blood did not reveal this to thee' was in a different category altogether, for it had come into a revelational category. And that is where the Wife of the Lamb is now-in a revelational category. And we are not in that category by knowledge. Yes, everyone could see that Jesus was a prophet and that He was doing great things, but here came another phase – for here came Jesus the Christ coming on the scene in a mighty way.

Verse 17, again, "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, (watch, how did he get the revelation?) but my Father which is in heaven." This came to Peter, and it was so right, it was so true; and Peter could speak with such confidence because he had received a revelation from God. It was revealed who Jesus was, and there was not any doubt! Yes, later on when God lifted the Spirit from him, Peter denied Jesus three times, just as Jesus had prophesied he would do. Therefore, when Judas (one of His apostles) betrayed him and a great multitude that was sent from the chief priests and the elders came to arrest Him and take Him away, all the apostles left Him, including Peter, the first one that had received the revelation of who He was. And the Bible says this happened that the scripture in the Book of Zechariah 13:7 (which Jesus had told them prior to His crucifixion) might be fulfilled, "Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered."

So after Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, the women were the first ones to His tomb, but they found it empty. And I will say this; in the Old Testament, many times a woman could not testify in a court of law; no one looked at her words as being reliable. Why? Because a woman was looked at as being on a lower level. That is why a man could marry more than one woman. But all of that came to an end that day at Calvary! And Jesus showed that it came to an end; for He stepped forth and lifted the woman back up.

In the Book of Matthew, Chapter 28, it tells us, "In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had come to see the sepulcher (tomb of Jesus), and, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, 'Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you.' And they departed quickly from

the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, 'All hail.' And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him. Then said Jesus unto them, 'Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me." - See, Jesus chose the women to go tell of this marvelous event. Now watch. Here are some genuine testimonies, but the apostles were reluctant to believe. The same day two of the disciples on the way to Emmaus gave testimony about the resurrection to Jesus as He walked with them (unrevealed) along the way, saying to Him, "Certain women also of our company made us astonished, for they went to His tomb and found not His body. They said they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that He was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to His tomb and found it even so as the women had said, but Him they saw not." And Jesus rebuked them for their unbelief and called them fools, saying, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?" See, they did not believe the women, for they considered them less reliable than men.

So after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a woman is in a different place now. She is lifted up! And now we have become the Wife of the Lamb (a body of people consisting of both Jew and Gentile, male and female, being cemented, joined together in marriage to our Lord Jesus Christ), the highest position in the family of God! And He lifted us up so high that He gave us a name above every name next to the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave us the name *Christ the Wife*. He gave us that anointed name and dressed us in fine linen, clean and white; and here we are, marching on! Everything is falling into place exactly as it is supposed to; and it is just as the scripture says. We have come into this time of the moment of the twinkling of an eye, and nothing can stop it!

Now watch Jesus after Peter declared He was the Christ. "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Verse 18, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Peter was not the rock; it was the revelation he had. The revelation was the rock. And we have to be built on revelation, not man-made

rules. It has to be revelation; it is the only thing that will stand in this moment of time.

Many times we have seen people come and get blessed of the Lord; and I always love to see people get blessed. I am always blessed to see people get the joy of the Lord, to shout. But I have seen many come and get just a drink of this water, which is freely given, but they do not come back for more. Their soul is not thirsting for these things, so they go on their own way. But we are blessed when we are hungry and thirsty for the revelation of the Word for this moment in the twinkling of an eye. We must be built on revelation. It cannot be by feeling, and thank God there *is* feeling, but we have to know that we know!

So here, Peter knew. And Jesus said, "This is what I am going to build my church on (church, meaning the called out ones)." Now watch, Verse 19. "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." In other words, there was a special relationship. Peter could speak with authority. He could open the door to God's Kingdom; and he did on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost. He was given the keys to the Kingdom, and he opened the door to the Jews; and then he went and opened the door to the Gentiles. Even though Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, Peter had the keys; he had to go to the house of a Gentile man named Cornelius and preach to one family there and open the door, and there began a revival. And, of course, that was the Book of Acts, Chapter 10. And in Chapter 11, he went back to Jerusalem, and the other Jews began to rebuke him about going, saying, "Thou went in to the unclean, and thou did eat with them!" But Peter said unto them, "Who am I to withstand God?" So God's plan worked out to the letter; it was just as God said it would be, and there was nothing that could stop it.

So the amount of people that are congregated together and what is taking place has nothing to do with it at all, for it is all by revelation. I do not know if all the apostles immediately got a revelation that Jesus Christ had resurrected; I kind of doubt if Thomas did, for he had a lot of trouble believing Jesus had risen from the dead—"This is just too much for a human mind!" Well, we cannot use the human mind; we have to use our spiritual mind. And Thomas told the other apostles, "I

will not believe unless I see the nail prints in His hands and the wound in His side." Then suddenly Jesus appeared in their midst, and He transfigured Himself there just for Thomas, for He showed Him the scars in is hands and in His side. And I love that; He will do certain things just for one person. He did for one man (a eunuch) in the desert. For one person He sent Philip down into the desert, and he preached Jesus Christ to the man, and the man went forth rejoicing in the Lord! Then He gave Philip a plain air ride to another city where he was found preaching the gospel.

Sometimes this revival is just between you and the Lord. See, this revival is different. This short, quick, powerful work, this moment of the twinkling of an eye, it can be just you and the Lord. There may not be anyone else around at the time. But there is something taking place, and nothing can stop it now because it is already working and it is just going, which is shown in our book, *In a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye is the Real-Time Fruition of This 65 Year Ministry for the Wife of the Lamb*. Here it is. It has come through all the trials, and here it is in writing, and it is going all over the world. It cannot be stopped! The horse is already out of the barn! God is moving by His Spirit! Glory to God!

Watch as Jesus went on here. Verse 20, "Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ." Now He is thoroughly admitting, "I am Jesus the Christ." And He went forth saying, "Now do not tell anyone that I am the Christ; just keep this under your hat. Let God reveal it to them." Why would He say that? Well, it takes a revelation. But, of course, they did tell about it. It was just like when He healed certain people and said, "See that thou tell no man." But as soon as they got out of sight, they were telling what the Lord had done. And that is just the way people are—and He knew it. But He said, "See that thou tell no one," meaning, "We are not wanting glory for ourselves." He said, "Do not tell anyone that I am Jesus the Christ," because really, to know that, it cannot be that someone told you that. And it is the same with us, for it cannot be, "Brother Howard told me that I was part of the Wife of the Lamb." No, I am not going to tell you that. The Lord has to tell you that. So it is just as the Father had to tell Peter that Jesus was the Christ. Jesus said, "Now do not tell anyone else that I am Jesus the Christ," and He went forth, and from henceforth He took on and claimed the name-Jesus the Christ!

In Acts, Chapter 2, on the day of Pentecost after the Holy Ghost had come, Peter stood up and gave a powerful testimony of Jesus Christ, and ended up by saying, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." And when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Then later on when Christ Jesus met Paul on his way to Damascus, He struck him down with a great light (just as Moses saw a great light in that burning bush), and he began to speak of a spiritual baptism into the body of Christ. And Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15, about the resurrection and of being baptized for the dead. He said in Verse 29, "If there be no resurrection, then why are you being baptized for the dead?" showing they were being baptized in water expecting to die and be resurrected (for water baptism represents death, burial, and resurrection). But here came a gospel! And this gospel says, "If you are not going to die, you do not need to be baptized for the dead." See, the gospel is moving just as the Lord wants it to move.

Notice, the man called Jesus, who was the Word made flesh-He worked like any ordinary man for the first thirty years of His life, and no one knew that He was the Son of God. Then after He was baptized of John and received the Spirit without measure, He became Jesus the Christ, and began His ministry. But the religious leaders did not like what He was teaching and they had Him crucified. Then after Jesus Christ died and was buried and resurrected into glorification, He came back as the Holy Ghost. Yes, that was Christ Jesus in that form, in the first leg of His coming, which was for the salvation of the souls of all that would believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. But when Paul came, his message was for a special group of believers. He brought forth a revelation and began to say Christ Jesus. He put the Christ part of the name first because it was the Christ Spirit bringing the attributes of Jesus that day on the road to Damascus to begin the creation of the Wife of the Lamb. This opened the door for Paul to begin to tell us about being baptized into the body of Christ, saying, "God has revealed to me mysteries that have been hid since the world was." And now God has given us the glory that we had before the foundation of the world, which we see in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 10, as the fullness of Christ came as the Mighty Angel. See, He came hid in the form of a Mighty Angel. And He has been hid all along; for it takes a revelation. He came hid in a cloud, but the revelation gave us eyes to see right through the cloud and see that it was the fullness of Christ Jesus coming to earth to take the Wife for the Lord Jesus Christ who is still on the throne in heaven. And we were married to Him by proxy, for it was a proxy marriage. And when He came, He brought back those that had already died prior to that time. (1 Thessalonians 4:14) God sent them back, why? To hear this same message we are hearing, the last trump of God sounding, to be here in this jubilee, to rejoice in this because they are part of the Wife of the Lamb, glorified flesh and bones. The real-time happening of this is brought out so beautifully in the message, The Great Get-Together is Taking Place Now, which became a chapter in our book, *In a Moment*, *In the Twinkling of An Eye is the Real-*Time Fruition of this 65 Year Ministry for the Wife of the Lamb. Read that, and you will pick up what happened. And it all works so good.

So, again, this is how it developed into that. There was a man called Jesus, a good man, the Word made flesh. Then there was a man, Jesus Christ (the same man but now anointed with the Christ Spirit). And then there came the spiritual Lord Jesus Christ coming to earth; it was Christ Jesus in the first leg of His coming as the Holy Ghost. And then Paul began to reveal Christ Jesus in a special way to a special group of believers for a special purpose, who were to become the Wife of the Lamb. To them he explained the Christ Spirit that had become one with Jesus, taking it all the way back to the Old Testament, for he showed in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 10, that Christ was that Rock in the wilderness that gave drink to the children of Israel. And, even Peter, in 1 Peter, Chapter One, told us that Christ, which came upon the prophets did signify when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. See, Christ was with the Father back then. He was part of it back then. And then He became one with Jesus, which created the Lord Jesus Christ. And now He is in His the fullness in the Wife of the Lamb, for He came to complete fruition in the Wife of the Lamb. And we are walking in the glory of the Lord, praising God, and letting our light shine. Hallelujah!

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you. Thank you for this coming together this morning to worship you in Spirit and in truth. May this Word

go forth and have the impact that you have ordained. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

### AUDIO/VIDEO SERMONS AND BOOKS

All sermons by Brother Ben Howard are recorded on CD's, DVD's, and Mp3 formats. In addition, there is a collection of published books, which are available for download or by request as well. Please feel free to visit us at our website often as new materials are constantly being added, or write to our postal address below.

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