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**FATHER OF THE BRIDE 2**

**Episode Four: Revelation 2&3**

Jesus is the Lamb whose blood redeemed his bride, and the Lion King who will not tolerate her unfaithfulness. He is not a passive husband. Jesus will cast down nations, raise up kings, and unleash ecological disasters and celestial powers, to bring his wayward bride to her knees and back to him. Revelation 3 gives three more portraits that makes us wonder if the rise of a New World Order is part of this process. Is the Bride entering a time of severe discipline?

1. **Portrait Four:** The Thyatira Bride. Passionate in worship, tolerant of deceivers and deception [Rev. 2:19&20].

* Her Lion King groom has a holy jealousy and she has his whole attention [Revelation 2:18&19].
* He compliments before he corrects [Revelation 2:19].
* **The Diagnosis:** Tolerating deception and immorality in the name of Christian love [Revelation 2:20-232].
* **The Remedy:** Have nothing to do with false teachers, false doctrines, or false ways of living [Revelation 2:24&25].
* **The Promise:** those who give everything to him will get all of him, and everything that goes with that [Revelation 2:6-29].

1. **Portrait Five:** The Sardis Bride. Living off the residual of past glories. [Revelation 3:1-6].

* The Holy Spirit sees through the façade to expose the reality [Revelation 3:1].
* **The Diagnosis**: Stop growing, start dying [Revelation 3:1&2].
* **The Remedy:** Remember, Repent, and Revive [Revelation 3:3].
* **The Promise:** Walking down the aisle with Jesus, a worthy bride. [vs.4&5], never being forsaken [vs. 5], and praised to the high heavens by our groom [vs. 5&6].

1. **Portrait Six**: The Philadelphia Bride. The weak but faithful lover of Jesus [Revelation 3:7-13].

* The groom who never abandons his distressed sweetheart [Revelation 3:7&8].
* **The Diagnosis:** Small in reputation, big in character [Revelation 3:8&9].
* **The Remedy:** His power will be made great in the weakness of his Bride [Revelation 3:10].

So, hold on [Rev. 3:11].

* **The Promise**: She will be victorious, and remembered forever in heaven [Revelation 3:12-13].

1. **Portrait Seven:** The Laodicean Bride. Halfway, lukewarm faith [Revelation 3:14-22].

* The Groom has the final word and ultimate authority [Rev. 3:14].
* **The Diagnosis:** Neither hot nor cold. Loves Jesus a little and the world a lot. Above all, rich and self-sufficient [Rev. 3:15-17].

(Lukewarm makes Jesus want to vomit.)

* **The Remedy:** Look at the real you behind the façade and fake, and see yourself the way holy eyes see you [Revelation 3:18; Psalm 139:24].

Repent [vs. 19].

Listen for the knock [vs. 20].

Let Jesus come in [vs. 20].

* **The Promise:** Fellowship with Jesus [Rev. 3:20] and enthroned with him in glory [Rev. 3:21&22].