"The Song of Song/"



For multiple resources see: www.altogetherlovely.org (God in Your Heart, Healing Prayers, P.R.A.Y., Freedom Prayer, HOPE, Father's Love Letter, HIMSELF, Christ's Life Events, Treasures, etc.)

"The Song of Song/" EXPOSITORY TEACHING



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

PREAMBLE: 3-10
EXPOSITORY TEACHING: 11-348
SONG OF SONGS CLASSIC BOOKS: 349
BIBLIOGRAPHY: 350

Who can truly write on the Song of Songs?

It is the love letter of love letters, the indescribable love of Christ for His Church, and the love of Christ for the individual believer. It is a love that took Jesus Christ to the cross of Calvary bearing the sin of the world. A perfect love and a perfect Lover for a world undeserving of Him. Upon drawing us to Himself, He continues His love for us as believers and His Church by reaffirming His love to us through this wonderful book of the Bible. And He wants us to respond. He desires our love and has a passion to be loved by us. Because love begets love.

The following are notes and reflections on the Song of Songs. My prayer is that hearts will be stirred to love Christ even more and to share this love with the world. If we purchase something from a store and are satisfied, how we love to tell others about it. But "we have been purchased"

by the precious blood of Christ and how much more should we long to tell the world.

I often wonder about the words "Bible Study". People, get so involved in "studying the Bible" that they learn "head-knowledge" rather than "spiritual-knowledge". Spiritual knowledge is God revealing Himself to the heart – at a deep heart level. Through the revelation of God we sees things as He does – His perspective. We receive light and truth. This is really what Bible Study is all about. Receiving light from God from His perspective that offers life-changing results.

"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (Psalm 36:9)

Many study the Bible with an unchanged life. The Word of God is living and active! It is a hammer!! It is a fountain!! It is God speaking to us! His Word never returns void!! But it needs a Spirit-filled heart open to receiving the truth!

So as you do this study, you are encouraged each time to repent of any and all things that would get in the way of receiving light and truth. Allow God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Finally, be open to seeing God's perspective and allow yourself to be changed by His glory! "We love Him because He first loved us"

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness," (2 Timothy 3:16)

Is the Bible truly inspired by God? Or did men sit down and choose what would be in the Bible? When I think of the sexual allegory that is so prevalent throughout this book I'm often amazed that "Godly" men of that time didn't throw it out immediately. Yet, God had it put in His Word. And so here stands this book as a part of inspired Scripture to which Christ said, "The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). It is interesting to see Solomon write in Ecclesiastes of man's despair trying to find meaning in this world.

Here we see man's perspective.

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (Ecc.1:2)

Yet, in all this despair, Ecclesiastes is followed by Solomon's Song of Songs. Here "love" becomes the theme and the intimate relationship we can have with God.

What Saints Say about "The Song of Songs"

The Song of Songs is a spiritual delight of holy minds, in the nuptial union of that king and queen of the heavenly kingdom, which is Christ and the Church. But this pleasure is wrapped up in folds of allegory that it may be more ardently desired and may be unfolded with greater delight. (Augustine)

There can be no parties mentioned, besides Christ and his Bride, to whom this Song can agree - - the doctrines which this Song yieldeth for all conditions, and which for believers' use are to be drawn from it, are the same plain, solid spiritual truths which are drawn from other scriptures, wherein Christ's love to His church and people, and their exercises are set down. (James Durham)

What Saints Say about "The Song of Songs"

This divine poem sets forth in a most striking manner the mutual love, union, and communion, which are between Christ and His church; also expresses the several different frames, cases, and circumstances which attend believers in this life; so that they can come into no state or condition, but here is something in this song suited to their experience: which serves much to recommend it to believers, and discovers the excellency of it. (John Gill)

It is a song...or nuptial song, wherein, by the expressions of love between a bridegroom and his bride, are set forth and illustrated the mutual affections that pass between God and a distinguished remnant of mankind....Christ and the church in general, Christ and particular believers, are here discoursing with abundance of mutual esteem and endearment. (Matthew Henry)

What Saints Say about "The Song of Songs"

This sense of the love of Christ, and the effect of it in communion with Him, by prayer and praises, is divinely set forth in the Book of Canticles. The church therein is represented as the spouse of Christ; and, as a faithful spouse, she is always either solicitous about His love, or rejoicing in it. In brief, this whole book is taken up in the description of the communion that is between the Lord Christ and His saints. (John Owen)

The true believer who has lived near his Master will find this book to be a mass, not of gold merely, for all God's Word is this, but a mass of diamonds sparkling with brightness; and all things thou canst conceive are not to be compared with it for its matchless worth. If I must prefer one book above another, I would prefer some books of the Bible for doctrine, some for experience, some for example, some for teaching, but let me prefer this book above all others for fellowship and communion. When the Christian is nearest to heaven, this is the book he takes with him. (C.H.Spurgeon)

Solomon's Song of Songs

Some of the other songs in the Bible are:

- 1) Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:1-18)
- 2) The Israelites after God supplied water (Num 21:16-18)
- 3) Moses when summoned to depart from this world (Deu 32:1-43)
- 4) Deborah & Barak after the defeat of Sisera (Judges 5:1-31)
- 5) Hannah when the Lord promised her a son (1 Sam 2:1-10)
- 6) David when bringing the Ark home (1 Chronicles 13:8)
- 7) David for all the mercies given him by God (2 Sam 22:1-51)
- 8) The Israelites in captivity when asked to sing songs of Zion (Psalm 137)
- 9) Mary (Luke 1:46-55)
- 10) Zechariah (Luke 1:67-79)
- 11) Angels (Luke 2:13-14; Revelation 15:1-4; 19:1-8)
- 12) Your Song: "Sing to the LORD a new song!" (Psalm 98:1)

HOW TO READ "THE SONG OF SONGS"

The Song of Songs can be read in three lights:

- God's love relationship with Israel the nation
- Christ and His bride the church
- Jesus and the individual believerIn this study, the focus will be on the last two
 - Christ and His bride the church
 - Jesus and the individual believer.

The Church's (and individual's) need is to experience the love of Christ.

The Song of Songs helps us experience Christ.

PEOPLE IN THE SONG ARE:

Lover (Christ)

Beloved (The church &/or individuals)

Daughters of Jerusalem (or "Friends": young in Christ or new believers)

The watchmen: (ministers of the Gospel)

The maidens (or virgins: mature believers)

Expository Teaching on The Song of Songs



The Divine Romance between God & Man!!

Song of Solomon Chapter 1 Solomon's Song of Songs (1:1)

In the Song we can see what is "the width and length and depth and height" of the love of Christ.

We can learn what it means

"to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge".



Solomon's Song of Songs (1:1)

In the Song we meet Jesus Who "loved the church and gave himself for it".

Husbands, love your wives, even <u>as Christ also loved the church, and</u> gave himself for it; (Ephesians 5:25)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

We must fully understand that Christ exceeds Solomon in wealth, wisdom, kingdom, authority, glory, etc.

The Song of Songs is the greatest of all the Biblical Songs.

It is called the SONG of Songs

the greatest of ALL SONGS!!
 We see this in the HOLY of Holies.

Also, Jesus is the KING <u>OF</u> KINGS and LORD <u>OF</u> LORDS – the preeminent and greatest One.

² Let him <u>kiss</u> me with the kisses of his mouth

The bride here speaks in words of passionate desire. She desires to have her longing fulfilled.

A "kiss" can show affection, be a pledge of peace, be a token of reconciliation, or honor someone.

Here, the "kiss" is showing real love.



² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth –

The "Let him" of the verse, shows submission.

It is "an allowing, permitting, agreeing, consenting".

We should take time to mediate on "Let him" – let Jesus have His way with us and we should submit to His wish to be intimate with us – to have our longing fulfilled.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And <u>let him</u> that heareth say, Come. And <u>let him</u> that is athirst come. And whosoever will, <u>let him</u> take the water of life freely.

(Revelation 22:17)

(For further study do a Concordance study on "let him".)

² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth –

"kisses of his mouth" show intimacy.

Christ's kisses have been called pardons, promises and seals of everlasting love.

There is an intimacy of knowing someone as in Phil 3:10 "that I may know him".

The more we truly love Christ

- the more we will truly long for Christ's kisses.

Christ's grace, comfort, and love is

displayed as He kisses us.

² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth –

To "Kiss the Son" in Psalm 2:12 is so important as a way to serve.

<u>Kiss the Son</u>, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

(Psalm 2:12)

In Psalm 45:2, we see Christ's lips:

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever. (Psalm 45:2)

Beloved: (1:2)

for your love is more delightful than wine.

Nothing is more delightful than "Christ's love". We can enjoy "Christ's love" without fear.

for your love is more delightful than wine.

"Wine" creates

drunkenness, danger, over-indulgence, and sin.

Wine is momentary pleasure with consequences. "Christ's love" is everlasting with better results.

Christ's love is good.

It brings blessing, joy, and pleasure with no regret. Christ's love brings delight and is absolutely pure.

Beloved: (1:2)

for your love is more delightful than wine.

Christians can experience Christ's redeeming, adopting, preserving, sanctifying, and glorifying love.

We also experience His forgiving, guiding, providing, instructing, disciplining, and enduring love.

³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your <u>perfumes</u>;

"Perfumes", ointments, and spices are used frequently in oriental countries.

They're used after washing because of the hot, sticky, dusty climate.

Of Jesus, the "Anointed One", the Psalmist says,

"All your garments are scented with

myrrh and aloes, and cassia." (Psalm 45:8)

In Matthew 2:11 we see the kings give:

gold for kingship; frankincense for deity, and myrrh for death.

³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. (John 12:3)

And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

(Luke 23:55)

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. (Ecc. 7:1)

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:11)

your name is like perfume poured out.

"Christ's name" is so sweet, so exciting, and thrilling to the Christian's soul.

Repeat the name of JESUS and your heart begins to soar like an eagle.

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. (John 3:34)

Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Psalm 45:7)

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16)

your name is like perfume poured out.

Christ's name "poured out" shows us Him freely giving of grace and His Spirit.

His name is "the name above all names."
He "poured out" His life for us even unto death.



No wonder the maidens love you!

These "maidens" (or some versions "virgins") are mature believers.

You can see the love in mature believers who have walked with and experienced Jesus for years.

We're reminded of the song, "Sweeter As The Days Go By." These are they

which were not defiled with women;

for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

(Revelation 4:4)

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

(Matthew 5:8)

⁴ Take me <u>away</u> with you - let us hurry!

She wants to get "away" with Christ to be alone.

She wants more than His kisses – she wants HIM.
When we were dead in our transgressions we ran to him for forgiveness.

As believers we run after Him for His continual love.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence,

and the violent take it by force. (Matt.11:12)

<u>I will run</u> the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart. (Psalm 119:32)

My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me. (Psalm 63:8)

Let the king bring me into his chambers.

In oriental times, the "chambers" were the places of intimate entertainment for those the king cherished.

What joy to be brought into a place as wonderful as this - the "chambers of Christ".

In "His chambers" we experience Christ's intimacy, grace, love, attention, and enjoyment.

Christ comforts and assures us in "His chambers".

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me;

he shall set me up upon a rock. (Psalm 27:5)

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

Daughters of Jerusalem: (1:4)

We rejoice and delight in you;

They are speaking of their brothers and sisters in Christ who also delight in Christ.

They are continuing to "rejoice and delight" in Christ.

He is their joy and our delight.

Everything about Jesus is worth rejoicing and delighting in.

We "rejoice & delight" in His person, work, offices, promises, blood, righteousness, power, authority, glories, kingdom, peace, life, existence, essence, love, etc. etc.

Whom having not seen, ye love;

in whom, though now ye see him not,

yet believing,

ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

(1 Peter 1:8)

Daughters of Jerusalem: (1:4) we will praise your love more than wine.

Christ's company and fellowship permeates "love".

"His love" flows better than wine.

It is a wonderful fountain of endless delights.

Beloved: (1:4)

How right they are to adore you!

We see that she understands

why others "adore" Christ "firsthand".

She has experienced His love.

And she is not alone in her love for Jesus.

⁵ <u>Dark</u> am I, yet <u>lovely</u>, O daughters of Jerusalem,

She addresses the daughters of Jerusalem here - the young in Christ.

Being "dark" meant she was working. Her peers would have looked at her with their pale skin all perfumed.

She would see herself also as being unworthy and having a

deep sense of shame.

These young in Christ must have looked

at her in a wrong way. Yet she says she is "lovely". "Lovely" because

of Christ's loveliness.

How often we feel ambivalent:

in ourselves unlovely - with Christ "lovely".

Beloved (1:5)

dark like the <u>tents of Kedar</u>, like the <u>tent curtains of Solomon</u>

"Kedar's tents" were made from black or dark haired goatskin.

The tents were further darkened by the sun like her.

The "tent curtains of Solomon" speak of beauty and all a Christian

is in Christ Jesus.

Like "tents of Kedar" (unworthy, shameful).

Like the "tent curtains of Solomon" (beauty in Christ).

So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. (Psalm 45:11)

The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. (Psalm 45:13)

⁶ Do not stare at me because I am <u>dark</u>, because I am darkened by the sun.

Being tanned and "dark" is referring spiritually to the Christian worker who has labored during the heat of the day and who receives heartache, sorrow, & rejection.

The world is hostile.

Even Jesus was beaten and rejected.



My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards.

The "mother's sons" are those who claim to know Christ but have not the power.

Having a form of godliness,

but denying the power thereof:

from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:5)

We are told to "conform" by others but we are to & must "stand out" for Christ.

⁷ Tell me, <u>you whom I love</u>, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday.

Although our **UNION** with Christ is constant,

our **COMMUNION** with him varies.

In "you whom I love" we see Jesus as our dearly beloved, the One we love.

Jesus captures all our desires, wants, and our whole being.



⁷ Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday.

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (Acts 17:28)

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Heb.13:20)

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1 Peter 5:4)

⁷ Tell me, <u>you whom I love</u>, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday.

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. (John 10:16)

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. (1 Peter 2:25)

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40:11)

⁷ Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday.

Here "graze" talks about feeding Christ's flock

- His church.

I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. (John 6:48-51)



⁷ Tell me, <u>you</u> whom I love, where <u>you</u> graze <u>your</u> flock and where <u>you</u> rest <u>your</u> sheep at midday.

Notice the attention given to Christ;

"you, you, your, you, your."

Beloved: (1:7)

Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

She desires not to be separated or detached from her beloved. She is jealous <u>for</u> her husband.

Daughters of Jerusalem: (1:8) 8 If you do not know,

These young babes in Christ or new believers speak here.

They desire to follow in the tracks of the more mature believers and Christ's bride.

They are saying that "if you don't know" then who does?

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

(John 14:9)

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Col.2:10)

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16)

Daughters of Jerusalem: (1:8) most beautiful of women,

The friends have heard of the beauty of the bride and see Christ in her.

Even though she is not always aware of her beauty (1:5,6) - others are.

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever. (Psalm 45:2)

Daughters of Jerusalem: (1:8)

<u>follow</u> the tracks of the sheep and <u>graze</u> your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.

They (and we) are to "follow" the way of the other saints walking with God.

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Heb.6:12)

Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. (Heb. 13:13)

We are to "follow"

Christ's path not swerving to the right or left.

We are to "graze" (feed) on the Word, guide the young into His Word, and be shepherded.

⁹ I liken you, my darling,

The "Lover" (Jesus) speaks for the first time.

"my darling" can also be "my love", "my dearest",

"my friend", or "my companion".

It is worth mediating on what Jesus calls us.

Jesus' love is real, sincere, unchanging, strong, powerful, perfect, and eternal.

After the bride saw her self as "dark" in 1:5-6; this must delight her soul.

to a <u>mare</u> harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh.

Jesus compares her to a "mare".

Horses were highly thought of. Horses' nobles lines and graceful looks expressed beauty.

These beautiful mares would have been very costly and well bred for the king.

The king would have loved his beautiful horses.

His heart would be set on them with pride.



to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh.

These horses, once wild & disobedient, would now be obedient, loving, and submissive.

They would also be adorned with ornaments and decorations.

Jesus likens her (us) to these beautiful, costly, submissive, and adorned horses.

Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels.

Christ has beautifully adorned us.

Our adornments are seen in:

Matthew 5:1-12 (Sermon on the Mount);

Galatians 5:22-25 (fruit of the Spirit);

Colossians 3:12-17 (with its instructions for us).



Lover: (1:10)

10 Your <u>cheeks</u> are beautiful with earrings, your <u>neck</u> with strings of jewels.

The "cheeks" and "neck" start inwardly through Christ and manifest outwardly in our lives.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Lover: (1:11)

¹¹ We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.

The "WE" is the Trinity [see Genesis 1:26].

Each member of the Godhead is involved in our sanctification, cleansing, and inner/outer beauty.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. (Psalm 50:2)

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)

12 While the king was at his table,

"the king" here is Christ.

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. (Colossians 1:18)

They are together enjoying each other affectionately.

She delights in the "table" but is more concerned with "the king". He has captured her heart.



my perfume spread its fragrance.

The "perfume" is spikenard (pure nard) which is a rare, exotic, expensive perfume.

It comes from a Himalayan plant in India.

The fragrance is captivating and exotic.

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of <u>spikenard</u>, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. (John 12:3)



Beloved: (1:12) my perfume spread its <u>fragrance</u>.

The effect of this "fragrance" would have been a delight to the King.

The "fragrance" would revive our spiritual lives – making us the aroma of Christ.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

For we are unto God

<u>a sweet savour of Christ</u>, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: (2 Corinthians 2:14-15)

13 My lover is to me a <u>sachet of myrrh</u> resting between my breasts.

The "sachet of myrrh" was used in Esther 2:12 as part of the preparation for the king.

Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) (Esther 2:12)

We have been made acceptable and presentable to the Father through the blood of Jesus.

13 My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.

"Myrrh" is a resin/gum from a South Arabian tree.

It was an ingredient in Exodus 30:22-33.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. (Matt.2:11)

And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

(Mark 15:23)

And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. (John 19:39)

13 My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.

"resting" is the rest we find in Christ.

(remember Ruth at Boaz's feet)

We are anointed by the Holy Spirit knowing in our heart that we have "rest" in Christ.

(Hebrews 3:19-4:1)



13 My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.

"between my breasts" talks how people would sometimes

wear the myrrh in a small pouch next to their body.

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. (John 13:23)

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (Ephesians 3:17)

14 My lover is to me a <u>cluster</u> of <u>henna</u> blossoms from the vineyards of <u>En Gedi</u>.

"henna" (camphire) is a common Palestinian shrub producing fragrant blossoms.

These blossoms once crushed make a dye of bright orangeyellow color.

The "henna" is really the "root" or "source" showing atonement, propitiation (sacrifice), ransom, and covering.

"En Gedi" is a lush oasis that produced the finest perfumes.

The "cluster" shows & adds the strength and impact in this verse.

14 My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.

We must never forget that Christ is even greater than the fragrance of all the spices of the orient.

"In whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col.2:3)

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but <u>Christ is all, and in all.</u> (Col.3:11)

14 My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.

Jesus has prepared a table for us here, in the wilderness, and in heaven.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

(Psalm 23:5-6)

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

Lover: (1:15)

15 How beautiful you are, my darling!Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.

Note the repetition of "How beautiful" to give impact.

Jesus loves the beauty of our "eyes",
the softness of a "dove" in our character.
"Eyes" are the window to the soul. Hearts
filled with Jesus display eyes radiant, soft,
and loving.

16 How handsome you are, my <u>lover!</u> Oh, <u>how charming!</u>

She is so proud of the beauty of her "Lover" Christ just as we should be.

His person, work, offices, doctrines, promises, ordinances are all beautiful to her.

"how charming" (pleasant, fair, beautiful) refers in general terms to Christ in every way.

How Christ communicates His love, grace, work, and beauty touches her. She is charmed!!

Beloved: (1:16) And our bed is verdant.

The "bed" symbolizes restfulness and fruitfulness.

The "verdant" (green) focuses on the canopy of leafy branches which give shade and privacy.



Lover: (1:17)

¹⁷ The beams of our <u>house</u> are cedars; our rafters are firs.

The "house" is temporary here but being prepared for permanence in heaven. If Jesus can give new hearts then imagine the house He is preparing for us.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:1-3)

Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off. (Isaiah 33:17)

Lover: (1:17)

¹⁷ The beams of our house are <u>cedars</u>; our rafters are firs.

The "cedars" and the "firs" show
the bigger pictures of
the permanence and delightfulness
of the communion with Christ and His beloved.



Song of Solomon Chapter 2 Lover:

(2:1)

(Jesus is the Rose of Sharon)

¹ I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

Christ here is speaking of Himself. It is alright for the one "who is over all, the eternally blessed God" (Romans 9:5) to declare His own praises.

He is God over all!!

¹ I am a <u>rose</u> of <u>Sharon</u>, a <u>lily</u> of the valleys.

"Sharon" was a fertile area where flocks and herds were kept and vines were fruitful. "Sharon" was famous for its roses – the best and rarest of all.

The "rose" here is an extraordinary flower.

The "lily" here shows us Christ's purity.

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:19)

Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. (Hebrews 7:27)

¹ I am a <u>rose</u> of Sharon, a <u>lily</u> of the valleys.

Jesus, Almighty God, compares Himself

to a "rose" and a "lily". Imagine, our wonderful God comparing Himself this way. POWERFUL HUMILITY!

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

¹ I am a <u>rose</u> of Sharon, a <u>lily</u> of the valleys.

And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

(**Hebrews 1:6**)

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. (Isaiah 6:2)

These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. (John 12:41)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

¹ I am a rose of **Sharon**, a lily of the valleys.

"Sharon" was rich in flowers showing us that Christ is to be walked up to, partaken of, and enjoyed.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:13-14)

¹ I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

(Revelation 22:17)

² Like a <u>lily among thorns</u> is my darling among the <u>maidens</u>.

Here Christ speaks of His church.

The "maidens" are the mature believers again.

Christ as the "lily" birthed us as lilies – we bear His name.

We used to be "thorns", dead in our transgressions.

Now we are a new creation

and we walk among those who don't know Christ.

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: (Philippians 1:23)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 3:3)

³ Like <u>an apple tree among the trees of the forest</u> is my lover among the young men.

It may be the citron which was well known for its thick dark-green leaves (shelter), its white blossoms, and delicious, refreshing, fragrant, golden fruit.

You wouldn't see "an apple tree among the trees of the forest" but in a garden or orchard.

But Jesus "stands out". He stands alone. No one or nothing compares with Him.

I <u>delight</u> to sit in his <u>shade</u>, and his fruit is sweet to my <u>taste</u>.

To "delight" is to thoroughly & intensely enjoy something.

His "shade" keeps us from sun scorched days giving safety, security, and shelter.

Once we "taste" and see that the Lord is good we desire to partake of Him again and again.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Colossians 2:9-10)

In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3)

I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.

Amen. (Romans 9:5)

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

(Rev.5:12)



I delight to sit in his <u>shade</u>, and his <u>fruit</u> is sweet to my taste

Also imagine the Good Samaritan coming along and saving the man at the side of the road. He needed "shade" and refreshment. Jesus provides every spiritual blessing and is our "apple tree".

Jesus is "a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat"

(Isaiah 25:4)

And to wait for his Son from heaven,

whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus,

which delivered us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess 1:10)

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh,

but quickened by the Spirit: (1 Peter 3:18)

Beloved: (2:4) 4 He has taken me to the banquet hall,

The "banquet hall" (house of wine) is the grand hall of the palace where the wine is enjoyed.

Jesus has "brought/taken" His bride there.

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Remember

"His chambers" (1:4);

"His table" (1:12);

and now "His banquet hall".
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⁴ He has taken me to the banquet hall,

This feast is really for everyone to enjoy.

It is beyond words.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

(1 Peter 1:8)

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it

more abundantly. (John 10:10)

Nothing in the world can surpass the wonderful Gospel and the fruit of Christ's Spirit.

⁴ He has taken me to the banquet hall,

We can indulge, not in wine, but new wine

- the Holy Spirit with all His pleasures and grace.

We are invited, brought in, sat down, loved, and His to enjoy.

This is a prelude to our heavenly, eternal feast.



Beloved: (2:4) and his <u>banner</u> over me is <u>love</u>.

"banner" means 'to cover' and here we see her exclaiming how He covers her with His "love"

his conquering, protecting, and possessive "love".

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10)

Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

(Psalm 110:3)

and his <u>banner</u> over me is <u>love</u>.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (Eph.3:17-19)

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)

⁵ Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples,

"Strengthen me" also means
"sustain" (prop up, support, or uphold).
There is a longing here for more of His love.

The "raisins" and "apples" are symbolic of refreshment from Christ. All He gives is "refreshing", new, energizing, and empowering.

Jesus is our refreshment, newness, energy, empowerment, life and breath.

Beloved: (2:5) for I am faint with love.

"faint with love" also means "sick with love".

The language here changes because she becomes overwhelmed and His love is almost unbearable.

How often we long for so much more of Christ. Yet we long for more here and wait for His uninhibited love in heaven.

We are "faint with love" for His love.



⁶ His left arm is under my head, and his right arm <u>embraces</u> me.

Jesus hears her desire for Him and comes to her.

He "supports" and "embraces" His beloved.

Jesus seeing our need and hearing our pleas always comes and supports and embraces us.

He gives comfort, sympathy, provision, sustenance, invigorating power, & strength.

We need to pray that our experience will become more and more a reality.

⁶ His left arm is under my head, and his right arm <u>embraces</u> me.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. (Isaiah 40:29)

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax (smoldering wick) shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. (Isaiah 42:3)

⁶ His <u>left arm</u> is under my head, and his <u>right arm</u> embraces me

He holds us in His "arms" (everlasting arms)

& holds us in His hands.

He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. (John 3:29)

My sheep hear (listen) my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. (John 10:27-30)

⁷ Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you

The "Daughters of Jerusalem" are the young in Christ.

To "charge" someone is to have
a deep and sincere sense of urgency.
We need this same urgency
for the young in Christ
and those without Christ.

by the gazelles and by the does of the field:

"gazelles" are common in Israel.

There are red, fallow, and roe species of deer in biblical lands.

Represent attractiveness, quietness, and the ability to start quickly.

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe;

let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

(Proverbs 5:19)

Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

She is so engulfed in Jesus that she wants to remain in this condition and have nothing wreck it.

Ah, prayer that goes on and on

- the presence of God.

And the continual presence of God in heaven

to look forward to!!!

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus

Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 21)

Keep thy heart with all diligence;

for out of it are the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

(Colossians 3:1-5)

Beloved: (2:8) 8 Listen! My lover! Look!

The bride has: rejoiced in Jesus (v.3), rejoiced in His work (v.4), been overwhelmed by His love (v.5-6).

Now, Jesus withdraws Himself.

Sometimes He withdraws Himself for a short time

- sometimes for a long time.

After withdrawing Himself,

He comes to her again.

Beloved: (2:8) 8 Listen! My lover! Look!

"Listen" is for His sheep to hear His voice!

"My lover" is heavy on the "MY". "Lover" is "who He is to her".

"Look" is to use the "eyes of our heart" also.

She "looks forward" to Him also.

Notice how she becomes alive again after a season of withdrawal. He is always what we need.

Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills.

We also see the divine overcoming of obstacles enabling Him to come to us with ease. He has overcome the world.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(Matthew 1:21)

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;

I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Here he comes, <u>leaping</u> across the mountains, <u>bounding</u> over the hills.

The words "leaping" and "bounding" (skipping) show speed, anticipation, and pleasure.

We "leap for joy" because Christ has "unbound us" and "set us free".



⁹ My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.

The "gazelle" shows swiftness.

He is swift to come when

we turn our eyes and ears toward Him.

And there were three sons of Zeruiah there,

Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe. (2 Samuel 2:18)

And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains; (1 Chronicles 12:8)

Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.

"Look" shows He's moved closer. He now "stands behind our wall".

First He is "gazing" and then He is "peering". You can feel the anticipation rising in Him.

"the lattice" would be a wooden frame that could easily be looked through with His "peering" eyes.

Beloved: (2:10) 10 My lover spoke and said to me,

Notice in verses 8,9,10 she uses "MY lover". She has been bought with His blood, and she is His possession.

And He is her lover.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (Ephesians 5:25)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Lover: (2:10)

"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.

Here we see "MY" again twice.
There is such an enjoyment of each other.

"Come" is frequently used throughout Scriptures.

What an invitation to "come with me."

And we say, "Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord".

And the Spirit and the bride say, <u>Come</u>. And let him that heareth say, <u>Come</u>. And let him that is athirst <u>come</u>. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

(Revelation 22:17)

Lover: (2:10)

"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, <u>come</u> ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; <u>come</u> ye, buy, and eat; yea, <u>come</u>, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. (Isaiah 55:1-2)



Lover: (2:11)

¹¹ See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

Now we enter into "spring" as

"The winter is past".

The only appearance of "winter" in the OT is here.

This would be the rainy season in Palestine.

Lover: (2:12)

12 Flowers appear on the earth;

After the rainy season (winter) "flowers" would spring up in beauty and wonder.

Lover: (2:12) the season of singing has come,

Spring is also "the season of singing." The heart turns to love. Jesus rejoices over us with singing. Can you hear Him rejoicing over you?

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Lover: (2:12) the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

"doves" (turtle-doves) is a bird that migrates (different from 1:15).

It's very noticeable "cooing" is a sign of spring.

Don't our hearts coo & sing for our Lord?

Do you notice your heart cooing & singing to Christ?

Lover: (2:13) 13 The fig tree forms its early fruit;

"The fig tree" (and vines) are emblems of prosperity and fruitfulness.

Marvelous "fruit"

this "fig tree" was not cursed for it bore "fruit".
 That was a picture of Christ coming to His own and seeing no fruit.

We as the Church are to bear "fruit"

– "fruit that will remain".



Lover: (2:13)

the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

What could be more aromatic after a long, rainy winter than the fragrance of "blossoming vines".

When our senses become dulled, Christ comes in and invigorates us.

We are the aroma of Christ because of His presence.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

(2 Corinthians 2:14-15)

As the bird is in the air; so the air is in the bird.

As Christ is in us, so we are in Christ.

Lover: (2:13)

Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

This section ends as it started in verse 10.

Can you feel yourself "arising", "coming", "going" with Christ"?

The repetition again shows

earnestness and perseverance on Christ's part.

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (Hebrews 12:3)

Lover: (2:13)

Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

There is the "winter of our soul" which are the dark cold times.

But "spring" is coming and God is desiring to birth something new.

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-19)



Lover: (2:14)

14 My dove

Here we see Christ's tender and affectionate love for us in calling us "My dove".

We see beauty, chastity, faithfulness, helplessness, meekness, humility.

Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a <u>dove</u> covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold. (Psalm 68:13)



Lover: (2:14)

14 My <u>dove</u>

Faithfulness

- a "dove" only has one mate.

We are to be totally devoted to Him.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (2

Corinthians 11:2)

A dove is alluring and can lure other doves.

No one comes to the Son unless the Father draws them. In the same way, the Holy Spirit uses as vessels of honor fit for the Master's service.

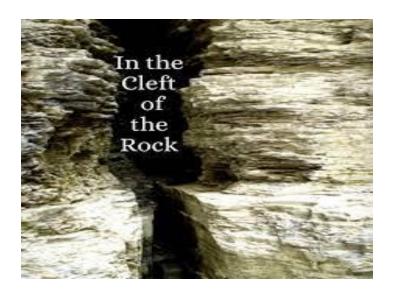
Lover: (2:14)

in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside,

It is interesting to know that "doves" (us) often hide in these kinds of places.

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. (John 13:23)

What a joy that even though we may be shy and afraid, we can find Christ's closeness here.



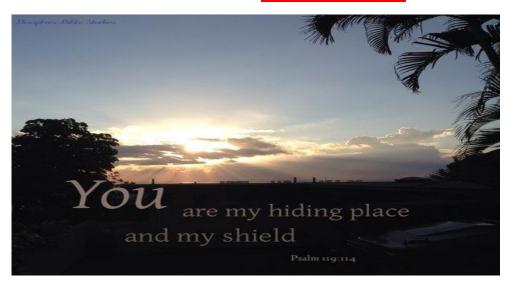
Lover: (2:14)

in the clefts of the rock, in the <u>hiding places</u> on the mountainside,

Christ is our "hiding place".

Thou art my <u>hiding place</u>; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. (Psalm 32:7)

Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.



Lover: (2:14) show me your <u>face</u>, let me hear your <u>voice</u>;

In our fear and timidity in hiding Christ still longs to see our "face" and hear our "voice".

He wants to look upon us and hear our gentle dove-like cooing.

We can be like a baby taken away from a mother's breast – content and satisfied.

Jesus gently draws us into a state of fellowship.

Lover: (2:14)

for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

What an amazing thing that our "voice is sweet" and our "face is lovely" to Christ.

Those who feel "ugly", "flawed", or "not worthy" should meditate on this truth.

Didn't Jesus create us – new creations?

He doesn't make "junk".

We can't even imagine how much sweeter and lovelier we will be in our glorified state.

Lover: (2:15)

15 Catch for us the <u>foxes</u>, the little <u>foxes</u> that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

With Christ's love comes a warning against the "foxes"

 the little sins that come between us and Jesus. These are the sins of omission and commission. The "foxes" come to rob, kill, and destroy. "Foxes" can be jealous demonic forces that try to rule through our sin nature.

In order to stay in fellowship with Christ we need to deal with sin immediately,

repent, and walk afresh with our Lover.

Humility – repentance

- then no shame/condemnation
 - beautiful fellowship!!!

Lover: (2:15)

15 Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the <u>vineyards</u>, <u>our vineyards</u> that <u>are in bloom</u>.

"our vineyards" (ministries) "are in bloom".

We must "catch the foxes" when they surface.

The foxes are "sly"

but Jesus is "all wisdom" and "knowledge".

"So I say, live in the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Galatians 5:16)



Beloved: (2:16)

16 My lover is mine and I am his;

What a joy to be able to say that we are totally Christ's

and Christ is totally ours.

Our "union and communion" with Christ and His with us.

And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.
(1 Corinthians 3:23)

And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. (John 17:10)

As the sea is in the fish and the fish is in the sea, so we are in Christ and Christ is in us.

Beloved: (2:16) he <u>browses</u> among the <u>lilies</u>.

The LILY (Jesus) is browsing among the "LILIES" (His people).

Immanuel "God is with us."

We see Jesus walking in the cool of the day when seeking out Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8).

A good husband always desires to bring blessing and encouragement to his wife.

A good wife always desires to bring blessings and encouragement to her husband.



Beloved: (2:17)

¹⁷ Until the day <u>breaks</u> and the shadows flee, turn, <u>my</u> lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

Here the bride speaks to her Lover directly.

"Breaks" (cools, breathes, blows) gives the idea of the day growing cool as the evening breezes come. All day long – or to the ends of the day. She desires nothing to separate her from Him.

Again, she uses "MY".

Again she recalls and desires Him from Chapter 2:8-9.



Beloved: (2:17)

¹⁷ Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

We can also relate this to Christ's first coming and second coming. In His first coming He came as a suffering servant TO PAY FOR His bride through His death on the cross. In His second coming He will come FOR His bride at the Rapture.

When the day is right He will return.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. (Romans 13:12) He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

Song of Solomon Ch.3 Beloved: (3:1) ¹ All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves;

This has been interpreted

by some as a bad dream or nightmare.

After wonderful fellowship can you imagine her fear and dread at losing Him.

She searches for Him "all night long on her bed".

Throughout the dream she is "looking" for Him.

"the one my heart loves". He is the One and Only.

The Only Begotten (the only One of His kind).

The Eternal One.

Beloved: (3:1) I looked for him but did not find him.

We see the word "looked" again here.

She is tenacious in finding where He's gone and how to find Him.

Here we see that season of every Christian's life

- "the dark night of the soul".

This is a season when we feel Jesus has totally left us.

We try to live our life for Christ but

He seems so absent sometimes.

Beloved: (3:1) I looked for him but did not find him.

We need to remember our UNION with Christ never changes but our COMMUNION does.

Our Communion can be affected by our heart condition or outward circumstances.

In this state we begin to ask "where is Jesus?", "what has happened to Him?" and we "LOOK".

We can go through much searching without finding Him.

² I will get up now

She sets her mind and heart to search for Him.

She is determined and tired of His absence.

"I looked", "I looked", and "I will get up now". She has experienced the King & she misses Him.



and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves.

We see the urgency here. The need of Him. Her carnal ways, her worldly ways, her flesh has made her dry and she wants to drink of the fountain of life.

She goes through "the city" with its "streets and squares".

Any area she might have lost Him at.

What did I do to Him? What happened to us?

You can feel the despair, regret, and remorse.

and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves.

Jesus withdraws for many reasons.

Sometimes to heal us from laziness, to deliver us from the world,

to teach us to hate sin, to humble us through desertion as Christ was, and to show us the joy of His return now

and His returning at His Second Coming.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

(1 Thess.4:16-17)

Beloved: (3:2) So I looked for him but did not find him.

Initially she "did not find Him". She is being tested and proved.

She is walking with the great saints through all the ages who have experienced the same hunger for Him.

The <u>watchmen</u> found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?"

These "watchmen" are the ones who watch over Christ's body. These watchmen too have been challenged like her and have walked before her. These watchmen understand the "dark night of the soul". They are Gospel ministers.

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. (Hebrews 13:7)

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (Acts 20:28).

³ The watchmen <u>found</u> me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?"

In order to help others find Christ, ministers must have "found" Him themselves. They must have found Christ at the cross upon salvation and later during "the dark night of the soul."

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

⁴ Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves.

Ah, "found" at last. She has sought, sought a multitude of counselors, and He has been "found".

He is never far from one who diligently seeks Him.

And ye shall seek me, and find me,

when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD:

and I will turn away your captivity,

and I will gather you from all the nations,

and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will

bring you again into the place

whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

(Jeremiah 29:13-14)

Beloved: (3:4) I held him and would not let him go

"Held", "gripped", "glued myself to Him", "held with all my might", etc.

She really wants Him and does not want to experience His lose again.



till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me.

The "mother's house" is her mother who shared Christ with her. She brings
Christ to the Church to share Him
with the whole family of God.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3:17-21)

She was "conceived" (the new birth) in the Church.

⁵ Daughters of Jerusalem, <u>I charge you</u> by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

She is restored and does not want to be disturbed so that nothing will interfere with her communion with Him.

She learns to be more careful so that He won't withdraw again.

Hopefully, she has learnt her lesson through this season.

Therefore the "charge" to the young in Christ.

⁶ Who is this coming up from the <u>desert</u>

The young in Christ are witnessing something wonderful here. They have just been "charged" in the previous verse

 this prompted them to see a deeper view of Christ and His church.

Christ is coming out of the "desert" or "wilderness" where He delivered His bride. The bride has been brought out of the wildernesses of "sin and slavery" and "this world".

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Beloved: (3:6) ⁶ Who is this coming up from the desert

The daughters are straining to see what is going to happen next

anticipation prevails.

It is time for the WEDDING PROCESSION.

We see throughout these verses now

a royal, eastern style wedding.

like a <u>column of smoke</u>, perfumed with myrrh and <u>incense</u> made from all the spices of the merchant?

The "column of smoke" is "incense"

being burnt at the head of the procession

– rising like columns or pillars to the sky.

Incense is often represented

to be prayers of the saints in the Bible.

like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant?

"Myrrh" was a component of the holy oil in Exodus 30:23.

Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels,

and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels, (Exodus 30:23)

"Incense" (frankincense) being talked about as a
gift given at Christ's birth.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, (Matthew 2:1)

like a column of smoke, <u>perfumed</u> with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant?

Remember the pillar of cloud that led the people through the wilderness.

The people are "perfumed" (holy throughout) and nothing can prevent them from arriving safely in glory with Christ forever.

Here the daughters of Jerusalem are more and more enthralled by the bride's beauty and grace given her.

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

(2 Thessalonnians 1:7)

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (2 Thess. 1:10)

Beloved: (3:7) ⁷ Look! It is Solomon's carriage,

The bride leaps in now and responds with a "LOOK" to the onlookers.

She begins to direct their gaze to CHRIST.

He must increase, but I must decrease. (John 3:30)

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (Col.1:18)

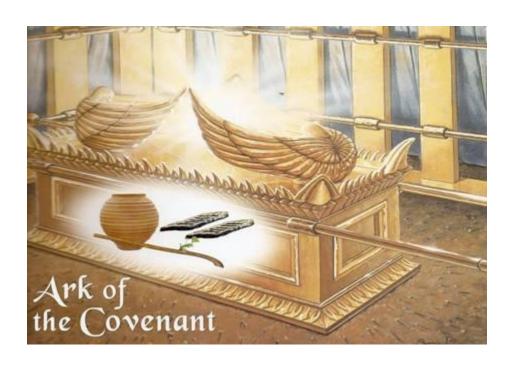
The "carriage" is a kind of traveling couch or bed – a glorified chair.

It shows us the contentment and rest of the husband and wife. Everything is "ours" in Christ but everything proceeds from HIM.

Beloved: (3:7) escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel,

Eastern wedding processions might take hours,

might be at night with torches, and would have an "escort" or armored guard.



8 all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night.

The escort is ready for action since an ambush might take place in which to destroy the wedding,

steal the jewelry, or kidnap someone. Satan is

working running "to and fro" but Christ is

always at work

to protect and secure His bride.

8 all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night.

This bride is given full honor and expense. Nothing is withheld. She is well attended (saints & angels)

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:5)

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called (Jude 1)

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. (Psalms 34:7)

I and my Father are one. (John 10:30) Security gives serenity.

⁹ King Solomon <u>made</u> for himself the <u>carriage</u>; he made it of wood from Lebanon.

This "carriage", grand as it was, was "made" by Solomon (type of Christ).

We are the workmanship of Christ's hands, He holds us in His hands, His hands were nailed to the cross, and He awaits with open hands for us at the Second Coming.

The "wood" could be seen as the cross – perfect salvation.

Beloved: (3:10)

10 Its posts he made of silver,
its base of gold.
Its seat was upholstered with purple,

Only the best materials were provided. We are reminded of the Keith Green song,

"Lord you are more precious than silver,
Lord you are more costly than gold.

Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with you."

its <u>interior lovingly inlaid</u> by the daughters of Jerusalem.

The daughters of Jerusalem show their love – "lovingly inlaying the interior".

Can you see a picture of them carefully and articulately laying the interior in the carriage.

They've been bought by the precious blood of Christ.

"What can I ever give back to the Lord?"

We love him, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Remember David when he built an altar

talking to Araunah,

"No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

(2 Samuel 24:24)

¹¹ Come out, you <u>daughters of Zion</u>, and look at King Solomon

The "daughters of Zion" (Jerusalem)

are about to witness the BIG DAY.

This is the culmination of the whole ceremony - to WITNESS CHRIST and Christ displaying His bride.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him:

for the marriage of the Lamb is come,

and his wife hath made herself ready. (Revelation 19:7)

¹¹ Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at <u>King</u> Solomon

The "king" should be witnessed in all of His majesty.

He came first as a suffering servant and was crowned with thorns. Next He will come as a triumphant king and wear the crown of glory.

Peter, James, and John beheld His majesty at the Transfiguration.

How much greater will Christ be at His Second Coming?



¹¹ Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon

The bride – the bride of Christ

- will also be beautiful at the wedding day.

The king's daughter is all glorious within:

her clothing is of wrought gold. (Psalm 45:13)

Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. (Isaiah 60:5)

Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. (Isaiah 62:3)

¹¹ Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon

She will be dressed in the beauty of Christ – not her own.

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27)

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 24)

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. (1 Corinthians 4:9)

wearing the crown, the crown with which his <u>mother</u> crowned him on the day of his wedding,

The "mother" here is the true church of Christ,

the bride herself.

Revelation 12 gives a strange symbolic vision

- the church is pictured as a woman giving birth to "a male child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron" (Rev.12:5).

This is a reference to Jesus. God from the bosom of the Father, is declared from the human side as coming from an earthly line,

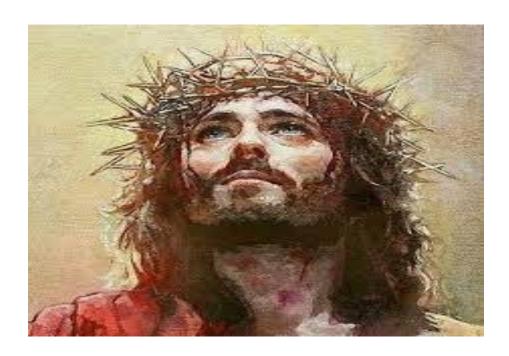
the line of David to redeem men.

For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother. (Mark 3:35)

wearing the crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding,

On this "crowning" day,

"He shall see the travail of his soul, and be satisfied" (Isaiah 53:11).



the day <u>his heart</u> rejoiced.

Many things give Christ pleasure in "His heart".

But this will be the greatest day – the Wedding Day!

"The joy set before him" (Heb.12:2) is what

kept Jesus going to the cross.

For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee. (Isaiah 62:5)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

the day his heart rejoiced.

Jesus is greater than Solomon.

The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

(Matthew 12:42)

Jesus has greater wealth than Solomon.

Solomon was a great king

but Jesus is King of kings.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:16)

the day his heart rejoiced.

His works are greater than Solomon for He created all things.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Solomon's kingdom was exceptional

And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.

(2 Chronicles 9:26)

the day his heart rejoiced.

but Christ's Kingdom is an everlasting dominion.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

(Daniel 7:13-14)

His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

(Psalm 72:17)

the day his heart rejoiced.

Solomon's name means "peace" and his original name Jedidiah means "beloved of God".

But Christ is the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) and the Father declared on more than one occasion,

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus stands alone as the King of eternity and King of life.

Ch.4 Lover: (4:1)

¹ How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful!

From verses 1 – 15 of this chapter we hear the "LOVER" expressing His love for His bride.

We see His love, delight, and desire for her.

And we see her preciousness and sweetness to Him.

Christ repeats 1:15 to show His consistency in His love.

As He looks upon her, He is overwhelmed by her beauty.

This is immediately after the wedding day.

Your eyes behind your veil are doves.

From behind her veil,

He sees her shining "eyes" focused upon Him.

Her "eyes" meet His.

These eyes are the gentle, loving, giving eyes of a dove.



Your <u>hair</u> is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.

Imagine long, black, shiny and wavy goat "hair".

It has the fineness of silk.

Consider a large "flock of goats"

covering the hillside as they descend.

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:4)

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (Matthew 3:16)

² Your teeth are like a flock of <u>sheep just shorn</u>, coming up from the washing. Each has its <u>twin</u>; not one of them is alone.

What a beautiful sight to see the whiteness of these "sheep" just washed after been "shorn".

In this we see purity in the shearing and washing; unity in the mention of each "sheep" having a "twin", and fruitfulness that they are not alone or barren.

Lover (4:3)

³ Your <u>lips</u> are like a <u>scarlet ribbon</u>; your mouth is lovely.

The healthy luscious "lips" likened to strand (cord or "ribbon") of "scarlet" or red.

Pale lips would show sickness while these red lips show healthiness.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Hebrews 13:15)

Lover (4:3)

³ Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely.

The "mouth" signifies the sweet words of the Christian expressing their love for Christ and purity of speech.

Let the words of my <u>mouth</u>, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

Then they that feared the LORD <u>spake</u> often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

(Malachi 3:16)

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your <u>mouth</u>, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (Ephesians 4:29)

Lover (4:3)

Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.

This area on the upper part of the cheeks would be red like the slices of pomegranates.

We can see the fresh, lively, rosiness, and vigor of her.

She is beautiful in His sight.

Maybe a slight blush in front of her husband that draws out more of His grace and love for her.

Lover (4:4)

⁴ Your neck is like the tower of David, built with <u>elegance</u>; on it hang a thousand <u>shields</u>, all of them shields of warriors.

She is "elegant", stately, and refined.

We can imagine the tower adorned

with "shields" of mighty men.

One day in your court is like a thousand elsewhere walking with the King.

Lover (4:5)

⁵ Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.

We see the tender, warm, delightful, and desirable youth of the bride.

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. (Proverbs 5:19)

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That he might present it to himself a

glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

(Ephesians 5:25-27).

Lover (4:6) ⁶ Until the day breaks and the shadows flee,

The bride spoke these similar words in 2:17.

They both speak the same language.



Lover (4:6)

I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.

Here we see a MEETING PLACE being talked about. A place for uninterrupted and unhindered enjoyment of each other's company.

He delights and desires to meet. Can we not see Jesus interceding for His saints and His saints sending up fragrant incense to Him?

Yet they are in total and complete union.

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. (Psalm 45:10-11)

Lover (4:7)

⁷ All beautiful you are, my darling; there is <u>no flaw</u> in you.

As God desired a sacrifice without spot, blemish or flaw so we see here how Jesus' sacrifice was perfect. We see that through Christ's blood we have been made "flawless".

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus,

who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification,

and redemption: (1 Corinthians 1:30)

According as he hath chosen us in him before the

foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame

before him in love: (Ephesians 1:4)

Lover (4:8)

8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon.

Now He calls her "MY BRIDE" or spouse.

It is used often now and very intimate.

"Come with me" is repeated twice.

There is a sense of deep want.

Lover (4:8)

Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the <u>lions'</u> dens and the mountain haunts of the <u>leopards</u>.

From the top of this area Canaan could be seen. The believer is looking to a better place. A place safe from "the lions" and "the leopards" that would destroy peace and communion with Him.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: (Isaiah 35:9)

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: (Philippians 1:23)

Lover (4:9)

⁹ You have <u>stolen my heart</u>, <u>my sister</u>, <u>my bride</u>; you have <u>stolen my heart</u> with one glance of your <u>eyes</u>, with one jewel of your necklace.

Again we see the intimacy of eastern culture in "sister" and the repetition of "bride".

"Stolen my heart" (or "ravished my heart") is mentioned twice here.

His heart has been captured by her loving "eyes" and the delightful beauty of her ornaments.

His heart stolen by meeting the eyes of His beloved. Captivated, drawn in, and submissive love by both.

Lover (4:10) 10 How delightful is your <u>love</u>, my sister, my bride!

Notice how He praises her "love".

Our love is praised by God.

Even though our love is not perfect, He still loves it!!

How much more pleasing is your <u>love</u> than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!

First, He praised her "love" and now He praises her graces; her spiritual graces and virtues such as the fruit of the Spirit, Christ-likeness, and how He is glorified through her (similar to 1:2-3).

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, (Galatians 4:19)

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

(Titus 2:10)

11 Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride;

Now He praises her words (2:14).
Imagine the "honeycomb" dripping honey so rich, thick,
sweet and slowly.

Jesus loves the words of a gentle, quiet spirit.

Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul,

and health to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24)

Lover (4:11) milk and honey are under your tongue.

He now praises her thoughts and meditations – the things "under the tongue" –

(Psalm 19:14; 139:1-6)

"milk and honey" are what God promised the Israelites

a land flowing with milk and honey.

"Milk and honey" was good, wholesome, refreshing, nourishing, and pure just like us.



The <u>fragrance</u> of your garments is like that of Lebanon.

"Lebanon"

was full of different varieties of trees with many scents.

Remember Jacob's clothing

how his father loved the fragrance.

And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: (Genesis 27:27)

The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon.

Now He praises her works

righteousness as a "garment".

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon.

Sanctification is also in view

- robes of righteousness
- which causes good works.

She is a bride bought at a price & is dearly loved.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride;

Here we are introduced to a "garden".

Solomon made many gardens and orchards.

I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: (Ecclesiastes 2:5-6)

Palaces had tremendous gardens. They were usually enclosed or hedged in for privacy. Only the owner and those He wished could come and enjoy.

12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride;

Often eastern wives would be kept in these gardens for their delight and the delight of their husband.

A "garden" here describes the church

beautiful and giving pleasure to the owner.



12 You are a garden <u>locked up</u>, my sister, my bride;

The garden is "enclosed" or "locked up" because we belong to Christ alone as

He has bought us

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37)

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (John 15:19)

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. (Psalm 4:3)

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain.

Being enclosed and "sealed" show us the church's safety, protection, separation, distinctiveness, purity, and character.

Christ loves to dwell with a church like that.

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

(Isaiah 58:11)

Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. (Jeremiah 31:12)

Lover (4:12) you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain.

You can picture Christ walking amongst His garden that is "sealed" by His Holy Spirit

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were <u>sealed with that holy Spirit</u> of promise, (Ephesians 1:13)

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby <u>ye are sealed</u> unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits,

The church is a fragrant, aromatic garden "with choice fruits" (fruitfulness).



Lover (4:13-14)

with henna and nard, 14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices.

Now saffron, calamus, cinnamon, and aloes have been added to henna, nard, frankincense (incense), myrrh, and pomegranates. Note the nine representing each of the "fruit of the Spirit".

(see teaching on the nine fruit of the Spirit at the end of this presentation).

These do not grow naturally in Palestinian Gardens. Natural is sin. But supernatural is the product of divine grace.

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:3)

15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.

We see life, refreshment, fertility, and abundance which is what flows out of Christ into His church. This would also water many gardens and have outward effects.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (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.)

(John 7:37-39)

15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.

The church is shut up and sealed by Christ for Himself. From every believer life flows so that Christ is glorified through His church.

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:14)

15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. **(Ephesians 3:8-13)**

Beloved: (4:16) 16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind!

We now have the bride speaking for the first time in this chapter. We see her wanting more of the Holy Spirit while in His garden.



Beloved: (4:16)

¹⁶ Awake, north wind, and come, south wind!

The "wind" is the Holy Spirit

Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the <u>wind</u>, prophesy, son of man, and say to the <u>wind</u>, Thus saith the Lord GOD; <u>Come from the four winds</u>, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. (Ezekiel 37:9 - revival)

The <u>wind</u> bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

(John 3:8 - regeneration)

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:2 - Pentecost)

Beloved: (4:16) 16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind!

The wind and Holy Spirit are powerful, unseen, and yet cause great outcomes. They revive, cool, refresh, and are very needed especially in a dry and parched land.



Beloved: (4:16)

16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind!

The "north wind" is a cold wind. Here we see conviction, awakening, and exposing.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (John 16:8).

The "south wind" is warming, kindling,

healing, refreshing, comforting.

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; (Ephesians 3:16).

The north wind needs to "awake" the church.

The south wind needs to "come" upon the church.

Beloved: (4:16)

<u>Blow</u> on my garden,
that its <u>fragrance</u> may spread <u>abroad</u>.

Here is a request from the bride for Christ's breath to "blow" on her garden so that she will be cleansed (sanctified) and her spiritual life fruitful.

She also desires for the "fragrance" to be spread "abroad" to the ends of the earth.

Beloved: (4:16)
Let my lover <u>come into his garden</u> and taste its choice fruits.

She wants more of Jesus. She wants Him to

"come into His garden" and "taste its choice fruits".

Song of Solomon Ch.5 Lover: (5:1)

¹ I have <u>come</u> into my <u>garden</u>, my sister, my bride;

Christ has "come" quickly and without delay.

He was there anyways but now His presence is felt.

Christ is in the "garden" (His church).

Lover: (5:1)

I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.

They have "gathered" for a celebration.

They have "eaten" at a feast.

They have "drunk" at a banquet.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

Can you sense and feel the utter delight of Christ to be with His bride here.

Not only in fellowship but "gathering, eating, drinking" together. This is

answered prayer from the bride in 4:16.

Lover: (5:1)

I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.

"Wine" and "milk" were often mixed in this culture.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1)



Daughters of Jerusalem (friends) (5:1)

Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.

They want all His "friends" to share His joy.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:11,15)

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines. (Isaiah 25:6)

They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. (Psalm 36:8)

Daughters of Jerusalem (friends) (5:1) Eat, O <u>friends</u>, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.

Oh to be called a "friend" of God!!! The perfect "friend", Jesus, teaching us to be His friend.

So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. (Hebrew 1:4)

Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

(Hebrews 2:11)

Beloved (5:2)

² I <u>slept</u> but my heart was <u>awake</u>.

Here we see another bad night by the bride. She has been indifferent, careless, and nonchalant to Christ. She has caused Him to leave for a season again leaving her empty.

Here she is partially "awake" and partially "asleep". Not really dreaming but not really awake.

To have "slept" and to be "awake" is a picture of our relationship with Christ. We sleep around Christ in our daily walk. We awake to our need and love for Him.

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt 26:41)

Beloved (5:2) Listen!

Ah, she hears Him. He is here. He recognizes her condition.

He comes...

Beloved (5:2)
My lover is knocking:

Here He knocks. He is "knocking" on the door. She finally hears His knocking as she draws close.

Lover: (5:2)

Open to me, <u>my sister</u>, <u>my darling</u>, <u>my dove</u>, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night."

He speaks with affection, love, sweetness wanting to be together. "My sister" (family bonds of love);

"my darling" (deep love); "my dove" (gentle purity).

He is not blaming/condemning. She knows her error.

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." (Job 1:8)

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7) Lover: (5:2)

"Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is <u>drenched with dew</u>, my hair with <u>the dampness of the night</u>."

"Open to me" is a heart calling out to be responded to.

How can we continually say "no" to His loving heart wanting a response?

In "drenched with dew" and "the dampness of the night" we can imagine a husband being shut outside the door or locked out on a rainy night.

How disgraceful for a husband to be locked out!! Yet He never departs but "knocks" repeatedly.

Beloved: (5:3)

³ I have taken off my robe – must I put it on again?
I have washed my feet – must I soil them again?

But the bride responds saying that she is retired for the night. She makes excuses but really she is "unwilling".

She has made a choice.

How we make excuse after excuse when Christ knocks?

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,

(Luke 12:35)

Beloved: (5:3)

³ I have taken off my robe – must I put it on again? I have washed my feet – must I soil them again?

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Romans 13:11)

This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (Ephesians 5:14)

So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. (1 Thessalonnians 5:6)

Beloved: (5:3)

³ I have taken off my robe – must I put it on again? I have washed my feet – must I soil them again?

This is shades of how we sometimes treat our missionaries,

"Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

(2 Samuel 11:15).

Can you see the picture of the church sending out the missionary to do the hard work and then "withdrawing" from them so they will be struck down and die?

Why let them be struck down and die? Because the reports of the needs, miracles, and moving of God are "convicting hearts." Just imagine David's heart when the Spirit convicted him as Nathan spoke. (see Psalm 51)

Beloved: (5:4)

⁴ My lover thrust his hand through the latchopening; my heart began to pound for him.

The groom "thrusts his hand" (although the heart is the motivating/driving force) "through the latch-opening".

After all it is His house. He has bought and paid for it with His blood.

As she sees His hand thrust through she begins to be deeply aroused. Her "heart began to pound for Him". She has been deeply aroused and moved by His love – His unrelenting love. She has been moved and convicted.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

(2 Corinthians 7:10)

Beloved: (5:5)

⁵ I arose to open for my <u>lover</u>, and my hands dripped with <u>myrrh</u>, my fingers with flowing <u>myrrh</u>, on the handles of the lock.

It is remarkable that even while she has not fully turned her heart back to Him, she calls Him her "lover". What reassurance that her position never changes.

Here she is still enamored with the "myrrh". He, just HIM, has not totally stolen her heart. She is side tracked by the "myrrh".

Sometimes we get sidetracked by the "gifts" instead of "the Giver". We need to realize that He is the

"essence" of every good and perfect gift.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Beloved: (5:6)

⁶ I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure.

Imagine her shock to see that He is "gone". Her lover knew her "heart" completely. She had delayed and her "heart" was more involved in the "gifts than the giver".

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. (Psalm 119:60)

Beloved: (5:6)

⁶ I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure.

What a surprise and shock and disappointment

– her "heart sank at his departure".

She cannot stand it. She has tasted and seen that the Lord is good. She must do something.

Christ's love is compelling her.

She is being drawn to do something

to stop the idleness.

Beloved: (5:6)

I <u>looked</u> for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.

Is she looking in the wrong places?
Is her heart not right with God?
Is she not hearing her Husband's voice?
Has she truly learned the lesson?

Beloved: (5:7)

⁷ The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!

These ministers of God are correcting and instructing her.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every

good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

God disciplines those He loves.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double- edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; (Isaiah 42:3)

Beloved: (5:8)

8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you - if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love.

She hasn't totally learnt from the guidance and rebuke of the ministers of the Gospel for she charges the young in Christ (daughter of Jerusalem) what to tell Him.

Her heart though is beginning to turn more towards Him. She confesses that she is lovesick. She confesses that her heart is broken and torn asunder without Him.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. (Prov.13:12)

She is asking the daughters of Jerusalem to intercede for her. Ah, the "prayer of a righteous man availeth much".

Daughters of Jerusalem (5:9)

⁹ How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?

These "babes in Christ" love Jesus. Yet they want to hear more about Christ from someone who has known Him intimately. They want to hear from a mature believer.

This is the most beautiful lead in question for EVANGELISM. We should all be able to answer this question when asked or given the chance.

How is Christ better than others?

Why do you love Jesus?

What does Jesus mean to you?

Can we answer those questions?

Beloved: (5:10)

¹⁰ My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.

She begins to tell of her love for her Husband. Her heart opens up and she spills all that is in her heart.

The words are vibrant & real

yet cannot totally express all that He is to her.

My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.

You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever. (Psalm 45:1-2)

Beloved: (5:10)

¹⁰ My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.

She starts from His general appearance and then works down His body (a full length picture of Him). Then finally His mouth in verse 16. We can see something very similar when we see Christ as the glorified Judge in Rev.1:12-16.

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

He is magnificent, incomparable, unfathomable.

Beloved: (5:10)

10 My lover is <u>radiant</u> and <u>ruddy</u>, outstanding among ten thousand.

"Radiant" speaks of white, dazzling, bright, shimmering.
Imagine the transfiguration. God on the mountain just like He was with Moses
& Elijah in all His Holiness & purity.

"Ruddy" is talking of a fresh, healthy, colorful complexion.

He is healthy and manly.

Beloved: (5:10)

¹⁰ My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.

"Outstanding" speaks of being set apart from others.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. (Isaiah 11:10)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

(Philippians 2:9)

So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and

handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." (1 Samuel 16:12)

Beloved: (5:10)

¹⁰ My lover is <u>radiant</u> and <u>ruddy</u>, <u>outstanding</u> among ten thousand.

Here we see Christ, like on the Mount of Transfiguration, in His divinity as "radiant".

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

(Hebrews 1:3)

Here we also see Christ, as manly,

in His humanity as "ruddy".

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. (Hebrews 7:26)

Beloved: (5:11)

His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven.

Now starting from the head down, we see "His head is purest gold". Imagine a wonderfully sculptured head shining in the "purest" (no impurities) "gold" (divinity).

"His hair is wavy" talks of the locks (area around the temples) flowing in clusters.

"Black as a raven" is added to show the glimmering, shiny, jet black color of His hair.

The "black" showing youth, vigor, vitality.

Beloved: (5:11)

His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven.

Although He is the "Ancient of days", He is also youthful and healthy – never changing but always the same.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, (Ephesians 1:22)

and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:10)

Beloved: (5:11)

His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven.

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:18)

So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless. (Ecclesiastes 11:10)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Remember that He had no place to lay His head.

Beloved: (5:12)

¹² His <u>eyes are like doves</u> by the water streams, washed in milk, <u>mounted like jewels</u>.

His "eyes like doves" show Christ's tender, loving, graceful, sympathetic, and consoling nature.

You can imagine pupil of His eyes surrounded by the clear, milky white of the eye.

"mounted like jewels" show how they are placed like a diamond set in a ring.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt 11:29)

By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away! (2 Corinthians 10:1)

Beloved: (5:12)

¹² His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels.

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." (2 Tim.2:19)

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.

(2 Chronicles 16:9)

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third

time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you
know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

(John 21:17)

Beloved: (5:13)

¹³ His <u>cheeks</u>

are like beds of spice <u>yielding perfume</u>.

The "cheeks" that had His beard plucked out from.

The "cheeks" that were slapped, beaten, punched, and struck.

The "cheeks" that tears rolled down as He wept over Jerusalem.

I offered my back to those who beat me, my <u>cheeks</u> to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6)

Here we see the fragrance of Christ in his humiliation and suffering, agonizing pain and death

how sweet, delightful, and yielding.

¹³ His <u>cheeks</u>

are like beds of spice yielding perfume.

If this be only the "cheeks", imagine the beauty of His whole face as we seek Him with all our heart.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)

and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for usas a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh.

"His lips" are red representing His life and vitality of life.

"His lips" spoke words of comfort, hope, endearment, encouragement, conviction, creative power, life-giving teaching, rebuke, kindness, love, life, miracles, etc.

Beloved: (5:13) His lips are like lilies <u>dripping</u> with <u>myrrh</u>.

"Dripping" signifies a flowing or abundance of "myrrh"

the beauty of Christ's words.

"No man ever spoke like this man!!" (John 7:46)

His words minister to us at the core of our being.

You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.

(Psalm 45:2)

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,

wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. (Isaiah 50:4)

Beloved: (5:13) His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.By them your servant is warned;

in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:10-11)

"No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied. (John 7:46)

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16)

¹⁴ His arms

are <u>rods</u> of gold set with chrysolite.

His strength is portrayed here. Imagine the strength or "rods" of the pure, divine power (gold) set (placed firmly) in an almost diamond-like stone.

"His left <u>arm</u> is behind my head and his right <u>arm</u> embraces me." [Song of Songs 2:6; 8:3].

"His arms" are "everlasting arms" that reach from eternity past to eternity future – without end. "His arms" hold us so firm and tight and yet, gentle and caringly.

We can lean on the everlasting arms of Christ. As Moses' arms fell and had to be held up or the battle turned against the Israelites – Christ needs no one to hold up His arms

for He holds "all things" in His loving arms.

His body

is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires.

He gleams brighter than the sun

- for He made the sun. His

"body" is youthful

- yet it was whipped, beaten, bloodied, and sun beaten.

Oh, to be held tightly against His body knowing

everything is alright.

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

(Isaiah 40:11)

¹⁵ His legs

are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold.

Strength is portrayed here. His "legs" hurt as they carried our Saviour throughout Galilee on His mission of love.

Those same "legs" would be push Himself up on the cross so that He would be able to catch a breath. Then, those "legs" would fall down being held up by a Roman nail. They were too tired to carry Jesus up to Calvary. They fell down on the paved, rocky roads of Jerusalem. The back of his legs and calves hurt as they were whipped again and again.

And we shall see His "legs" stand on and split the mountain when He returns in power and glory at the Revelation.

On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. (Zechariah 14:4)

His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars.

"His appearance" or everything about Him was excellent.

Just as these cedars of Lebanon were

they stood out far and above the others.

Some day we will stand before Him. He will stand tall, erect, and grand.

Nothing in ourselves will be able to claim entry into His Kingdom. We will know that fact then more than ever. And we will look, as Thomas did, at His pierced hands and feet and know "it was because of what He did at the cross that we have access into heaven."

Amazing grace!!!!
We deserve HELL and we have HIM and HIS
GLORIOUS RICHES!!

16 His mouth

is sweetness itself;

Jesus' "mouth" and what comes forth of it is the essence of "sweetness itself".

"His mouth" is the instrument of His affectionate kisses, of His all-wise voice, of His all beautiful looks, and nothing in all the world compares with the "sweetness" of Him.

he is

altogether lovely.

In His person, His offices (Prophet, Priest, King), His countenance, His being, His essence, His glory, His love, His perfection, etc.

- He is altogether lovely.

"and from Jesus Christ,
who is the faithful witness (Prophet),
the firstborn from the dead (Priest),
and the ruler of the kings of the earth (King)" (Revelation 1:5)

In all He does and in Who He is:

He is altogether lovely.

he is altogether lovely.

He is the "All-in-all".

He is the Essence

- the Beginning and the End
- the Alpha and the Omega.

It is HE – HIM – JESUS – GOD – LORD – THE ESSENCE.

He is the Essence of Altogether Lovely.

"There is none like you,

No one else can touch my heart like you do,

I could search the whole world over and find, There is none like you." Beloved: (5:16)
This is my lover,
this is my friend,
O daughters of Jerusalem.

EVANGELISM.....

We study it, we teach it, we talk about it, we try it, we get discouraged with it, we dread it, we experience the joys of it. Yet, here is the sum of all evangelism:

"This is my lover, this is my friend."

The intimacy only those who by grace can receive of a "lover" – now shared with others who will listen and open their heart, ears, and soul. The "friend" that encapsulates what a friend is all about – a friend who lays down His life for His brother.

This is <u>my lover</u>, this is <u>my friend</u>, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Don't you just want to tell people who ask you,

"How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?"

The answer is,

"This is my lover, this is my friend."

He is altogether lovely.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)

Beloved: (5:16)
This is my lover,
this is my friend,
O daughters of Jerusalem.

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (John 13:1)

I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. (Psalm 34:2)

Chapter 6 Daughters of Jerusalem: (6:1)

¹ Where has your lover gone, most beautiful of women? Which way did your lover turn, that we may look for him with you?

From earlier asking how to help the bride find her husband to here, where they want to discover along with the bride "where" He is.

Here we see the young in Christ and the Bride seeking and finding Christ. This is the church's duty and mission

- then to take Him to a lost world.

Daughters of Jerusalem (6:1) 1 Where has your lover gone, most beautiful of women? Which way did your lover turn, that we may look for him with you?

The delight of the Bride in her Husband and her desire to find Him has ignited the same interest in the young of the church. Next, may they draw sinners to Christ.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. (Psalms 24:6)

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's: (1 Corinthians 1:2)

Beloved: (6:2)

² My lover has gone down to his garden,

Here we see the bride has an answer all ready. Again, the "garden" (4:12; 5:1) is the corporate church gathered out of the world. Jesus is in His church and is with His own.

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:3)

I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. (Isaiah 27:3)

Christ is the bridegroom and the head of the church.

Beloved: (6:2) to browse in the <u>gardens</u> and <u>to gather lilies.</u>

"gardens" could be different parts of the body of Christ and "to gather lilies" is to be with and draw closer His believers. Heaven is a place of gathered lilies.

"to gather lilies" is a beautiful and touching thing in Christ's heart. He gathers, caresses, smells their fragrance, and plants them for the display of His splendor.

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: (Philippians 1:23)

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)

Beloved: (6:3)

³ I am my lover's and my lover is mine; he browses among the lilies.

In 2:16 she says, "My lover is mine, and I am his." Now she says,

"I am my lover's and my lover is mine."

She has gone from "He is mine" to "I am His".

You can see the maturing happening in her as she has gone from her claim upon her.

Jesus is becoming her all consuming thought.

Finally, she wants to enjoy Christ among the church. She loves Him and she loves the church.

⁴ You are beautiful, my darling, as Tirzah,

Now we see the "Lover" opening up His heart fully to her again. She has returned to Him in repentance & can enter His rest.

For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. (Isaiah 30:15)

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. (John 21:18-19)

⁴ You are beautiful, my darling, as <u>Tirzah</u>,

"You are beautiful" should be meditated on again and again. Jesus says "You are beautiful". Is He a liar? Of course not.

"You are beautiful."

"Tirzah" was a Samaritan city meaning pleasantness, sweetness, delight, and agreeable

a lovely city with gardens, groves, abundant water.

Lover: (6:4) lovely as Jerusalem,

"Jerusalem" is more striking than Tirzah. It means peace and was considered the place where God dwelt.

All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth? (Lamentations 2:15)

The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee,

O city of God. Selah. (Psalm 87:2-3) (see Psalms 48; 122)

We look forward to the New Jerusalem;

untainted, full of Christ's peace, and eternal.

majestic as troops with banners.

We see here the Lord's army going forth, with the "banner" of love, with the "majestic" King leading.

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Rev.1:6) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;

but be filled with the Spirit; (Ephesians 5:18)

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the

bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

(1 John 5:4)

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

(Titus 2:10)

Lover: (6:4) majestic as troops with banners.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? (Joshua 5:14)

Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. (Psalm 110:3)

And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. (Joshua 2:11)

There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you. (Deuteronomy.11:25)

Lover: (6:4) majestic as troops with banners.

Beauty, loveliness, majesty, dignity, power, and grace

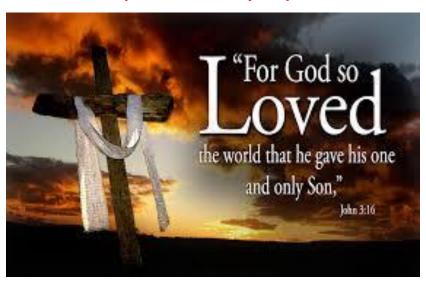
- the Lord's army under Christ.

She is beautiful to Christ

and to be feared by her adversaries.

(2 Cor.6:16-7:1; 1 Thess.5:12-15; 2 Cor.10:3-6,

Eph. 6:10-11; Heb.13:7,17; Phil.1:27-28)



Lover: (6:5)
⁵ Turn your <u>eyes</u> from me; they <u>overwhelm</u> me.

Our "eyes" are so full of love for Jesus.

When our Lover looks at us, just one look

"overwhelms" Him

deeply affecting and moving Him.

So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty:

for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. (Psalm 45:11)

Lover: (6:5-7)

Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead. [see 4:1b] ⁶ Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is alone. [see 6:6 compare 4:2] ⁷ Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. [see 6:7 compare 4:3b]

True love repeats itself again and again. You never tire of hearing words of love.

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. (Philippians 3:1)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.

(2 Samuel 23:5)

8 Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number;

All put together and lined up in a row these would not compare to the beauty of His bride.

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

(1 Kings 11:3)

Also note the ascending order 60, 80, beyond number.

Lover: (6:9) ⁹ but my dove, my perfect one, is unique,

Christ's bride is His only heart's desire. She is the one

the only one for Him. No other can be compared to her.
 Jesus gives her His undivided love and attention.

He also loves her uniqueness – her beautiful uniqueness.

There is none like her.

the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her.

She was unique as the "only one born by her mother".

She was her mother's "favorite" - there was

none other.

For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. (Proverbs 4:3)

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.

Christ's bride is pre-eminent among women – she is acknowledged without jealousy by all other women.

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; (Phil.2:15)

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (2 Thess.1:10)

Whereas thou has been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. (Isaiah 60:15)

The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.

And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed. (Isaiah 61:9)

And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:7)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Eph.1:3-4)

The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.

Jesus loves to hear others speak delightfully about His bride. He is so proud of her.

Imagine the jealousy of Solomon's wives and concubines

yet here there is no jealousy.

Even the angels aren't jealous of the Bride of Christ.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.

Also, the church is one company

even though it has many different sized congregations.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Daughters of Jerusalem (6:10)

10 Who is this that appears like the <u>dawn</u>, fair as the <u>moon</u>, bright as the <u>sun</u>, majestic as the <u>stars</u> in procession?

Here we see the church. Notice the church gets brighter – dawn, moon, sun, stars (many brighter than our sun). We break forth like the "moon" shining in the "dawn".

Then we shine bright as the "sun".

Finally we are like the "stars" of the sky without number (each of us He knows and calls by name).



Daughters of Jerusalem (6:10) 10 Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

We also see here the progressive sanctification of the believer – although perfect in Christ's sight positionally.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (John 15:3)

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Yet.....

Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

.....we are still being sanctified as a process......

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. (1

Thess.5:23-24)

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (Philippians 1:6)

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. (Proverbs 4:18)

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, (Galatians 4:19)

Daughters of Jerusalem (6:10) 10 Who is this that <u>appears like the dawn</u>, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

"appears like the dawn"

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

(Isaiah 58:8)

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)

¹⁰ Who is this that appears like the dawn, <u>fair as the moon</u>, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

"fair as the moon"

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night:

he made the stars also. (Gen.1:16)

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

(Matthew 5:14)

¹⁰ Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

"bright as the sun"

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. (Gen.1:16)

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

(Malachi 4:2)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor.3:18)

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Matt.13:43)

(see also: Judges 5:31; Daniel 12:3)

¹⁰ Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, <u>majestic as the stars in procession?</u>

"majestic as the stars in procession"

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. (Matthew 16:18)

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:20)

¹¹ I went down to the grove of nut trees

The lover is speaking here in line with 5:1 & 6:2.

Here we have the Husband explaining what had happened when He

withdrew Himself from the bride for a season.

The "grove of nut trees" is showing how in that season the church must go through many tribulations in entering the Kingdom of God. The bride had experienced this.

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

¹¹ I went down to the grove of nut trees

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. (Psalm 125:2)

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

(John 17:15)



to look at the <u>new growth</u> in the valley, to see if <u>the vines had budded</u> or the pomegranates were in bloom.

Now we see why Christ went down to the grove of nut trees.

He was keeping watch

and seeing how His garden (church) was doing.

"new growth" is the gardener's heart seeing the "budding vines" and "pomegranates in bloom".

Jesus loves to see how His life is being expressed through His church.

to look at the <u>new growth</u> in the valley, to see if <u>the vines had budded</u> or <u>the pomegranates were in bloom</u>.

We can see the different stages of grace: the bud, the blossom and the fruit.

His disciples bearing much fruit is a joy to the Gardener.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. (Matthew 17:20)

to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom.

"the valley" is part of the "ups and downs" of our walk:

"the mountain top experiences"

verses

"coming off the mountain".

We experience great spiritual pleasures

and also dry, faith testing times.



God Of The Mountain

Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain And you've got peace of mind, like you've never known But things change, when you're down in the valley Don't lose faith, for your never alone

Chorus:

For the God on the mountain, is still God in the valley When things go wrong, he'll make them right And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times The God of the day, is still God in the night

We talk of faith way up on the mountain But talk comes easy, when life's at its best Now its down in the valleys, trials and temptations That's where your faith is really put to the test

For the God on the mountain, is still God in the valley, When things go wrong, he'll make them right And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times The God of the day, is still God in the night The God of the day, is still God in the night

12 Before I realized it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people.

From being shunned by His bride, to going down to the garden of nuts,

to attending to things in the garden of nuts.

Then His bride repented,

her returning to Him and ravishing Him (6:5).

So He returns and enjoys the beauty of His people

("the royal chariots of my people" – kings and priests).

Daughters of Jerusalem: (6:13) 13 Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you!

Beautiful restored fellowship is here. "Come back" is repeated 4 times

holy earnestness and offer of pardon and

wonderful welcome

are expressed through this repetition.

Jesus answered and said unto him,

If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we
will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

(John 14:23)

Lover: (6:13)

Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?

In the second part of this verse we have the Bridegroom still rejoicing in His restoration and communion between them both.

"Why would you gaze" is an overwhelming sight:

she is grace displayed,

redeemed by Christ,

an enchanting bride,

and an oak of righteousness

- a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.

Lover: (6:13)

Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?

"the dance of Mahanaim" could be likened to the heavenly angels in their multitude celebrating a new convert. Oh the joy!!

As well they are rejoicing in their Creator and His beauty!!

Here we have the bride dancing and rejoicing because of the

Groom's grace!!!

Song of Solomon Ch.7 Lover: (7:1)

¹ How beautiful your <u>sandaled feet</u>, O prince's daughter!

Your <u>graceful legs</u> are like jewels,
the work of a craftsman's hands.

The action of the dance of the bride described above may be what is being described here.

In this area we see 10 different areas of the Bride's body.

Her "sandaled feet" (costly and beautiful in the orient)

- the feet of a dancer rejoicing and delighting!!

The beautiful shape and "graceful" appearance

of her "legs"

made by Christ's creative power and enjoyed by Christ.
 How beautiful as she dances for her Creator and Husband.

¹ How beautiful your sandaled feet, O <u>prince's daughter!</u>
Your graceful legs are like jewels,
the work of a craftsman's hands.

"prince's daughter" is a new name & new title for her. We see the royal birth, character and station of those in Christ.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Eph.1:4)

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

(Rom.8:17)

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them. (1 Sam.2:8)

(see: Revelation 1:6; 1 Pet.1:18-19; Psa.113:7-8; 1 Pet.2:9-10)

¹ How beautiful your <u>sandaled feet</u>, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands.

"The work of a craftsman's hands" – the beauty of holiness

- the work of the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:14)

"sandaled feet" show us our daily walk as God's

workmanship

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph.2:8-10)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.

These things are good and profitable unto men. (Titus 3:8)

² Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.

We see a "goblet" filled with "wine"

this is how He sees His bride here
 with whom she's entertaining.



² Your <u>navel</u> is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.

The "naval" is the center of the body (infants and adults).

Fear of the Lord is represented here as the "naval" provided the life for the child and we should never forget the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (Proverbs 3:8)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.(Proverbs 9:10)

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

(Galatians 6:8)

² Your navel is a rounded goblet that <u>never lacks</u> blended wine. Your <u>waist</u> is <u>a mound of wheat encircled by lilies</u>.

"never lacks" should remind us not to lack in or forget the "fear of the Lord".

The "waist" here shows fruitfulness and the delights of Christ.

"a mound of wheat encircled by lilies" brings in thoughts of beauty,

fruitfulness, health and vitality.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38)

³ Your <u>breasts</u> are <u>like two fawns</u>, twins of a gazelle.

These "breasts" "like two fawns" show us beauty, fruitfulness, nourishment.

A bride is to be commended for bearing, nourishing, and bringing up children.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. (Psalm 128:3)

And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. (Gen.29:34)

And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. (Luke 1:24-25)

⁴ Your neck is like an <u>ivory</u> tower.

The "ivory" is:

white (washed from their sins)

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isa.1:18)

costly (the precious blood of Christ redeemed us)

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Pet.1:19)

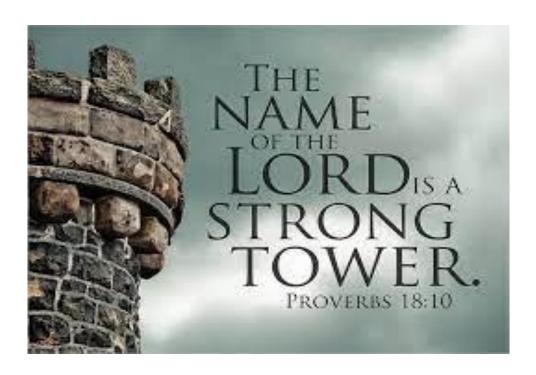
precious (how God regards us).

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Pet.1:7)

⁴ Your neck is like an ivory tower.

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower" (Proverbs 18:10)

She is His and He is hers.



Your <u>eyes</u> are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim.

The "pools of Heshbon"

would have reminded the Groom of the bride's "eyes" – large, clear, deep, attractive, desirable.

The meeting of our eyes with Christ is "hypnotic" and "captivating".

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor.4:6)

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (Eph.1:17-18)

Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward <u>Damascus</u>.

Some cultures consider a large "nose" as attractive.

Here we see courage and watchfulness. Here we see the courageous, watchful church over the dangers of "Damascus"

(represented here as the enemy of the church).

The church's enemies fighting against the church's doctrine, testimony, even her life.

Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a <u>watch</u> against them day and night, because of them. (Neh.4:9) And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. (Neh.4:16-17)

⁵ Your <u>head crowns</u> you like Mount Carmel. Your <u>hair</u> is like <u>royal tapestry</u>;

The "head" considered as the "crown" and "protection" can be found here.

And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. [Psalm 27:6]

"Royal tapestry" for the "hair" reminds us of

the royalty of purple. We might note that

"jet black hair" shines with a purple luster.

⁵ Your head crowns you like <u>Mount Carmel</u>. Your hair is like royal tapestry;

"Mount Carmel" is a high mountain near the sea.

And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: (Amos 9:3) (see 1 Kings 18)

It means "fruitful place" and exhibits boldness.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. (Isaiah 35:2)

the king is held captive

by its <u>tresses</u>.

"Tresses" means "to run or to flow".

"the King is held captive" by the way her hair cascades down like a waterfall.

But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. (1 Cor.11:15)

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

(see also: Psalm 45:11; Zephaniah 3:17)

⁶ How <u>beautiful</u> you are and how <u>pleasing</u>, O love, with your delights!

Other than 8:13, this is the Lover's last statements.

"Beautiful" and "pleasing" show us the outer and inner beauty of His bride the church.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. (Isa.61:10)

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Romans 13:14)

⁶ How <u>beautiful</u> you are and how pleasing, O love, with your <u>delights</u>!

Notice Jesus continually tells His bride of her "beauty". Jesus never tires of telling us of His love for us and how beautiful we are.

The Lord "delights" in you and we have many "delights" that appeal to our Lord

Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD <u>delighteth</u> in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom <u>rejoiceth</u> <u>over the bride</u>, so shall thy God <u>rejoice over thee</u>. (Isa.62:4-5)

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. (Zeph.3:17)

Iover: (7:7) 7 Your stature is like that of the palm,

The date "palm" tree here is tall and slender showing stateliness, gracefulness, and elegance. He takes a "full length" look at her.

We also see the Christian's uprightness, balance, proportion, steady growth, and ultimate glorious victory.

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of <u>palm</u> trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

(John 12:12-13)

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and <u>palms</u> in their hands; (Rev.7:9)

⁷ Your <u>stature</u> is like that of the <u>palm</u>,

The righteous shall flourish like the <u>palm</u> tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; (Psalm 92:12-14)

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (Eph.4:13)



and <u>your breasts</u> like clusters of fruit.

By "your breasts" we see the love and affection

displayed to her husband

and how the husband is entertained and fulfilled.

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. (Proverbs 5:19)

and your breasts like clusters of fruit.

The palm tree full of "clusters of fruit" would be seen as flourishing just like the believer's spiritual life is ripening and blossoming.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: (Gal.5:22-23)

To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. (Psalm 92:15)

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Isa.61:3)

⁸ I said, "I will <u>climb the palm tree</u>; I will take hold of its fruit."

We can imagine the speed and eagerness of Christ "climbing the tree". Embracing the tree to climb it (enjoying the moment to its fullest). Once taking "hold of the fruit", He would be nourished, refreshed, and fulfilled.

Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. (Proverbs 8:31)

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (Isa.53:11)

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised; (Heb.10:23)

288

Lover: (7:8)

May your <u>breasts</u> be like the <u>clusters of the vine</u>,

Now we see the "breasts" like "clusters of the vine".

As the bride abides in Christ she becomes fruitful (clusters).

I am the <u>vine</u>, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:

for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Thou hast brought a <u>vine</u> out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. (Psalm 80:8)

Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this <u>vine</u>; (Psalm 80:14)

For the <u>vineyard</u> of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry. (Isaiah 5:7)

Lover: (7:8)

May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine,

There is also pruning and affliction involved.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

(John 15:2)

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22) Lover: (7:8-9)

the fragrance of your breath like apples, 9 and your mouth like the best wine.

"Clusters of the vine", "the fragrance your breath like apples", and "the best wine" show us the richness of the deep fellowship Christ enjoys with His bride

For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. (Psalm 149:4)

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive. (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

Lover: (7:8-9)

the fragrance of your <u>breath</u> like apples, ⁹ and your <u>mouth</u> like the best wine.

The "breath" and "mouth" here show intense love from the bride to Him.

We can see here our desires, longings, confessions, repentances, sighs, groans, thanksgivings, and praises.

Beloved: (7:9)

May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth.

The bride breaks in here.

She grabs the words and finishes what He's saying.

She is who she is because of her Husband.

Everything is for her Husband.

Her love, desires, praises, serving,

and all her being is for Him.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Phil.1:21)

Beloved: (7:10)

10 I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

"desire" expresses the full assurance of: "hope"

And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: (Heb.6:11),

"faith"

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of <u>faith</u>, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (Heb.10:22),

"understanding"

That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of <u>understanding</u>, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father,

and of Christ; (Col.2:2).

Beloved: (7:10) 10 I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

Jesus is:

Prophet (to teach us),

Priest (to die for us and intercede for us)

King (to govern us).

Jesus constantly "desires" His bride

- He constantly is moved to her
- He constantly thinks about her
 - He constantly cares for her.

Jesus bears with, sympathizes with, upholds, cares for, protects, guides, comforts, caresses, and loves her

- "His desire is for her".

Beloved: (7:11)

11 Come, my lover,

let us go to the countryside,
let us spend the night in the villages.

In "let us" written twice we see her desire to get away and be alone together.

That I may know him,

and the power of his resurrection,

and the fellowship of his sufferings,

being made conformable unto his death; (Phil.3:10)

Beloved: (7:12)

Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom

She desires to get up "early" to enjoy the beauty of His creation.

And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, <u>Let us go</u> again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do. (Acts 15:36)

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place,

and there prayed. (Mark 1:35)

Beloved: (7:12)

Let us go early to the <u>vineyards</u> to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom

She mentions the "vineyards" (villages / countryside v.11)

- she desires to get away from distractions
- to get "out of the world" and be with Him.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

(John 17:16)

Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach (Heb.13:13)

And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. (His bride was coming) (Gen.24:63)

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Matt.6:6)

Beloved: (7:12) there I will give you my love.

She is uninhibited.

Everything she has comes from Him and she wants to totally submit herself to Him.

Nothing is held back for the One she desires.

Our worship, fellowship, and service are all

ways to "give Him our love".

Beloved: (7:12)

there I will give you my love.

Here also is "the missionary call" – the countryside, the villages, the vineyards – she loves Him & wants to make Him known.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matt.28:19-20)

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. (Luke 14:23)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both <u>in Jerusalem</u>, and <u>in all Judaea</u>, and <u>in Samaria</u>, and <u>unto the uttermost part of the earth.</u> (Acts 1:8)

Beloved: (7:12) there I will give you my love.

The budding (communion), blossoms (spiritual growth), blooms (blessed service) all give a special meaning here.

I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me. Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom— there I will give you my love. (Song 7:10-12)

Beloved: (7:13)

¹³ The <u>mandrakes</u> send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover.

"Mandrakes" or love apples are a potent smelling plant

with whitish green flowers and yellow apples the size of nutmegs. They are something like an aphrodisiac

to stir up sexual desire and passion

and overcome problems of barrenness of the womb.

Here they are mentioned so as to show the bride's longing to bring joy and

pleasure to her Bridegroom.

We enjoy Christ but want Christ to enjoy us.

Beloved: (7:13)

¹³ The mandrakes send out their <u>fragrance</u>, and at our door is every <u>delicacy</u>, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover.

The fruits are "fragrant" as well as "delicacies".

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. (Rom.7:4)

He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD. (Psa.113:9)

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, (Gal.4:19)

(see also: Romans 5:3-5; Col.3:5-4:6; 2 Peter 1:5-11)

Beloved: (7:13)

¹³ The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover.

The fruits preserve "the old" and bring forth "the new" (the past, present and future graces).

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16)

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (Eph.1:7)

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. (John 12:3)

She has stored and saved everything up for her Lover.

What a joy and delight she is to Him.

Song of Solomon Ch.8 Beloved: (8:1)

¹ If only you were to me <u>like a brother</u>,
who was nursed at my mother's breasts!

"like a brother" shows kinship, closeness, and purity.

There is such a strong bond between next of kin

- those "nursed at their mother's breasts". She wants deeper

intimacy with Jesus and nothing else will do.

What shall I render unto the LORD

for all his benefits toward me? (Psa.116:12)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

How wonderful to be brother with Christ. (Heb.2:14; Pro.18:24)

Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me.

In eastern cultures, brothers and sister "would kiss" each other in public without causing offense

while a husband and wife would not do so.

What a beautiful thing it would be to be able to kiss Christ whenever and wherever we wanted to without approach or persecution.

² I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house - she who has taught me.

If she was able to treat Christ like her brother she would be free to follow Him

down paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

"mother's house" (3:4) is the church

and the believer's family.

² I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house - she who has taught me.

"she who taught me" shows the believer needing teaching, counsel, and guidance knowing it is Christ who can best give it.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. (Luke 10:39)

In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col.2:3)

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. (John 15:15)

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

(2 Pet.3:18)

I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates.

The desire of hers is still Christ

greater fellowship and intimacy.

"the nectar of my pomegranates" is shown here as the richest and most refreshing drink she could offer.



³ His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me.

Verse 2:6 & 8:3 are exactly the same. In verses 3-4 now she addresses the daughters of Jerusalem (the young in Christ).

She had just wanted to give royal pleasures to Christ but the real joy is Christ Himself for "the reality is found in Christ".

She wants to experience all Christ is "now"

while waiting for the completeness of Him in "heaven".

My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right

hand upholdeth me. (Ps.63:8)

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. (Deut.33:27)

⁴ Daughters of Jerusalem, <u>I charge you</u>: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

A new "charge" is given than those of 2:7 and 3:5.

She is in Christ's arms and enjoying perfect pleasure and doesn't want anything

to disturb her.

The "DO NOT DISTURB" sign is up.

The PRAYER CLOSET time is being protected.

He is her "all in all"

and she is keeping her "date" with the King

- private table and private room.

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:5)

⁵ Who is this coming up from the desert leaning on her lover?

The main word here is "leaning". This shows trust – undeniable trust.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

This is a wonderful description of a sinner being saved (Christ the sinner's help).

and a redeemed believer (Christ the believer's glorification) going safely to glory.

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people. (Psa.113:7-8)

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:5)

⁵ Who is this coming up from the desert leaning on her lover?

When a person is focused on Christ the past wilderness dissipates and the road to heaven becomes less laborious.

Neither is there salvation in any other:

for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (1 Cor.1:30)

Everything starts, progresses, and finishes with Christ

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)

Beloved: (8:6) Under the apple tree I roused you;

Now the bride is reminding the young in Christ of those earlier times of shared love and devotion she had with Him – times of shared intimacy.

"Under the apple tree" is to be near Him

trusting in Him, covered by Him, and refreshed by Him.

Note also that SHE "roused" Him.

She stirred His heart and moved Him.

We stir Christ's heart.

We can lean on our wonderful Savior and always

be safe, secure, and refreshed.

there your mother <u>conceived</u> you, there she who was in labor gave you <u>birth</u>.

Here we see Christ with the "travail of His soul"

"conceiving" and "giving birth" to the church.

Here we see Christ weeping and praying for His church in the Garden

- knowing the "joy set before Him" would be the birth of the church
 - His bride.

⁶ Place me like a <u>seal</u> over your <u>heart</u>, like a <u>seal</u> on your arm;

The ancient custom was to wear signet rings, stones, metal seals or cords on hands, wrists or pendants around the neck and hanging over the "heart".

The beloved person's picture might be engraved showing they were loved, owned and possessed by that person.

Christ's bride is not ashamed of Him.

She is proud to wear Him on her "heart".

⁶ Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm;

She longs to have the fact of being "sealed for the day of redemption" deepened in her heart in her daily experience.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Rev.3:12)

With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold. And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial. (Ex.28:11-12)

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are <u>sealed unto the day of</u> <u>redemption</u>. (Ephesians 4:30)

⁶ Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm;

But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. (Isa.49:14-16)

In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:23)

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

(Eph.1:13-14)

Beloved: (8:6) for love is as strong as death,

"Death" is the world's greatest preacher for, unless you are Raptured, it will be faced by all of us.

Yet the power of "death" is surpassed by the "love" of Christ – for it was the power of Christ's love that took Him

to the cross to conquer death.

"Death" had power over us all. A power to fear and dread.

Now Christ's life has the ultimate power

- the power of "love", trust, and permanence.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

(1 Cor.15:54-55)

for love is as strong as death,

He will swallow up <u>death</u> in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. (Isa.25:8)

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes. (Hos.13:14)

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matt.1:21)

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. (Psa.16:11)

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also <u>loved</u> the church, and gave himself for it; (Eph.5:25)

Beloved: (8:6) its <u>jealousy</u> unyielding as the grave.

Christ's divine "jealousy" is intense. He will not share His worship with another nor give His glory to another for He is the eternal, living, and only God.

Christ's love for the church is a possessive love. He longs to hold her and never let her go.

In a holy sense, "jealousy" is the highest degree of love.

Because of Christ's holy, perfect love

He desires to hold on to the church as His forever.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Beloved: (8:6) its <u>jealousy</u> unyielding as the grave.

"Jealousy" can also be interpreted as "zeal"

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; (Ex.20:5)

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:

I would thou wert cold or hot. (Rev.3:15)

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy:

for I have espoused you to one husband,

that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (2 Cor.11:2)

its jealousy unyielding as the grave.

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. (John 10:17-18)

For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. (Psa.69:9)

And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. (John 2:17) "unyielding as the grave" shows that Christ will not "give up" His church for anyone or anything. He takes complete possession of His bride and she is totally taken up with

HIM.

It <u>burns like blazing fire</u>, like a <u>mighty flame</u>.

Christ's love for His bride is a "burning, blazing fire" that will never be extinguished. The "flames" reach to the heavens, encompass the universe, and fill heaven itself. As we "fan into flames" the gifts God has given us

 Christ continually "fans into flames" the gift His Father gave Him and us as the gift He gave the Father.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Rom.8:35)

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Beloved: (8:6) It burns like blazing <u>fire</u>, like a mighty flame.

In the book of Daniel the fire could not consume the love that God had for His saints.

Now the love of God is an eternal "fire" that will never go out

- the love of God.

It burns in Christ's heart for His church

burning eternally.



⁷ Many waters <u>cannot quench love</u>; rivers <u>cannot wash it away</u>.

Christ's love does not change

- His love is "cannot be quenched"
 - rivers "cannot wash it away".

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, (1 Cor.13:4)

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

(1 Cor.13:7-8)

⁷ Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. (John 10:27-30)

No matter how difficult things got for Christ (on His way to the cross and on the cross) He never stopped loving

- even those who persecuted Him.

"many waters cannot quench love" - God's love.

If one were to give all the wealth of his house for <u>love</u>, it would be utterly scorned.

Christ's "love" is unfathomable and priceless.

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

(Phil.3:7-11)

If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

We always feel "pulled" as Christians in the sense that we are totally satisfied in Christ

and yet we are dissatisfied in wanting more of Him.

This tension is so prevalent throughout our walk and will finally

end when we get home to heaven.

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. (Psa.63:3)

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:8) 8 We have a young sister, and her breasts are not yet grown.

This reference may be to the Gentiles or the "elect of God" not yet called by grace through faith [John 10:16] or those who are newly saved but needing to grow in Christ.

"her breasts are not yet grown" shows the absence of love and affection to Christ either

because they are not saved or still young in the faith. We see sympathy, affection, and compassion here.

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:8) What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for?

We see here the great concern Christ and His bride have for those spoken of in the previous part of the verse.

It is the invitation of the lost to a wedding and the need of the young in Christ to be discipled.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37)

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. (Luke 15:10)

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) (2 Cor.6:2)

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:8) What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for?

The Lover and Beloved are answering their previous question, "What shall we do for our sister

for the day she is spoken for?"

The sinner is a plain, ordinary wall

or a plain, ordinary door

but when grace comes to the lost soul or babe in Christ

it begins and continues a mighty work

of change in the individual.

The plain wall gets ornamented with silver

- the graces of God.

The plain door has panels of cedar put on

robes of righteousness.

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:8) What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for?

We can see salvation and holiness here.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. (Psa.118:23)

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Eph.2:21-22)

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (Psa.84:11)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor.5:17) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be

like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

Daughters of Jerusalem (8:9)

9 If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Heb.4:7)

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. (Matt.22:1-4)

Beloved: (8:10)

10 I am a wall,
and my breasts are like towers.

The bride remembers herself when she was once a plain wall and no breasts. Now because of the Grace of God "she is a wall" and "her breasts are like towers".

Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment.

"Thus" shows that it is because of Him.

She acknowledges that it has come from Him.

All she has and all she is comes from Him.

We need to acknowledge continually the grace of God

in salvation, in our spiritual growth,

and in our daily walk and circumstances of life.

And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour,

and full with the blessing of the LORD:

possess thou the west and the south. (Deut.33:23)

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which

was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God

which was with me. (1 Cor.15:10)

Beloved: (8:11-12)

¹¹ Solomon had a <u>vineyard</u> in Baal Hamon; he let out his <u>vineyard</u> to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver. ¹² But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

Solomon has a "vineyard" which he rents to tenants. The tenants are to bring him a thousand shekels of silver a year.

After that they can keep the fruit of the vineyard for themselves.

But in reality she is a "vineyard"

(garden, building, and many other names for the church).

She wants all of it to be given to Solomon

– no obligation or restraint

– willingly and freely.

Beloved: (8:11-12)

Solomon had a <u>vineyard</u> in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver.
 But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who <u>tend its fruit</u>.

The church is God's "vineyard"

– we all have a responsibility to keep the "vineyard"

– and to give to those "who tend its fruit".

The workers (watchmen, overseers, stewards, builders,

husbandmen, shepherds, pastors, etc.)

are worth their hire.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (Matthew 13:23)

Beloved: (8:11-12)

¹¹ Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver. ¹² But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

(John 15:16)

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (Prov.3:9-10)

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and hewhich soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. (2 Cor.9:6)

13 You who dwell in the gardens with <u>friends</u> in attendance, let me hear your <u>voice!</u>

The lover finishes by wanting to hear the Bride's "voice".

He also wants to hear the church's voice tell of His love, beauty, and excellence to the "friends".

Right now we are still not totally together with Christ. We are together spiritually.

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (1 Cor.6:17)

13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!

but will not be totally together until we get to heaven.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Col.3:1-4)

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (2 Cor.5:8)

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:1-3)

There is still lots of Kingdom work to do in the Garden.

13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!

Jesus longs to "hear our voice". Our prayers to His throne. Our soft "I love You". Our cries for help. Our intercessions for others. Our longings and desires to deeper intimacy.

Jesus is waiting to come back for His church at the Rapture.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thess.4:16-17).

He is preparing to meet us in the air. He has been waiting for the moment for all eternity past.

13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!

He loves His bride – He died for His bride – He would die for her again (though that will not be necessary as His sacrifice was perfect). He is waiting to see a church without spot or blemish.

And He wants to "hear our voice"!!!!

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Heb.13:15)

Pray without ceasing. (1 Thess.5:17)

¹⁴ Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.

"Come away" is a sense of urgency, flight,

or quickness to be with one another

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: (Phil.1:23)

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thess.4:17)

She calls Him "my lover" unashamedly

with passion, pleasure, and pride.

He is everything to her – her "all and in all".

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. (Col.3:11)

¹⁴ Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the <u>spice-laden mountains</u>.

The time they have had here has been wonderful

but they long for even more

eternity together in wedded bliss.

The "spice-laden mountains" are heaven.

All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. (Psalm 45:8)

and she desires for Him to return for her and together they can be caught up to be together forever

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. (Rev.22:7)

¹⁴ Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Acts.1:11)

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

(Matt.24:29-31)

¹⁴ Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.

Christ is returning. It is His promise

- our Blessed Hope
 - our yearning
 - our desire.

He will come in His Father's glory.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (Rev.1:7)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (Titus 2:13)

SUMMARY

The Song of Songs is GOD'S masterpiece of Songs.

It is LOVE - REDEMPTIVE LOVE – the pulse of the Bible.

The Song of Songs is God's love for His Church, His Bride.

It is God's yearning and desire to be with us uninhibited.

It is all about how we respond to that love.

That wonderful love that took Jesus Christ to the cross at

Calvary to save His bride – His beloved.

When someone loves us there are many responses we can make.

We can reject, ignore, or receive the love. If we cannot respond to a love as great as this – we will never be able to respond to love at all. God's love is an eternal love that we can never be separated from.

Jesus said, "Surely I am coming quickly".

How else can we respond but with:

"Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus!!!!!"

For books, songs, & this teaching on the Song of Songs see: www.altogetherlovely.org/song-of-songs

Many of the notes in this book have been adapted or used from the book "Song of Songs" by Richard Brooks. We thank the author for his diligent study of this masterpiece. We highly recommend the book (and all his books) as the author is well studied, doctrinally discerning, and has received light from God.

But most importantly, we thank the Holy Spirit

– we love You Holy Spirit!!

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(Christian Focus Publications) www.christianfocus.com

Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire, IV20 1TW, Great Britain

[The author highly recommends all books by the author Richard Brooks]

[The author also recommends literature by Christian Focus Publications]

- 2 <u>Daily Devotions</u> by C.H.Spurgeon (public domain)
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