

SONG OF SOLOMON

INTRODUCTION

Solomon was the second son born to King David and Bathsheba after their first-born son died due to David sinning against God. Nathan the prophet first gave Solomon the name Jedidiah, which means 'Beloved of God.' When David became stricken with age and near death, Solomon took over his father David's throne and reigned over Israel for forty years. The name Solomon means 'peaceful.' Solomon was a king who ruled without war, but his father David was a man of war. In type, David represents God and Solomon pictures Christ in the millennial age when He takes over His Father's kingdom.

Solomon was the richest, wisest, most understanding, and most sought-after king in the history of the world. No king before him and no king since have ever equaled his greatness. But there is one greater than Solomon. When Christ takes the throne, He will far exceed Solomon's greatness and glory.

Solomon wrote 1,005 songs, but the Song of Solomon was the chief song. As such, it is called the 'Song of Songs.' The song of Moses was deep and joyous because the Israelites had been delivered from bondage in Egypt. David sang joyous songs, and there were many more songs that were written and sung, but this song is the pre-eminent song, the height of all others. This song is about the love affair of the ages and foreshadows Christ and His bride. The marriage of Christ and His bride will last into the endless ages to come. We are privileged to be able to take part in it. This Song has a much deeper meaning than simply Solomon's love for the woman he adored above all others.

God started out with the kingdom with the Jews as His priority. But they rebelled against God, and the kingdom was split into two divisions: Judah and Israel. Many silent years followed the division of the kingdom.

Then Jesus came and was crucified. Fifty days after Jesus arose from the dead and ascended to the Father, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, came down and poured out his Spirit upon mankind. Seven years later, Israel rejected Christ at the stoning of Stephen. Saul (who later became the apostle Paul) held their coats as they stoned Stephen. After the stoning, Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians when he was struck down by the Lord. Beholding the glory of the risen Jesus, Saul was blinded for three days. When he received his sight, he was converted to Christianity and filled with the Holy Spirit. God then took him into Arabia. It was there, over a period of three years, that God revealed to Paul the gospel he was to preach among the Gentles.

Acts 15:14

Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name.

God is looking for a bride for His Son Jesus. This Church age is about the preparation of a bride for Him. All past eternity points forward to this. And after the marriage of the Lamb, all the ages to come will flow from it. If we embrace the bridal truth, we'll be among God's most costly jewels. God is offering all who are as Rebekah and say, "I will go," to be part of that bride. There are many mysteries, but two great mysteries: the mystery of godliness and the mystery of Christ and the church.

This bridal truth was hidden from the prophets and the sons of men until it was revealed to Paul by the Holy Spirit. It took Paul's ministry to unlock the mystery of the Song of Solomon, and to reveal the truth of the bride to us. His gospel takes us into the inner chamber by the Spirit, into the hope of our calling. The Song of Solomon is a love affair pure and simple, but in a realm that very few of God's people enter into.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever.

For the most part, the bridal message is hidden from the church. Most Christians never hear it, or they hear it and choose to reject it. The bride is the pearl of great price that will come out of the church. She is the body within the body of the church. Just as God took a small rib portion from Adam's body to form his bride Eve, He will take a small rib portion from out of the church to be a bride for His Son Jesus. She will be the express image of Christ himself. She will have the glory of the sun. We are called to suffer with Him to reign with Him, and He will supply everything we need to run the race. In order for our love to grow, we have to see the beauty of Him, and to see that He is altogether lovely. If we let Him, He will make us like himself.

The Shulamite is probably Abishag (1 Kings 1:1-4). Her name is not recorded, and when the marriage takes place is not recorded. Her name means, "My father erred." She came from the backside of nowhere to give King David comfort. We are a comfort to the Father when we run the race to become the bride of his Son, Jesus Christ. God always chooses the unknown people, those everyone else rejects. He does this to show His grace.

Abishag was sought out and brought to King David to comfort him in his old age. She adored King David. Not only was she beautiful and comforting, she also ministered unto the king. David did not know her physically. She remained just a comfort to him. She later became the wife of Solomon.

As the Shulamite, Abishag's name also means 'peaceful,' or 'a double rest.' She becomes the point of great contention in 1 Kings chapter 2 when Solomon's brother Adonijah wanted her for his wife. Solomon was so upset that he had his brother killed. He told his mother he would not have a kingdom without Abishag. She is the whole meaning of his completion.

Christ will not take his throne without His bride at his side. She is the light of Him, and He is the light of her. The Shulamite is the perfect one, the only one for him. She is everything to Him, and they become one. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, but the Shulamite was his choice one, the one he truly loved.

The Song of Solomon reveals the great plan God has for the new creation in Christ. This song is the high water mark of the scriptures. It presents to us, in a detailed sense, the great plan God has in this age and dispensation. Mankind is to be lifted to such sacred heights and privilege that some will qualify to rule jointly with Jesus Christ, and enter into a union with him, pictured by that of a husband and wife. The entire Word of God foreshadows this. We will never be in the bride of Christ without God's love manifest in our hearts. We love him because he first loved us. If we don't want to bear the cross, we can never have the crown. Suffering is necessary if we want to reign.

The message of this Song of Solomon is that of the journey of a newly-saved child of God taken from infancy to maturity. This happens when we yield to God and to His calling on our lives. What a wonderful privilege He is offering!

SONG OF SOLOMON

CHAPTER 1

VERSE 1

The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

Of all the songs Solomon wrote, this is the chief song. That it is 'the song of songs' sets forth the great importance of this song. This is our love story with Christ. It gives us the vision of that lover of lovers on one knee proposing to us. God has given us a heart for this most paramount love Christ has for us.

We need to be saved and come to a full knowledge of the truth – an intimate and complete knowledge just like that between a husband and a wife. This is how Christ loves us. "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches" (Revelation 3:13). We who want God's best have been circled and called out. Just as Abraham sent his servant Eleazar to find a bride for his son Isaac, God is seeking from among the Gentiles a bride for His Son Jesus. He is drawing us nigh.

This bride is the complete attraction and affection of Jesus' heart. Paul's gospel opened up to us the mystery of Christ and His church, out of which will come his bride. This truth had been closed to everyone until it was revealed to the apostle Paul while he was in Arabia for three years.

The Song of Solomon is all about the bride, because it is all about Him. She will be the Spirit's complete work. She will be the bride undefiled, perfect and lacking nothing. The bride will be made up of full-overcoming saints who were willing to suffer with Christ to reign with Christ.

Philippians 3:7-14 tells us that when Paul saw the eternal place he could have with God, his aristocratic life was suddenly like dung to him. If we have anything that stands between us and God, we need to count it as refuse. When death comes we take nothing with us. Only the things done for Christ will last.

VERSE 2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.

This verse indicates she already knows him in a deep way, because she wants his kisses, and she realizes she needs more of his love. She is beginning to draw nigh to him, and when we draw nigh to Jesus He will immediately draw nigh to us. Once she said, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth," he gave her his full pursuit and love. We need to redeem the time and go right into the riches of His grace. It was all hers – and it is all ours – from the moment we said, "I will go."

Kisses of his mouth

The mouth speaks of the well, and it is a well of living water. She sought out and wanted the kisses of his mouth. These kisses are the Word of God. Those of us in the race know that the word is God's full counsel, all the truth the Holy Spirit brings us. This is love, and truth in love is who He is. The depths of the well of living water speak of the depths of His love.

To 'kiss' means to equip with weapons, to arm with the Word of God, to take on the whole armor. She becomes an armed warrior. To win Him there is a good fight of faith that must be fought. We don't fight by our own power, but rather by the power of His Spirit. Faith to fight comes by love, and faith works by love. In His love we can face or fight anything. The kisses equip her with how much she is loved, and she will grow in that love, and become the sole passion of His life. Being the sole passion of His life is why we press on and grow in the Lord. The precious love of our Savior saved us, because God so loved the world. When Jesus died on the cross, His blood covered all our sins and reconciled us to the Father. Grace is the love of God working

effectually and powerfully in our lives. The Holy Spirit takes the love of God and sheds it abroad in our hearts. As we learn more of Christ, we know His love.

Eleazar told Rebekah about her bridegroom Isaac at a well. Eleazar represents the Holy Spirit who is seeking a bride for Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost, when the empowerment of being enlightened in the depths of the truth began. The apostle Paul, who was the chief of sinners, was also the chosen vessel unto God. God showed off the greatness of His grace, by choosing the most wicked of the wicked to reveal His mysteries. God delights in taking the worst one to show others there is still hope for them. This brings His great grace into focus.

Thy love is better than wine

This means "my beloved" is better than wine. There is no greater ecstasy, nothing more intoxicating or exhilarating than being drunk on the new wine of the Spirit. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and the blood. For the joy set before Him (love), Jesus endured the cross, and counted it all joy. His bride was always before Him.

The runner who runs the race and wins finishes with a full joy. This is engagement time and she is joyful. Her love is exceeding because of his love for her. His love exceeds all other joys, and it is the joy that is set before her. All is from the well; all from His mouth. Only love can set it aflame, and only the Holy Spirit can do that. Without the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whatever hope there is will never be an abounding hope.

Romans 15:13

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

She is beginning to make choices, and we have choices to make too. What do we want – His love or the pleasures of this world? The pleasures Satan may offer us are but for a moment. The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in those who are truly looking for and loving the appearing of Jesus for His bride.

VERSE 3

Because of the savor of thy good ointments, thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

The savor

'Savor' is the smell or the aroma, like a perfume.

Thy good ointments

Ointments were used for healing and to beautify. The Lord is full of good ointments. He is healing us and making us more beautiful. His ointments are soothing and wonderful. Jesus is a fragrance and the fragrance is His glory. Christ in us is our hope of glory. The anointing oil is like the oil dripping from Aaron's beard. It was for the anointing of kings and priests. This represents the Holy Spirit, and speaks of joy unspeakable and full of glory. We can sing, full of joy, despite the trials when we have the Holy Spirit indwelling.

Thy name is as ointment poured forth

There is only one name like the name of Jesus. The name Jesus means savior. He was called Jesus because He would save people from their sins.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: His name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

We can take any problem in the world to Jesus, and find help in Him to meet any need. Have we ever learned the real wealth of His name to us? Whatsoever we ask is in His name when we pray to God. God will not acknowledge our petitions unless we ask all in the precious, holy name of Jesus.

Ointments were made from myrrh, spikenard, and cinnamon. Some meant suffering, and some meant sweetness, but they all blended together. The ointment gets us ready to meet the King, just as ointments were used to get Esther prepared to meet king Ahasuerus. The Holy Spirit is the one to prepare us for Christ. We take only what the Holy Spirit gives us, nothing else.

The ointments could be put in an alabaster box and they would never grow old. The Lord will never grow old. The word alabaster means "translucent," so we can see through it. The bride will be translucent, so when looking at her, the image of Him will be seen. Alabaster was used to make windows because they were translucent.

The virgins

The virgins are those of marrying age that found Him lovely.

VERSE 4

Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.

Draw me

She wants him to draw her. This is the beginning of a life of separation. Joseph had to be separated from his family for God to prepare him for the plan He had for his life. John had to be separated to the isle of Patmos to receive the visions God gave him to write the book of Revelation. Abraham had to be separated from Lot, and Moses was separated to the back side of the desert for 40 years. Separations and how God worked His perfect will through them are recorded throughout the scriptures.

'Draw me' shows that she knows it has to be His grace, it won't be of her. We need to pray the Lord will draw us, encourage our hearts, and give us the desire to do His will. This testifies to us that all will be in His strength.

We will run after thee

When she says "we," this indicates that she is not quite ready to settle down. If we go with God, it will have to be our decision to go, not because our companions, our children, our friends, or even our spouses, go. We have to be willing to go with Him whether anyone else does or not. Just like the Shulamite, we have to come to the place when we must be alone with Him.

No matter how much we love others, there is no "we" here. When we run for the prize of the high calling of God, we run with Him but we run to Him alone. While running the race there will be suffering, but there will be such a joy set before us that the suffering can never compare to the glory that will be revealed in us. In Genesis 24, Rebekah left a loving family and many comforts and rode a camel across the desert to marry a man she had only heard about but had never met. God will prepare all of us for this if we just believe Him. When we mount up on our camels, "I will go!" becomes "Let's go!"

The king brought me into his chambers

His 'chambers' are a place of intimacy, the inner part, a bedroom. This is the provision, and Christ is the sum and substance of everything. The bedroom is the place for the husband and wife only, and she knows this. She is beginning to come away from other things in her life, because she wants to know Him. She will become the vessel set aside for the use of the master.

We will be glad and rejoice

There is much love and joy in the chamber. It outshines everything. When our hearts are set on things above, the things of this world grow strangely dim. God teaches us that we cannot have our confidence in man whose breath is in his nostrils.

Paul learned to rejoice in deep trial. The trials we enter into are the things that teach us to be glad, and to rejoice in any circumstances. We can rejoice in the things of God because they are permanent, not temporal as the things the devil of this world offers mankind.

Our purpose in life is to win Christ, and our defining of this life comes to running the race to win Him. Pray that He will instill in us a deep desire to love Him, learn of Him, and win Him. This is our eternity, our forever.

The upright love thee

'Upright' means something that is blended, even, consistent, balanced. This is translated agreement, equal, to take the right way. She has a balanced life. She has to come to the place where she is in sweet harmony with Him as she is in agreement with Him. There is only one way our lives can ever be sweet, and that is when we are in harmony with the Lord Jesus.

VERSE 5

I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

I am black

'Black' means dusky. It comes from a root word that implies moving about in sackcloth. It has nothing to do with skin color.

Sackcloth shows suffering, loneliness, and humility. To go on with God takes complete humility. The Shulamite knows she is nothing in herself, and she is nothing without Him. God's word tells us to humble ourselves before the Lord, and He gives grace to the humble. He sees the proud afar off. People are often defeated because of pride when they don't like to admit they are wrong. Pride is a curse. It comes before destruction, and a haughty spirit comes before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

Tents of Kedar

The tents of Kedar were like the tents of the children of Israel. These tents were made of skin, and as they weathered they became dingy and dark. Jesus was not outwardly attractive; there was nothing beautiful to see in him, naturally speaking. Man judges everything by outward appearances, but God looks at the heart. It is the lowliness in us that makes us beautiful to Christ. In our weakness, His power rests upon us. In our strength and pride, He is far from us.

The curtains of Solomon

The tents, still used today, are unattractive on the outside, but inside the tents are some of the most beautiful curtains ever seen. These curtains, or tapestries, are beautiful with dazzling and brilliant colors. Christ's beauty outwardly was unattractive, but dazzling beauty was on the inside. So it is with us.

I John 3:2

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.

We may appear dingy on the outside, but we are beautiful within. Lowliness brings out that wonder of wonders, it brings out in us Christ; Christ in us the hope of glory. In lowliness and humility, Paul was as the curtains of Solomon.

VERSE 6

Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun has looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyards have I not kept.

I am black

'Black' also means to be shy. The Shulamite doesn't want others to look upon her because, like the tents, she is weathered and not attractive.

The sun has looked upon me

This speaks of the breaking of dawn when light begins to break. The sun has 'looked' (i.e. shone) upon her and she is glorying in this breakthrough in her life. If we really commit our lives to God, Jesus will get brighter and brighter. We'll be changed from glory to glory, and God will finish the good work He began in us.

Keeper of the vineyards, but not her own

This shows there is still a struggle to focus solely on Him. We get so busy taking care of mundane and temporary things that we forget who we are, and what God is to us.

Our vineyards are the only ones we are responsible to keep. The Shulamite's admission of trying to keep other vineyards shows she's making excuses for not keeping her own vineyard. The first place is worship, tending our own vineyard. God is seeking true worshippers to worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

VERSE 7

Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedeth, where thou makest thy flocks rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions.

She left his chamber in verse 3, and is then seen in other people's vineyards. Now she is not even in his field, let alone his chamber. She is looking for his field which shows her distraction at this point.

Maketh thy flock to rest at noon

She was tired and weary in the heat of the day. She wanted to sit down and rest, because she needed comfort. In the previous verse she was working in others' vineyards. They wanted her to work, but she needed to rest. What glory it is when we give Him all things we think matter, and rest securely in the love of our Savior. This is the good fight of faith. We learn to rely on Him for every aspect of our lives, and let go of all the cares and weights we are carrying.

He answers her desire to be close to Him and find rest in the heat of the day. He feeds on our appreciation and worship. He is hungry to hear us pray and tell Him how much we love Him and worship him because of what He has done for us. If we don't let Him do for us, there will be no praise in us.

One that turneth aside

'Turneth aside' means veil or cover. Others wanted her to wear a veil to show subjection to other religious leaders, but she wears a veil for Christ alone. She didn't leave her first love, she held fast to what she had. We all need to be in subjection to Christ and hold fast that crown we have.

She realizes she can have it all, she can win Him. She knows her first place is not serving, not doing, and not being concerned with taking care of other vineyards. Her first place is worship, taking that better place at the feet of Jesus like Mary did, even though she was being criticized by Martha who was doing and serving. Jesus doesn't want His bride to serve, He wants her to worship. When we yield to Him, the after effects of the fruit will come forth.

She is seen in His chamber in verse 3. In verse 6 she is concerned with other's vineyards, and in verse 7 she is looking for Him. We can be in His chamber and then find ourselves looking for His field. Continue with the Lord, and the intimacy will grow in those that are shining forth more and more in the darkness. By His grace we are holding fast, and by His grace no man will take our crown.

VERSE 8

If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherd's tents.

If thou know not

If she doesn't know where He feeds His flock, or where to find rest, she is to feed the young ones. We can find everything in Him. Christ sees our full potential. He is faithful, and never gives up on us. Trust Him to perform and finish the good work He began.

Fairest among women

'Fairest' means beautiful, comely, fair, fairest one, goodly, pleasant, well. She is fair because she has stepped into the light. Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18 that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened that we know what is the hope of our calling. The four beasts in Revelation were full of light, full of the truth of God's whole counsel. She is the fairest among women in His eyes. She saw herself as 'black', as nothing to behold, but He only sees her as the fairest among all other women. At this point she still doesn't fully know His heart is for her and her alone.

Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock

He encourages her to keep going in His word, and to keep seeking Him. At times she doubts Him, but He remains faithful. He wants her to stay on the path He ordered for her life so He can be her guide. We need to get occupied with God. That is what is true in our lives, and that is what will last. It is amazing how easily we can be turned from the truth. God help us, by grace, to keep our focus on Him and to stay shut up to Him.

Beside the shepherd's tents

This shows the closest place with Christ, the deepest fellowship with Him. This tells her she needs to go feed and be strengthened by the Word of God. The shepherd's tents represent those vessels of God who preach and teach the whole counsel of God. She needs to hear what the Spirit says to the churches, because this is what will build us up, and make us realize how much He loves us. We need to feed on the whole counsel of God, and grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Feed thy kids

'Kids' are little goats and little goats were offered up as burnt offerings. The burnt offerings speak of our complete devotion to Him. This is the life of the fully-purposed ones. At this point she does not act like a fully-purposed one. She got carried away, but His pursuit of her and His love and devotion remain. He allows her to have these little goats, because this is the offering of the true worshipper who worships Him in Spirit and in truth. Even in her ignorance and unbelief, He fully equips her as she feeds. The word of His grace will build her up to be ready for a wedding.

VERSE 9

I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots.

I have compared thee

God tells us over and over how he sees us. This is how we need to see ourselves and how we need to take our place in His provision. If we never see what he thinks we are and claim it, we'll never get very far with God. We have to have the vision of how He sees us, and what He sees in us (1 John 3:2). We need to stop looking on the outside and criticizing ourselves and start looking on the beauty He sees in us. We are lovely to Him

because of grace. Grace is the transforming power, and it is grace that makes a life conformable to Jesus. All the things bestowed to her – and to us – are by grace. The real beauty of her is that she is totally a work of grace, and grace brings glory. This is why in Revelation chapter 21 she is described as descending from heaven having the glory of God. None of this is of herself but all because of His righteousness.

A company of horses

Horses are beautiful, strong, and swift. He begins to commend her, and speaks of her strength. In Revelation chapter 3 it is noted that the Philadelphia church had just a little strength. We need to find our strength in the Lord Jesus. We have to learn to rely on His strength, and not our own natural strength. Out of weakness the Old Testament overcomers were made strong. It was in Paul's weakness that God was able to show his strength so perfectly. It's hard to let go of our own strength and learn to lean on Him, but we must if we want His best. Unless we draw our strength from Him, we can do nothing. Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

In pharaoh's army

'Pharaoh' means a great horse. This is a preferred and mature horse in the great house now. This is how the Lord sees us, in the barn which symbolizes our mansion. He is looking into the future to what he has prepared for us, and He sees us as already occupying it.

Pharaoh's horses were no doubt the choicest ones. They were fearless, bred for battle, had speed, and were not unruly. They are the runners like the Philippian saints. They ran to win. We need to be like battle horses. Horses and chariots represent one company and refer to a female horse ready for breeding.

VERSE 10

Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold.

Thy cheeks

This is the king's first description of her. The more beautiful we become to the Lord, the more He declares it. The cheeks speak of fairness, beauty, health, and humility. These are adornments for the husband, and speak of the things He adds to our lives. He makes us beautiful in His sight, as well as to others. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can adorn us and prepare us for our marriage to Jesus. He takes the things of Christ and makes them personal to us. We get joy, peace, longsuffering, patience - all the fruits of the Spirit.

Rows of jewels

Women of that day braided jewels into their hair. Hair speaks of beauty, and jewels in the hair enhance that beauty. If we belong to God, we are his jewels.

Neck with chains of gold.

Gold speaks of deity, and chains speak of strength. The neck is a place of bearing burdens. We get strength from God to bear our burdens. We have the loving strength from the Lord on display in our lives.

Proverbs 1:8-9

8) My son, hear the instruction of thy father, forsake not the law of thy mother:

9) for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Before we were saved we were bound by chains of sin, but God breaks the chains and sets us free. Jesus will bind the devil with a strong chain for one thousand years.

VERSE 11

We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.

Now the king tells her what He will do for her to enrich her and make her even more beautiful. 'We' refers to the trinity. God has the plan; the Son, who redeemed us to life and who is waiting to come for his bride, is the very life; and the Holy Spirit is finishing the good work.

Borders of gold with studs of silver

'Borders' speak of adornments for the head. Gold speaks of deity, and silver speaks of redemption. "Hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown." The wife hath made herself ready by counting Him faithful now. We put our confidence in the bridegroom that we will finish with a full joy.

VERSE 12

While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sends forth the smell thereof.

While the king sitteth at his table

The feeding she had in verse 8 in the shepherd's tents has caused her to focus on Him again. Once she gathers with those of like precious faith, her mind is renewed toward Him very quickly. This is the first hint of fellowship with her. He is there to feed. He is dining at the table with us when we feast on the Word of God. The Lord is hungry for our love, and He is hungry for us to boast of His love for us. He inhabits the praises of His people. We need to commune with Him in prayer. He finds satisfaction in the very least child of God, and He sees all of us as a treasure. When He gave His life for us He saw something in us that He considered valuable. If we yield to Him, we'll come into something much beyond being saved.

My spikenard

Spikenard comes from a plant that grows in mountainous regions. It has bell-shaped flowers, and a sweet fragrance that comes out after being crushed. As we are crushed by trials, our fragrance becomes sweet unto the Lord when we have the right attitude and respond to Him. He feeds on the sweet-smelling sacrifices of our praise and thanksgiving. Spikenard is the costly ointment that Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anointed Jesus' feet with. Some thought using it for this was a waste because of its value and thus its expense. In actuality, what it was being applied to was by far the most valuable.

She now begins to take her place alone with Him, shut up to Him. So it must be with all of us running the race to win Him. He is searching for the pearl of great price.

VERSE 13

A bundle of myrrh is my well- beloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts.

A bundle of myrrh

Myrrh signifies the bitter sufferings of Jesus and our joint sufferings with Him. For the joy that was set before Him, he endured the cross as he suffered for us (Hebrews 12:2). Our glory is in His suffering and death. The Shulamite draws those sufferings to her as her most precious and loved belongings. We will do this too when we learn to suffer together with Him. In our flesh, suffering is not joyful for the moment, but we can be encouraged in spirit and know we are seated in the heavens in Christ. Myrrh can also be an invigorating antiseptic spice which shows a comfort of sorts. He becomes a source of comfort to her. In the suffering He gives comfort and rest.

Betwixt my breasts

It is in the nighttime experience that we need His presence. Crying, tears, and sorrow may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Nights can be long and dreary without Him, but so precious when we take Him into the night with us. As he is there, he partakes of our affections.

That He lies all night between her breasts shows an undivided heart and shows He partakes deeply of our innermost affections for him in the nighttime experience. We draw on His love more and more, and He is able to take more of our love in the deep nighttime trials. We rest in His power.

VERSE 14

My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.

As a cluster of camphire

Found only at Engedi in the high rocky regions, this is the place of the hinds' feet, the place that very few will go: the place of Christ's love language with His bride. This is the place we take when we realize we are indeed blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies (Ephesians 1:3).

Camphire is similar to myrrh in that it is invigorating to us. It speaks to how in the nighttime experiences Jesus becomes invigorating to us. We need the Lord to come and invigorate us and empower us to continue and to abide faithful unto Him. He gives us an injection of love now and then so we are able to strive a little longer, and go on a little more.

Engedi

'Engedi' means wild goats. When we take our place in the rocky crags and in the heavenlies, we need the camphire. We go up above the smooth plane, and take our place by faith in the heavens with Christ. This is still within Satan's domain, so we need the camphire that is in the vineyards of Engedi.

He is a cluster

This shows manifold blessings that are all by God's grace. Engedi was famous for its many aromatic herbs and shrubs. There are many benefits with the Lord, such as healing, salvation, comfort, peace, etc. These benefits are forever. They are the unsearchable and exceeding riches of Christ. Being saved is wonderful, but God is offering to us a high calling to be the bride of Christ.

VERSE 15

Behold thou art fair my love; behold thou art fair; thou hast dove's eyes.

Behold thou art fair my love

He repeats himself in this verse because he wants to emphasize how beautiful she is to Him. After the camphire, and after she sees Him as a cluster, He tells her she is fair. 'Fair' means bright and light. Earlier she said of herself that she was black, but He calls her fair. One of the worst things we can do is look in the mirror and hate the person who is looking back. We need to see ourselves as God sees us and believe how much God loves us. He tells her seven times in this book of Song of Solomon that she is fair. Seven is the number of perfection, and this shows perfect love.

Thou hast dove's eyes

A dove represents the Holy Spirit. Dove's eyes are gentle, tender, and loving. One of the reasons she was so beautiful to Him was because she was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. She always saw according to the Spirit, and could see deep into the Word of God. She was able by the Spirit to see the things of God that were hidden to others. When we see through the eyes of the Holy Spirit, our eyes are beautiful to the Lord.

We need to see ourselves through dove's eyes, and not our own. When we see ourselves in these eyes we see His love shed abroad in our hearts. Dove's eyes only see in grace, and they abound in the grace of God. We see how lovely we are to Jesus by grace, not by works or deeds. He gives grace to the humble. With these eyes He sees a vision of us, and for us. That love vision transforms us by faith into His very image. The word of His grace builds us up and gives us confidence to run on.

VERSE 16

Behold thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.

The Shulamite speaks again. She is back in His chamber. She is beginning to be bold, and starting to enter in to more close fellowship with Him.

Behold thou art fair

She tells Him that He is physically attractive, and this is the attraction of mature lovers. She sees Him in the way he longs for her to see Him. How beautiful is the Lamb! He has captivated her heart. When we take His vision for us, our vision is transformed.

Our bed

This means a couch and indicates a place to rest or recline while eating. She comes to it as a place of deep and intimate fellowship with Him.

Green

Green speaks of resurrection and new life. They have come to an oasis in her desert journey, and the place of fellowship is in the resurrected life. If we are to have any depth of fellowship with Jesus, we have to find time to see that the resting place is green.

VERSE 17

The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir.

It is now "our house" – not "His house." She is not talking about the virgins, but of Him and her. She is starting to claim things now. All that is His, she claims as her own. Her life is "It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). She is beginning to understand that what is His is also hers. Spouses share everything equally. He wants to share everything with her.

Beams of cedar, rafters of fir

Cedar is a very durable wood and shows the durability of eternal things that are going to last. Cedar and fir trees are huge, strong trees that grow in the heights of Lebanon. Lebanon means white and speaks of Christ's righteousness. Everything about this house and everything about us is found in Him in stature and in purity.

Philippians 3:9

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.

It is His glory, beauty, and light; but it has all become her, and she is that to Him. Together they will light up the ages to come.

CHAPTER 2

VERSE 1

I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

I am

The Shulamite speaks. She takes her place and is not ashamed. The turning point in our lives is when we see what we are to Him, His desire for us. When we see how much He loves us, and when we truly take hold of the gospel of Christ, we are transformed. As we take hold of grace, it grows us up as we yield. The transforming power of the knowledge of his love for us causes us to move in confidence and assurance.

The rose of Sharon

The rose of Sharon is a bright brilliant, showy flower that can be seen from afar off. This rose of Sharon grows in hard rocky places in the desert. This speaks of hard and difficult places in our lives. The bright, showy flowers speak of the outward bridal beauty. The path to God's best is not an easy walk. We endure hardness as good soldiers. We fight the good fight of faith. If we go all the way with Him and not turn back, we'll rule and reign in the midst of the throne with Him. She sees that she is beautiful in Christ.

Lily

This is an insignificant flower that you have to look to find. This speaks of the bride's inward beauty. The lily grows in lowly places which displays the fragrance that comes from the life that is willing to be humble and endure trials for His sake.

The word lily is seen 8 times in Song of Solomon. 8 speaks of new life and of the bride. She is saying she is a lily which is bright, straight, cheerful, and shaped like a trumpet. The lily is known as the queenly plant. All of this speaks of the perfect will and plan of God.

The lily is one of the most fragrant flowers. It excels all others with its radiant whiteness. It is a very fruitful plant, and can have as many as 50 bowls. 50 is the number of the Holy Spirit and of jubilee. Lilies are used for medicinal purposes. She is like a healing balm to the body. The lily can be a tall flower, but it has a head that bows. This shows the bride is humble, all by grace. He must increase, we must decrease.

Valleys

Fruit is often found only in the valleys, the lowly and humble place. God will show us many things in valleys. We won't fully appreciate the heights if we are never in the depths.

VERSE 2

A lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

A lily among thorns

Thorns represent curses, sin, waste of the earth – but God chose to grow us there. God put Joseph amidst all the sin and idolatry in Egypt. God can put us in any situation and cause us to grow in the worst circumstances. If we want to be what God intended for us to be, we must stay planted, and yield to God's will for our lives. This is what makes a pearl of great price. A pearl is formed when a piece of sand gets into an oyster, and irritates the tender tissues. Out of the suffering comes a beautiful pearl.

He is comparing the daughters to thorns. They repel Him, and push Him back like thorns push you back from a rosebush. Some people push Christ back when He wants fellowship. He has fellowship with the bride at any time, but others say no.

My love among the daughters

This is speaking of His love to her as He sees her. She is so much more beautiful than all the other daughters, who are also children of God. She is highly favored, and so are we when we run for the prize of God's high calling. All of this magnifies the grace of God, and He is captivated by her in grace.

VERSE 3

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

She goes from how she is seen in Him, to how she sees Him. We have to see how beautiful we are in His eyes before we can express in our own heart how beautiful He is to us.

The apple tree

This is not like the apple tree we know, but much like an orange tree that is always blooming, always fragrant, and always has fruit, like the one in New Jerusalem. This is how our lives will be if we will be like Him. This tree is the king of trees, and it speaks of peace.

Her beloved stands out above the rest. Jesus is the only one she wants. When we enter into this bridal relationship, by God's grace our lives become lives of perfect peace that passes understanding. He takes us from glory to glory unto His very likeness.

I sat down under his shadow

Most trees just give shade, but she didn't see Him just as shelter and comfort from wind and rain. She saw something that would feed her for life.

We are to rest in the shadow of Jesus and let His shadow block out everything. When we focus on Him, we walk through trials in perfect peace. If we take our eyes off Him and look at circumstances, faith is still there, but we are not utilizing it. If we keep our eyes on Him, His word fights every foe we face.

Sweet to my taste

As we rest in the shadow of Jesus, and begin to take of the fruit of His wonderful characteristics and excellence, they will be sweet to our taste.

VERSE 4

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

When we begin to wake up to what He is like as the tree, the next thing we'll know we'll be at a banquet. 'Banquet' means bountiful table. It is wonderful to sit and eat apples, but how much better to eat a feast at the banqueting house. A full-course meal shows a deep, intimate, and divine fellowship with Jesus.

Banqueting house

'Banqueting house' means wine bubbling over. Every word, every meaning, and all the imagery was written for us by the prophets long ago. All of this is what Paul's gospel brings to light. The wine speaks of the Holy Spirit, and of joy. This is the place of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit through Paul, brought forth the mystery of Christ and his bride; the bridal message. This is the only message that can stretch the wineskins to almost bursting.

His banner over me was love

Not works, not law, or anything else, but he makes us to see, and know, and experience His deep divine love for us. The raising of His banner over us means we are under His power and authority. In those days, when conquering a city, an army would raise their banner over that city. Christ doesn't conquer us like a dictator,

but rather with his love. God is love, and this is how He comes to us. We need to ask Him to fill us with His love, so we can love mankind the way He does. It takes His love to help us love some of the people in the world today. He died for all of them too; our natural love would not be enough to learn to love them. If we are to be part of the bride, we will have to have His strong, powerful love.

A banner is a flag, and is a military term in which they would divide out companies (see Numbers chapter 2). The twelve tribes divided into ranks in the wilderness, and each rank would know where to go by looking for their flag. Judah (Jesus was the lion of the tribe of Judah) was the first rank. Reuben was the second rank because he was the eldest son, the most mature. Dan was in last place and was eventually removed. We choose what banner we are under. His banner over us is love, not condemnation.

VERSE 5

Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love.

Flagons

Flagons are pitchers of wine, and wine speaks of the Holy Spirit. This is joy in the Holy Ghost.

Stay me

'Stay me' means lean on, bear up, establish. She needs to be established. She says, "Let me lean on you, Lord, bear me up." She is beginning to see her need of Him, and of His strength. The bride will have that kind of relationship with Him. She must learn that when she is weak, then He is strong. She has to learn to rely on His strength and not her own. Without Him we can do nothing.

Comfort me with apples

Apples speak of peace, so the wine and the apples show a double portion of joy and peace. She wants more of His fellowship, and more of His life. Partaking of the apples means partaking of the resurrection life, because these apples are the life of Christ. She wants to take more of His life, strength, and substance.

Sick of love

She is completely overwhelmed by His love. 'Sick of love' shows the highest degree of sensible enjoyment. The Holy Spirit leads us into all the truth, and He takes the things of Christ's and makes them ours. When all the desire, fullness, and great grace hit us, we are overwhelmed. Nothing will be complete until we see Him face to face.

VERSE 6

His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

Left hand

This is another experience we have with Jesus. His left hand actually guards our minds, and thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:5

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

His right hand

His right hand speaks of His power. He has the power to fight all our battles, and that hand completely engulfs us in His love. We are engulfed by the wonderful warmth, security and compassion of His love. He springs up to embrace us, support us, and bear us up. If we don't have the help that He offers freely, we don't want His help. If we turn our lives completely over to Him, we will find that our strength is in Him.

VERSE 7

I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my loved, till he please.

I charge you

'Charge' means to repeat seven times. She really wanted the daughters to observe what she was saying.

Daughters of Jerusalem

Daughters represent legal Christians who think they have to work to earn or deserve something, and think everybody has to work, too. Most people never see the deeper things of God because they are caught up with working for Him instead of with Him. These daughters are those who have no clue of the high calling of God. They are now servants. Martha was a servant. She pleased the Lord to a degree, but what pleases Him most is the place Mary had at His feet, where she was learning of Him. Martha tried to distract Mary by saying she needed to help serve, but Jesus intervened and told Martha to let Mary alone because she had chosen the better part.

The roes and the hinds of the field

Roes are small, agile deer with three-pointed antlers. Three is the number of the Godhead and the resurrection. Hinds are female deer that are at least three years old.

Stir not up or awake my love

These deer are easily disturbed because they have a short attention span. Their courtship is sensitive and cannot be disturbed. It is the same as our courtship with Jesus. We don't get in the presence of God by a lot of noisemaking and sensation. Be still and know that He is God. If we want to get close to Christ, we need to wait on Him and learn to be still. Let Him speak love to our hearts and let it grow with the nighttime experiences, trials, and blessings we have with Jesus.

This verse is referring to the lovesick season. The lovesick season is the church age, which is Paul's gospel, or the time of searching for Christ's bride. These daughters represent the majority of believers who have no clue as to what this age is about. These will be the ones who will make up the innumerable multitude of palm wavers. The group that will make up the bride will be a much smaller group, a rib portion who will be in the midst of the throne. They are the true worshippers. We choose our place with Christ. Do we want to wave palms, or do we want to rule jointly with Christ?

VERSE 8

The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.

This is what Paul prayed for in Philippians chapter 3:

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable unto His death.

The voice

The voice is the Word of God, and she is discerning things about Him. She loves His voice, which means she loves the Word of God. She loves to go to church, Bible study, and to read her Bible. She loves for Him to walk with her and talk with her, and she hears Him because she is listening. She called Him "my beloved" and this shows He has become personal to her. Winning Christ is personal!

Leaping and skipping

He heard her say, "The voice of my beloved." He hears our hearts right now. When He hears us it causes Him to skip and leap. He is waiting for the Father to tell Him to come and get us. He is excited like a young buck in the field. Do we see Him like that when we hear His voice? He skips when we worship Him. When we go the place of drawing nigh to kiss Him, He can't hold still and has to skip. This is how much He loves us.

Mountains and hills

He wants us to come to the high places with Him. We are already there provisionally because we were quickened, raised, and seated together with Him in the heavens. If we go with God we will have to face danger, but we need not worry about it. God is able, and He is our power and strength, and will enable us. We can do all things through Christ which strengthens us. In the midst of the storm, He'll come walking on the water. No matter what trial we are in, in His strength we can skip, too. Things become easy when we learn to use His strength.

Mountains and hills also speak of large and small governments that king Solomon had dominion over. Jesus has these things under His control, and has complete authority over them. She has learned that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and that He is over all.

VERSE 9

My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice.

My beloved

'Beloved' means my much loved. She is beginning to apprehend He who has apprehended her. He has been dealing with her, and he came to her. She has been playing hard to get, but it is time for her to apprehend her precious Lord.

Like a roe or a young hart

A young hart is a male deer at least five years old. This shows fervent youthful love. Relationships can become boring; we have to fight to keep them alive and fervent. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and not get easily distracted.

Behind our wall

Young lovers in that day were not allowed to touch, so they had to stay on opposite sides of a wall. There was no physical contact at all in the courtship. All these young lovers had were words of love. They courted with their voices. We are betrothed to the "I Am." He is speaking to us moment by moment, and we are hearing what the gospel says. He has a wonderful way of making each of us feel as if we are the only one.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Looketh forth at the windows

The windows are always the place the bride and groom are seen. It was when the king saw Abraham and Sarah laughing and playing that he realized they were husband and wife, and not a brother and sister as he was told. The same situation is true of Isaac and Rebekah. There was a window in the ark, and the eight souls in the ark represent the bride of Christ. The window also speaks of the transparency of the bride's heart.

Lattice

He peers through the lattice glancing and glancing at her beauty. He is in love and he can't take His eyes off her. It is the same with Jesus. Those of us who are running a race to win Him are beautiful in His sight. He

can't keep His eyes off us. He wants us with Him but we are not ready yet, so he keeps on glancing at us through the lattice.

VERSE 10

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Rise up

He is telling her to rise up, leave all else behind, and follow after Him. He wants her undivided attention. Come out from among them and be ye separate (2 Corinthians 6:17). He wants her to be ready for the first trump, and if we don't go with him now, we won't be able to hear the first trump when it sounds. Only those who have made themselves ready by letting Him do it all will rise up to meet the Lord in the air when the trumpet sounds. We need to leave all the distractions and give Him the pre-eminence in our lives.

My love, my fair one

'My love' means my companion. 'My fair one' means my beauty. She is a most beautiful companion to Him.

Come away

He wants her to come and be with Him when the first trump sounds, but she isn't ready yet. He speaks in the present tense. When we decide to go with Him, we go without the camp. When we stand for the Word of God, and when we mount our camels, we leave all the comforts behind because His love draws us out unto Him. He works on us from the inside out. To "rise up and come away" may cost us many things.

VERSE 11

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

Winter

Winter speaks of a time of opportunity to fully grow up in Him. We are led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. We have the full counsel of God, and the Holy Spirit takes all the things of Christ and makes them personally ours. Winter also speaks of the cold, ignorant church. The dark ages are past.

Rain

Speaks of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In the winter there was a latter rain that was sent to prepare the crop for the harvest. The Holy Spirit is here, and He is enough for us. Jesus walked with God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

VERSE 12

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

Flowers

Flowers speak of beauty and fragrance. That the winter is gone shows the ignorance of the church is gone. Flowers (i.e. saints) are appearing, and have more of the knowledge of the Word of God. People are studying the word, and coming into its light. For those who are awake to the Word of God and not sleeping, it is sweeter. We are either growing (awake) or not growing (asleep). Neutral we cannot be. Even though our natural man is getting older, our inward man is renewed and increased in Him. We need to let Him captivate our hearts.

Flowers blooming and birds singing represent the early days of our Christian life. This is like the springtime in a life when seeds are planted that will produce a harvest. We won't have a harvest if we don't put the Word of God in our lives. When the tender plants spring up from the seeds, they must be tended. Spring brings new life, and the old passes away. Winter is past so it is time to sow seeds and begin to cultivate.

The singing of birds

Singing birds speak of the joy of the Lord which is our strength. This is the Word of God, the good news. This is the first of two songs in this verse, the song of salvation.

The voice of the turtle

This is a turtle dove. Turtle doves don't chirp, they coo. This cooing is a love song - the wooing of the Holy Spirit. Just as a dove descended on Jesus and filled Him with the power of God, the Holy Spirit fills us with God's power as well. The power we are filled with will enable us to rise up and stand in the things of God for our lives. The cooing doves also speak of the love and courtship between Christ and His bride. The love song of the Holy Spirit is intended for us, too.

In our land

This shows that we have a possession, that we own something. God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). We may not have much in this life, but in heaven we will be rich in Christ. The wooing of the Holy Spirit won't be heard anywhere else but in "our land." Hold that fast that thou hast, that no man take thy crown (Revelation 3:11).

VERSE 13

The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Fig tree

The fig tree speaks of the Jewish nation, and the vines speak of Israel and Judah. The blossoming and the fruit speak of the gathering back of the Jews into Israel.

The vines and the tender grapes

God is working in the lives of the Israelites as a nation, getting them ready to come to the front. They will be the main ones on the scene when the church is raptured.

Arise, my love, my fair one

He is still longing for her to come to Him, but He knows she still isn't ready. This is also true of us, or we would already be with Him in heaven. He wants her to take her place with Him in the heavens. There is a battle, but stand and withstand. He is telling her again not to be distracted because He is coming soon. The word of His grace sets her apart as the chosen vessel set aside for the master's use only. He is calling her again, because once again, she seems to be distracted. Come away from the distractions and go with Him. It is time to be ready!

VERSE 14

O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

O my dove

He is fully pursuing her. He calls her "my dove," which means "my gentle and beautiful one." He is continuing with His love, His courtship, and His encouragement.

Clefts of the rock

Clefts speak of a place of refuge. When we were saved, we took refuge in Christ. We learn where our safety lies, and we hide ourselves in Him, because He is our rock and salvation.

Secret place of the stairs

The secret places of the stairs can only be the mystery of Christ and the church. This secret place is Paul's gospel, Christ in us the hope of glory.

Stairs ascend, and we need to not stop at one step, or one point of truth, such as eternal security in Christ. God has so much more for us, and we need to grow up in Him. We need to learn about Him, love Him, yield to Him, and learn of His ways. As we are changed from glory to glory we take steps up.

Let me see thy countenance and hear thy voice

He wants to have a deeper relationship with her, just as Christ does with us. He wants to hear our voice, and see our countenance. He wants us to spend time with Him. He loves the sound of our voice and He thinks we are beautiful.

He wants us to become scriptural in our communion with Him. Only in the Word can the most intimate communion take place. He knows what we need, but when we call on Him, He responds. Learn to feed on the things of God. When we begin to know the truth it will transform us into what He wants us to be.

VERSE 15

Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

The little foxes

These are the subtle cares of life. 'Fox' means "binding," and it is the small cares of life that can tend to bind us. It's easy to hand over the big things to God and think we can handle the small things, but sometimes the small cares do more damage to our growth than the bigger ones.

The little foxes eat the buds when the vines start to flower. Then there would be no fruit. Blooms are wonderful to see, but the joy and value is in the fruit. These little foxes (distractions) would ruin it all. Many who were running the race were knocked out of the race because of small distractions.

Tender grapes

'Tender' shows these grapes are not mature yet. Just as the tender grapes, the bride needs a little more time to mature.

VERSE 16

My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.

My beloved is mine

She responds sweetly here, but her focus is still on herself. By saying "My beloved is mine" she is still placing responsibility on herself rather than on him. She thinks she has to hold on to him, and this shows she hasn't reached full maturity.

Among the lilies

She sees him as being occupied with someone else, and not being completely taken with her at this point. She hasn't fully apprehended him, because he is shared among the other lilies for fellowship rather than fellowshiping only with her. At this point she still has a limited vision of her life with Him.

VERSE 17

Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

Until the day break

She has backed away a little; perhaps she is in a deep trial. It is normal if we back away a little from time to time. Whether we back away due to trials or distractions, He knows how to get our undivided attention. Until the day breaks can represent time of trials, but also speaks of the wonderful day Jesus will come. It is in the night when we especially need Him. We need to take Him into our lives in times of darkness and trial. If we learn the Word of God, it becomes a light unto our pathway, and a lamp unto our feet. We need to turn the battles over to Him, not try to fight them ourselves.

The shadows flee away

Shadows are the nighttime experiences, the suffering, the trials, the trying of our faith. The sufferings can be an obstacle when we get occupied with them. God meant for the sufferings to be gifts between lovers. If we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him. Many times in this story the myrrh (sufferings) get the best of her.

Turn my beloved

She is asking him to turn from her and ease the suffering. How many times have we said this to Him when He wanted our fellowship? We don't want to suffer because it isn't joyous for the moment, but this is the time we need Him the most. We, like the Shulamite, need to get occupied with Him, not with the trials. Once we get fully occupied with Him, we'll understand how Paul could write the joy book of the Bible from a prison cell.

Mountains of Bether

Bether is a place of separation. It is a craggy place which means to pierce, chop or divide. When we go with Christ we have to go with Him alone. We'll have to be willing to be separated, and we don't know what He will ask us to be separated from. Separation causes pain – but the pain is increased if we are focused on what we are separated from, rather than what we are separated to. When we learn to focus on what we were separated to, there is joy. What we are separated to is an inheritance of love and joy, and everything He has. Christ has to have first place with us.

CHAPTER 3

VERSE 1

By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.

By night on my bed I sought him

'By night' lets us know a deep trial continues. The last verse in chapter 2 showed her resistance in being separated to him. She still wanted friends and relatives, and she hadn't yet learned to appreciate the dark times. We, like the Shulamite, need to learn the Word of God, and let it be a lamp unto our feet in the dark trials.

She is seeking him now, but by refusing to suffer with him, he has departed from her. 'On my bed' shows she wants his closest fellowship. A bed is a place of rest and the place of deepest communion between a husband and his wife. She looked for him, but he had taken her at her word and had gone to the mountains. It is no longer 'our bed' but 'my bed.' Something has changed, because he is not with her in the bed; there is no sharing. She is still approaching him on her own terms.

That she sought him shows she is still trying to do things in her strength. She hasn't yet learned the responsibility is on him. He holds us, we don't hold Him. All we can do is let go and let Him do his perfect work.

Whom my soul loveth

Four times in the next four verses she says, "whom my soul loveth." She has a deeper appreciation for Him because He has departed from her. She is beginning to look inside and see how much she loves Him. We will never be able to go with God the way He wants us to unless we begin to look in His heart and see how He loves us. Paul said, "The love of Christ constrains me" (2 Corinthians 5:14). The Bible says we love Him because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). Nothing can separate us from His love. He will never leave us, forsake us, or stop loving us.

I found him not

She couldn't find Him because she was not looking for Him at the throne of grace. If we go in our strength, we won't find the throne of grace. The mindset of doing it our way and in our strength leads us to the streets and broad ways of the city. He is never there, so we must go outside the city, outside the camp to where He is.

"I"

She uses the word "I" 13 times in the first five verses, which shows she has her eyes upon herself, and what she thinks she must accomplish. We are all guilty of this, and many times we have our eyes on ourselves and not on the Lord. Using "I" this many times also shows she has an unmistakable interest in Him. She has a great desire, because she is not just longing for His love, she insists on His love.

VERSE 2

I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.

I will rise now

She seems to know what she has to do: find Him. She takes the steps of faith she should have taken before. Her desire for Him has inspired her.

Go about the city in the streets and broad ways

The city streets and broad ways represent the many religious systems and churches that have left their first love. The true church started on the day of Pentecost, and was established by the preaching of the apostle Paul. This true church is all about God's full counsel. Most religions don't believe it, let alone preach it. They

are bound by their walls of do's and don'ts and organizations instead of by the love of Jesus. These organizations are interested in entertainment and big numbers, and care little about the true gospel. They don't preach God's full counsel, but rather what is popular and what the people's itching ears want to hear. The true church is not an organization, but a living organism.

Streets and broad ways also speak of where the crowds are and what is popular. Many will experience the second death (the lake of fire) because these churches told them a lie concerning how to be saved. Only the resurrected Jesus Christ can save them. There is no other way to be saved.

I found him not

She won't find Him in the streets and broad ways, because He is not there. She is going to the crowds instead. Worship happens outside the city. That is where He is, and that is where she will find Him.

VERSE 3

The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?

The watchmen

'Watchman' means to hedge about as with thorns, guard, protect, attend to. The watchmen represent preachers and teachers that are to watch out for God's children and protect them from error. Sadly, many of God's people are fed devilish doctrine by preachers who tickle their ears, but tell them nothing about the Word of God. God help us to have our lamps full of oil, loving Christ's appearing.

Saw ye whom my soul loveth

They haven't seen Him, and they know very little or nothing about the bridegroom. They won't be able to help her if she is truly seeking the bridegroom. They may be able to tell her how to get saved, and possibly go a little farther, but they don't know and can't tell her about bridal truth. We need to study the true Word of God in Paul's gospel to show ourselves approved.

VERSE 4

It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

I passed from them and found Him

She knew enough to get out of the city to look for Him. She didn't have to go far out of the city, just one step. She found Him, and He had been there all along waiting for her. We can find Christ the Savior many places in the city, but if we are looking for Christ the bridegroom, we have to go without the city, or without the camp and bear His reproach (Hebrews 13:13). True love making isn't done in a public place. Jesus doesn't make love and consummate the love match in the midst of a crowd.

I held Him

It is time for embracing between the bride and groom. The Lord will never let us go, and He wants us to hold Him, embrace Him, and apprehend Him. We are held to Him by the cords of love and faith.

I brought Him to my mother's house

This mother is grace and we will always find the closest communion and fellowship with the Lord in the house of mother grace. The growth for the bridal relationship will always be in the intimate, innermost chamber of mother grace. We are to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord an savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Into the chamber of her that conceived me

We were conceived at Calvary which is the basis for our fellowship with Christ. Apart from Calvary, we have no claim on Him. We are what we are by the grace of God. We certainly didn't deserve anything, but when we

believed on Christ on the cross, this was the basis for our claim to Him. Our fellowship, our claim, and our growth in Him is all by His grace.

VERSE 5

I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love till he please.

O ye daughters

She knows these daughters. She knows they are saved and will go to heaven, but they will miss God's best. Unlike these daughters, the bride will fully mature and be ready for marriage. Those not in the bride will be the palm wavers and the servers.

Roes and hinds of the field

This is the second time she notes the roes and hinds. This refers to easily-spooked deer. These also are the ones who can climb high in craggy places, and reach the heights.

Stir not up

She is back in the chamber of grace and doesn't want to be disturbed or distracted. His desire is for her. If we just stay with the grace of God, there will be a full joy and glory. The word of His grace will do it, and He will finish the work he began in us.

She doesn't want His rest disturbed. Don't stir Him up, let Him do it His way. The blessings of God have to come down, we can't pump them up. If we do as God wants us to, and His blessings don't come down, be satisfied anyway. Don't run from the truth because of some small thing. To know His ways is greater than knowing His works. It is precious to know that He saves, but it is more precious to really get to know Him in an intimate way. The only way to have intimacy with the Lord is in the chamber of His grace. To get in His presence as a lover, we must be still, quiet and alone with Him in this chamber of grace where we find an abundance, love, rest, peace, praise, and rejoicing. He is lovesick for us and we need to be lovesick for Him.

VERSE 6

Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, and all the powders of the merchant?

Who is this

The Holy Spirit speaks and gives testimony of the Shulamite and her love.

That cometh out of the wilderness

'This' and 'wilderness' are both feminine nouns, showing that this is the Shulamite. This is her making her triumphant exit from the wilderness into the throne room. This is like a look into the future at the enthronement of Jesus Christ and his bride.

She has been in the wilderness, and 'wilderness' means an uncharted, barren, and dry place. If we go with God, we'll go to dry and barren places. This is where we learn of God's ability to sustain us. We learn of his power and provision – that He is our keeper and that He supplies our every need. The question is not how we will go into the wilderness, but how will we come out? How much will we allow God to perform His perfect work in us? We need to make up our minds to go all the way with Him. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning (Psalms 30:5).

Like pillars of smoke

The pillars represent those saints from the Philadelphia church that will make up the bride and be spared the tribulation. The moment the bride is raptured, the tribulation begins. God promised in Revelation 3:12 to make them pillars in the house of God, and pillars are not moved.

The smoke speaks of fiery trials, of which we will have many if we go with God. But smoke also speaks of fervent love and worship. She has learned to worship while she was in the wilderness, and her love for Him had grown despite the fiery trials. Christ's bride will be a true worshipper, not a server or a palm waver.

Myrrh and frankincense

This is the perfume she got in the wilderness during her trials. Myrrh speaks of suffering and going without the camp. It is never told in the Bible how frankincense was made; that remains a secret. Two years after Jesus was born, the wise men brought him frankincense and myrrh. This shows sacrifice and suffering, and He suffered once for all. If we go on with Him, we'll be that wounded side, that pierced rib portion.

Many saints suffer and are facing fiery trials, but worship flows out of their lives. Many others complain and murmur because of the pressure of the trial they are in. Let the Holy Spirit search our hearts, and give us a picture of ourselves. Let our lives be in harmony with Him. When we glory in our infirmities as Paul did, a sweet-smelling incense arises to God.

All powders of the merchants

It is not some powders, but all powders. This shows completeness. We are filled with all the fullness of God, and nothing is left out. The merchants are the ones that brought forth and carried all the most valuable riches of the king. Esther took all that the keeper of the women gave her. The Holy Spirit will guide us into all the truth, and give us all the things of Christ readied for us.

VERSE 7

Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.

Bed

A bed is a place of rest. With whom do we rest in the night? Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, "Lo I am with you always." He will not leave us or forsake us. We can rest in Jesus no matter what the circumstances.

As she comes out of the wilderness, this bed is magnified. This speaks of intimacy, and also of the chamber of grace. Intimacy is about the greatest knowledge we can grasp and understand as human beings, the relationship of the husband and wife. This bed is the inner chamber of grace, and this is the place He is magnified.

Threescore valiant men are about it

'Threescore' is 60, and means second place. The valiant men surrounding the king's bed protect Him, but they do not rule, nor are they in the midst of the throne like the bride. The 24 elders are the first company seen in heaven in Revelation 4.

VERSE 8

They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.

They all hold swords

The Word of God is the sword in the whole armor of God in Ephesians chapter six. The Word of God is sharper than any two edged sword. Even in our lives, it is the sword (the Word) that protects us. The only thing Satan is

afraid of is the Word of God. We have to believe and know the Word of God to fight against the wiles of the devil, and keep him from stealing, killing, and destroying us. The Word of God is what Jesus fought Satan with.

Being expert in war

These valiant men are the ones who know the Word of God and know how to turn Satan away. Some use the sword to be judgmental or offensive, but these valiant men stand in defense of the gospel of Christ. When we stand for the truth in love, we stand for the word of His grace. Truth without love has no fruit. It becomes cold and rigid, and lacks joy.

His sword upon his thigh

These swords are on the thigh where they are easy to reach. When in a battle we need our swords (Word of God) close at hand. The thigh also speaks of a fruitful place.

Fear in the night

Fear means adversity, or twist away from the light. We need to stay awake and alert. It is in the nighttime trials that the devil loves to come at us, but we are more than conquerors through Christ in God's word. Daniel was fearless in the lion's den and David was fearless when he faced Goliath. We learn to conquer through the Word of God. God will enable us to win any battle.

VERSE 9

King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon.

Chariot

A chariot is a means of conveyance, a means of travel through this pilgrimage time. Most Christians are afraid to go all the way with God, but He is more than able. We are pressed out of measure beyond strength, insomuch that we despair of our very lives, that we may learn to trust Him. The power of holy perception and the desire for God's best is always backed by His power to give us what He promises.

2 Kings 2:11

And it came to pass as they still went on, and talked, that, behold there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

This is the chariot that will carry the bride to heaven. This chariot is the same as the whirlwind that took Elijah to heaven. This is also known as the fiery departure, and the way Elijah was taken up gives us a sense of this.

Wood of Lebanon

'Wood' speaks of humility and 'Lebanon' speaks of the whiteness. 'Heights' speak of that glorious church, the brilliant white, sun glory church. This white is *lampros* white, the same white as in the bride's gown.

VERSE 10

He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.

This chariot appeared to take the bride away to heaven from out of the wilderness and into the midst of the throne. Jesus won't take the throne until His bride is by His side.

Pillars of silver

Pillars show that she is like Him. Silver speaks of redemption, of his blood, and this is where she has been looking all the time. The cherubim on the mercy seat in the Tabernacle in the wilderness had their eyes on the blood on the mercy seat. These cherubim represent the bride.

The bottom thereof of gold

Gold speaks of deity, and the bottom speaks of the base or foundation. Christ is our foundation, and we can't take part in any of these wonderful things God has for us, until we begin at Calvary with Christ. Christ and His grace is the foundation of everything in our Christian walk, from salvation to attaining Christ in the high calling.

Coverings of purple

Purple speaks of royalty and God has made it possible for us to share in that royalty by making it possible for us to marry His Son Jesus. When we keep our eyes on the provision God has made for us, we can go through life like the royalty He wants us to be.

Paved with love

God is love. Everything about the Godhead is love, grace, and mercy. This chariot is paved with love – not works, but love.

For the daughters of Jerusalem

The Israelites are still God's chosen people. He always has, and always will, love them. And one day, God will once again make them His wife.

VERSE 11

Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold King Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him on the day of His espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.

O ye daughters of Zion

These daughters represent many things, but they have been a distraction to her. The daughters can't compare to her; she is the only one, the choice one. The innumerable multitude will be made up of these daughters who will be raptured approximately two and a half years into the tribulation.

Behold King Solomon with crowns

This is an anology to Christ. The Bible speaks of His many crowns. A crown of thorns was one of them, a crown he wore for us. And because of that He brought many sons to glory. This gives him the right to reign for a thousand years.

His mother crowned him

Mother grace crowned Him on His wedding day.

Day of gladness

This is a day He marked in His heart. This is the day of a joyful banquet, the day He will have his wife. He is looking so forward to that day that He can hardly wait. He is anxiously awaiting word from His Father to go and get His bride. He is showing her what she can have with Him in the future.

CHAPTER 4

VERSE 1

Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold thou art fair; thou hast dove's eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead.

This chapter is called "ravished by love," because He is ravished by her. He has come back to her after their separation. He didn't make her feel bad for sending Him away, but instead tells her how much He loves her. This is true in our lives, too. He always just tells us how much He loves us.

There are eight qualities to describe her in the next five verses. Eight is the number of the bride, and five is the number of grace. All her bridal qualities are because of the grace of God. Seven of these descriptions are about her body, and seven is the number of perfection and completeness. The life of Christ is perfect in every Christian. She is a saint that is growing fully confident in the life of Christ.

Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

'Perfect' means fully finished, complete, fully grown. She is perfect to Him, and He is ravished with her. Although the following qualities are physical descriptions, they are all symbolic of her heart. Vision, desire, the meditation, the stand, the testimony and fruit; these are all Christ in us the hope of glory.

Behold thou art fair

He calls her this twice, a double portion. She is absolutely beautiful to Him.

Dove's eyes

Her eyes are pre-eminent to Him because she has the discernment of the Holy Spirit. Eyes also speak of light. Everything has to begin with light. We have to first see our need of a savior. We need our eyes enlightened to have a vision – a vision of God's high calling in Christ Jesus. Without a vision the people perish. We are filled with the Holy Spirit because we see the need for receiving power into our lives. The Holy Spirit takes the love of God and sheds it abroad in our hearts. If your eye be single it will be full of light. In His light we see life.

Thy locks

Locks speak of hair, and hair in scripture shows weakness. She takes the place of the weaker vessel and depends on him. A woman's hair speaks of her covering, her glory, and her submission to her husband. She surrenders to Christ's headship.

'Locks' means to fasten a veil. Beyond the veil – or behind the veil – speaks of the holy of holies in the tabernacle in the wilderness. Only Christ and the cherubim dwelt there. We will never see the bridal truth without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all the truth, and will take the things of Christ and make them ours.

Goats from Gilead

Mount Gilead was an elevated and very rich country with forests and flowing waters. The hair of the goats of Gilead is noted for its rich, lustrous, beautiful hair. The finest cashmere is not made from sheep, but from goats. When Jacob and Laban made their covenant, they were on Mount Gilead. Mount Gilead means "witness". As we submit to Christ, we begin to become witnesses.

Goat hair was also used to make the curtains in the tabernacle. These weren't just any goats, but the long-haired goats from Gilead. Spiritually speaking, long hair means we are separated unto the Lord in our weakness. We depend on Him, trust Him, and acknowledge His headship.

These goats are expert in climbing, and could jump from crag to crag, because they had hind's feet. The Shulamite has gone to the high places by grace, to the high calling of God. The only way we can walk the path is with hind's feet. We'll be in places that are perilous to everyone else.

VERSE 2

Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bare twins, and none is barren among them.

Thy teeth

'Teeth' means to point, pierce, to teach, to teach diligently. God wants us to learn the truth, for we shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free. She has a full set of spiritual teeth in order to feed on the strong meat of the truth. We must know the truth to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Even shorn

This means her spiritual teeth can chew, or comprehend any and all the truth. Many will not endure sound doctrine. Even shorn shows her teeth are smooth and perfect because of the special feeding.

Come up from the washing

Even shorn and come up from the washing shows she received a balanced message, that she had the ability to take in and chew the Word of God. Everything she tells others about the Word is absolutely pure and truthful. This is a special feeding in a highly exalted place due to her feeding on strong meat.

Every one bear twins, none barren

Every one bearing twins speaks of a double portion. She is not only a child of God, but a daughter-in-law as well. It is important for us to continue to feed on the deep things of God and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We need to ask God for more light upon light, and pay more fervent heed to the things we have heard, lest we let them slip. May we, by God's grace, keep our eyes on the prize. "None is barren" shows that the Word of God properly chewed (understood) is always fruitful and never returns void.

VERSE 3

Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of pomegranate within thy locks.

Thy lips

Lips manifest affection, and these lips are scarlet which means they manifest a love for redemption, or for the blood of Christ. The cherubim in the Holy of Holies keep their eyes affixed on the blood sprinkled on the mercy seat. Her lips are healthy, health-producing, and beautiful.

Like a scarlet thread

A scarlet thread brings to remembrance Rahab, who hid the spies sent by Israel to spy our the city of Jericho. When Israel attacked Jericho, they saw the scarlet cord she used to let the spies out the window and down to the ground so they could escape. Because she helped the spies, she and all her family were spared and did not die in the battle.

Rahab became the wife of Salmon, and the child born to them was Boaz. She was said to be an unusually beautiful woman with a heart of gold. She instilled that quality in her son, Boaz. Boaz married Ruth, and Boaz and Ruth begat Obed, who begat Jesse, who begat David. Rahab not only made it into the family, she reigned. She was a prostitute who was called to the blood line that brought forth the Redeemer. People like Rahab are always the ones God chooses. He wants to show what he can do in a life by His grace.

Thy speech is comely

This magnifies the abundance of her heart that is filled with the love of God. She has words of grace, not harsh and ungodly words. Such a woman is found in the Virtuous Woman in Proverbs 31.

Proverbs 31:26

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

We need to be like the Virtuous Woman, quick to hear and slow to speak. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Thy temples

'Temples' are the seat of the mind. This speaks of a mind that is settled and stayed upon Him, a mind of peace and rest. It is the mind of one that has ceased from his own works, and entered into the rest of God. This mind understands because it is the very mind of Christ, and not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.

Pomegranate

'Pomegranate' means to rise or grow upright, speaks of being fruitful, and speaks of a crowning. In II Kings chapter 7, caps were put on the pillars of Solomon's house, and these caps had decorations of pomegranates. These caps speak of a crown. When Christ was speaking to the church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3, He told those saints He would make them pillars, and give them crowns. These are the full-overcomers who will jointly rule and reign with Him, and receive the crowns when Christ takes His bride. We were born to rule and reign with Him.

Within thy locks

This speaks again of beyond the veil in the holy of holies, in the closest and most intimate place with Christ. The veil over the bride is her meditation. This shows also that she is taking the place of the weaker vessel, and depending on the Lord. She knows what she is to Him, and she knows she is a vessel to the glory and praise of His grace.

VERSE 4

Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armory, wherein there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.

Thy neck

The neck is the place where burdens are carried. It speaks of strength and support. It is a place of looking out, a watchful place where those looking for and loving His appearing will be seen. This also shows her spiritual strength is exactly where it should be, and others can depend on her.

Tower

The tower of David was built on the weakest point of the city. It is in the weakest point that the bride is built as she glories in her infirmities. This is where His strength is totally supplied and where we are found only in His righteousness.

Armory

An armory was constructed to house weapons of warfare. The bride is not only a lover, but also a warrior. She fights the good fight of faith. That armory was constructed for all the people. She isn't just a warrior for herself – she is a vessel that adds to the usefulness of her husband. She looks well to the ways of her household, just as the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31.

Bucklers and shields

Bucklers and shields are protections from the battle. This speaks of the battles won, the victories and the spoils. We are winners over the mighty enemies. When a knight took the victory over his enemies, he took their shield. We fight by grace, and can say like Paul that we have fought the good fight of faith. The victory is won over every foe, every time, because of faith.

VERSE 5

Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies.

Breasts

A double portion is seen here once again. Breasts speak of full maturity, beauty, fruitfulness, and the ability to feed others with what they have been fed. We need to know God's full counsel in order to feed it to others. Nursing mothers have to watch what they eat. Most Christians are fed incorrect doctrine and never grow up in Him.

Two young roes that are twins

This speaks of those young deer that had to fight for the right to breed. Young speaks of youthful love and passion, and twins speak of a double portion of vigor, fullness, and fruitfulness.

Twins also show balance between provisional truth and practical truth. The Bible teaches both views; they represent our state and our standing. Our state can fluctuate, but our standing never will for our standing is as God's Sons. We need provisional truth, but we also need practical truth. The practical life flows from the provision He makes. There can be no practical life if we don't first know the provision God has made for us. He is the vine, we are the branches. Every branch that doesn't abide in the vine cannot bear fruit. Without Him we can do nothing. We can bless others by our practical lives in the way we live, and how we handle circumstances and experiences.

Feed among the lilies

Lilies speak of the glorious whiteness of the bridal gown. This also speaks of the lily among thorns, and the lily of the valley. We feed in the hard places; this is how we grow. We have to mature if we are to take our place of ruling and reigning with Him. He tells her how altogether lovely she is to Him. He also tells us, and He will continue to tell us until the trumpet blast.

VERSE 6

Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountains of myrrh, and to the hills of frankincense.

This is the bridegroom speaking to the Shulamite. He is the one who makes the day break. He is in heaven as our high priest.

Until the day break

This is speaking of the time Christ will come to get His bride. 'Until the day break' literally means until the time of the trumpet blast. Those who go at the first trump will hear our Lord say, "Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away." This thrills our hearts as we look forward to that glorious day.

The shadows flee away

These shadows are shadows of unbelief. They will sometimes hinder us until that day. There is a yearning in the precious voice of our Savior who awaits the day His Father tells Him He can go get His bride.

Mountains of myrrh

This speaks of the suffering Jesus endured for us at Calvary. He was tested in everything we would ever face, and He now sits at the right hand of God making intercession for us. We are abiding until the shadows flee. Someday soon He'll come for us.

Hill of frankincense

Myrrh speaks of the suffering we experience, and frankincense speaks of sweetness. The way it seems in our experience is that we have a big mountain of myrrh (suffering), and a small hill of frankincense (sweetness). But the sufferings we go through today are not worthy to be compared to the glory we will receive in heaven.

VERSE 7

Thou art all fair my love, there is no spot in thee.

His love for her is complete, and He is absolutely captivated by her. This is how He feels about those who are running the race to win Christ as bridegroom.

All fair

'Fair' means bright, beautiful, clear to the light, transparent. He is telling her she is completely beautiful to Him. She is beautiful to Him because she knows how much she needs Him. 'All fair' shows she is complete to Him. We are filled with the fullness of God when we receive Paul's gospel. Paul was the overseer of the mystery of Christ and His bride.

No spot in thee

She is not perfect yet, but He still sees no spot in her, because she is well on her way to yielding and becoming perfect in Him. Real sanctification is on the inside; i.e. our attitudes and motivations.

VERSE 8

Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards.

Lebanon

'Lebanon' means white, and signifies the purity of His viewpoint. He wants her to look at things from His point of view. He takes her from Lebanon - a place of comfort, joy, glory, and brightness. He takes her from this pleasant place because there are experiences she has to go through, and suffering that needs to come forth to prove the love of God in her life. He never wants us to plateau; He wants to take us higher and higher. He is giving her opportunity for an expanded vision. He wants her to take a journey with Him. He has so much to show her. The experiences He is now calling her to will get her ready to be His bride. Times of pressure are when we learn the real meaning of the Lord to our lives. To go on with the Lord requires adversity.

My spouse

This is the first mention of her as His spouse, or wife. He is offering this to us if we are willing to suffer with Him to reign with Him, and be glorified together with Him. He is taking her to the proving ground to see if she is willing to suffer with Him. If we are not truly in love with Him, we won't go.

Amana

'Amana' means sure, fixed, lofty, faithful and truth. He wants her to see things with eyes of truth. We have to have this vision, this perspective in the overcoming heights. There are five (grace) places that she needs to

have a vantage point for. It is in these places that we really become His spouse. We have to come to the point in our lives that no matter what the circumstances are, we go by the Word of God. These places are where He can really start to work in our lives. In places like this we come to believe we are His workmanship, and we depend on Him to finish the work He began in us. Places like this are where the lover becomes the warrior. When we see His all sufficient grace, He takes us to the next peak.

Shenir

'Shenir' means a coat of armor, or a coat of mail. This references the whole armor of God. We need to have on the whole armor of God to stand and withstand. This armor emphasizes the breastplate of righteousness, because we only want to be found in His righteousness. We can start to become fully-purposed warriors, and we see that Christ in us is the hope of glory. It is all Him, and His righteousness protects us.

Hermon

'Hermon' means seclusion, devotion, consecration, and destruction. He wants us to know we are free from destruction. Satan can only go as far as God will allow Him to. We have already won the victory because of Jesus. Some of our biggest battles are against unbelief, but in Christ we can do all things. We need true love and devotion settled in our lives; then we can stand alone with Him and become warriors ready to fight. Stand, withstand, and having done all, stand (Ephesians 6:13). This height of heights is where we are ready for the fourth place.

The lions' dens

He wants us to get in where the lions are, and realize they can't touch us unless He wants them to. God sometimes puts us in lions' dens (like He did Daniel) to show us we need not fear them, because they can't hurt us when He protects us. We learn to become completely confident in Him.

Mountains of leopards

These 'mountains of leopards' are also plural (more than one.) We will face fierce things, spiritual wickedness in high places, but this is the place He proves the height, depth, length, breadth, and width of His love in us. His love causes us to fight on. Both the lions' dens and the mountains of leopards represent the onslaught of the devil.

Verse 9

Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse: thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck.

The fact that she went to all those places with Him and took her place with Him has made Him love her more. She has totally captivated and ravished His heart. Now she is even more beautiful and irresistible to Him. His heart races for her. This is true of Jesus toward us.

My sister, my spouse

The word 'sister' means having the same father. We are all Sons of God. 'Spouse' means daughter-in-law; a double portion. Not only is the bride of Christ a double portion to the Father, but a double portion to Jesus as well.

One of thine eyes

'One eye' shows the truth and the light in her life. She has dove's eyes, and He can't take His eyes off her. It only took one of her eyes to ravish Him.

The cherubim on the mercy seat are always looking at the blood on the mercy seat. Jesus wants us to keep our eyes on the mercy seat, and know everything started because of His shed blood. These cherubim have their faces set like a flint for Him.

One chain

She has a gold chain around her neck. This tells us she has appropriated that divine love, and it is on display for Him. The chain shows the power that is in her life because of Him. The chain on her neck in chapter 1 was a place for armory, and His power rests on her life. She has the very power of God's might to fight the battles. When we are weak, He is our strength. The Philadelphia church had but a little strength (Revelation chapter 3).

VERSE 10

How fair is thy love my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointment than all spices.

How fair is thy love

He is magnifying her love here, not her works or efforts. He has taken her to five places of complete grace. The light she has now is radiant to Him.

Thy love is better than wine

Wine makes us feel good and speaks of joy in the Holy Spirit. In chapter 1 verse 1, she tells Him His love is better than wine, now He tells Her. She has incorporated the love of God in her own life; she displays this love, and He appreciates it. Here it is our love giving Him the greatest joy and ecstasy. Only by the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives can we transform into this all pleasing vessel to Him. The Holy Spirit takes the love of God and sheds it abroad in our hearts. We need to reciprocate the love He gives us.

The smell of thine ointments than all spices

This is a love match, and the fragrance of this essence is beyond all aromatics. She has traveled with Him through all the battles, and came out of them victorious. It brought to her life the sweet fragrance only these things can bring.

The aroma of this ointment speaks of worship. It is sweet and altogether lovely to Him; more than spices, riches or anything else. These are the four living ones seen in Revelation in the midst of the throne worshipping Him. Worship means to draw nigh in fervent love as to kiss. This is the love language between spouses. The place of the sweet smelling sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving overwhelms Him. Nothing can express love more truly than ones who anoint His feet. Sometimes we get to a place with the Lord that all we can say is "Thank You!" Everything He brings to our life is by His grace. He does it all.

VERSE 11

Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue: and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.

He calls her 'spouse' not 'sister.' This is the bridegroom looking at the bride.

Drop as the honeycomb

Drop means to speak or to preach. When a honeycomb gets hot it sweats, or drips. The 'sweat' of the honeycomb is actually sweeter than the honey. As we are put in the furnace and we suffer for Him in our life, these sufferings come forth sweeter than the honeycomb to Him. He feeds on this, and it is encouraging to Him. We are vessels that add to the usefulness of the husband. God is looking for true worshippers that will worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Honey and milk are under thy tongue

Honey and milk shows her words are sweet and pure, and that she can feed others. This also speaks of what is in her heart, and the Promised Land that was flowing with milk and honey. It is "the glory of all the land." She is most glorious because she is like Him.

The smell of her garments

The cedars of Lebanon perfumed the air with a beautiful and abundant fragrance. Her life had become like this, abundant and fragrant. Her garments (the way she lives her life) are seen on the outside. They smell wonderful to Him and are pure in His sight. She has a practical righteousness. As she lives to please to Him, she lives a wonderful testimony for all to see. She is like the Proverbs 31 virtuous woman.

VERSE 12

A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

A garden

She has become a garden of every fruit. She has become to Him everything that is sweet and precious.

Enclosed

Everything is reserved for Him first. He must always get His first portion from the garden, the spring, and the fountain. The bride is for Him exclusively, set aside for His use.

2 Timothy 2:21

If a man purge himself from the profane and vain babblings, He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

A spring shut up

Her heart is shut up to Him, and our hearts should be also. The spring means a well. She is both refreshed and refreshing.

A fountain sealed

This fountain speaks of being sealed by the Holy Spirit. This shows the greatest joy, pleasure, and delight. She is the preeminent love to Him, and He is the same to her.

VERSE 13

Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard.

Plants

Plants speak of weapons. She is a warrior, a fighter.

Orchard of pomegranates

Pomegranates are loaded with seeds. These seeds symbolize the Word of God, and that is what will be produced in us his garden. Romans 8:28 tells us that all things work together for good to those who love God and are the called according to His purpose. These are things that feed and flavor our lives; things that make them beautiful and sweet. All these things are properly blended spices that satisfy Him.

Pomegranates speak of crowns. They speak of victories that pertain to the full-overcomers. The tops of the pillars in Solomon's temple called 'caps' or 'crowns.' They were decorated with pomegranates. The Philadelphia church is one of two crown companies, Smyrna being the other. The saints in the Philadelphia church are told to "hold fast what ye have that no man take thy crown." This crown is also a wedding ring that belongs to the queen.

Pleasant fruits

These are noble, or sun-glory, fruits. They are all inclusive, like the sevenfold Spirits of God. Many parts make up one, but it is all one fruit.

Camphire

Camphire speaks of maturity and fertility. When camphire is crushed it becomes many beautiful colors. It was also a fragrance that was pleasing to a husband. We want to be a pleasing fragrance to our Lord and Savior, and to God.

Spikenard

This is a spice found only in the mountain heights. The root of the spikenard plant has spikes, and when they are squeezed an aromatic oil comes forth. This brings to mind our blessed Savior's suffering. His whole life was anointed with the spikenard. As we suffer with Him, we anoint Him.

VERSE 14

Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all the trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices.

Saffron

Saffron is a crocus and has showy purple flowers. Purple speaks of royalty. The dried orange stigmas of saffron are used to flavor food, as a coloring agent, and in medicines. Saffron is one of the world's most costly spices by weight. That it is costly speaks of the pearl of great price and of the price Jesus paid to make us free.

Saffron has a sweet smell, but can be bitter in the stomach. She consumes the Word of God and gladly endures its effects. As we go through trials, and by grace lay hold of the Lord, we are a testimony and a salve to the body of Christ.

Calamus

Calamus is a tall, red, hollow grass stalk. Red speaks of the blood of Jesus. Anything that will ever be is because of His blood. Like the cherubim, her gaze is affixed on the blood on the mercy seat and at the grace of God. We have to be hollowed out so He can fill us with Him. He must increase, and we must decrease.

This grass stalk is a measuring tool, and everything will be measured by the Word of God. When she is filled with all the Word of God she becomes an example. Paul's gospel completes God's word and Paul is our example. We must follow him as he followed Christ.

Colossians 1:25

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God.

When calamus was crushed, it became part of the anointing oil. The priests, the tabernacle, and all in it were anointed with this oil.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon is a spice that comes from the inner bark of several different trees. It is used to flavor sweet as well as savory dishes. It has many health benefits.

Frankincense

Frankincense is a resin that comes from scraggy, hardy trees. Their bark is slashed and resin bleeds out of the tree and hardens. The hardened pieces of resin are called "tears." Frankincense is used in the incense burned on the altar, and speaks of Christ bleeding and dying on the cross.

Myrrh

Myrrh is an aromatic resin from a number of different thorny trees. It is used in incense, perfumes, and some medicines. Thorns speak of the crown of thorns Jesus wore the day He was crucified, and myrrh speaks of His suffering. She has entered in to that joint suffering, and has taken her place at His pierced side.

Aloes

This is aloe vera, known for its soothing medicinal ointments. Aloes are also used in incense and perfumes.

Chief spices

These were the choicest of the spices. She was willing to go with Him even in the suffering. The sufferings, the plantings, and the development of His life in her filled her with fragrance, fruit, and spices. All these ingredients went into the holy anointing oil. When the power of the Holy Spirit is on display in our lives we are a wonderful fragrance to our Lord and bridegroom.

VERSE 15

A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

Fountain of gardens

'Garden' represents the bride, and the fountain shows that she is overflowing with pleasure, joy, and delight unto Him. He loves her more than all the other chaste women (innumerable multitude). The word of His grace can transform our lives to where they bring Him overflowing pleasure, joy, and delight. All the resources of heaven flow into the overcoming life, and we are changed from glory to glory, even unto the very likeness of our Lord. We can flow out as a blessing to others, but the first portion belongs to our Lord. He must always come first in everything.

Well of living waters

This means 'flowing from the rock.' Jesus is the Rock; it's all Him. Everything she is flows from the Rock. This flowing is the word of His grace. It is alive.

Streams from Lebanon

Lebanon means glorified whiteness. It is the brilliance and radiance of sun glory that flows out of her life.

VERSE 16

Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

North wind

The north wind speaks of the freezing opposition comes against us. If all we had was the north wind, we would freeze to death. If we had nothing but trials and tribulations continually, our spiritual growth would be stunted, and we would never bring forth any fruit unto the Lord. In the natural we complain about tribulations, problems, and distresses. But it is at these times we learn to fully trust God.

South wind

The south wind speaks of blessings and warmth. If all we had were blessings and summertime, we would become arrogant in our flesh, and independent of God.

Blow upon my garden that the spices may flow out

We need both blessings and trials to balance our spiritual lives, and to make the sweet fragrant spices flow out. It takes the wind to whip the flowers to release the perfume they hold. The same is true for us. We don't like the whipping, but we come to the place we learn the value of rejoicing in our tribulations just as Paul did.

In the Bible the wind usually represents the Holy Spirit. She is coming along well in her race to win Him. She has learned to be the Rose of Sharon which grows in a high and isolated place. The walk with God to have His best is a lonely walk. We have to be willing to be separated unto Jesus. We may have to give things up, but the sacrifice will be worth it.

Let my beloved come into his garden

It is 'his garden.' He bought it, and He is doing a work in it so He can come into it and enjoy it. Our lives should be a garden for Him to enjoy. We are not our own – we are His and His alone. We belong to Him now.

Pleasant fruits

This means the most desirable, eminent, distinguished, and valuable as both a fruit and a product. The word 'pleasant' also translates as precious fruit, or precious thing. She knows that she is His most desirable and precious fruit.

CHAPTER 5

VERSE 1

I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

This chapter is an abundance of divine grace, and how fitting we find that grace in chapter 5 because five is the number of grace. The Shulamite lives in us by God's grace. The Lord has seen fit to give us Paul's gospel, which reveals the bridal truth to us. Those who want to know will know of His perfect will and the fullness of it. Those who have responded to this are the ones who say, "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth."

The power of Christ must rest upon us because we will go into battle and be tested. The love He gives us is overwhelming and causes us to fight the good fight of faith. As the Holy Spirit sheds more love abroad in our hearts, we become more passionate and more confident in the grace of God. The power of Christ in us is the hope of glory. The fight is to believe, and to rest in faith. If we don't have the constant encouragement of hearing the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts, we will fall away. When we fall away we become weak and we don't want to fight. We need the whole armor of God.

But even if we draw away from Him, He never moves. He is always there. His pursuing of us becomes more intense. We know this because we are miserable when we step off the path He has for us. He is not punishing us, but rather making us yearn for Him. He is always encouraging us and ministering to us.

I come into my garden

The bridegroom speaks. He was not hesitant at the request to come into the garden. We never have to ask him twice to have fellowship with us; He is always very glad to. Her divine purpose is to win him, to rule and reign with Him. We need to recognize we are what we are by the grace of God. All the things she needs to win Him come into her life by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who brings that development to believers. We can't say, "I did it" because it's all by his grace.

The word 'my' is found nine times in this verse. Everything in the universe will one day be His, and if we want it, He wants to make us joint-heirs of all of it. He wants us to reign together with Him. How magnificent is our Savior and bridegroom! He is willing to share all His wealth with we who do not deserve it and can never do anything to earn it.

My sister, my spouse

'Spouse' means a bride, as if perfect. The word translated bride means a daughter-in-law, a wife. It comes from a root word which means "complete to make perfect." It is crystal clear that King Solomon wants the Shulamite for His wife. God wants all His children to be a seated queen with Christ in glory forever.

Gathered my myrrh with my spice

Myrrh and spices speak of suffering. But when myrrh is crushed and ground it makes a marvelous perfume. She has been crushed and ground in her joint sufferings with Christ. He glories in the praise, the ecstasy, the enjoyment, and the pleasure of going on with God. She went with him to the five mountain places (trials) and experienced sorrow and hurt. Having her suffer with Him was a marvelous perfume to Him. He ministers to her the same things over and over and over, but each time gets more intense. He wants her undivided attention, and wants her to believe His grace.

Spices flavor cooking. 'Spice' comes from a root word that means not only fragrant, but also pleasant to taste. He puts in us what is sweet to Him. He feasts upon our suffering, not because He likes to see us suffer, but He appreciates our attitude toward the suffering. We need to be like the apostle Paul and glory in our infirmities.

I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey

Honey represents the Word of God. She not only gives out this honey, she is a storehouse of it. Myrrh, sweet spices, honey, wine, and milk are the things in her life that she willingly gave Him.

This honey also represents the sweet words we whisper to Jesus. He whispers beautiful, pure words to us, and we can do the same for him by whispering wonderful things He likes to hear. The bride will delight His heart through all eternity.

In those days honeycombs could be seen hanging from tree limbs. When the honeycomb shook, it dripped honey. When He shakes us what drips? When we complain about little things or lose our temper, our vision is not yet keen. We have not settled with all things working for our good. Our speech and our tongue are unruly. When we learn to love Christ and gladly accept His love, we can edify one another and spiritually encourage one another. The fellowship is in the honey, the gospel.

I have drunk my wine with my milk

'Wine' means fermented, intoxicating, and banqueting. The Bible tells us that the wine is the Spirit and the milk is the word of the truth. It is the true worshipper who worships Him in Spirit and in truth. The ones who worship Him this way are the ones He is looking for, the ones He sent His Spirit to find. Both spirit and truth are in abundance in her life, and she has joy unspeakable and is full of glory. We rule and reign with Him in Spirit and in truth now.

Eat O friends, drink abundantly O beloved

She speaks to her friends first and then to her beloved. She still doesn't yet have her eyes fully focused on Him. She realizes her mistake and includes Him, but that must have caused Him jealousy because He left. In the next verse He is knocking on her door, wanting her to open to Him. Our God is a jealous God and wants to be the center of our attention. He is our first and pre-eminent love, and we need to hold fast to him that no man take our crown.

VERSE 2

I sleep, but my heart waketh: It is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

I sleep

There has been another lull in their fellowship. In verse one He was feasting in her garden. Now she is asleep. Sleeping is a trait of the old nature, so she has given in to the flesh, the old man. Sometimes after God has taken us to great heights and given us much rejoicing, severe testing comes. In these trying times He is proving His faithfulness in us.

My heart waketh

The voice of her Beloved wakes her. The New Creation hears the voice of the Lord when He speaks. It is His voice that calls us back into fellowship with Him. Sometimes during a fierce battle we get into a lull. We hesitate and withdraw, but He abides faithful and keeps encouraging us to go forward.

Voice of my beloved that knocketh

He is knocking on the door, and the word of His grace finds us. Let His voice stir us up because he alone is faithful. He is always there, and we need to respond and yield. We need to have faith in His grace, because by His grace we can do all things.

Open to me

That she fell asleep shows she is not yet ready for marriage. She is marked for Him, but still has a ways to go. When we learn of the message of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and have accepted it, He will be in hot pursuit of us. He didn't say, "Now get up and tell me you are sorry." He didn't ask Her to repent of anything. He simply and sweetly said, "Open to me."

'Open to me' has two meanings. One is "to throw wide open", and the other is "to be engraved upon." In Isaiah 49:16, the Lord tells us we are engraved on the palm of His hand. In Revelation 3:12, the name "New Jerusalem" and the name of God will be written on the bride. The only thing that can throw it all wide open is the grace of God.

My sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled

He loves us more than we can ever comprehend. His love can't be earned; He gives it freely. He is ravished with us as we take in Paul's gospel, and as we say, "I will go." Like Rebekah, we'll mount up on our camels and begin the journey to win the bridegroom.

The four things He calls her are in perfect order to the four beasts seen in Ezekiel 1:10. Ezekiel sees these in a different order than they appear in Revelation. Ezekiel first saw the face of a man, then the face of a lion, then the face of the ox, and finally the face of the eagle.

1) My sister

This speaks of our humanity, the man Ezekiel saw first. In Hebrew "sister" means "daughter-in-law."

2) My love

This is His queen who will reign with Him, and that is why the second is a lion. In Hebrew, "my love" means "my companion."

3) My dove

This one is the gentle sacrifice that represents the ox. In Hebrew "dove" means gentle, weak, and leaning on Him.

4) My undefiled

This is the fair one and represents the full-overcoming eagle. In Hebrew "my undefiled" means complete, perfect, and lacking nothing.

He calls her all these things when He awakens her. He never mentions the things that are behind.

Spiritually speaking, the four things He calls her also bring out the trinity and Christ the Man.

1) My sister

This speaks of Christ as a brother in human terms, because Christ became a man.

2) My love

God is love. The love of God the Father is in us. This is the only real love.

3) My dove

This speaks of the anointing with the power of the Holy Spirit.

4) My undefiled

This speaks of the sanctification in Christ himself. The power of the Holy Spirit sanctifies, and God provides the way of sanctification.

My head is filled with dew

She may have been sleeping, but He was waiting the whole time. Dew never settles on a windy or stormy night, it comes with quietness. No doubt He waited in peace and silence for her to awaken. He never moved from her. He has dew all over His head, so He probably waited a long time. He went into the night when she rejected Him. Now He wants her fellowship with Him restored.

Locks with the drops of the night

The night speaks of trials, and it has been a dark time for her. His mission is to reach out in the darkness, to reach the wayfaring and the needy. His love never changes, and nothing can stop our Lord in His love for us. He loves us with a godly jealousy.

VERSE 3

I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?

I have put off my coat

The coat speaks of the anointing and the strength of the Lord that was put on them by the Spirit. She fell asleep to the things of God, and took off her coat of strength. It is in that weakened state of our own strength that we are susceptible to the enemy's lies.

I have washed my feet

Washing her feet in her own strength shows self-righteousness, which is as filthy rags in the sight of God. Judas had his feet washed by Jesus, but was still unclean because he wasn't washed in the blood of the Lamb. We must be washed daily in His Word.

She is occupied with what she has accomplished and how she looks. He just wants to come in and have deep, intimate fellowship with her. It grieves His heart when He can't fellowship or commune with us. She is telling Him she needs some time to get ready, to fix herself up for Him. We are always trying to put a little of ourselves in our walk with God. We need to understand we are His workmanship. We are the clay, and He is the potter who molds us and makes us after His will. He loves us and wants us to be vessels to the praise and glory of His grace. We are what we are by His grace, and He has to do it all. He is making us beautiful jewels so His light can shine through us. He wants to show us off for His glory.

VERSE 4

My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for Him.

His hand by the hole of the door

This shows His persistence. If we wander off from His fellowship, he persistently pursues us back into bridal communion with Him. He has put His hand by the hole of the door, which means "the place of opening." He

asked her to open to Him, but He is the one putting His hand in the opening of our life. We can open for Him, but it is still His grace that causes us to be willing.

My bowels

This shows her innermost feelings were aroused for Him. She is no longer complaining and telling Him she won't be ready. She is quickened and now He is her beloved. She is awakening because the word of His grace is drawing near. This shows she has a heart that can be moved and touched. It is important for us to have a heart that can be moved and touched. There is no shame when the tears roll down our faces when we are moved by His affections.

VERSE 5

I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the locks.

Open to my beloved

"Open" means to surrender and be in submission. We need to be in submission to Him. She again calls Him her beloved.

My hand dropped with myrrh

But how quickly she is back to putting the focus on herself again. The suffering has distracted her. The hands speak of service. She is very occupied with what she is, and what she is doing. Sometimes people get so involved with their religious activities and works that they fail to show the Lord the respect He deserves. They miss the deep fellowship He wants to have with them.

Genesis 24 is the account of when Rebekah went to meet her bridegroom Isaac. Chapter 24 is 67 verses. 66 and a half of those verses are dedicated to the bride and groom. One half of one verse is dedicated to the hardships of the journey she took. That half verse is all the focus the trials of the journey got. This should tell us where our hearts and attention should be. If we concentrate on the trials, we will miss the joy of His love. Trials are not joyous for the moment, but not worthy to be compared to the glory they will bring. God will allow us to be tempted of Satan to prove his faithfulness in our lives. The love story of Jesus and His bride will go on forever.

Sweet smelling myrrh

This sweet smelling myrrh shows the bitter pain she has experienced for Him. At this point she is occupied with the myrrh. The Lord can give us a song in the deepest valleys. When we really learn to walk with Him, we'll have a song in those valleys.

Handles of the lock

The door was locked, which indicates that she had shut Him out. He wanted fellowship with her, but she had locked the door.

VERSE 6

I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him but I could not find him, I called him, but he gave me no answer.

I opened to my beloved

He had knocked but it took her awhile to get to the door. She had been so focused on her trials, she hesitated too long.

My beloved was gone

When she finally opened, He was gone. We can't always fellowship with Jesus after we get ready. The courtship we have with Him is not on our terms. We should fellowship with Him when He is ready, and not let other things get in the way. We need to be ready when He knocks on the door.

Her beloved had been out in the night where she should have been, instead of in the bed resting and laying aside her priestly robe of righteousness that covered her spiritual nakedness.

My soul failed when he spake

Even though she misses Him, and even though she is sad, her soul failing is a good thing. Her failure actually caused her to appreciate Him more. This failing brought her heart out, and her soul has come forth to Him. Now she is finally opened to Him. Even though she has her eyes somewhat on herself, she has a greater desire to fellowship with Him.

Even in our natural lives we learn more from our failures than our successes. When those of us running the race fail, we quickly break, and receive the broken heart and contrite spirit almost simultaneously. The new man that is growing up in us will prevent us from being stiffnecked for any length of time, because we are becoming long-suffering like the Lord. This isn't us, it's Christ in us. It is in our failures that we receive grace to go on.

I sought him but could not find him

She now has to go seek Him. He is not going to come back to her; she must go to Him. She is fully purposed to find Him. Her eyes are finally turning away from herself and turning more toward Him. She won't find Him in the broad ways of the city, for He is without the camp. She must go there and be separated to Him alone.

I called him, but he gave me no answer

Each of us will come to times in our lives when it seems that Christ is not listening to us when we call out to Him. He is always near, and He hears our every cry, but we have to get to a place where we are with Him.

VERSE 7

The watchmen who went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.

The watchmen

This time those watchmen are not as lenient with her as they were in chapter 3. These watchmen are those who are in religious authority. They are referred to as ear ticklers because they preach a small bit of Paul's gospel mixed with a lot of error. These starve people of God's full counsel.

They smote me, they wounded me

These watchmen are the worst kind of punishers for those who stand for bridal truth. They won't tolerate sound doctrine, and they have gotten away from bridal truth and the full counsel of God, if they ever knew it to begin with.

In chapter 3 she passed by them, but this time they catch her because she is weak from not feeding on the strong meat of the gospel. They smote her and wounded her because they couldn't give her anything good. If we go to the religious and worldly for help, we'll get smote and wounded too.

Keepers of the wall took my veil

This veil is indicative of submission to Christ. Many of the religious leaders are usurpers of Christ's authority, and deny Him His rightful place as head of the church. These usurpers take the veil of submission away from Christ, and want people to be submissive to them instead.

VERSE 8

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.

I charge you

This means to repeat seven times.

Daughters

Before these daughters were distractions to her, but now she wants them to relay a message to her Beloved if they see Him. These daughters are the ones who would encourage us to withdraw from the race and relax. They are the ones who will make up the innumerable multitude in heaven. They aren't willing to go outside the camp to find Him. And they won't find Him as a bridegroom.

Sick of love

She is love sick, or sick in love for Him. All this searching for Him has worked for her good. She has learned her lesson. She wants to go on with Him.

VERSE 9

What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou doth so charge us?

By now she has been beaten by the watchmen, had her veil taken away, and knows the daughters are of no help in finding Him because they don't know Him. And since they don't know Him, they don't know where He is.

What is thy beloved more than another beloved

When the daughters ask her why she loves Him so much more than any other, they are trying to get her to settle for another they think will be just as good. They have no clue about Paul's gospel which is the bridal message. Christ is not their preeminent love.

Her testimony reflects her inner beauty, and the daughters can see she has something in her life they don't have. Her love and devotion to Him convince them that He is very special to her, and they inquire about His value. She has pressed on in spite of the beatings and indignities. We, too, will come to the place where we will recognize that bearing the cross is to our benefit. The opposition will make us love Him more.

One of the greatest steps we can take is to learn to be separated from the 'daughters of Jerusalem.'

We have to go without the camp to find our bridegroom, and run the race to win Him. Some of the most difficult ones to deal with are those who have been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit but are unaware or uninterested in bridal truth.

VERSE 10

My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.

In these next few verses she vividly describes her Beloved. As she describes how she sees Him, we see the heart of the bride. This is the description of Him as seen through the enlightened eyes of understanding of the Holy Spirit. She can see all this because her eyes are completely affixed on Him.

White

This doesn't simply mean He is fair skinned, but dazzling, sunny, bright, and clear to the light. There is no flaw in Him, and there is no one else who can compare to Him. He has never made a mistake, and He never will. This shows His perfect human righteousness. It wasn't the divine Son of God who died for us, it was the perfect man Jesus Christ. Dazzling and bright brings to mind the wedding attire in Revelation chapter 19.

Ruddy

'Ruddy' means rosy, to dye, to make red, the blood, and earth. This speaks of health, but also speaks of humanity. Jesus is the one for us to lean on because He understands humans better than any other.

One of the first things she mentions about Him is His blood. She is in love with the saving blood, and totally enamored with the Lamb slain. Like the cherubim in the holy of holies, she can't get her eyes off the blood that is the grace of God. Everything in the Bible flows from, and is centered on, the Lamb. She has entered into what Christ is, and what He is going to be. She sees Him as the bridegroom and she sees she can be part of the bridal company.

Chiefest among ten thousand

'Chief' means to raise a flag over. Earlier she said His banner over her was love, and now He has raised the victory flag, the fellowship flag, and the "go without the camp with Him flag" over her. He is beyond all and nothing can compare. There is no one like Him, and He is the chiefest among ten thousand.

She didn't see this before because she was occupied with her friends, and wanting to take care of them. She has now finally put Him first, and she realizes that He has to be first priority in her life. Our eyes can only see Him this way if we are in the race to win Him.

VERSE 11

His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.

His head is as the most fine gold

Gold speaks of deity, and fine gold speaks of divine thoughts and plans. The head is the seat of intellect and wisdom. His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). She has learned to take His thoughts and not her own.

Locks bushy and black as a raven

This tells us He was in the prime of His life on earth when He died for our sins. A raven in scripture speaks of sin. For us He was made this raven of sin, and hung on the cross as a snake (like the bronze snake that hung on a pole that cured the Israelites). Black has no grey, which proves He died in His prime. Humans in the natural grow old, but divine humans will never age; their salvation is new every morning. 'Bushy' means short. Her hair is long, which shows her humility, and her submission to Him as her Head.

VERSE 12

His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk and fitly set.

Without His vision, the bridal message perishes in us. This is His vision for our life. He wants worshippers who worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Eyes of doves

The dove represents the Holy Spirit. Through His dove's eyes, He saw according to the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us into all the truth, and takes the things of Christ and makes them ours. A dove can see backwards as well as forward with very keen eyes. You can't sneak up on a dove. God's all-seeing eyes see the sinner with compassion and love. He has a deep, deep love and compassion for his children.

Rivers of waters

'Rivers of waters' represent the Word of God. Water is a cleansing element and tells us of the fullness of the deep flowing Word of God. Water is refreshing, and it takes water for things to survive and grow. Likewise, it takes the Word of God for Christians to grow and develop to full maturity.

Washed with milk

Milk shows the sincerity and the purity of the Word of God. Not only does it feed, it also cleanses. Jesus always saw according to the scripture, and according to the purity of the Word. Paul told us to desire the sincere milk of the word (1 Peter 2:2). The milk of the word is also for those who haven't yet learned to eat the strong meat of the word.

Fitly set

In the Hebrew this means a precious stone, as in the thought of a very brilliant jewel set in a foil setting to show it off. His eyes see it all; they see the full counsel of God. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15) Our Lord saw everything the right way, in the right place, and we should, too. The Holy Spirit shows us these things.

VERSE 13

His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.

His cheeks

His cheeks are the seat of beauty and sweetness, and show health. His cheeks speak of His beauty, and His glorious face. The glory of God is in the face of Jesus Christ. Looking at His glorious face is what transforms us from glory to glory into His very image.

Cheeks show she had some close communion and contact with Him. The Lord lets us know of His affections and love for us when we are cheek to cheek with Him. This is when we smell the beautiful fragrance of Him.

Bed of spices

Spices are fragrant, and they enhance food to make it more interesting. The Holy Spirit knows exactly how to blend them together to season and flavor our lives. He takes the love of Christ and sheds it abroad in our hearts, to the point we want to willingly suffer together with Him which is a very sweet-smelling sacrifice to Him.

Sweet flowers

These sweet flowers speak of the promises of God, and as we learn of His promises, we begin to live them. The things He said to her were sweet, and His thoughts concerning her were sweet. This is true of us as well.

His lips like lilies

This shows His inner grace and purity. From Him come the words of health and grace. Grace, sweetness, and purity were poured into His lips, and they flow out to us. It all begins with the kisses of His mouth, the drawing nigh in fervent love and worship. The kisses of His mouth start us on our journey toward the bridegroom. We will ride camels like Rebekah. These camels speak of flesh. We will be put in trials that will test that flesh, but the trials won't even compare to the glory connected to the bridegroom. Only His kisses will bring forth these lips like lilies that speak the word of His grace.

The lily is made up of five petals, and usually has a red center. Five is the number of grace, and red speaks of His blood. This lily grew among the thorns, and this is where He feeds. If we want the best fellowship with Him, we will have to enter into his suffering, and find out what He means to our life.

Dropping sweet myrrh

Myrrh speaks of suffering, and suffering has become something she pants after. She has gone into the sufferings and pressures (perfumes), and she has learned to glory in her infirmities. When we are weak with thorns in the flesh, then we learn to go on in His strength. When we get to the place we can glory in our suffering, it is a sweet-smelling savor to Him. She glories in the cross and is more than a conqueror.

VERSE 14

His hands are as gold rings set with beryl: his belly is bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.

Hands as gold rings

The hands speak of power, leading, and purpose and gold speaks of deity, reigning, and royalty. His plan for her life, as well as ours, is for her to become His bride and rule and reign with Him. Hands also speak of His service to God and man. His precious hands were nailed to the cross for us. He was pierced for our transgressions, so that we might have eternal life.

The ring in scripture always speaks of eternal things, because they have no beginning and no end. This tells us of the eternal life we have in Christ. She felt the love and strength He had for her when His left hand was under her head and His right hand embraced her.

Set in beryl

'Set' means completely full. The beryl is a red precious stone and is the eighth stone in the foundations of the wall around New Jerusalem in Revelation 20:1-10. Eight is the number of new creation and the bride. The four living ones are seen in Ezekiel 1:15 with the appearance of wheels. In verse 9, the wheels were the color of beryl stone and in verse 16 the appearance of wheels and their work were like the color of beryl. In Ezekiel 10:8 there appeared in the cherubim a man's hand under their wings.

His belly

This speaks of fruit and the intimate desire for Him. That the Lord wants to be pleased is the good pleasure of His will.

Bright ivory

Bright refers to the workmanship, and ivory refers to teeth by which we feed. The Shulamite has a full set of teeth for eating and chewing the Word of God. We become His workmanship as we feed on the word of His grace. We must feed on strong meat to become that good and precious fruit to Him.

Overlaid with sapphires

Sapphires are blue and speak of the heavenly vision. The Lord has eternity in mind for us, and He wants to spend it with us. There is none so romantic as Jesus. That is why there are so many love stories in the Word of God. She takes the place He has for her in the heavens, and we need to have a vision of being seated with the Lord in heaven forever. We need to set our affections on things above, because we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ.

His belly as bright ivory overlaid with sapphire speaks of his glorified body. Because He was glorified, He was the firstfruits of them that slept. Firstfruits shows there will be more. They had a small taste of His glorified body at the transfiguration scene. It was a gloriously beautiful sight, because all of them fell on their faces in worship.

VERSE 15

His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.

His legs

'Legs' speak of the lower leg between the knee and the foot. This is where our walk and run comes from. We are running in a race and He will make us strong for the race. We can run and win Him as the prize of God's high calling.

Pillars of marble

Because He is God He will never fall, and His legs of marble will never crumble. She sees Him as well-able to carry her, because His legs are very substantial and very strong. This corresponds with the shepherd who is well able to carry the little lamb where ever He may need to go. He will not leave nor forsake it.

Pillars bring to mind the Philadelphia saints in Revelation chapter 3 who will escape the tribulation and be pillars in the house of God. Pillars stand and withstand, and after having done all, stand. They are fortified and stand on a strong foundation.

Set upon sockets of fine gold

'Set' means complete, lacking nothing. We are back to gold, where the runner's feet are set on ruling and reigning. This is fine gold, the glorious gold run, the full and complete bridal run.

Countenance as Lebanon

This speaks of His countenance which is pure and bright. Here we see nobility, and the majestic person He is. Lebanon means whiter than snow, dazzling. To be able to look at His face will be glorious. The bride has His glory and sees only Him and His glory.

Excellent as the cedars

Cedars in scripture speak of glorified humanity. Although Jesus is God, He will always be a man. In high and lofty places is where the strongest and tallest cedars are found. There is nothing greater or higher than the vision He has for us. It is the height of heights and the mark for the prize of God's high calling which is in Christ Jesus.

VERSE 16

His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

She has a deep appreciation for the Word of God, and this is the appreciation He wants us to have for His Word. We are back to His mouth where it all began, at the kisses of His mouth. Spirit and truth, the love shed abroad in our hearts. We receive some wonderful sweet kisses from Him when we study His word.

He is altogether lovely

This means "the object of our desires." He has become her complete desire. Her description of Him shows that to her, it's all Him. To her, He is dazzling, wonderful, glorious, and incredible. She is transformed into that glory, and at the end she will be like Him. He has become her preeminent and only love. She finally sees herself in Christ. She has ceased looking at herself and all the things around her, and sees herself in Christ. We see that He is altogether lovely when we come to where we see the excellence and knowledge of Him revealed to us. When we see Him there is nothing we would want to change.

My beloved and my friend

Now she no longer says "our," she says "my." This shows she has personally claimed Him as her own. She has totally surrendered to Him, and He is her one and only. "My beloved and my friend" shows a double portion. He is everything to her, and she needs nothing from anyone else.

Daughters of Jerusalem

The daughters represent most Christians today who want nothing to do with Paul's gospel. There are many daughters, but only one Shulamite. The daughters had no clue as to why she loved Him so fiercely and no one else. They did, however, see that she had something they were lacking.

CHAPTER 6

VERSE 1

Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.

The progressive development of the Shulamite is evident. In the previous chapter she had retired and laid aside her robe and taken off her shoes. She was at an easy rest, but not God's rest. She was drawn by the cords of His love, so she left her place of ease and went looking for Him in the night. What she saw in Him enabled and inspired her to go without the camp. We need a vision of how much the Lord loves us and wants to exalt us to the very highest place next to Himself.

Whither is thy beloved gone

The daughters see that she has a wonderful intimacy with her beloved, and they this is lacking in their lives. Because of her description of Him, the daughters are stirred at last. They asked her before what made Him more than any other beloved, and their indifference has become a burning question. The description she gave of Him aroused a hunger in them.

Fairest among women

This is more than an outward beauty; it is an inner beauty of character. How can the world see Christ if they don't see him through us? Before, the daughters smote her, reproached her, and took away her veil. But because of her love and obedience and her patient persistence in time of persecution, they finally saw her as the fairest among women.

That we may seek him

They ask about him because they want to seek Him, too. The way to get others interested in Christ is to testify of all his wonderful attributes, and not our own works.

The daughters say "thy beloved" because they see Him from afar. They didn't encourage the Shulamite, but instead tried to defeat her by convincing her that any other love would be just as good as her beloved. They tried to get her to back off and not be so intense about the things of God, but she continued on. Perhaps some of the daughters ran their own race because they saw the example of her persistence. Dropping out of the race will mean missing God's best. Those who miss God's best will be the ones saying "Return, return, O Shulamite" to those who persevered to the end.

She knows exactly where her beloved is, and if we know Him, we'll know where He is too. He is with us always, He will never leave us or forsake us. He will love us, care for us, protect us, be our strength, and enable us. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

VERSE 2

My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the bed of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

Gone down

Christ came down to us. He took seven great steps down from heaven to death on the cross. He made Himself of no reputation and cast aside all His heavenly glory to save us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for our sins (Romans 5:8). He humbled Himself, and we also need to humble ourselves. We are nothing apart from Him.

His garden

This is where he feeds and feasts on her. They are joint heirs and they feast on one another. He has come down to His garden seeking fellowship with us. She has learned the way of humility, and she knows where He is and what He wants.

He plants His garden, and He is the incorruptible seed. Every precious and good thing in our lives comes from that seed if we will allow it, if we will nurture it and let it grow. We need to yield to Him, and let Him make us as He will.

To the bed of spices

Spices speak of the flavorful things of life. These are the things that only the Holy Spirit can perform. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance: against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).

Gather lilies

Lilies represent those who fellowship with Him. King Solomon compared the Shulamite to a lily of the valley. Lilies don't make an effort to grow, they just grow. What is in us? If we have Christ, we have all we need. The work of grace captivates His attention and the attention of all in heaven.

Luke 12:27

Consider the lilies how they grow, they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all His glory was not arrayed as one of these.

'Gather' means to gather for oneself. He is gathering to himself the goodly pearl.

Lilies also speak of Jesus, His life, and His glory. Lilies were the crown on the pillar of the temple. He feeds among the ones with the crowns, among those of the exalted rank of righteousness.

VERSE 3

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies.

I am my beloved's

He has apprehended her, and she knows it is all Him. This marks another distinct phase in her spiritual growth. When she says, "I am my beloved's," she acknowledges the responsibility is on Him. She now knows she is in His keeping power. She is His, and He holds her. If we are His, He also holds us. Redemption is the basis of everything. If we draw nigh to Him, and He'll draw nigh to us.

He feedeth among the lilies.

These are the ones that are changed by grace. Grace in a life takes it from glory to glory and transforms it into the very image of Christ.

VERSE 4

Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.

Thou art beautiful

The bridegroom speaks. These are the words of His wondrous love for her. He tells her she is beautiful, His pearl of great price. They are together again, and their fellowship from this point on will not be interrupted. This is the home stretch. She will soon be caught up together with Him in the air.

Tirzah

'Tirzah' means pleasant, or well pleasing. This city was built beautifully situated on a hill, and at one time was the royal city of the Canaanites where their king reigned. The heart of the overcomer is the most beautiful heart to Christ. They are the hearts He reigns in.

Tiezah also means favorable, and she will delight. The bride delights that she is highly favored by God. The work of grace grows us up to be highly favored by the king, to be a vessel of grace. She is thankful that He is fully purposed for her and she takes it all.

Comely as Jerusalem

'Jerusalem' means double peace. He tells her she is a double portion of peace. The bride is pictured as the New Jerusalem in Revelation chapter 21. Because of Jesus, we have the peace of God, and we have peace with God. Grace has caused this double portion of peace.

Terrible as an army with banners

'Banner' means chief, to flaunt, to raise a flag, to be conspicuous. 'Terrible' means frightful, to frighten. This speaks of the battles fought and the victories won. We all have battles, we all come out of the wilderness, and if we go with God, we'll have battle scars and bruises. Without battles, there are no banners. He gives us grace to bear the trials and come forth victorious in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

The bride of Christ is a lover, but also a fighter. These banners are victories won. They show she is a full overcomer. His banner over her is love, and His love is her victory. Knowing the love of Christ will keep us going on. She always carries her banner that represents Christ high over her head. She is getting to the moment when she is going to fully apprehend Him. We press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus that we might apprehend Him. He has always apprehended us.

VERSE 5

Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.

Turn away thine eyes

She is so stunning, bright, and beautiful, and intense that He was overcome with her. Being overcome with her shows His humanity. This is why His bride will be called the Lamb's wife. Jesus became a man in order to die for all humanity.

Her eyes are her vision and she sees His love for her and knows it for herself. She is now focused on His love for her, and it makes her even more fruitful. She sees His heart, and she knows Him in the depths. This is why

she is so stunning to Him. She has come to know the full knowledge of the truth. She is as the ones with eyes before, behind and within, seeing everything just a Christ does.

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he had to put a veil over His face because His face was so bright with the glory of God that the Israelites couldn't look at him. She has His light and it blinds Him.

Overcome

This means apprehended, possessed. We apprehend that which has apprehended us. The word also means to woo, or press upon. Jesus is touched with the rib portion, that pierced rib portion on the cross. He is touched with those who joyfully, jointly, and willingly suffer together with Him. Some day they will jointly reign with Him.

Thy hair

The hair speaks of submission, and she is completely submitted to Him. Hair shows that the woman is the glory of the man; it speaks of a covering, and He is her covering.

Goats appear from Gilead

These are long-haired goats that lived on mount Gilead, and were expert in climbing. They could go in the very high places because they were very sure-footed. By God's grace we can reach the high places. These goats' hair is combed out, not sheared. They produce angora, which is very valuable.

'Gilead' means to witness. Her testimony is in going to the heights of heights by grace. It is a testimony of His love. We can't get to these heights if we don't follow Paul as He followed Christ.

VERSE 6

Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep that go up from the washing, whereof everyone beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them.

Teeth

Teeth speak of doctrine and vehement teaching. This shows her ability to take in the Word of God and teach it. We need a full set of spiritual teeth in our mouths to break down the Word of God. She has learned the full counsel of God so she has a full set of teeth. There are no teeth missing. She knows the truth, and the truth has made her free.

He spoke of her teeth in chapter 4, but this time she is receiving more magnificently because of her testimony. He makes known to us how beautiful we are to Him.

Flock of sheep

Sheep get fat by feeding in knee-deep clover, but they quickly starve if they don't eat. They get sick if they are eating the wrong things. She continues with her feeding; so much that she also feeds Him. His appetite for her is insatiable.

Go up from the washing

After sheep are sheared, they are washed. To "go up from the washing" speaks again of the high places and the heights of feeding. As we feed on God's full counsel, we will go up higher from glory to glory. The higher we go the more we see. John had to be taken to a high mountain to see the bride descend out of heaven from God. Feeding on strong meat takes us up. As we go on and feast upon the deep things of God, we exalt Him. Only the washing of water by the word can do this. The word of His grace builds us up and gives us an inheritance (Acts 20:32).

Every one beareth twins

Twins speak of a double portion. She feeds as a sister and as a spouse; she feeds as a daughter and as a daughter-in-law. A double set of teeth is required for feasting on strong meat.

Not one barren

This means that none are unfruitful. She has an abundance of fruit coming forth from her feeding. Her teeth are strong because of what she is feeding on.

Between this description of her and the earlier description, things were left out. In this description her mouth, her neck, her breasts, or her lips are not mentioned. Between the two descriptions some very needed lessons have been learned. In the former description, she had locked Him out, taken off her robe, and was at rest. She was dwelling on her suffering and service as her hand dripped with myrrh.

She has since gone out into the night with Him. She has embraced Him, and has entered in to the fellowship of His suffering. Her lips are not the thick, swollen lips of the leper; her mouth is giving out the truth. Her neck is still able to bear burdens, and her breasts are still able to feed others. This is a picture of the church at Ephesus. There has been no compromise in her life, and she is still His undefiled.

VERSE 7

As a piece of pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks.

Piece of pomegranate

Pomegranate is a juicy red fruit that is loaded with seeds. Red speaks of the blood of redemption, and the seeds speak of the promise of fruitfulness. Jesus shed His blood so we could be fruitful. We can do all things through Christ. Her mind is still full of seeds of God's Word to plant.

Temples

The temples speak of the mind. Her fruitful mind is set on the crown for those who love His appearing. Hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown (Revelation 3:11).

Within thy locks

This means "behind the veil," and refers to a bedroom chamber and also to the Holy of Holies in the temple. A bedroom chamber is a place of intimacy. The knowledge of the truth God wants us to have is the intimate knowledge shared between a husband and his wife.

There are four things He points out about her that point to the characteristics of Christ found in the four gospels.

- 1) Her eyes represent vision and speak of the keen eyes of the eagle. With these eyes she is able to see the deep things of God.
- 2) Her hair is her glory and speaks to the fact that the woman is the glory of man.
- 3) Her teeth note feeding and show the ox. We feed on the word and grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4) Her temples are the fruitful mind and the crown that speaks of a king, the lion.

This listing is in the exact opposite order of the description of the four living ones in the book of Revelation. God shows us these patterns again and again. Many of the types in the Song of Solomon expose Revelation in different ways.

VERSE 8

There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.

This verse represents the different companies that will be in heaven. The Shulamite represents Christ's bride. He talks about the different companies, but she is the only one set apart for the husband. Until this point, the bridegroom has only spoken of her attributes and her beauty. Now that she finally knows that she is completely His, it is time to unveil her. God will exalt us in due time and He has a perfect time set for the bride's unveiling. "It doth not appear what we shall be, but when He appears we shall be like Him in glory." (1 John 3:2)

Threescore queens

Threescore equals 60, the number of second place. It is a place around the throne, but not in the midst of the throne. This company represents the 24 elders. They are compared to queens, which means they have thrones and are reigning, but not jointly with Christ. The bride is the only one who will rule jointly with Him in the midst of the throne.

Fourscore concubines

Fourscore equals 80 and speaks of strength. A concubine knows the king, but is far removed from the bride and the 60 queens. The bride and the 24 elders worship, but this group serves God. These are the palm wavers in Revelation chapter 5 who sing "Salvation to our God and to the Lamb." These 80 concubines represent the innumerable multitude.

Virgins without number

These virgins represent the 144,000 of the Jewish nation that were saved by grace and sealed with the Holy Spirit. They are called the "man child" in Revelation 12 and the five wise virgins in Matthew 25. This group was caught up to God before the devil could destroy them. The 144,000 will be the group that makes up the wall in New Jerusalem.

VERSE 9

My dove, my undefiled is one, she is the one of her mother, she is the choice of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

He dedicates one verse to the other companies, but comes right back to talking about Her.

My dove

The dove speaks of the gentle one, the tender one; the one that is not stiff-necked, but pliable. This is a life of the one that has allowed the chastening of the Lord and completely submitted to Him. She knows everything is about Him, and not about what she has suffered for Him. Because of that, she has captivated His heart.

The dove also speaks of the Holy Spirit. She is the Holy Spirit's complete work. Two good examples of taking only what the Spirit wanted them to have is in the stories of Esther and Ruth. The Holy Spirit takes the things of Christ and makes them ours.

My undefiled

'Undefiled' means perfect, complete, lacking nothing. She is perfectly weak, and knows it is in His strength and not her own.

Ephesians 4:13

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 fullness of Christ.

The one of her mother

Three times in this verse we see the word 'one.' The first time it means a united one. There is one body, and one baptism. One body is the church, and one baptism speaks of the Holy Spirit coming on the day of

Pentecost. The Bible never speaks of the Holy Spirit coming except for that one time. This is also the day the church began as individual believers received the indwelling Holy Spirit.

'She is one' means she is the choice one of mother grace. She is not the only one because every child of God is born of grace. But she is the choice one. Grace alone bore her, and grace alone has raised her to rule and reign with Jesus. The 'choice one' shows she is chosen and beloved, she is mother grace's darling.

Daughters, queens, and concubines

These other ranks are praising her as Christ unveils her and presents her. In Revelation He said He would make it known how much he loves her. These companies realize she is the choice one, the bride. She alone is the focus and glory, and for this they praise her.

God wants us to grow up according to Romans 8:17: "And if children, then heirs, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together with Him." Children are heirs, but not joint-heirs. The wife is the only joint-heir. 'Glorified together' means the same glory to which Christ has been raised (Romans 21:10 & 23).

VERSE 10

Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banner.

Looketh forth as the morning

The sun comes up in the east and signals a new day dawning. She will be part of the light of that glory dawning morning. There is a glory of the sun, of the moon, and of the stars. The bride is the one with the sun (Son) glory.

Fair as the moon

The moon speaks of glorious white. She is the glory both of the day and of the night, because she is His glory. Her brilliant whiteness is the righteousness of saints. This is her wedding gown. She is clothed in and with Him. Nothing is brighter than His righteousness. This is why she is so stunning to Him.

Clear as the sun

'Clear means choice one. Clear comes from the word sincere, and means clear to the light. She is transparent glory. The light she has is Christ's light. She decreased and He increased in her life. Now she is filled with the fullness of God and Christ shines through her.

Terrible

'Terrible' means to honor, to stand in awe and respect. It is used often in the Old Testament to describe God himself. Yet here it is describing her. She is a lover and a warrior, and this is why she is called "terrible as an army with banners." She endures the hardness like a good soldier. He wore the crown of thorns for her and she is bloodied like Him. He loves the fighter in her.

An army with banners

This shows the full overcoming victory of faith. She saw the vision of what complete faith in His word would do. Banners show that faith is the victory, and faith is what pleases God. The faith of our fathers in Hebrews 11 mesmerizes Him.

Though our battles are unique, the banner over every battle is the same: love. Faith works by love, and faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). She is full of love and faith, and her banner for Him flies at full mast.

VERSE 11

I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranate budded.

Down

In the valley – the dark and fertile place of trials – is where the best growth happens. This is where the fruitful ones learn of Him, and how to rule and reign with Him. In the valley we learn to endure patiently as good soldiers and to let patience have her perfect work. This is the fruit He is looking for. He is in the garden of nuts looking for pomegranates and admiring the work of grace.

Garden of nuts

Nuts speak of the fruits of the tree, and represent and all God's precious people. It does seem "nutty" to some that anyone would want to go the way of the apostle Paul.

This book starts with a garden of flowers, then progresses to a garden of spices, and finally a garden of nuts. These also speak of some of the developmental steps we take when we go with God.

Vine flourished, and pomegranate budded

We are coming to the very threshold of the rapture to heaven. She is ready to meet her bride-groom, and the work the Holy Spirit has been doing in her is very nearly complete.

The fruits, the vine, and the pomegranate speak of the revelation of Israel when God begins to deal with Israel as a nation. This is especially brought out by the reference to the vine.

'Flourished' means ones that have broken out and burst forth. The nutty nuts go without the camp. Like Rebekah, they say, "I will go."

'Budded' means to shine bright and to fly. The budding ones are referred to as pomegranates because pomegranates speak of the crowned ones, bridal saints. These are those in Revelation 3 that Christ said He would make pillars in the Lord's house. These crowned ones are the first trump saints that hold fast their crowns.

VERSE 12

Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib.

Ever I was aware

Translated, this is "Before I was aware, my soul was set among the chariots of princely people." In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the trumpet blast and the chariot sweeps down and takes her to go with Him and they are together at last!

Amminadib

'Amminadib' means a princely people; i.e. the willing, reigning ones.

VERSE 13

Return, return, O Shulamite, return, return, that we may look upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies.

Return, return, O Shulamite

This is the sad cry of someone left behind. They want her to return, but she has been raptured, taken up and away. The time of "time shall be no more" has been ushered in, and the time to prepare for the high calling is no more. The tears that will be taken from the innumerable multitude when they reach heaven could be partly

due to the fact they missed God's best. Many of God's precious people who believe that the entire body of the church is the bride will be devastated when they don't go at the first trump.

The company of two armies

'Company' means dancing. These daughters see a dancing of two hosts. The phrase 'two armies' comes from a word in Genesis 32 called 'Mahanaim.' This is where the Jacob came to meet the host of God. This is a company of two hosts of God, and they are dancing. The wife is dancing with her bridegroom. They are two, but they are one distinct host. Their dance will last forever.

CHAPTER 7

At the time the bride gets to heaven, there is silence in heaven for half an hour while everyone looks at how incredibly beautiful she is. This chapter begins the time of the honeymoon. The bride has been taken up to Him and is in the bridal suite with Him. He tells her how beautiful she is to Him, how He did it all for her. He died on the cross and ascended into heaven so the Holy Spirit could lead her into all truth, and He wanted her to know all truth so she could see and know every dimension of His love. He is totally enamored with her because she took the grace to receive of Him fully. He will never get tired of gazing at her beauty because she is His glory.

The first five verses of this chapter are spoken by the bridegroom and are a complete description of His bride after she is translated. She is perfect, and everything about her is pleasing to Him. This description is tenfold, and ten is the number of responsibility according to ability. She has grown up into an all-pleasing workmanship of the Godhead.

Every other time He has described her, He has started at the top with her hair and worked down. This time He starts at her feet and works up because of her standing. She is a pillar now. Before we can ever go after God, we have to understand His plan and purpose. Then we get the vision of our standing with Christ at His side. Without that vision we can become discouraged and may not choose to continue running the race.

VERSE 1

How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! The joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.

How beautiful are thy feet with shoes

Her feet tell us of her walk, and her feet speak of the gospel of peace. The feet that are covered speak of a spiritual walk. 'With shoes' shows her feet have been shod and covered by the gospel of Christ. Her shoes are both beautiful and enabling; they have carried her all the way to God's best. In Isaiah 52 we read, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bring good tidings and that publish peace."

O prince's daughter

God takes us from the dunghill and sets us among princes. She is now of the royal line; she has royalty written all over her. Our minds need to be on the crown and our first love. The ones that will rule and reign with Jesus are the ones reigning with Him now.

Joints of thy thighs like jewels

The bridegroom speaks of the curve of her leg, and the shape of her abdomen. 'Thigh' means a wrapping, the underclothing, and it speaks of both strength and productiveness, of the fruit that was produced in her life. This fruit speaks of gold, jewels, and her faith that was tried in the fire. Her symmetry is beautiful to Him. Even as the first bride was stunning, but how much more so the bride of Christ.

Hands of a cunning workman

'Workman' means an expert, to foster as a parent, to build up. This is what the Holy Spirit does, and He is the reason she walks so smoothly. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to walk in the paths God has ordained for us.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

In Exodus 31:1-5, Bezaleel helped to construct the things in the tabernacle. He is noted as a "man of cunning workmanship." In type Bezaleel prefigures the Holy Spirit, the one of the trinity that will make us a cunning workmanship.

VERSE 2

Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.

Thy navel

'Navel' means a girdle, as if twisted. That which is twisted becomes strong. This speaks of the girdle of truth in the whole armor of God in Ephesians chapter 6. There is only one thing that can enable us to walk upright in His sight: the truth. The girdle shows her steadfastness and strength as she has taken in the Word of God.

Round goblet

She is full of the Spirit, and wanteth not liquor or anything that would mix or defile. The bride has a goblet filled with the joy of the Lord, which is her strength. We, too, have the capacity to be filled with the joy of God as we go on.

Thy belly like a heap of wheat

'A heap of wheat' speaks of the harvest of her life. She is overflowing with wheat, and wheat is the bread of life, the Word of God. She has been feeding on the strong meat of the Word, and an abundance of fruit has come forth from her life. As we feed on Paul's gospel, God will perform the good work in us which He began.

Set about with lilies

Lilies show fruitfulness, promise, beauty, and fragrance. Lilies also speak of glorified whiteness, the bridal gown, and the righteousness of saints. She is without spot or wrinkle and is stunning from her feet to the top of her head.

VERSE 3

Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins.

Thy two breasts

Breasts speak of full maturity and beauty, and the ability to feed and nurture others.

Two young roes that are twins

This shows the double portion of fervent love. Roes speak of youth. We should never let our love and passion for Him grow old. Passion is the joy of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to not lose our passion or quench the Spirit.

Each time before whenever her breasts were mentioned, lilies were mentioned too. The lilies aren't mentioned here, because she is gone from the garden. The time for her feeding others is over.

VERSE 4

Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes like the fishpools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bathrabbim: thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.

Thy neck as a tower

The neck, mentioned earlier, spoke of strength, and support, and vision. A tower is a place of lookout. Here the neck speaks of her beauty and stateliness. God makes us beautiful, strong, impressive, and exquisite.

Ivory

Ivory speaks of whiteness that has a fine polish. It is like a rock, like Him in grandeur and majesty. Many beautiful things are made from ivory.

Thine eyes like fishpools in Heshbon

'Eyes' mean clear and these eyes are free from sorrow or weeping. The Lamb's wife won't shed any tears. Her eyes are no longer behind the locks; they are fully open because the veil has been taken away. The moment the veil is taken away, the bride and bridegroom are face to face.

Heshbon speaks of a stronghold or fortress. A mighty fortress is our God; He is our stronghold. The fishpools were reservoirs of water in Heshbon, and could be seen from miles away. They were clear and blue, teeming with life. Her eyes are like the fishpools because they are clear, blue and full of life. Dove's eyes become like these fishpools in glory.

By the gate of Bathrabbim

Bathrabbim means daughter of a multitude. Out of a multitude will come the little rib portion that will become the bride of Christ. Bathrabbim also speaks of the calmness one can have in the midst of a crowd when there is confusion.

Nose like tower of Lebanon

The nose speaks of discernment. We need to be able to discern what is dangerous, and what is untrue. We discern spirits by the Word of God, the sharp sword. We test everything by the Word of God, because many false prophets are in the world. The nose can smell the ointments and the sweet smelling sacrifice to God. As we grow up in Him we can smell the sacrifices more and more as we go with Him and let Him take over our lives.

Lebanon means whiteness, glorious, and purity. This speaks of the chaste virgin to Him who discerns grace. We understand there is grace to forgive and grace that allows for the thorns and infirmities. A perfect line of grace brought us to the bridal truth of Paul's gospel. When our minds are captivated by His grace, we don't dwell on the thorns or infirmities except to thank God for their work in our lives. We have the peace that passes all understanding.

Looketh toward Damascus

'Damascus' means built on the rock of blood. She looks toward the direction her nose is set. She is the cherubim on the mercy seat whose gaze has never strayed from the blood.

VERSE 5

Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries.

Thine head like Carmel

'Carmel' means the pinnacle, the chief, the choicest, the mountain garden, fruitful, fertile, beautiful, one that declares the message of redemption.

Hair of thine head like purple

Purple speaks of royalty, and long hair speaks of subjection. We have to have spiritual long hair to be in subjection to Christ, and become the weaker vessel. Her hair is a covering, and hair speaks of the glory of the woman. Earlier her hair was like a flock of goats, but now it is purple because there is no more need for hind's feet, and fighting the good fight of faith. She is on the other side – still in submission, but now she is pure royalty. Her covering now is her crown. She is His queen and jointly rules and reigns with Him.

King held in the galleries

The king is a prisoner of her love. 'Galleries' speak of the locks of her hair. He is imprisoned by her beauty, and all she took from Him in grace. The locks of her hair also speak of her adoring the crown. There is nothing more He wants than for us to take the bridal message, treasure it and hold it fast.

VERSE 6

How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights.

How fair and how pleasant

He tells her how beautiful she is and how totally satisfied He is with her.

O love

This love is amazing because this word in the Hebrew speaks of love specifically between a man and a woman. She will be the Lamb's wife, and this union will be with Christ the man, the beautiful slain Lamb.

Philippians 2:7-8

7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man.

8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He became a man not only to die for us, but He lives for us as well. He became a man so He could have a wife.

For delights

'Delights' translate as benevolent. All of this is to God's good pleasure in the highest. The Holy Spirit seeks those who will worship God in Spirit and in truth. God has before ordained that we should walk in the good works of grace. The high calling of God in Christ Jesus is His ecstasy.

VERSE 7

This thy stature is like a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes.

Stature like a palm tree

The date palm thrives in very adverse conditions. It doesn't break because it bends with the wind, and the roots go down very deep. Our roots grow deeper when the Lord allows adversity in our lives. We need to learn to accept the trials, rather than rebelling against God. Palm trees grow by dying, and we must die to the old creation in order to grow in the new creation.

The palm tree is very useful to man, and has hundreds of uses: food, water, shade, oil, etc. Palm trees produce large clusters of dates, and can be so laden with their fruit they will bend.

Thy breasts to clusters

This shows there is an abundance of fruit in her life. She is able to feed others.

VERSE 8

I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples.

I will go up to

He is going up to her. He will exalt us if we will take what He is offering. Ephesians 1:19 through the end of the chapter tells us of the heights He was glorified to and how she will be glorified together with Him.

Palm tree

This isn't palm trees; it's a singular palm tree. She is but one, the only one of her mother grace, a precious exalted workmanship.

Take hold of the boughs

This means to be in possession of the fruit. She is producing fruit, but it all belongs to Him. The husbandman waits for this fruit. This is the embrace of the lovers on their honeymoon.

Breasts as clusters of the vine

The breasts show a double portion in that they both feed and bring joy. Grapes speak of wine, and wine brings joy. The Holy Spirit brings this particular joy. There is joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Smell of thy nose like apples

Apples represent peace. She sat down under His fragrant apple tree with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to her taste. Now she has that beautiful fragrance of Him. If we live with Him, we'll carry His fragrance about us. He will keep us in perfect peace if our minds are staid on Him.

VERSE 9

And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.

The roof of thy mouth

The roof of her mouth like the best wine shows she has been drinking of the wine of the Spirit. She has the fullness of the Spirit: the love, the joy, the strength, and the passion. She has had it from the very beginning of when she said, "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth."

Best wine

He tells her that her kisses are not only sweet, but like the best and finest wine. At the wedding in Cana, Jesus saved the best wine for last. We are in the last days, and the best wine represents those coming out of the church age who will become the bride of Christ.

The best wine speaks of happiness, sincerity, and equal smoothness. Equal shows the rightly divided Word of truth in yea, the deep things of God. These are the kisses we give to Him, the fellowship we have with Him now. The bride knows these things as the eyes of her understanding have been enlightened to see them. Paul's gospel takes us into the inner chamber with our bridegroom.

Causing the lips of those asleep to speak

The ones noted as asleep refer to the ancient ones, the Old Testament saints who are full-overcomers. These are the cloud of witnesses that took Jesus up to the Father after His resurrection. God didn't take all of the saints at that time, because their time to go hadn't come. Those who didn't go with the overcomers are still sleeping. The full-overcomers of the Old Testament are not part of the bride, but will certainly be guests at the wedding, along with the innumerable multitude and the 144,000. By receiving Paul's gospel, we complete

Jesus Christ, the Word. Without the ones receiving Paul's gospel, the Old Testament worthies can't be made complete.

VERSE 10

I am my beloved's and his desire is toward me.

I am my beloved's

The readied wife has the absolute assurance in her heart that she has won Him. This is what the grace of God has done in her life. She took the Word of God, and became his daughter-in-law. She fast her crown and wouldn't let go.

In 2:16 she said she was His and He was hers. In 6:3 she said, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." Now she says she is His and His desire is toward her. She finally realizes that none of this is because of her, but all because of Him. When she said 'I' in the first two statements, she still thought she had to do something. She had not yet realized it was all Him and none of her.

The three statements she made about Him in the above three chapters and verses are like the three mountain peaks that ascend with each statement. These three statements parallel the three steps of progresses in the tabernacle in the wilderness. The first step is the brasen altar for the burnt offering in the outer courtyard. There was an exchange of blood for sins. At the brasen altar our sins are taken away forever. This is her first statement, "My beloved is mine, and I am His." Christ's shed blood causes Him to belong to us. This altar is the beginning of our relationship with Jesus.

Beyond the brasen altar we find the laver, the Word of God, where the priests washed to go to the holy place. This is the second step. There is a curtain separating the holy place from the courtyard and to get into the holy place from the courtyard there were five pillars to pass through that held the curtains. To go on with God we need grace, and five is the number of grace. We grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Only by grace can we enter the holy place. The priests were the only ones allowed to go there, to perform their duties and offer up prayers.

Inside the holy place was the table of shewbread, the candlestick, and the incense altar. This step corresponds with the statement "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." She is making progress, but she is still including herself, and hasn't yet realized that it is all Him. The holy place is where it ended for Israel as a nation, but not for individual Israelites. God was visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. Individual Jews are included if they embrace the bridal truth and run for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Yet another curtain separated the holy place from the holy of holies. Only the high priest could enter in, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement. At that time the high priest represented Israel, but now our high priest is our precious Jesus. Curtains on four pillars separated the holy of holies from the holy place. Four is the number of human weakness. To go into this intimate and divine fellowship with the lord, the Shulamite had to be completely stripped of herself. She had to become "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

In the holy of holies was the ark and its mercy seat with the two covering cherubim. The two cherubim represent the bride of Christ who keep their eyes fixed on the blood on the mercy seat. It is the grace of God, and the blood of the Lamb that has made everything possible. If we take our eyes off the blood, we are trying to come in our strength. It is all by His strength and none of ours. God may show this to us in our failures – not to condemn us, but to make us aware of what needs to be changed in us. The holy of holies is the height of heights, and this step corresponds with "I am my beloved's, and His desire is toward me." She finally learned it was all Him, and now she is ruling and reigning with Him.

His desire is toward me

'His desire' means His longing. Literally this word means to devour and shows His insatiable appetite for His wife. Everything is His, but He wants to share it equally with her as His joint-heir.

VERSE 11

Come my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.

Come my beloved

The wedding and the feast have taken place and the bride now speaks. She is fully immersed in her husband's affairs and is interested and invested in everything that is His.

The field and villages

The field is the world and also of the place of beasts – the world leaders who will be demon-possessed. This is the time of Revelation chapter 6 where she will be helping to pour out the various judgments.

VERSE 12

Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see the vine flourish, whether the tender grapes appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.

Early to the vineyards

Now that Jesus has His bride, God will move His interest from the church to the nation of Israel. Vineyards speak of Israel, and this is the time where God will restore Israel to Himself as His bride. We are interested in the nation of Israel today because we share His interests. God wants us to appreciate His work and what He is doing.

See if the vine flourish

It is all about the fruit, and this is about Israel being ready for the harvest.

Pomegranates

These pomegranates speak of new and fruitful life.

I will give thee my loves

Christ's bride will complete Him in His loves, yet bring Him so much more by helping Him restore Israel as the wife of God the Father.

VERSE 13

The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

The mandrakes

Mandrakes are a pleasant smelling plant used for healing and restoration. She is reigning with Him now, and helping bring forth this restoration and healing of Israel.

Pleasant fruits

She will always produce fruit, and she knows she will be fruitful to Him forever. She took the grace of God in its fullness. 'New and old' indicate people of all ages.

At our gates

'Our gates' show joint ruling. Her eyes are off her suffering and on Him. Likewise, we are to keep our eyes on Him, not our suffering.

O my beloved

This drips of the romanticism of a husband and wife. Worship is defined as “to draw nigh in fervent love, as to kiss.” The bride has drawn nigh to her Beloved and returns His kisses.

CHAPTER 8

VERSE 1

O that that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! When I should find thee without I would kiss thee; yea I should not be despised.

As my brother

This is not the bride speaking; it is another company – the ones who were not ready for the first trump and missed it. This group is seen in Revelation chapter 7 as the innumerable multitude who are raptured to heaven approximately 2 ½ years after the bride is taken. These are the ones that are consumed with doing great things in themselves. They don't gain any favor with God because their efforts and works are all self-focused. Self-efforts and self-works amount to self-righteousness which is like filthy rags in the sight of God. If we could get to heaven by what we do, God would not have had to give His Son to suffer and die. This company is made up of ones that didn't see the deep things in the Word of God. Most of them think the whole church is the bride of Christ. Only a small rib portion will qualify, and only those who know the bridal message and complete the race for the prize will be part of the bridal company.

This statement about the brother is not a statement a readied wife would make. These are the daughters who ignored and missed what the bride possessed. These are her siblings who were angry with her in chapter 2. The Shulamite went on with God and grew up, but this company stayed child-like in their knowledge of the Word of God. When we go on with God, those familiar to us sometimes become not favorable to us. When we go outside the camp, those in the camp are not happy with us. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou (the bride) hast excelled them all (Proverbs 31:25).

I would kiss thee

They missed the time when they could have returned the kisses of His mouth, i.e. Paul's gospel. The bride is gone, so the time to prepare for the wedding is over. They are sad because they didn't fall in love with the truth and the deep things of God. When they missed the kisses of His mouth, they missed the opportunity to be the true worshippers who worship God in Spirit and in truth. The only relationship these can have with Christ is as a brother, not as a spouse.

Sucked the breast

This shows that this innumerable multitude company fed only on the milk of the word, not on the strong meat.

I should find thee without

This company knows they should have gone without the camp as the Shulamite did. They are looking for Him outside the camp, but it is too late. He won't be found there, because the time for that has passed. It causes them great sadness as they realize that they passed up an unspeakably glorious opportunity.

These daughters who missed God's best speak of two covenants represented by Sarah and Hagar. Sarah represents grace, and Hagar represents legality. Abraham had sons by both of these women. One son, Ishmael, was a product of Abraham acting in his own strength, but Isaac was a product of God's strength and Abraham's weakness. God chose the one of His strength and Abraham's weakness. Legality is a prison and prevents growth, maturity, and attaining God's best. If we want to go on with God, we can only go in grace and His strength.

VERSE 2

I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the fruit of my pomegranates.

I would lead thee

Here she indicates her need for instruction, something she didn't have before.

Bring into my mother's house

In Song 3:4, the Shulamite said the same thing, but she didn't just think about bringing Him in, she acted on it. Her mother's house, which is grace, is the only place we can grow up into Him. She brought Him into the only place we can have intimacy with Him - the chamber of grace.

I would cause thee to drink of my spiced wine

Spiced wine was the most costly and rare wine, the best wine. Spiced wine speaks of fellowship. She now realizes she should have had a much closer place with Him.

The juice of my pomegranate

The pomegranate represents fruitfulness and a crown, and she realizes she should have won that crown, but she missed it. She would have to know about Paul's gospel to be aware of the crown, but she didn't hold on to it.

VERSE 3

His left hand should have been under my head, and his right hand should embrace me.

The bride had his left hand under her head, and His right hand embraced her. This daughter-company didn't have that, and again she realizes too late the opportunity she missed. Jesus wants to marry us, and this is what Paul's gospel has brought forth. Many never heed, or never hear the bridal message. They remain as children who never grow up in the Word of God. Christ will not marry a child.

VERSE 4

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love till he please.

I charge you, O daughters

The Shulamite speaks now.

Stir not up nor awake my love

She tells the others that He belongs to her; she is claiming her possession of Him. They had as much of a chance to get Him as she did, but she is the one who got Him. They are together in an intimate place, and she doesn't want to be disturbed. He is no longer a bridegroom. Now He is her husband.

There are many efforts to stir up Jesus, but God works in His time, not ours. Sometimes it takes God a long time to work His perfect will in us, but He always knows what He is doing. This is grow-up time, time to get ready. Now is the time to learn the ways of God, and have our hearts filled with all the fullness of His love. We need to wait on Him, be still and know that He is God.

VERSE 5

Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth that bare thee.

Who cometh out of the wilderness

Only the Holy Spirit can take us through the wilderness. Eleazar took Rebekah into the wilderness to meet her bridegroom, Isaac. It is inevitable we will be in the wilderness, in a dry, parched place. It is in the hard places that we learn of Him. If we never have any Red seas part in our lives, we will never learn of the deliverance. If we are never in a wilderness, we'll never know the full meaning of Christ to our lives. This is why Paul prayed that He might know Him and the fellowship of His suffering (Philippians 3:10). The Shulamite has learned to lean on Him, and put her trust in Him. We are in the wilderness now waiting for the first trump. We, too, will come out leaning on Him.

Cometh up

'Cometh up' means to ascend into heaven. These same words were used when Elijah was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. When Rebekah came out of the wilderness, she went right into the arms of Isaac.

Leaning upon her husband

John leaned on Jesus' breast, but this is more. She not only is leaning on her Savior, she is leaning on her beloved husband. He is her everything. The love light in her eyes is for Him, and His are for her.

Raised up under the apple tree

In chapter 2 she sat down under the apple tree with great delight. She took her place in the shade, and the fruit of the Christ of God. It was there under that tree that the Holy Spirit raised her up just as Hegai made Esther ready, just as Naomi made Ruth ready, and just as Eleazar went after Rebekah. Again and again it is demonstrated in the scriptures that the Holy Spirit is the one of the Godhead that gets us ready.

We enter into this courtship to win Him; we feed, and rest, and grow up under the apple tree. As we grow up under this apple tree, which represents Jesus and means peace, we fall in love with Paul's gospel. If we fully go after grace, we will win Him. He is full of grace and truth. She grew up in Him as a mature vessel to the praise and the glory of His grace. We can do the same.

VERSE 6

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm; for love is strong as death, jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which have a most vehement flame.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart

The Holy Spirit is a seal, and it is the Holy Spirit that sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. This is saying, "Let me seal the fire of my love in your heart." This love began with a kiss and grew into fiery, passionate love. The first and preeminent love was sealed in her heart for Him.

A seal upon thine arm

The heart speaks of love, and the arm speaks of power. The Holy Spirit is the only one that can unlock the love in our lives. He is the one that can make us strong in the Lord and the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10). We fight the good fight in faith in love. Christ's wife will be a good fighter. She is a very passionate good soldier who endures hardness as she walks through life. Her wilderness is heartache, sorrow, discouragement and failure. Even when we abide not, He abides faithful (2 Timothy 2:13). Everything is there for us to become full-overcomers.

The seal upon thine arm shows intimacy and union that keeps us from harm and corruption. The Holy Spirit gives us this love and power. He puts the love of Christ in our hearts and His strength in our arms. Anything God wants us to do, we can do. We need the Holy Spirit to strengthen our hearts and our arms.

The seal spoken of here is a ring often worn around the king's neck, or on his finger. He would put a seal on letters and official documents to prove that he was the one sending the document. The name of the seal in this verse is "bridegroom."

Love is strong as death

Absence is to love what wind is to fire. And wind will do one of two things to fire: if the fire is small, the wind will blow it out, but if it is a good fire the wind will make it burn stronger. She needs His love and power to strengthen the fire of love in her heart for Him.

Jealousy is cruel as the grave

Jealousy is one of the worst sins that can manifest itself in a human heart. If we are jealous in the wrong way, it can make life a living hell. Jealousy, like the grave, can take someone away from us forever in a sense. God's jealousy toward us is pure; it is not like human jealousy which is cruel.

A most vehement flame

Entertaining jealousy is like entertaining a fire that can destroy you and rob you of everything in a relationship. Jealousy burns with a vehement flame. Jealousy can keep people apart.

VERSE 7

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

Nothing can quench or destroy the love of God, and nothing can separate us from His love. His love is not subjected to floods, and the trials and tribulations never quench His love for us.

In verses 6 and 7 there are four beautiful parts:

1) Proposal i.e. calling or plan

The plan is "set me" which means to transform. We transform from glory to glory unto the likeness of of His very image.

2) Description

This is the testimony of His love that causes us to be dead to everything but Him. The things of this life grow strangely dim. This is Godly jealousy over us.

3) Power of His love

Nothing can quench this love or overcome it. It is fully purposed for Him.

4) Purpose of it all

There are no regrets. It was worth it all to know Him and the fellowship of His suffering. It is the greatest privilege to suffer with Christ and to be a prisoner of His love. The sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.

Philippians 3:8

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 count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

VERSE 8

We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for.

This statement is made by the bride after she has come out of the wilderness, after the wedding. She is fully mature and ravishing to her husband.

We have a little sister

A "little sister" is one who is a child in the Word of God. She isn't able to feed others, or teach Paul's gospel to others. These are those who attended churches that didn't teach the full counsel of God. These are those who were saved, and went no farther. They are in no way ready for marriage.

This group is called a "little sister," but they are not small in number, political clout, or popularity in the world. They are small in the real measure of God. At his best, Paul was made content in a dungeon; Daniel was content to go to into the lion's den; and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went into a fiery furnace.

The little sister thinks worldly things are more important than knowing God. The bride, on the other hand, has a heart for everything of God and cares deeply for the souls of the family of God. She especially cares for those who are running for God's best to become like Christ.

What shall we do for our sister

This little sister is the innumerable multitude. She didn't grow up to maturity under the apple tree, but remained a child.

VERSE 9

If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

If she be a wall

A 'wall' means a place of separation and protection.

A palace of silver

Silver speaks of redemption and of salvation through Christ Jesus. A palace of redemption could be built upon her, because she is saved. She gave her life to Jesus, but didn't grow up into Him in all things.

Door of cedar

A door speaks of entry. Enclosing her with boards of cedar is about her safety in the Lord. She is forever His, and He protects her. Cedar in the natural protects against bugs and moths.

VERSE 10

I am a wall and my breasts like towers: then was I in His eyes as one who found favor.

I am a wall

The bride once again speaks, confident in her standing. She understands the things of God's full counsel. We should be confident in our standing with Him, and not afraid to say who we are in Him.

Breasts like towers

Her breasts are like towers that feed many with the truth. Towers were built on top of the walls. From the towers one could see afar off, and this speaks of her far-seeing vision. The four living ones have eyes within and without, and can see the whole plan of God. She can see what a privilege it is to be part of the bride of Christ, the glory of His work of grace. She is clothed in fine white linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. In the jeweled walls and gates the whole family of God is built around her.

Tower also means a pulpit. She is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Not all are called to be preachers, but we can be disciples, be a testimony, and tell others the truth.

Found favor

'Found favor' means to have light come into. She knows her value to Him. She knows what He sees in her and she knows His deep, deep love for her. His eye is always searching, and He has found her. She knows she didn't earn His favor, rather favor found her by grace. He favors her ability to feed others the truth.

VERSE 11

Solomon had a vineyard at Baalhamon: he let out the vineyards unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver.

Baalhamon

This means the abundance of the Lord, or the possession of a multitude. He is the vine, and there is always abundance from the vine.

Let out the vineyards to keepers

He is after fruit from all His children.

One thousand pieces of silver

One thousand is the glory of the Lord, and silver speaks of redemption. The glory of the Lord is the good fruit that the Lord produces in us. The saints are His inheritance and He desires a thousand-fold increase.

VERSE 12

My vineyard, which is mine, is before me; thou O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit two hundred.

My vineyard is mine

She was not interested in her vineyard at first, but she has learned to tend and keep her vineyard instead of tending and keeping the vineyards of her brothers and sisters. We need to stay put and tend the garden the Lord has given us, to plant and water our gardens that God will give an increase. When we leave our garden unattended, devastating things can happen to our walk.

A thousand to Him

This means all glory to Him. He gets the first fruits.

The keepers of the fruit get two hundred

Two hundred means proof and evidence, testimony. When we allow the Lord to do His work in us to fill us with all the fullness of God, there is a testimony of running well.

VERSE 13

Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions harken to thy voice.

Dwellest in the gardens

His dwelling place is in our garden.

Companions harken to thy voice

'Companions' means worshippers. The worshippers harken to His voice. When we are in love we listen, we harken, we pay attention to what is being said. The true worshippers worship God in Spirit and in truth, and the Holy Spirit leads us into all the truth in love.

Cause me to hear it

This shows the necessity of the grace of God at all times. We need to pray that by His grace we take more grace. The Lord has to open our hearts to receive, but we must first surrender to Him. We are headed to the

holy of holies, and we must pass through four pillars first. We must be completely weak, we cannot have intimate fellowship with Him if we have one shred of pride. We have to keep our eyes on the blood of the mercy seat to fellowship in this place.

VERSE 14

Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

Make haste my beloved

“Even so come quickly Lord Jesus.” This is the language of young lovers, and her heart is aflame with love for her Beloved.

Roe or young hart

We need fellowship to be like that of a roe or young hart. We can sometimes grow stoic in our faith, but we need to be awake and alert. We need to let His love excite us; then we will stay young at heart.

Mountains

John had to be taken to a high mountain to see the bride descending out of heaven from God. In these heights, the Holy Spirit can produce the spice in our lives. The only way we can scale to this height is with hind’s feet. These hind’s feet are Paul’s gospel. We are confident because we follow Paul as He followed Christ.

Spices

The only one who can bring the spices to our lives is the Holy Spirit. These are the spices of the abundant life that He produces in us. It is called the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith

23) meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

This journey through the Song of Solomon started with, “Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth.” Rebekah said it this way: “I will go.” Much has been seen in the eight chapters of this little book – from down-settings to up-risings, and all the things God has took the Shulamite through.

The Song of Solomon contains and expounds all the epistles of Paul and part of Revelation. We'll never see any of it without knowing Paul’s gospel. We see what we see because of what God shows us through His chosen vessel Paul. How amazing is the Word of God! We stand and withstand, awaiting the call of our Beloved, "RISE UP MY LOVE, MY FAIR ONE, AND COME AWAY!!!" HALLELUJAH!!! PRAISE THE LORD!!!