

Song of Songs

Chapter 4-5

Chapter 4: V7 : He calls her beautiful 13 times in the whole song. This is the eighth. Now it is “all beautiful” because she said “I will go.” Now he says there is no defect in her. Affirms her again. But...she hasn't actually gone anywhere yet.

V 8: This is the first time He calls her His spouse. Now she is fully committed and has the heart of a bride. Developing mature love. Through the Cross, Jesus obtains the bride and the Father obtains His family. Looking from the mountains into the Promised Land. Beautiful flowers and woods (Isa 35:2).

Israel conquered Amorites and saw the Land from these mountains. Solomon had a house there where he took his new wives.

Lions and leopards - the mountains had animals of prey that the Israelites were afraid of. Bride is now also engaged in spiritual warfare. These animals are demonic powers and principalities. Ps 76:4; Hab 2:17.

She is a lover, servant, partner against enemies, and a worshipping warrior.

V9: This verse summarizes the Song of Solomon. People do not realize how God feels about us.

I John 4:19. We can never love Him like He loves us. Salvation is more than just justification. This is not conceivable in Jewish thought.

John 15:9- we cannot conceive of this; cannot understand it. Shows our ultimate worth. Angels don't have this. The Gospel really spreads when we understand this. We obey not out of fear or duty.

Sister - refers to Jesus' humanity. Understands everything about us. Sympathizes with our weaknesses. Matt 12:49-50.

Bride- intimate relationship. Calls her sister and bride 7 other times in the book. Glance – He responds to every look with devotion and obedience. We get His

affection every step of the way. Neck- the will – every link of her necklace is an act of obedience. Every time we turn toward Him. If a glance does that, what will a fixed gaze do?

V 10: Wants our love more than sacrifices. Wine – she had said that before. Wine exhilarates the heart. Drink of celebration at a wedding. His heart is so excited at her decision to follow and obey. More important than everything else in Creation.

Perfume- scent that rises to God from our inner self. 2 Cor 2:14-15. Spices were treasured in the ancient world. Also used in worship. Our inner fragrance is much better.

V11 : words of worship and prayer are like honey. Sweet to the taste. Also blessing and sustaining others. Milk and honey are signs of prosperity (the Land). Israelites used them to feed babies also. “Under the tongue” meant deceit. She truth under the tongue.

Garments are acts of obedience and righteousness. These rise like incense. We are clothed with white garments. The fragrance is like flowers and cedar of Lebanon.

V12: Enclosed garden – kings had personal gardens. Maintained by the king for His pleasure. The Church is God’s enclosed garden. Costly and requires work from many servants. Pollution of the world is kept out. Those in the garden are protected from the outside influences. No compromise. Undeiled water supply to water the garden. Very important in Israel. Water was rare and had to be protected. She (and the Church) are trying to be holy for Him.

V13-14 : orchard of pleasant fruits, fragrant plants, fruitful trees. This is about an abundant and fruitful life of ministry. Pomegranates and fruits are sweet and have impact on others.

Fragrant spices mentioned are the work of the Spirit and graces that are brought to her ministry. Frankincense is prayer. Myrrh and aloes are about death – the Cross and also death to the self.

V 15: 3 sources of water. Ways in which we experience the Holy Spirit. Fountain- inward source – Jesus talks about it in John Ch 4. Indwelling. In the garden-protected from outside pollution. Undeified water.

Well- place where water is stored; we draw it when we need it. We need it in dry times. We draw from God from past experiences --our personal history. Streams – flowing water on the surface – high energy. Flow down from high places - like Lebanon. Outward supply – Holy Spirit coming down on us from above.

V 16 : Bride offers a prayer for 2 kinds of wind. North - wind of adversity; cold - testing and difficulty.

South wind – refreshing and blessing. Only God knows the right combination of these for each of us. She knows that both winds play a role in her development.

She wants the winds to blow on her garden – things that inhibit her are uncovered – pride, anger etc- while she (we) work in both circumstances. She wants good things to come from her and spread out.

This is the turning point : the transition from *her* garden to **His** garden. She sees her life and her ministry as **His**. Now she wants to be totally consecrated to Him. For the first 4 chapters it was about her inheritance. The fruits-choicest yield- that he can enjoy what has been worked in her. Jesus' inheritance.

Chapter 5: V 1: Jesus says “my” nine times. She lives under His complete ownership. In 4:16 she asks Him to come into His garden. Now He does. Bride is His inheritance as sister and spouse. Myrrh and spices – gathering what the Spirit has worked through embracing the Cross and imparting grace.

Honeycomb and honey – eating the mature fruit. Fruit of a mature church. Wine and milk – celebrates the love that the bride has for Him.

He wants the church to enjoy the fruitfulness of mature believers. Others are nourished and strengthened by the Bride. II Cor 4: 10-12. Others are blessed by living sacrifices.

Gathers what the Spirit has worked.

Eats the fruit.

Drinks to celebrate her maturity

Invites others His friends to eat – wants the church to enjoy fruit of mature believers.