

CHAPTER 2

I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys (2:1)

The Lord has previously encouraged the Shulamite and told her how fair she is to him - This is the first time she calls herself a lily. She is not toiling or spinning or working to please him. Consider the lilies... how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these (Matthew 6:28-29). She is losing her sense of unworthiness and believing and agreeing with him.

The Rose of Sharon grew near the Mediterranean coast on the hills of Sharon - the higher places. The lily of the valley grew in abundance on the lowlands. She has found the Lord sufficient in both the high places and the low places of her life. She blooms in both places with him.

...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content (Philippians 4:11). I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need (Philippians 4:12).

As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters (2:2)

He commends her even further because she has taken her rightful place with him. He compares her to a lily among thorns - to other believers (daughters) who desire to put themselves under law. Thorns were the first things that came forth from the earth after the fall of Adam. They are a result of the curse (Gen.3:17-18).

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them (Galatians 3:10).

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 (2:3)

His encouraging words of love continue to help her. She has found that not only can she lean upon this beautiful tree but that underneath it the Lord provides shade and delicious fruit for her pleasure and sustenance.

She sits down with great delight. It is a joy to her to sit here with him. The fruit he gave her to eat was sweet to her taste. She is strengthened and edified in it. Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalms 34:8).

Jesus fed the multitudes as they sat down *by companies in ranks* upon the green grass (Mark 6:39-42). They were all filled.

The place where we sit down in the word of God is most important to our spiritual growth. The Lord's word blesses all his children no matter where they sit down. But to be fully blessed in it and understand it we must sit down in all the counsel of God as given to us by the apostle Paul (Acts 20:27). - In his completing message of *grace* and *glory*. This is where the banqueting house is and this is where he will lead you if you let him.

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love (2:4)

The banqueting house signifies the house of wine - the joyful pleasures of feasting with him in his word, as he reveals more of himself - his every provision - his unspeakable love. She rejoices that his banner over her is love.

It is finished! (John 19:30). This is the victory banner of love over her. He has accomplished it all for her. For by one offering he has perfected forever them that are sanctified (Hebrews 10:14). This wonderful banner of love not only has conquered everything *for her - it also conquers her* - she does what she does by his grace and for his glory because she loves him - faith which worketh by love.

Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love (2:5)

She is so in love with him now that she is lovesick - the pure sweet joy of his presence has overwhelmed her and she is beside herself with joy in him - she longs for even more of his love (flagons) and his fruit (apples).

His left hand is under my head and his right hand does embrace me (2:6)

She is secure in his love and knows that he will never leave her. Lo, I am with you always (Matthew 28:20). I will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). Nothing shall ever separate us from his love (Romans 8:35-39).

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 (2:7)

Three times these exact words are found in the Song of Solomon. They always follow a time of precious and intimate revelation of his *very personal love*. The daughters of Jerusalem are trying to stir things up or add their own fleshly zeal to her experiences with the Lord. She will not let them. It is hers.

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills (2:8)

His voice is heard through his word and in her heart. He comes to her leaping and skipping in her difficulties (mountains and hills) as though there were no difficulty at all. He is a very present help in trouble (Psalms 46:1). His voice is becoming very recognizable to her - he can come to her with a still small voice and she will hear him (I Kings 19:12). My sheep hear my voice and, I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice (2:9)

She has felt a separation between them (our wall) and he makes a very tender approach to her here - not forcing himself - looking at her through the window - showing himself to her through the lattice - here a little - there a little - not all at once, (Isaiah 28:9-10). We can never exhaust the unsearchable riches of Christ. We see through a glass darkly, but then face to face (I Corinthians.13:12).

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away (2:10)

He is speaking to her so clearly now to rise up and live as befitting her new life in him - to live in the heavenlies with him where she is seated (Eph. 2:5-6).

He wants her to come away from her old creation to himself. Hearken O daughter...Incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty (Psalms 45:10-11).

He is not rigid or severe in this with her but tender and encouraging. - Arise my love, my fair one. He wants her to forget her old man who has been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6). Awake thou that sleepest, and *arise* from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light (Ephesians 5:14). For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them (Luke 9:56).

For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle (*dove*) is heard in our land; (2:11-12)

The winter is past. It is finished! The Lord Jesus has paid the only price that could be paid to redeem us - his very own life. By his offering he has put away sin once for all forever. He has risen and he is alive! The green spring time with singing birds and flowers speaks of his resurrection. He has won the victory and now wants to enjoy her love in the beauty and freshness of the new life he has given her - his very own resurrection life.

The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise my love, my fair one, and come away (2:13)

The thought of a wonderful fruitful time after the hard cold winter - all the wonderful smells that accompany fruitfulness. Again he beckons her to arise and come away. Again he calls her his fair one. Over and over in this love story Solomon speaks to her about this.

It is of utmost importance to their relationship. She must know that what he did for her was enough. He only views her now in her new creation - and that is how she must view herself as well - she must live with him now in her new life - she must arise.

The fig tree, (Israel) (Joel 1:7, Hosea 9:10) also speaks to us of the time when we will *literally* arise to meet the Lord in the air - her tender branches have been putting forth leaves for many years - a sign of the soon return of Jesus. Now learn a parable of the fig tree (Matthew 24:32).

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 (2:14)

She has been a climber on the stairs - it has been a secret climb- her own journey with him. She is hiding in the clefts of the rock where the doves make their nests. He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved (Psalms 62:6).

Come even closer to me, he is saying to her - thy countenance is comely. You are beautiful to me and I love to hear your voice. His ear is always open to our cry (Psalms 34:15). Pour out your heart before him... (Psalms 62:8). My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up (Psalms 5:3).

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes (2:15)

He is in the battle with her. Take *us* the foxes - *our* vines have tender grapes. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing (John 15:5). He is with her to take the things that will destroy her fruitfulness - the little troubles that can so easily steal our victory.

My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies (2:16)

My beloved is mine and I am his. She knows that they belong to one another. She understands what feeds him. What a blessing we can be to the Lord - to feed and nourish him should be our highest aim. She still sees herself as one of many lilies - by the end of the story it will be between just the two of them in her heart.

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 (2:17)

The things which separate me from your presence - be like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether, (separation), help me - until this night time that I am in - where the shadows are - help me overcome these separating things.