

CHAPTER 3

By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not (3:1)

The fact that he seems gone does not mean that he is gone. He never leaves us. It is in the night time of her experiences that she is missing the sense of his presence but he is not gone... In him we live and move and have our being... and he is not far from any one of us... (Acts 17:22).

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 (3:2)

She sincerely wants to find him - I will rise now - He will manifest himself to you when you seek him. He loves you and cannot let you go. He will always stand behind his promises to you. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

She seeks him in the city in the streets and broad ways - in the crowds of the fellow citizens of the household of God, (Ephesians 2:19, Hebrews 11:10) - in groups that gather under denominations and organizational heads and not under the headship of the Lord Jesus - He is the head of his body the church (Col. 1:18). She does not find him where the religious crowds are - the bridegroom is not there.

The watchmen that go about the city found me; to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? (3:3). It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth; I held him and I would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house; and into the chamber of her that conceived me (3:4)

She will not find him in the broad ways of the religious camp - instead she encounters the watchmen there - leadership in the church of religiosity who did not understand, (Isaiah 56:10). The word "*watchman*" means to hedge about as with thorns. They understand religion but not the warm welcoming heart of her beloved. She inquired of them but they could not help her.

She has already entered into a far deeper relationship with the Lord than the watchmen will ever have inside the camp. Hers is an affair of the heart. They did

not know the bridegroom themselves in this way. They only know what is in the city - that he is the savior. They know nothing of the bridegroom.

We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat, which serve the tabernacle. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come (Hebrews 13:13-14).

When she finds him, she holds him close and lets his wonderful grace heal and minister to her. She brings him back with her to her mother's house - the grace of God which saved her and now builds her up, (Gal. 4:25-26, Acts 20:32).

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 (3:5)

Again she says these words. Do not disturb what I have in my heart with JESUS by adding your fleshly interpretation to it - do not touch my love affair with him. She will learn eventually that she will not be able to have any true fellowship about these precious things with those who are not of like mind. Can two walk together unless they be agreed? (Amos 3:3). In fact, she will learn to hold and protect many of her heart experiences quietly within herself - for her and his mutual enjoyment alone.

Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke perfumed with myrrh and frankincense with all powders of the merchant (3:6)

Who is this? The Lord has made her different - she is peculiar. The world doesn't know who she is nor does most of the church. She does not look like everyone else - they do not even discern who she is. He that is spiritual discerneth all things but he himself is discerned of no man (I Cor.2:15).

She rises out of the wilderness life into his very life - an overcoming life. The difficulties of the wilderness have taught her to depend on him. She has overcome in him and appears as pillars of smoke. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God... (Revelation 3:12).

She is perfumed with him - with the perfumes of the wilderness (myrrh and frankincense) - with all the powders of the merchants. She is like the merchant's

ships; she bringeth her food from afar, (Proverbs 31:16) - her food is heavenly.

Behold his bed, which is Solomon's, threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel (3:7)

Solomon's nuptial bed is protected by God - by faithful men who have stood through the ages in defense of the gospel. It has always been his plan to present his son with a bride - a fully grown woman to love and satisfy the heart of the Lord Jesus. Nothing and no one can stop this from happening.

They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night (3:8)

The Lord's soldiers are fully equipped with his spiritual weapons of warfare. They are expert in war. ...I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 10:18).

King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon (3:9)

King Solomon made *himself* a chariot - he himself is the means of our conveyance through this life - of the wood of Lebanon (white) - his humanity as a root out of dry ground - who was cut down for us.

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 (3:10)

His pillars of silver (redemption) - We are not redeemed with silver and gold but with the precious blood of Christ, (I Peter 1:18). The bottom of gold (his deity) - his perfect divine nature - The covering of purple (his royalty). It is the Lord of glory - the Lord Jesus - that has made himself a chariot for his people.

Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold King Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart (3:11)

Solomon's espoused one is the gladness of his heart - both now and forever. She is the joy that was set before him on the cross. Her beauty, (all imparted by

him) is a loving crown to him now and she will be a crown to him forever. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband (Proverbs 12:4).