

CHAPTER 5

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 (5:1)

The Lord has found full pleasure and satisfaction in his garden - the garden of her heart. He calls her his sister, his spouse. He invites others to share the fruit of his garden.

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 (5:2)

There is a pause in their relationship - she is asleep - he is outside in the night. Her heart awakes when she hears his personal voice to her (his word). She recognizes his voice. It is her beloved. He is longing for her fellowship - that she would sup with him - open to me, my sister, my love, my undefiled - her heart awakens to him.

I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? (5:3)

Her heart has awakened but she hasn't risen up yet. She is preoccupied with herself - her wonderful walk (she has put off her coat for the night) - her strenuous running - (she has washed her feet) - she is squeaky clean - and she is too occupied with herself to get up in time for him.

My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him (5:4)

The Lord himself helps her unlock the door of her heart - he puts his hand in by the hole of the door - the deep affections of her heart (bowels) -for him are stirred and she arises.

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 lock (5:5)

She rises up to her beloved. She is still very much absorbed with herself - her fingers are dropping with myrrh - It is very sweet smelling to her - it is dripping upon the handles of the lock.

I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer (5:6)

She finally opens but her beloved had withdrawn himself. The sense of his presence is gone -but he is never gone. He will never leave or forsake her. Although she loves him dearly she was unable to arise when he called to her. Her heart is aching that she grieved his gentle spirit. She calls him but he doesn't answer.

The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me (5:7)

She has encountered the watchmen before - the leaders of the religious city. They smote her, they wounded her, they took away her veil. They exposed what they thought were her shortcomings - prickly law always does this.

She is looking for the bridegroom but she cannot find him behind a wall of thorns. He is not there. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp bearing his reproach (Hebrews 13:13).

She suffers the watchmen's reproach but she is in the best of company. *ABecause for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children (Psalms 69:7-8).*

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love (5:8)

She speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem about her beloved. If you find him - tell him for me that I love him - I am love sick for him. I need him.

What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women?

**What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?
(5:9)**

She has perked their interest. Why is he so special to you? What do you see in him? They call her the fairest among women - they recognize that she has something that they don't have. She has the personal intimate relationship of the bridegroom - they know the savior.

My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand (5:10)

She is delighted to share with them the loveliness of her beloved. He is white (the Lord's divine righteousness) and ruddy (his humanity, red - of the earth) Like David - he is of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look to (I Samuel 16:12). He is the chiefest of ten thousand - (marked out by a banner - R.V.) The banner he has over her is love (2:4) - He who loved us and gave himself for us - As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so also shall the Son of man be lifted up, (*on a cross*) - That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

The life she has had with him - the personal journey she has taken with him in her heart - nothing and no one can compare to what he has been to her. He is the chiefest of ten thousand - Love has always flowed out from the banner he has over her - He is the chiefest of ten thousand.

**His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven
(5:11)**

He is the head of the body; the church - as the most fine gold - divine - In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). Everything flows out of His eternal wisdom and Godhead. He is God - all power is given to him in heaven and earth. (Matthew 28:18)

His thoughts are always towards her - How precious also are thy thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee (Psalms 139:17-18).

His locks are black and bushy - fully submitted (locks) to his father's will (the head of Christ is God - I Cor. 11:3) - he became sin for her - black as a raven. He

did this for love of her. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross (Hebrews 12:2)

His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set (5:12)

His eyes are tender and gentle - like doves' eyes - The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers (I Peter 3:12). They run to and fro without the whole earth in our behalf (II Chronicles 16:9).

Doves' eyes - eyes of Holy Spirit - And John bare record, saying I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him (John 1:32). God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him (John 3:34). God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows (Hebrews 1:9).

Eyes by the rivers of waters - He that believeth on me ...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive... (John 7:38-39)

Fitly set - they see clearly - The Lord, the Word of God - is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart - he sees not as man sees - the outward appearance - he sees the heart. He sees her as perfect and complete in him. He looks right down into the depths of her heart and sees his own life - the one he gave her. He sees that she loves him.

When the king *saw* Esther the queen, standing in the court, she obtained favour in his sight (Esther 5:2). And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his *sight* more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown upon her head (Esther 2:17).

His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers, his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh (5:13)

He gave his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair - for her - he poured out his life for her - His cheeks - the sweetness and fragrance of his face flows out to her because of this fact. The rich full flavors of all the chief spices - he smells like sweet flowers to her - He has enriched her life with himself and made it abundant (John 10:10).

His lips like lilies drop sweet smelling myrrh - nothing but grace pours forth from them. ...Grace is poured into thy lips (Psalms 45:2). The kisses of his mouth - his word - are most familiar to her. She has spoken of them often. They always refresh and encourage her. My doctrine shall drop as the rain; my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: (Deut. 32:2, Isaiah 55:10-11)

His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires (5:14)

His hands were nailed to a cross for her - they completely encircle her with his love - his left hand is under her head and his right hand embraces her (2:6). His hands strengthen and uphold her - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (Isaiah 41:10).

His hands guide her. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands (Psalms 78:72) - Set with the beryl - a mineral of great durability and transparently beautiful - the Lord's hands are always working in our behalf.

His belly (his deepest affections of love for her - the seat of his fervent emotion towards her) is as bright ivory - strong, durable - given to her in his death (like the ivory taken from the elephant) - bright ivory - white ivory - overlaid with sapphires - the most precious blue (heavenly) colored stones, ...as it were the body of heaven in his clearness (Ex. 24:10). His affections are bright and clear - he loves her with an everlasting love of heavenly origin. He died for love of her.

His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars (5:15)

His legs are strong - they stand firm - they can support her full weight - they are pillars of marble - set upon the firm sockets of his deity (gold). His countenance - the way he looks at her - is as Lebanon - always in the perfect finished work that he provided for her at Calvary - very white.

Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again... (Romans 8:33-34). Excellent as the cedars - strong and preserving like the cedars.

His mouth is most sweet: yea he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem (5:16)

His mouth is most sweet - everything he has to say to her - his word - it is all precious to her. He has nothing but love for her. She knows him - he is altogether lovely - this is her beloved and her friend.

A friend that loves her at all times, in all circumstances, all the days of her life. (Proverbs 17:17) - that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24) - a friend she can confide in - (I Peter 5:7). A friend who has brought joy and purpose to her life. He is her beloved. She has found complete joy and complete satisfaction in him. He is altogether lovely.