

## CHAPTER 8

**O 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 (8:1)**

The daughters of Jerusalem are in great anguish. They are aware now that they have missed the rapture. They realize that it was the close and personal relationship the Shulamite had with the Lord that won his heart.

Oh Lord - they say - I wish I had known you like she did - like a brother - as close as that. She had told them often how he supplied all her needs and loved her in her heart. If I could just do this over again - they are saying - I would kiss thee - I would give you my heart and my attentions. If I could do this over - I should not be despised - I would not have been left behind.

**I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of the spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate (8:2)**

I would lead thee and bring thee into my mother's house - just like the Shulamite did (3:4). She *was* instructed in her mother's house (Mother Grace - Galatians 4:26). She had allowed Holy Spirit to take the things of Christ and make them hers (John 16:12-14).

The Lord does not want to withhold himself from any of his children. He wants us to know him personally - for ourselves - intimately, (Rev. 3:20). Seek him diligently and we will find him (Hebrews 11:6, Luke 11:9) - Seek him while he is near - while he may be found (Isaiah 55:6). Call upon me and I will show you great and mighty things which thou knowest not (Jeremiah 33:3).

**His left hand should be under my head, and his right hand should embrace me. (8:3)**

The daughters of Jerusalem say, his left hand *should* be under my head - the Shulamite had said, his left hand *is* under my head (2:6). She had a far more satisfying relationship with the Lord than they did - richer - deeper - she knew him much better.

Theirs was a superficial knowledge of the Lord - the Shulamite knew him as beloved and friend (5:16). They had called her the fairest among women (5:9). Once they even said, "Where is thy beloved gone that we may seek him with thee?" (6:1), but they never did go after him fully like she did.

The Shulamite was not of a double heart - she followed the Lord with a perfect heart - not sinless perfection but a heart that wanted him fully, (I Chronicles 13:33, 38). She was in love with him - because he first loved her. She walked fully with him - the author and finisher of her faith.

**I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please (8:4)**

The Lord has now brought a sense of his presence into the heart of this left behind company. Although she did not win him as bridegroom - he still loves her - she is his child. As the Shulamite had done before her - she is becoming protective of the fellowship and comfort he is now giving her in her heart. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up nor awake my love... (2:7, 3:5).

It will largely be because of the testimony and life of the Shulamite that these left behind ones will understand what has happened and will be able to respond to the Lord now. They will not carry this left behind sadness with them into heaven - there is no sadness there. The virgins which follow shall be brought to thee with gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought, (Psalms 45:14).

**Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree; there thy mother brought thee forth that bare thee (8:5)**

Earth's window has closed and the spotlight is again upon the Lord and his choice one. He is speaking to her again - with great love he says to her, "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness?" Look what my grace has made you!

Look what leaning upon me can produce! He had brought her out of many wilderness experiences in her life (her pride, her self-pity, her *self*) and finally in the twinkling of an eye - he had brought her to himself. You leaned on me and I raised you up - he is saying to her.

**Set me as a seal upon thy 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 hath a most vehement flame (8:6)**

Set me as a seal (a signature ring - a signet) upon thy heart - I want you to know that this is permanent - he is saying to her. You are mine and I am yours - forever. This is irreversible. Ahasureus sent out a decree against all the Jews and sealed it with his ring. It was irreversible. It could never be changed, (Esther 3:12).

Set me as a seal upon thy heart, as a seal upon thine arm. I finished the work on the cross for you - you appropriated it - you have won - I am yours! Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Matthew 19:6).

You are my wife. It is for you I came. I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). Love is strong as death - I gave myself to you in death - I purchased you with my own blood.

Jealously is cruel as the grave. I have watched over you as the apple of my eye. My jealousy is cruel as the grave to those who are your enemies - the things that came your way that tried to rob you. I will make them who say they are Jews and are not, but do lie, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet and to know that I have loved thee (Revelation 3:9). My jealousy is as cruel as the grave, the coals thereof are coals of fire - my love for you fuels it - it is a most vehement flame.

**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 (8:7)**

Nothing can ever quench the love I have for you - Satan offered me the world to forgo my love - my love prevailed. All thy waves and thy billows have gone over me (Psalms 42:8). The floods didn't drown my love for you.

My Father had to turn his back on me as I was made sin for you. They plucked the hair off my cheeks, they laughed and mocked me to scorn, they pierced my hands and feet and hung me upon a cross - Many waters did not quench my love

for you. For joy of you I endured the cross, despising its shame.

My grace allowed you to suffer the loss of all things for the excellency of the knowledge of knowing me. It brought you outside the camp to me - there was shame and reproach - you rejoiced that you were found worthy to suffer for my name. Many waters could not quench this love - nor the floods drown it. If a man gave everything in his house for love it would utterly be contemned. There is no worthy comparison to this love.

**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? (8:8)**

The Shulamite turns her attention to her little sister who is not mature in the Lord - she doesn't have breasts. Many Christians never know the Lord Jesus beyond their initial salvation. They are unable to digest the word of God, (I Corinthians 3:1). They cannot feed on the meat of the word of God nor feed others. What shall we do for our sister in the day she shall be spoken for?

**If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will in close her with boards of cedar (8:9)**

If she be a wall - separated somewhat to him and a support for others - we will build upon her a palace of silver. If she be a door - a way of access to the things of God - we will enclose her with the sweet smelling boards of cedar. There is a place for all God's children. Whatever she has grown to be - the Lord will bless her in that capacity. He buildeth his stories in the heavens (Amos 9:6).

**I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour (8:10)**

I am a wall - a pillar - separated to him alone. Her breasts are like towers - towers of grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. The word of God - the word of his grace has built her up. I commend you to God and the word of his grace which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance (Acts 20:32). Then was I in his eyes as one that found favour - she has won him.

**Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-Hamon; he let out the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver (8:11)**

The Lord let out his vineyard to Israel - they rejected him. The kingdom was taken from them and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof, (Matthew 21:43). Since that time the Lord has been visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name (Acts 15:14).

Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-Hamon, (daughter of a multitude). He let out the vineyard unto keepers - The Apostle Paul is the Lord's keeper for this church age. He is the apostle to the Gentiles (II Tim. 1:11). Whereof I am made a minister according to the dispensation - (act of administering, dealing out, ordering, managing) - of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill (complete) the word of God: (Colossians 1:25). If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward (Ephesians 3:2).

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon (I Corinthians 3:10).

Everyone was to bring 1000 pieces of silver for the fruit thereof to Solomon - to the Lord Jesus - the one who died and gave himself for us.  $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000$  - full responsibility according to ability. Some never bring the Lord anything - they remain infants - still they are loved.

**My vineyard, which is mine, is before me, thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred (8:12)**

The Shulamite grew up under the message of the Apostle Paul - it is the only message you can grow up in. My vineyard is before me - she is saying - what your grace has made me - what you did in my heart - here I am. O Solomon, you shall have a thousand fruits of redemption - you did it all!

You were the keeper of my vineyard O Solomon, but there were others who helped me along the way - they taught me - they lived for you and were examples to me - they were helpers of my joy in my vineyard - those that keep the fruit thereof - they shall have two hundred.

There were those that planted, and those that watered - but you gave the increase (I Corinthians 3:6). Everyone in this family will receive a reward according to what they let the Lord do for them in their vineyard (Rev. 22:12).

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? (I Thessalonians. 2:19)

**Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it (8:13)**

She has been a garden enclosed to him - a fountain of gardens - a well of living waters - and streams from Lebanon. He does not stop dwelling in the gardens of her heart because she has been translated to heaven. She says - thy companions hearken to thy voice - cause me to hear it.

The Lord's voice has been the whole basis for their relationship - what she has heard him say to her - She has been hungry to know everything about him from the very beginning of their love story. Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. For thy love is better than wine (1:2).

This is how he drew her into the close and intimate journey they have had together - it was one kiss at a time - one word of his grace at a time - here a little - there a little - line upon line and precept upon precept. The kisses of his mouth revealed his true worth and all that he wanted to be to her. She will never tire of hearing his voice.

**Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices (8:14)**

There have been four mountains in their journey together - the mountains of Bether (separation) ( 2:17) - where she said goodbye to many loved ones in Christ and went outside the religious camp to him. Where he helped her with the separating things of her life that hindered her walk with him.

The mountains of myrrh (suffering) (4:6) - the fiery trials and hard places. If ye suffer with me you shall reign with me (II Tim.2:12). The mountains of the leopards (the beasts of Ephesus) (4:8) - where her close union with the Lord brought her into specific and personal battles - battles that he won for her - where he made her beautiful as Tirzah and terrible as an army with banners (6:4,10).

Make haste my beloved - she says now - to the mountains of spices - the wonderful fragrances of his grace that adorn her now - She remains ever hungry for

his fellowship - As she looks back on her journey - she sees that it was always and only she herself that he wanted - her love - her fellowship.

That is how she has won him. She gave him her heart - he did the rest. She appropriated all that he offered - he gave her all that she needed. - And now my daughter, fear not: I will do to thee all that thou requires (Ruth 4:11). The Lord Jesus authored and finished her faith. He perfected all that concerned her as she leaned upon him. They will share eternity together forever as husband and wife.