

LIFE AND BUILDING AS REVEALED IN SONG OF SONGS

Message Two

Eight Stages of Growth in Life

Scripture Reading: S. S. 1:9, 15; 2:2, 14; 3:6, 7, 9, 10, 11

I. Song of Songs shows a family of descriptions with eight figures to describe the seeking one:

- A. A mare among Pharaoh's chariots—1:9:
 - 1. A mare signifies natural strength in a worldly way.
 - 2. You may be seeking the Lord, but you drag the world behind you.
 - 3. In your seeking of the Lord, others are impressed not with the Lord but with something of Pharaoh—Rom. 12:2a.
- B. Eyes like doves—S. S. 1:15:
 - 1. Eyes like doves signify the insight, the understanding, and the realization of the Spirit—Matt. 3:16.
 - 2. The more we appreciate the Lord, the more our eyesight will be transformed.
 - 3. We no longer trust in our natural horse strength, but now we trust in Him—Phil. 3:3.
- C. A lily—S. S. 2:2:
 - 1. A lily signifies a life lived wholly by faith—Matt. 6:28-30.
 - 2. A lily signifies one of the Lord's seeking ones who lives *on* this earth but not *by* this earth; she lives by trusting in God.
 - 3. By such a faith she becomes as pure as the white lilies.
- D. A dove—S. S. 2:14:
 - 1. In the Bible the dove is the sign of the Holy Spirit—Mark 1:10.
 - 2. As a dove, the seeker has practical faith in God.
 - 3. She has put away her trust in her horse's strength; now she has a living trust in God.
 - 4. After the dove stage there is a long period of time between Song of Songs 2:14 and 3:6, where she was found in the clefts of the rock (the cross) and in the covert of the precipice (the Lord's ascension) to be permeated with the death (myrrh) and resurrection (frankincense) of Christ—cf. Exo. 17:6; 2 Cor. 4:10-12; Psa. 91:1.
- E. Pillars of smoke—S. S. 3:6:
 - 1. A pillar of smoke stands on the earth supporting the expanse.
 - 2. The apostles were pillars standing fast without shaking to uphold God's interest on the earth—cf. Gal. 2:9.
 - 3. The church of the living God is spoken of as the pillar and base of the truth—1 Tim. 3:15.
- F. Solomon's bed—S. S. 3:7:
 - 1. As a bed, the seeker is now one with Solomon, that is, one with Christ; Christ is the content and she is the container.
 - 2. The bed is for rest and victory in the night, signifying the church age, during the time of spiritual warfare, signified by the sixty mighty men who surround the bed.
 - 3. As a bed, Christ's lover is the victory of the overcoming Christ, full of the power of the overcomers among God's elect that carries Christ even in times of difficulties.
- G. A palanquin—S. S. 3:9-10:

1. A palanquin is a stately, royal car carrying the rider in the daytime, signifying the age of the kingdom.
 2. The seeker is now the moving vessel of Christ, who moves by being contained in her; He moves in her and with her.
 3. The lover of Christ and Christ are in a union of triumphant celebration.
 4. Christ's lover is a palanquin, a carriage for Christ, made by Christ Himself out of the resurrected, uplifted, and noble humanity (the wood of Lebanon), having God's nature (gold) as its base, Christ's redemption (silver) as its supports, and Christ's kingship (purple) as its seat—vv. 9-10.
 5. The inside of the palanquin is inlaid with the love of Christ's seekers (daughters), signifying that the lover of Christ is one with all the seekers of Christ in love in the principle of the Body of Christ.
- H. Solomon's crown—v. 11:
1. This is not the crown for kingship; it is the crown for Christ's espousal with us at the wedding day.
 2. Incarnation was a "mother" who gave Christ His humanity as a crown, a treasure; the humanity that Christ put on in His incarnation and uplifted in His resurrection is His crown.
 3. As Christ's human wife transformed with His divinity, we become a crown to Him—cf. Prov. 12:4a.

II. When the seeking one was like a horse loving the Lord, she was full of her own opinions; even as a little dove, she still had a certain kind of personality; however, when she becomes the pillars, the bed, the palanquin, and the crown, she has lost all her personality by being permeated with myrrh and frankincense, the death and resurrection of Christ—S. S. 2:14—3:11:

- A. The union of the bed with its sleeper (3:7-8), the union of the palanquin with its rider (vv. 9-10), and the union of the bride with her bridegroom (v. 11) all signify the complete union of the lover with Christ, which has made her God's new creation in Christ's resurrection (2 Cor. 5:17).
- B. Now she expresses only the personality of Christ in His rest and in His move; this is the way for us to take Christ as our life: by loving Him as our person, enjoying Him as our satisfaction, and experiencing Him in so many ways that we may become His full expression.