

WHO IS THIS COMING UP FROM THE WILDERNESS?

Son 3:6 "Who is this coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all scented powders of the merchant?

Son 8:5 Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; There she *who* bore you brought *you* forth.

Have you experienced the wilderness in your life? The wilderness is a place of frustration. The wilderness is a place of struggle with sin. The wilderness is a place of depression and loneliness. The wilderness is a place of lack and barrenness. If you are experiencing the wilderness in your life right now there is good news for you. You can come up out of the wilderness. The Song of Solomon is the story of the Shepherd King and a young lady. This really is an allegory of Christ and the believer. In the Song of Solomon we see how we can come up out of the wilderness and enter our promise land. In this book we have a question asked twice, "Who is this coming up from the wilderness?" The answer to the first question is our **Shepherd King Jesus**. The answer to the second question is us **the believer**.

It is important to know that it was Jesus who first came up out of the wilderness successfully before we can come out also. Jesus became a man to deliver us from the ruler of the wilderness which was Satan. To do this He had to endure all of His testings victoriously. Jesus entered the wilderness and was tested by Satan in all points like we are. He went into the wilderness being led by the Holy Spirit. [Matthew 4:1] He successfully withstood the temptations of Satan by dependence upon the Spirit. After the testings were over He came up out of the wilderness in the power of the Holy Spirit. [Luke 4:14] **Song of Solomon 3:6** says that the Shepherd King came up out of the wilderness like columns of smoke. In the Old Testament the column of smoke represented the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus overcame Satan and came up out of the wilderness by being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. According to this verse He came out of the wilderness giving forth the fragrance of myrrh and frankincense and all manner of fragrant scents. Myrrh and frankincense were bitter in their natural state but when they

entered the fire they gave off a very sweet and soothing aroma. Jesus endured the fire of Satan's testing and came forth giving off a sweet smell to God. This sweet fragrance was all His perfections ascending to the Father in our behalf. Jesus came and endured temptation and testing for us and as us. His perfections that came forth out of the fire arose to God in our behalf. Jesus also endured the fire of God's judgment in our place on the cross. When the fire of judgment hit the Lord Jesus, a sweet smelling savor rose to God in our behalf. **[Eph. 5:2]** It is important to know everything Jesus did was done by trusting in the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that everything He did was actually the Father doing it through Him. **[John 14:10]** Jesus came up out of the wilderness by trusting and by the principle of grace.

How are we going to come up out of our wilderness? We will come out through Christ and because we come up and out in the same way He did it. **Song of Solomon 8:5** tells us that we will come up out of our wilderness by **leaning on our beloved**. By trusting in our Shepherd King Jesus we will come up victoriously out of the wilderness and enter into the promise land. How are we to come up out of it? It is by trusting in grace of God. It is by resting in Christ. He has overcome sin, Satan, and the world. When we rest and lean on Jesus we experience His victory also. Notice that this verse says that we were first awakened **under the apple tree**. The apple tree represents the **principle of grace**. This tree represents **fruit bearing**. Apples are produced not by labor but by abiding and drawing from the life of the tree. God first awakened us by His grace. We received Jesus as a gift of grace and we received new life and a new nature on the inside of us. Early on we were so excited about the goodness of God and His love for us. Things seemed to change in our life without our effort or even trying to make it happen. However, many not too long after being awakened leave the apple tree and find the fig tree. The fig tree represents the Law and the flesh. This is where you try to live for God and become like Him by your own efforts. You work to become like Jesus and be more like God by doing right things and avoiding bad things. You try to change yourself for the better. Living like this causes us to dwell in the wilderness. This is why we experience frustration, sin, depression, loneliness, lack, and barrenness. However, we can return to the apple tree and to the principle of grace. As we have received the Lord Jesus we are to continue to walk in Him- **[Col 2:6]** How can we come up out of our wilderness of our flesh? It is by walking in the

Spirit. Walking in the Spirit means to trust Christ to live in us and through us in order to produce the Christian life. Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. If we abide [lean on, rest in, and draw from] Him we will bear much fruit, for apart from Him we can do nothing! [**John 15:5**]

Are you ready to come up out of the wilderness? Who is it that comes up out of the wilderness? It is the one who leans upon their beloved Shepherd King Jesus! Jesus Christ loves you. Lean on Him and He will bring you up out of the wilderness.