

Song of Solomon Chapter 8

I. Son. 8:1- The young woman to the Shepherd King

A. Oh, that you were like my brother, who nursed at my mother's breast

1. Christ is our brother.

a. **Heb. 2:12, 17**

B. If I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised.

1. The young woman is feeling embarrassed of openly showing her love to the Shepherd King. When she does, she is mocked by the daughters of Jerusalem out of envy and jealousy. She is persecuted because of her open affection of the Shepherd King. She wished He was just one of her brothers so she could get in her “kisses and affections” without being persecuted by those who see them.

2. This is where a multitude of believers are at. They do not want to make a public stand for Christ because they are afraid of the persecution they receive. They are persecuted by the world because their deeds are done in darkness and are exposed. Many believers love Christ, but it remains a secret and private love so that they will not be persecuted or made fun of.

3. Many believers are trying to make their relationship with Christ acceptable to the world so they will not be persecuted. The exclusivity of Christ is removed from the exalted position of our **only** husband to just **one of many** brothers. We do not mind that someone might hear we are a Christian, but we do not want to press the issue and tell others that Jesus is the **only** means of salvation and they must marry Him in order to be saved.

4. The young woman is once again allowing her heart to be turned away from the Shepherd King and she is focused upon herself again.

II. Son. 8:2- The young woman to the Shepherd King

A. I would lead you into the house of my mother

1. The woman once again is struggling with carnality. This is a tendency in the believer to go in and out of being spiritual to being carnal. Instead of allowing the Shepherd King to lead her, **she is now trying to lead Him!**

2. How often do we get into the flesh and cease being led by the Spirit. Instead, we endeavor to lead the Lord in the path we want to go! We go in our own way and try to bring Him along to bless us!

B. who used to instruct me

1. Notice she is seeking grace from the Shepherd King, but she is doing the leading. She wants the blessing of grace upon her endeavors but in her own way and place. We only receive grace in the Lord's way and place.
2. The believer's mother is grace. Notice the word “**used**” to instruct her, but no longer! Grace will cease instructing us when we are trying to lead the Lord in our own path and doing things our way.
3. The grace of God teaches us, but it will do so when we are led by the Spirit of Christ in His path

a. Titus 2:12

C. I would cause you to drink spiced wine of the juice of the pomegranate

1. This is another sign of carnality. We are trying to cause things in regards to the Lord. We try to cause Him to bless us. We try to cause Him to hear us. We try to cause Him to move for us.
2. The spiced wine and juice of the pomegranate here refers to our praise and worship. We think if we will say and sing the right things to the Lord that it will cause God to bless us even if we are walking in our own path away from Him. This is really manipulation. Many believers are walking in their own path, but show up to church on Sunday and sing worship songs hoping it will cause the Lord to bless their lives. This will not happen. The Lord will not be manipulated. The Lord will not be lead by you. The Lord will not allow you to cause Him to bless you by your works. God blesses us through our faith and actions that come from our faith. When we are in faith we will follow in the path He leads us in.

III. Son. 8:3- The young woman to the Shepherd King

A. His left hand is under my head

1. In the Bible the right hand is the place of honor, grace, and power. When passing on favor or blessing you placed your right hand on someone. The left hand was the place of subjection. Jacob placed his left hand on Manasseh thus subjecting him to Ephraim who he placed his right hand upon.
2. The Lord places His left hand under our head. The head in the bible speaks of authority or rulership. By the left hand being placed under our head we are thus submitted to the Lord's authority. We give up rights to rule ourself. He is our Lord. We must submit ourselves to the Lord. Submission in the New Covenant is faith.

When we place our faith in the Lord and His finished work of the cross then we are supported by the authority of Jesus. When we do we allow the left hand of Jesus to be under our head. When we do we will reign in life through Jesus Christ! **Romans 5:17**

B. His right hand embraces me

1. if we will accept His left hand under our head, he will embrace us completely with His right hand. The right hand is the hand of honor, acceptance, authority, and power. The right hand of the Lord is the hand He worked redemption for us. It is by His right hand we experience victory [**Ps. 98:1**] We will see our whole life embraced by God's power and glory when we submit our head to His left hand!
2. This verse shows us the way out of carnality. It is returning to faith. This is submitting ourselves to the authority and rulership of the Lord. This means we allow the Spirit to lead us by faith and we cease trying to lead the Lord.

IV. Son. 8:4- The Shepherd King to the daughters of Jerusalem

A. I charge you daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up or awaken love, until it pleases

1. This phrase is repeated three times in the Song of Solomon. The Trinity is charging those who are legalistic not to force those who are carnal into submission to God or loving God.
2. Those who are legalistic tend to force people to love God and to serve God. They do it by fear and manipulation. The triune God hates this! He says in this book, do not do this! Do not do this! Do not do this!
3. Leaders should keep teaching the Word of God [the message of grace] and praying for those who are carnal. God will bring them to Himself in time.

V. Son. 8:5- The Shepherd King to the young woman

A. Who is this coming up out of the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved.

1. The young woman has now turned to the Shepherd King again and is once again allowing Him to lead her. Notice where her own path had taken her. It had taken her into the wilderness! Our own path will always lead to the wilderness of sin, lack, and barrenness. When we allow the Lord to lead us He will lead us out of the wilderness into the promise land every time!

2. A similar passage to this one is found in chapter 3:6. [see comment there] In that verse we see that the Lord Jesus overcame the wilderness and every temptation of the enemy for us. He perfectly obeyed God's law and the perfume of His perfections ascended to God in our behalf. In this verse we see how we ourselves will experience victory over the wilderness and every temptation. It is not by self effort or even by keeping God's law. It is by leaning upon [trusting in] our beloved, which is Christ.

3. Most believers when they are tempted will quote the law to the devil. This is because Jesus did! However, Jesus quoted it in order to fulfill it and set it aside! Most believers say when they are tempted, "God's Word says not to do this or that, so I refuse to do it!" However, this makes their defeat sure. They are making their stand upon the Law. We cannot stand upon the Law and find victory in the Christian life. Jesus fulfilled the Law and set it aside. We overcome by believing, claiming, and acting upon who we are in Christ and because of Christ. Instead of trying to live up to the Law, we live up to who we are in Christ by faith. When sin comes, I no longer say, I must not do it! I say I am free from this sin because I have been holy and righteous in the blood of Jesus. The nature of Christ is in me! I have died with Christ to this sin and I offer my body to the Holy Spirit to empower me to live righteous! We have the victory in and through Jesus Christ who gained victory over Satan and the wilderness! We must overcome through grace and not by trying to fulfill the Law of God. Sin shall no longer have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. **Romans 6:14** The strength of sin is the law! **1 Cor. 15:56** Freedom from sin is found by appropriating grace through faith in what Jesus has already done for you! A sure way to defeat is to try to conquer something Jesus already conquered and to try to do what Jesus already did for you by His grace.

B. I awakened you under the apple tree

1. The apple tree in this book stands for grace. We were first awakened to righteousness when we understood grace. When we understand what Jesus already has done for us in His finished work then we are awakened to grace. When we are awakened to grace we are awakened to the righteousness we have in Him. When we are awakened to righteousness we will not sin! **1 Cor. 15:34**

2. The apple tree is a tree that bears fruit. When we understand grace we will begin to bear fruit from Christ's nature within us. When we are under the Law we only produce works. We can only bear fruit when

we cease trying to live for God, and start living from God! We must all learn to abide in the vine. We do that by faith in what Christ has already done and said to us. We let Christ do the work in and through us by His Spirit.

C. There you mother brought you forth. There she bore you and brought you forth.

1. Our spiritual mother is grace [the gospel]. We were saved by grace, so why do we leave the fruit tree to labor for God in the wilderness alone? As we have received the Lord Jesus, so we are to walk in Him. **Col. 2:6** We received by grace through faith, so we are to walk by grace through faith

2. We were born again by grace, and were brought forth out of Satan's kingdom by grace. We remain free from Satan and His kingdom by grace.

VI. Son. 8:6- The Shepherd King to the young woman

A. Set me as a seal upon your heart

1. A seal in the ancient world was a sign of ownership and protection
2. We need to set the Lord Jesus as a seal over our heart [deepest affections] He owns us. Our heart only belongs to Him. When the Lord becomes the seal upon our heart we will not stray from Him. We need to watch closely and guard over our heart's affections.

B. As a seal upon your arm

1. The arm speaks of our actions. Jesus has bought us and we are not our own. Our hands and arms are His for His work and not our own.

C. for love is strong as death

1. Death is working powerfully in the Earth to separate man from God. Love is just as powerful to draw us to God. What will keep you strong in your relationship to God is to dwell upon His love for you.

D. Zeal is enduring as the grave

1. Many translations have jealousy in this verse, but the Hebrew here means zeal. God's zeal will cause you to endure whatever may come in your life. We get zeal for God by spending intimate time with Him.

E. It's flames are as a flame of fire, a most vehement flame

1. This is what consumed the Lord Jesus. His zeal for God caused Him to cast out the money changers with a whip!

F. We need say often- I am the Lord's and He loves me! This will set a seal upon our heart and cause zeal to burn in our bosom.

VII. Son. 8:7- The Shepherd King

A. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can floods drown it

1. In life we will have many waters try to overflow us to quench the fire of our love for God. This fire was started by God in us and He keeps it from being extinguished. It might burn low, but it cannot be put out. Its embers are embedded in our spirit. It is up to us to stir it up to a flame.

B. If a man could give all his house for love, it would be utterly be despised

1. Nothing in this life compares to the love of God and our relationship to Him. Why then do we allow natural things to get in the way of our time with Him?

2. If a man gains the whole world, and loses his soul, what has he really gained? You can gain fame, riches, and power, but if you do not have a love relationship with God you are nothing and to be greatly pitied.

3. Paul said that what he had used to consider as gain, now as loss and dung, for the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ.

VIII. Son. 8:8- The brothers of the young woman

A. We have a little sister

1. This is spoken by the Shulamite's brothers sometime before she married the Shepherd King.

2. The little sister is the gentile church. The older brothers were the Jewish church in the very beginning of the church age.

B. And she has no breasts

1. This was the view of the Jewish believers. They doubted that gentiles could really believe in God and love God without the Law.

C. What shall we do for her in the day she is spoken for

1. The Jewish church thought the gentiles would not be ready to meet God unless they accepted the Law.

IX. Son. 8:9- The brothers to the young woman

A. If she is a wall, we will build upon her a wall of silver, if she is a door, then we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

1. This speaks of the brother's of the Shulamite testing of her chastity. Being a wall means she was chaste and would let no man into her before the time of marriage. If she would stay chaste then they would give her a dowry of silver. If she did not remain chaste she

would be like a door, which let anyone have free access to her. If this was the case they would fence her in and not allow her to marry.

2. The Jewish church attempted to make the gentile church accept the Law. If they would do this the Jewish church would consider the gentile church chaste and would be ready to say they were redeemed and saved. If the gentile church refused the Law then they would be shut out from salvation.

3. This opinion was held until the council of Jerusalem in Acts 15. There Peter and Paul argued for grace and told of both the faith and love of the gentile church apart from the Law.

X. Son. 8:10- The young woman to her older brothers

A. I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers

1. The young woman boasts in her chastity and declares her bosom is ample

2. The gentile church was holy without the law. It had both faith and love which were like tall towers for all to see. They came by grace and not the law. The Jewish church had to admit the gentile church was saved because of its fruit and not because they had the Law.

3. Grace will make you a wall against Satan and sin. The Law will actually make you a door for sin and temptation in your life. **1 Cor. 15:56, Romans 6:14**

B. Then I was as one in His eyes who found peace

1. The church had found peace with God through grace by faith outside the works of the Law. **Romans 5:1**

2. The Jewish church always struggled finding peace with God because they would not dispense of the Law. Finally, the Jewish church in Jerusalem was destroyed and removed.

3. We find peace- Heb. shalom - in God's grace- Shalom is an all encompassing term- safety, deliverance, healing, prosperity, and wholeness.

4. What the Jews sought for, the Gentiles had found through faith in grace. **Romans 9:31-32**

XI. Son. 8:11- Narrator

A. Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon

1. Baal-hamon means a owner of a multitude. Solomon is a type of Christ. Jesus Christ is ruler of a multitude.

2. The church is His vineyard. He is the vine and we are the branches that bring forth fruit.

B. He let out His vineyard to keepers

1. The keepers of the Lord's vineyard is His ministers or in this book "His companions"

C. Everyone is to bring for its fruit a thousand silver coins

1. This speaks of the responsibility of each minister in the church to preach and minister grace. This will bring forth a rich and abundant harvest. It is worth a thousand silver coins.
2. Jesus was sold for thirty silver coins. He was sold for thirty but He should get back a thousand from each minister of each local church!
3. Silver in the Bible speaks of redemption. It is by the finished work of redemption that fruit is born from our lives.
4. If a local church is not bearing fruit then the minister must check up on if he has been ministering the grace of God in truth. If the minister is centered upon the finished work of Christ then it will produce fruit.

XII. Son. 8:12- God

A. My own vineyard is before me

1. Although He allows others to keep and work in the vineyard, it is God's and He watches over it with care.

B. You, O Solomon, may have a thousand

1. God the Father has allotted Jesus a thousand fold return from the vineyard.

C. and those who tend its fruit two hundred

1. The Lord's ministers who minister in the vineyard shall also have a reward- We are promised a one hundred fold return in this life [Mark 10:30], but we are promised here a two hundred fold return in heaven.
2. If you are a minister of God do not allow yourself to grow weary and give up. There a great reward in this life and the next for all your trouble and hard work!

XIII. Son. 8:13- narrator

A. O you who dwells in the gardens

1. It is still speaking to the ministers of the local churches. They are the gardens of Christ.

B. The companions listen for your voice

1. True ministers of Christ are called companions- we are to be in close communion and friendship with Christ.
2. True ministers are to listen for the voice of the Lord in what they preach and how to lead their church. We are not free to preach what

we want. It is not our church. We are to feed the sheep with what we receive from Christ, the Chief Shepherd. Too many preachers are not hearing from heaven in what they are ministering so their ministry lacks anointing, power, and effectiveness. We must quiet ourselves as ministers and listen for the voice of God. Ask for manna for the people and God will give it to you!

C. Let me hear it!

1. This should be the heart cry for every minister and believer. Oh God, let us hear your voice today!

XIV. Son. 8:14- The young woman to the Shepherd King

A. Make haste my beloved

1. The church says come quickly Lord Jesus! **Rev. 22:20**

B. Be like a gazelle or stag upon the mountains of spices

1. Christ is the gazelle which is the embodiment of grace. A gazelle runs swiftly. Christ will return quickly and cross the mountains [the great divide between us and Him] of spices [the three heavens] and return for us His bride.