



CHAPTER 2

SONG OF SONGS

In the Song of Solomon we have 3 main characters. The beautiful Shulamite maiden (a Salem girl) who represents God's called out ones. God's own chosen remnant to show forth His love and mercy to a world sitting in the valley of the shadow of death. To a people who sat in darkness behold a great light hath shined. She was born in Salem and Salem means righteousness and peace. King Solomon represents the Antichrist with the wealth of the world at his fingertips. Even the Queen of Sheba came in search of this king whose reputation through out the world was one of great and noble grandeur, and when she finally saw him she exclaimed, "I didn't believe all that they were telling was true until I came to see with my own eyes and "behold the half was not told me. "Thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard" I Kings 10:1-7

The beloved shepherd lover who represents our Lord Jesus Christ (a greater than Solomon). The Shulamite describes His as the "Fairest of ten thousand" and "He is altogether lovely." Far

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greater in beauty and wisdom than King Solomon with all of his riches, wives, and concubines. The Shulamite maiden wants nothing to do with the King. She longs for her very own shepherd lover, who is away tending His flock. But she knows he will soon return and claim her for His own, and their life together will be sweeter than the honey and the honey comb and more intoxicating than much fine wine.

The king brought her into the palace hopefully to add her to his harem. She went very reluctantly and even while there in the king's chamber she thinks of her beloved (vs. 4) "Draw me my Lord and I will run after thee—" The Shulamite is tanned and black for she has been out in the hot sun keeping the vineyards, but she is very lovely. She tells them not stare at her for her brothers were very angry with her and made her take care of their vineyards and her own she had neglected. Many times we get so caught up with doing for others and helping others that we neglect ourselves. With me it was my fellow... coworker who would leave me to do my job and theirs. They would say, "Oh Hazel will be all right, she can handle it!" Yes, I could handle it, but when I would get home I would be so tired I couldn't sleep. However the most amazing part of this little chapter of my life is that I didn't begrudge them for it. When they came in I greeted them with a smile of welcome.

Some of the girls would just go off and visit with those who took their lunch break when the night shift would come on at 7:00 p.m. A whole hour they would sit in the back visiting while I worked out there alone, I allowed it to happen, and

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it was right with me. It really didn't bother me at all.

Then her heart cries out to her shepherd in vs. 7 "Oh thou whom my soul loveth where feedest thou? Where dost thou make thy flock to rest at noon?!! The women answered her back "Oh thou fairest among women— go follow the footsteps of the flock," and you will find your shepherd.

Then the king starts to court her with his romantic compliments in his attempt to steal her away from her shepherd for himself. He promises her gifts of gold and silver.

While the king sits at his table she feels in her pocket for a little bundle of myrrh, a sweet smelling pouch her shepherd had given her. This little bundle of myrrh stands for the "engrafted word" we have tucked away in our hearts and minds to remind us of the ever-abiding presence and help from the Lord. As the king continues with his overtures to her, her mind wanders back to her shepherd. She sees the great meadows and plains as their home and the grass as their bed. The overhanging cedar and fir branches as the beams and rafters of their dream home, and not the palace.

In 2:3 she compares her lover to an apple tree among the wild trees of the forest. "I sat down under his shadow with great delight." To be in the presence of our Lord is like being in a banqueting house and "his banner over us is love."

Vs 7 True love cannot be purchased and must not be stirred up or excited in carnal ways. We must keep a guard on our dress, our walk, our

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words, & actions. Wait, let love develop of its own free will, for there will be a time for love, but let it be God's timing and not myself will to try to provoke it into existence nor to go out and search for it.

Vs 8 She faintly hears the voice of her beloved calling her away from the glitter of the king's palace (the world) "Behold he cometh leaping upon the mountains and skipping upon the hills."

Vs 9 "He looketh forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice work." "Rise up my love, my fair one and come away, for the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, and the flowers appear on the earth, the singing of birds is in the land.

Vs 14 "O my dove that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see your countenance and hear your voice." Psalms 91:1 "She (my love, my dove) who dwells in the secret place (cleft's of the rocks.) Vs 14 of the most high. You who make your home under the shadow of the almighty (El Shaddai)." She had been hidden from Him like a dove in the clefts of the rock. Jesus is the rock and we are hidden in the cleft of the rock. We are hidden today with Christ in God. The Shepherd ask her to come to the window that He might see her face and hear her voice. Vs 15 Shoo away the little foxes that spoil the vines. Get rid of all the little non essential problems of the day that interfere with our communion with God let us be about the business of overcoming those bad attitudes, put down that self ego and reach out to protect the tender forming of the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. Let

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us very quickly complete the job of cutting away the attitudes of darkness that clutters up our lives that new life might spring forth in me as my Lord helps me to develop His attitudes of love, forgiveness and mercy. I am a message to become, a song to be sung of all that He has written within me. II Corinthians 3:3 He will then declare me as the (letter) written, not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God. Not on tables of stone but on the fleshly tables of my heart. His law of love inscribed in me to love and bless others. The book of life from heaven is being published in an earthen (physical) vessel to be seen and read and known by everyone.

He is calling us to Himself that we might reveal His love, mercy & glory, but first I must cut off and tear away all of the selfishness of my ego. I must let go of my demands for my rights and for the fulfillment of my own way. The whole world is waiting for and crying out for the Father's love and life and as Jesus body of flesh was torn on the cross so I must tear and cut away from my life all of that self will and self ego. It isn't easy to put my self-life down and submit to another's rule. Eph. 5:21 but in "OUR REVERENCE OF CHRIST," we do this. Sometimes I think that I really don't have a choice in the matter. I only know that I want only God's will in my life. There is nothing halfhearted about my devotion to God's cause and kingdom, and so I pray, "Lord, mold me and make me after your will. Form me into the vessel you want me to be. Break me oh Lord, look inside, search me and know my thoughts. If there be any wicked way in me forgive me, and pluck it out that I might show forth your love and light to

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the world. Hebrews 8:10 "I will be their God and they shall be my people, for this is the covenant that I have made with my people" God is making the promise for the Him and us. He will keep this covenant for both Him and us.

When I was a young child of 8 sitting in an Episcopal Sunday School class, I heard about the great and wonderful God of Israel. I fell in love with Him and chose Him for my very own. I tried to read the Bible because I wanted to know more about this God who could close the mouths of hungry lions and enable His people to walk around in a burning fiery furnace and come out unharmed. But alas I could not understand what I was reading. I put my Bible down and prayed fervently for God to help me to read and understand and then to live for Him and His purpose.

In my search for the truth I have found that it has taken a whole lifetime. He captivated my heart and He will never let me go. He just keeps hanging in there for me, helping me over one hurdle right after the other.

God captivates me in a situation and He will not let me go until I have completely surrendered to Him. I must pray and work with my repeater system of prayer until God and I find a way to overcome it. So often I ask for deliverance out of it and then I try to make it happen, but He just holds me there until the work is done in my heart. God is after something much greater in whole heart, our soul, body and us.

In order for us to come forth fully into the Christ mind and life we must first fully experience a broken heart, and a contrite spirit, and it's this

utter and complete brokenness before Him, that heralds a new beginning in us of Christ consciousness that we could never have had without it, and then He will usher us into His presence, to abide forever.

We will in the end be able to say as Jesus did "For the prince of this world cometh and has found nothing in me." John 14:30. The more our hearts are torn the more His life will be revealed in us. The Christ life within us is concealed by this body of flesh. The Christ within is veiled and hidden. The more of a broken heart and a contrite spirit (humility) we experience the sooner the hour when He changes this body of our humiliation into a glorious body like unto His own, then will He proclaim us to the world. A living declaration of His righteousness, joy, peace, and love. "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us." "Therefore turn ye even to me with all your heart and with fasting and weeping and with mourning. And rend your heart, and not your garments and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness." (Joel 2:12-13)

Jesus came to us as "the brightness of God's glory and "the express image of His person" (Hebrew 1:3) Jesus had all the divine attributes of the Father. The Father's mind. His attitude, and His nature. The immortal Son of God came to earth clothed in a garment of human flesh and the only way He could break through this surface was to "overcome by the things which He suffered." This we must so also.

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Chapter 2 vs. 16 & 17 "My beloved is mine and I am His" "until the day break and the shadows flee away turn my beloved and be like a young hart,.... Upon the mountains of Bether" (separation). Consider all of the mountainous things in life that separate us from our Lord. Song of Solomon's 3:1 "By night on my bed I sought for Him whom my soul loveth: I sought Him, but I could not find Him. The mountains of Bether had separated her from her Lord. Just as my bad attitudes and emotions have kept me separated from my Lord so I will separate myself from the dark passions of life by my constant continuance in well doing to seek for glory, honor (money) and immortality. I will love and bless others even at times when I don't feel like it. I will make myself repeat my prayer for their blessing and for my love for them until it becomes a reality. Though they slay me yet will I love them and bless them. We cannot experience attitude changes without God's help and He can't do it without our cooperation. He can't do it without me and I can't do it without Him. The hound dogs of heaven will see to this.

3:2 She got up and went out into the street of the city, but could not find Him. She asked the watchmen in the city who were supposed to protect her. Vs 4 "It was but a little that I passed from them." Then she found her beloved." "I held Him and would not let Him go," and she brought Him home with her to her mother's house.

Vs 6 Tells of King Solomon's grandeur. Chapter 4 continues with the great king seeking for her attention again. Song of Solomon 4:6 But she steadfastly tells him that "until the day break and

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the shadows flee away I will get me up to the mountain of Myrrh and the hill of Frankincense.

She is saying, "I will take up my cross and follow my Lord up the mountain of sorrow, grief, and loss that I may meet my beloved on the hill of frankincense." I will be faithful to bless and pray for others and bring forth the Christ in everyone I meet and as I bring forth the Christ in others He will also come forth in me. This fits a little jingle I heard once.

**I sought for my soul
My soul I could not find
I sought for my God
And my God eluded me
I sought for my brother
And I found all three.**

Myrrh was very bitter to the taste, but a sweet smelling costly perfume when beaten and crushed, the smaller the particles are beaten the greater and more excellent was the fragrance. There have been times when I felt like I was beaten into powder. Ex. 30:36

This sweet smelling fragrance of pure frankincense was mixed with four other perfumes all equal portions of each and was burned in the alter of incense just outside of Holy of Holies in the Temple beside the Veil. This sweet fragrance of incense was the only thing that could get into the presence of God besides the High Priest who could only go in once every year on the Day of

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Atonement with the blood of the sin offering.

This incense burned day and night as perpetual incense throughout all your generations (Ex 30:8) "Thou shalt beat some of it very small and place it on the altar of incense in front of the veil covering the Holy of Holies where I will meet with you." This formula was to be considered holy unto the Lord. Vs 38 "whoever makes any like it for himself or a stranger to enjoy must be cut off from the people.

We cannot use our God given gifts and ministries that He gave us to bless others with to gratify ourselves or to try to build our own kingdom. Our ministry must be wholly consecrated to God. We bless and pray for others, and then we give God the glory for the answer.

My cousin told my sister who was dying with cancer if she would give a certain preacher \$100.00 he would pray for her to be healed. I think he was desecrating his altar of incense before God.

This mountain of myrrh (very costly perfume) is really our cross that we must bear but from where we stand here it doesn't appear to be a thing of beauty to be desired by anyone for it's a whole mountain of trouble and heartaches. It's only after we get there and look back that we can see the beautiful lessons and the overcoming glory that the cross has worked in us.

I blush to think of the many times I have picked up my cross to follow Jesus moaning and groaning every step of the way. It was only as I would stop for a minute to rest that I would look back and say,

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"Lord, I can't go another step until I thank you and praise you for everything just as it is. I thank you for this broken heart. I thank you for the pain in my back and for the dreadful headaches that I have. I thank you for that man who stole my car and pray that you would reach out and save him from the error of his ways. I thank you for the supervisor and assistant head nurse who are writing all of the dreadful reports about me. Somehow Lord turn all of these things around for your glory and work it into a blessing for me and all of those involved with it. Teach me as well as these others your ways and your truth and help each of us to realize your great love for us when you gave up your spirit into God's keeping and reported to the world "It is finished." When the veil of the temple was torn in 2 pieces from the top to the bottom and with your arms stretched out on the cross you poured out a welcome to everyone to come into the Holy of Holies into the very presence of God because He desires to dwell within us. For no more will He dwell within temples made of stone and clay from henceforth I will dwell in the fleshly tabernacles of your heart. II Corinthians 3:3.

I keep trying to take my self life and ego up this mountain of self loss and I stumble with regret and grief, but I'm beginning to look at all loss, sorrow, and grief as a sweet smelling priceless fragrance going up into the nostrils of God as a sweet savor unto Him. The price we must pay is great. It's going to take our whole life, all that we are or ever hope to be or have consecrated to Him. I'm convinced that it's going to be well worth the price. "Eye has not seen nor ear heard the good

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things God has in store for His people."

I used to pray, "Lord, take me and break me as you broke the bread and fishes to feed the multitude who were hungry and weary. Lord you use me as bread to feed those who hunger and thirst for you." I had no idea at that time how much it was going to hurt. My ambitions, desires, and self-life gradually nailed to the cross, one blow at the time. I would forget in my grief the beautiful truth of the matter at hand that God was counting me worthy to suffer with Christ that I might also reign with Him as He is now reigning in the Father's throne. It is not enough to just make an occasional trip up to the cross because death to self must become a mountain to us. We must go up there to stay "until the day breaks and the shadows flee away." It must become a state of being. We must abide in our Lords death, death to self-will and self-ego, until His announcement of our resurrection.

To stay on the mountain of myrrh for a life time is not easy and most of the time it seems we really have no choice in the matter. This is the way God planned it for us. I wanted God to take the hurting away so bad and for brief intervals He does take it away and it seems the next time, it just doesn't hurt quite so much. So I pick up my cross again to continue my climb up the bitter mountain of myrrh.

Then I bow before Him in thanksgiving and give praise that it's no worse than it is. My prayer also goes out for others that we might all be drawn together in His love to become one in Him as He is one with the Father. For everyone has troubles,

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problems, and difficulties that are at times overwhelming.

I walked a mile with laughter

She chattered all the way

But not a thing I learned from her

When laughter walked with me

I walked, a mile with sorrow

And ner'r a word said she

But oh the things I learned from her

When sorrow walked with me.

Author unknown

As the incense burned to ashes on the altar of incense so our ego and sin nature must also be consumed to ashes in order for us to emit a sweet odor of incense unto the nostrils of God with our lives of praise and thanksgiving, and our loving prayers for others. It's going to take a broken heart and a contrite (humble) spirit to crucify self-will and ego.

Let us walk softly before God and acknowledge Him in all of our ways. The sweetest incense we can send to God is our praise and thanksgiving in times of pain and loss and our love and kindness to others mingled with our prayers for one another.

As the four perfumes were beaten very small and

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mingled together in equal portions. They are to us.

1st perfume: A sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving when our world is falling apart. Eph. 5:15-17

2nd perfume: Forgiving one who is responsible for tearing your world apart, and asking God to bless them with the same wonderful things that you would like to receive.

I first thank God with my mouth

I laugh, I clap my hands,

I sing, I jump up and down,

I spin around in a circle.

This way I have praised Him

with my whole being.

I go through the motions

even if my heart is heavy or breaking

3rd perfume: Praying for and blessing others even the strangers you pass on the street. Forgive their weakness and rudeness and ask the Father to shine His light of love on them.

4th perfume: Loving and kind courtesies shown to others. Give them your time and attention, because they are probably hurting too.

May we ever be obedient to the one command

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Jesus gave us. "Love one another as I have loved you. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you." Oh Lord please speed the day when we shall truly become "A CROWN OF GLORY AND A ROYAL DIADEM IN THE HAND OF OUR LORD" Isa.62:3

Song of Solomon 4:7 "Thou art all fair my love there is no spot in Thee" The king beholds her clean character and is so taken with the beauty of her life, he even exclaims that the "smell other" garments (her life, her walk, her attitude, her talk) is like the smell of Lebanon," However, to him she is "a closed garden, a sealed fountain, a spring shut up" She lets him know again that he cannot have her for she is betrothed to another, her beloved shepherd.

I will pick up my cross and climb the mountain of Myrrh. (Sorrow, sadness, broken dreams) and as I climb I will sing and rejoice in my God and thank Him for all the hard rocky roads that I must travel. For this cross is my Father's will for me and I want to bear it myself all the way up the mountain of Myrrh that costly and priceless perfume, knowing that soon I will meet with my beloved on the hill of frankincense and enjoy eternal life with my Lord and "Savior Jesus Christ. Blessed be my Lord forever for He has looked down with pity upon His lowly handmaiden with tender love and compassion and has espoused me unto Himself. Maranatha, yes Lord Jesus please come quickly.

Song of Solomon 4:8 Her shepherd is calling her to come away with Him from the mountains of

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Lebanon and from other goodly mountains because even though they may be pleasant (Deut. 3:23) they still are housed with lions dens and leopards, and these are beasts of prey that hold over one many dangerous temptations lurking in the shadows.

Chapter 4 vs. 9: "Thou has ravished my heart my sister (Christ took on the likeness of our sinful flesh) my spouse (betrothed) Thou hast ravished my heart with thine eyes and the chain around your neck. We are loosed from the shackles of this world and are bound with cords of love to our Lord. "His yoke is easy and His burden is light."

Vs 16: "Awake O North wind and come thou South wind blow upon my garden that the spices may blow out and bring my shepherd in to claim me for His own for the whole world to see. Come and take possession of me, live in me and through me. My life is yours; Oh my Lord with every thing I am and ever hope to be is yours. For I am bought with a price "the blood of Jesus" has redeemed me. As the winds of tribulation blow upon her garden (her life) it caused the sweet fragrance to be wafted around to all who are near and so the sweet order of our life in Christ is brought to its maximum. But it first takes the winds of tribulation to stir up the fragrance in the air.

5:1 He came into her garden to claim it for Himself and there He will enjoy the sweet fellowship with His beloved in her garden that she has plowed, planted, and cared for just for Him. All of her toil and labor in the hot sun has been only for Him, as all that we do must be done for our Lord. "What so ever you do, do in the name of

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the Lord." We wash the dishes for Jesus; we sweep the floors for Jesus..... Etc,

In vs. 4:13 He talks about her orchard of pomegranates with all kinds of pleasant fruits and sweet smelling trees of perfume. This is a good description of what her life (garden) in Him is. What are we growing in the garden of our minds? Is it delicious fruit to please and satisfy our Lord? Trees of Frankincense, Myrrh, Aloes with all the chief spices" Aloe is also medicinal. A balm for burns and wounds also to be taken into the stomach for healing. Let us be a fragrant garden, a well of living waters and streams from Lebanon that we may help to refresh and feed others along our pilgrim journey.

Hosea 6: 1-2 "Come, and let us return into the Lord: For He has torn, and He will heal us: He hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight." (KJV)

WE CHOOSE THE THINGS THAT WE ALLOW TO ENTER OUR MIND AND WHAT LEAVES IT. We choose the thoughts that we allow to dwell there. We must push out all the bad thoughts and only allow good thoughts to remain. "What so ever things are pure, just, praiseworthy, "think on these things." You can REPEAT IN YOUR MIND THE GOOD THOUGHTS, THINGS AND WORDS YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT AND CROWD OUT THE EVIL THOUGHTS THAT ENTERS YOUR MIND WITH WORDS OF LIFE AND TRUTH. I must separate myself unto the Lord.

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Chapter 5 vs. 2 After enjoying sweet fellowship with her beloved she falls asleep and her affection cools then her lover comes and calls to her to let him in for "my head is filled with dew and my locks (hair) with the drops of the night" and in her drowsy lethargic state she complains about having to get up. Vs 4 Then she saw His hand in the hole of the lock, "His nail scarred hand and her bowels of mercy and compassion were moved for the things that her kinsman Redeemer had done for her. We get caught up with making a living on the job, relatives, family, shopping, just doing things and going places and we become lethargic in our Christian walk. Our Lord will not leave us in a state of lethargy, but he calls to us to come up higher with Him. She remembers when He was crowned with thorns and His head was not only wet with the dew of the wee hours of the morning but also with blood and perspiration from the thorns biting into his temples. We keep our Lord waiting on the outside all too often with just flimsy excuses.

She then rushes to get up and open the door, but found He had already departed. Vs 6 I sought Him but I could not find Him. It was her own initiative to get up, but it was the calls and presence of her shepherd that moved her with desire to open the door to Him. His words and presence had melted her heart with compassion and desire to know Him. Then she goes out into the street to search for Him. The city watchman misunderstood her character. They hit her, wounded her and tore her veil from her face. The ones paid to protect her were the ones who abused her.

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In her desperation to find her Lord she calls on her friends, the daughters of Jerusalem to help her look for her lover. And if you find Him tell him "I am sick of love" (love sick).

Vs 9 What is so wonderful about your beloved that is so much better than anyone else's beloved? "O thou fairest among women," they wonder what is so special about a mere shepherd that this beautiful young lady would reject the kings overtures to her in preference of Him, a shepherd. Vs 10-16 She exclaims, "He is the fairest of ten thousand" "The bright and morning Star" (Rev. 22:16, Song of Solomon 5:10 +16) "He is altogether lovely." Chapter 6 vs. 1 The daughters of Jerusalem are so impressed by her description that they too want to search Him out for themselves "where has your darling gone O fairest of women that we may look for Him also." Moffat's translation. We must praise the wonders and graces of our Lord Jesus Christ so that others will also desire Him.

There are times when clouds of darkness seem to veil us from His presence yet we remain a garden enclosed "set apart" for our Lord to only say the words we hear him say and only do the deeds he wants us to do. For Jesus "only said the things He heard his father say and only did the things He saw His Father do."

Solomon with all of his riches could only behold her beauty from afar. Out of my life must spring forth the fruit of the Spirit and the spices which enriches the Shulamite or God's chosen ones, but without her Lord she is nothing.

Then she turns it all over to her shepherd. The

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whole garden is His to smell the sweet odors and eat the sweet fruit she had grown for Him.

6:4-10 The king sees her again and tries to woo her. He had 60 queens and 80 concubines and maidens without number, but none of them can compare to this dark beauty. The queens and concubines sing their praise to her. They ask, "who is this one who is glowing like the dawn, fair as the moon, and clear as the sun." She is more impressive than a great army with banners. As she turns to leave, the court of women call after her "to return, vs. 13 return O Shulamite that we might get one more last look at you." She had let king Solomon know vs. 9 that her wine is for her beloved. Vs 10 "I am my beloved's and He is mine." She was the apple of His eye, she rested in the palm of His hand and nothing or no one could pluck her out. She was engraved on His heart, Her beauty was a quiet inner beauty of love and reverence, and even the women of Solomon's court were impressed.

Chapter 7:6 How fair and how pleasant art thou O love. How art thou made fair?" She was not made this beautiful from birth so how did she receive all this beauty? IT IS FROM THE GROWTH OF THE CHRIST WITHIN. SHE HAS PUT ON THE BEAUTY OF THE CHRIST MIND, THE CHRIST LIFE. All the attributes of our Lord she is beginning to display everywhere she goes. She had been with Him in close contact and fellowship for such a long time, how can she help but portray His beautiful character to the world. His compassion. His love. His mercy. WHEN THE LIGHT OF OUR LORD'S LOVE AND PRESENCE SHINES OUT FROM US TO THE WORLD THEN

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SHALL WE BE GLORIOUS INDEED, not born with this inner beauty but we HAVE ACQUIRED IT FROM PROLONGED MOMENTS IN HIS PRESENCE. All those who see shall behold the light of our Lord's love. I can feel it happening. I know it is near.

Our Lord's love is irresistible. Everyone who sees it is captivated by it. I'm reminded of the words of an office girl that said, "Hazel you don't have to tell me you love me for I know you love me. All I have to do is look in your eyes." I'm so unworthy of my Lord and yet He has chosen me as one of His vessels to reveal His love and compassion to others. I'm so humbled and grateful.

Of all the wonders of the world there is none so great as the love that He has placed within my heart. How I praise and thank Him for His presence. Words fail me at this point to describe the love and forgiveness that God has worked in my heart and life.

The Shulamite was beginning to show the transcending beauty of the image of Christ and so the daughters of Jerusalem constantly proclaimed her beauty by calling her the "Fairest among women" The shepherd they did not know.

Once a minister took me aside at a picnic and said "Hazel all my people are intrigued by you. They are asking who you are and where you came from" I said, "Oh Brother not me, I'm just an ordinary person, I'm neither beautiful nor wealthy. Why would anyone want to enquire of me?" Perhaps just a faint glimmer of my Lord is beginning to show through.

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A very dear friend of mine said something similar about me to her mother one night when we were at Eldon's listening to David Ebaugh, "Mama, who is that crazy woman over there laughing and talking to everybody. I wonder what she wants. Look at her loving everybody. Where did that crazy lady come from?" It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship that has weathered the storms 20 years can bring in anyone's life. I'm pretty sure that today she loves me as much as I love her.

Chapter 7 vs. 10 "I am my beloved's and His desire is toward me," In our walk with God today, He is concerned with the attitudes and emotions that causes us to make the decisions we make. God is paying close attention to all actions and reactions, we are being polished and refined and scrutinized for His special purpose, which we received before the foundation of the world. Eph. 1:4

In vs. 11 She is telling the shepherd to take her away to her garden where she has choice fruits waiting for Him. "I will bring you to my mother's house and give you delicious spiced wine to drink."

Vs 5 In her home village the people see her coming up from Jerusalem and exclaim, "who is this that cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved's arm?"

As the lovers draw near the shepherd starts to point out different familiar spots to her. "See under the apple tree where our romance began, that is where I awoke in your love and it blossomed and grew." "Here is where you were born and lay swaddled on your mother's lap."

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There she sings her song to Him. Chapter 8 vs. 6 "wear me as a seal on your heart, wear me as a ring upon your hand for love is strong as death itself and passion masters like the grave." Moffat's

As I sing my song of love to my shepherd lover (the Lord Jesus Christ) who gave his life for me. My beloved is altogether lovely He is the fairest of ten thousand, the bright and morning star. I will keep my self for Him alone that I might remain in the beauty of His presence forever.

The world with its glitter cannot compare to my beloved. Even it's gold and silver appears tarnished in the presence of my beloved's shiny countenance. Oh that His countenance might shine on me always.

"One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the houses of the Lord (His abode) (His body) all the days of my life. To behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His Temple" (to search Him out and make Him my very own) so I won't have to go out from His presence anymore. Psalm 27:4

I want to constantly abide in Him, for wherever I go He is still there in my heart and mind, Psalms 139 "I cannot flee from His presence neither can I return from following Him. If I take the wings of the morning and go to the uttermost parts of the sea. Even there thy hand shall lead me and thy right hand shall hold me vs. 13, For you have formed my innermost being (heart, kidneys, adrenaline glands) you knit me in my mother's womb. Vs 15 My body was no mystery to thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

54 The Circumcised Heart

Marvelous are thy works and that my soul knows full well.
How precious are thy thoughts unto me O God! How great is the
sum of them! If I should count them they are more than the sand
on the seashore. All the days of my life were foreseen by thee
and set down in your book before ever they took shape, they
were then assigned to me."

Vs23

Search me O God and know my heart

Try me and know my thoughts

If there be any wicked way in me

Forgive me.

No matter where I go your there

No matter what my need you care for me

The darkness hides nothing from you

The night shines bright as the day

Lord sift and search my path, Show me the way.

Chapter 8 vs. 8, 9 Years ago while planning the Shulamite's
future her brothers decided if she remained faithful a chaste and
pure virgin they would give her a silver dowry, "If she be
steadfast as a wall we will build upon her a palace of silver but if
she be like a door (promiscuous) we will enclose her with
boards of cedar (hide her away in seclusion) vs. 10 She assures
them that she has

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been faithful, steadfast, and true as a wall in her morals. Then she tells them of King Solomon's vineyards at Baal-hamon with its many keepers but she is not interested in him because she has her very own vineyard which is hers alone (her own shepherd lover) none of the kings wealth and glory could entice her to leave her shepherd.

Vs 14 "Make hast my beloved and be like a roe or young hart upon the mountain of spices." Come claim me as your own and we shall tend the garden and vineyard together (They will bless and feed creation.) Moffat's 8:10-12 "when my darling looked at me I won His heart."

"SET ME A SEAL UPON YOUR HEART SET ME

A SEAL ON YOUR ARM"

Love is stronger than death and hell. For our Lord Jesus died and broke through the chains of death, hell and the grave that had held sway over the human race from Adam's day, and He came up from the grave victoriously and carried with Him the keys of Hell and lives forevermore in the presence of the Father for us. Keys of victory for everyone "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive but every man in his own order." Jesus represents us before the throne of-God in His heart of love and on His shoulder of strength He holds us up ever before Him. He has engraved us upon His heart and we stand before Him as brilliant shiny precious gemstones of light.

The High priest carried on his breastplate 12 beautiful precious gemstones of all different colors and on each stone was engraved one of the names of the tribes of Israel.

On His shoulders he carried the same stones with the same names engraved. This was part of his priestly robes. He could not go into the Holy of Holies before the presence of God resting between the cherubim on the mercy seat without carrying these precious gems representing the 12 tribes of Israel beautifully arrayed upon his heart and his shoulders. And so our Lord Jesus carries us before the throne of His glory. Down here we appear dark and unpolished in our physical bodies of depreciating clay, but our Lord sees us as the finished product of a beautiful, shiny jewel sparkling before the glory of His presence "for we know that when we shall see Him we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is"

I have changed in so many different ways and I am still changing but I still have a weak sick mortal body that is slowly going down hill. I am nothing until God pours down His energy on my body and makes it like unto His glorious body. (Phil. 3:21) "We are waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, He will transform our lowly bodies into copies of His own glorious body" R. C. versions. So I thank God that "I am healthy, I am strong, I am well" and I look in the mirror and smile at my reflection and I say "Thank you Lord for glory, honor (money) and immortality."

I HAVE LOVED YOU

WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE

AND WITH LOVING KINDNESS

HAVE I DRAWN YOU. Jeremiah 31:3

THE END