

Song 2:1: "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys"

I have thought on this passage for some time, since I began considering it, I have been very hesitant to preach it... the text... a very popular saying among Christians, Christ IS THE rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys: if you're like me, you've heard and even said this.

Is this the bridegroom speaking? Is this Christ? Or is this the bride speaking of herself? Is this the church? I'll say this before we get too far down the road... I'm NOT saying the rose of Sharon is NOT the bridegroom... but this passage has me questioning myself and the Lord as to WHO is speaking here.

It would SEEM to be akin to other Biblical sayings of the Word of God that refer to the Lord Jesus Christ:

I am the Bread of life

I am the Light of the world

I am the Door

All of these in John's gospel

I am the Good Shepherd

I am the Resurrection and the Life

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

I am the True Vine

I am Alpha and Omega, I am the Root and the offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star. (These in Revelation)

There is no questioning these "I AM" statements to be the Lord Jesus, but here in the Song of Solomon, in the statement, "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys", I hesitate... I want to know WHY?

Sometimes we take little phrases (single verses) from the Word of God, and we assume their meaning based on what we've heard or been taught... but without having personally studied the meaning and context for ourselves.

I've never questioned that Christ is the rose of Sharon... but I also never studied this passage... and now I am not so sure...

What about the other names for Christ in the OT?

Deuteronomy (8) times: The Rock, our Rock,

1. 1 Corinthians 10:4: That Rock was Christ!

Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (All Majestic Titles)

Jeremiah (2), Zechariah (2): A righteous Branch, the Branch of righteousness, The Branch!

EVERY-ONE Capitalized because Proper Names for our Lord! Of course, that's not the strongest of arguments... But STILL, I ask, why isn't "rose or lily" capitalized if it refers to Christ? Sharon IS capitalized because it is a place. Let me just say here that I am NOT trying to "break ranks" with those who THINK Christ to be the rose of Sharon, I am

just trying (by the grace of God) to expose what GOD is saying in this passage.

IS the rose of Sharon (IN THIS TEXT) Christ? Is He the lily of the valleys?

The next thing to consider is, if this is the BRIDEGROOM, indicative of Christ, this IS THE ONLY passage in the whole of the Song of Solomon in which (HE) the bridegroom describes/speaks Himself. It happens in no other place in this song. The only one who speaks of "herself" LIKE THIS is the bride.

I am black, look not upon me, because I am black, I am sick of love, I am a wall!

The bride IS THE ONE who describes her beloved, the bridegroom; the only passage in which He does speak of Himself is (Song 5:1), but He is not describing Himself, but, rather, what He is doing.

Next: consider that the context points to a continuation of the bride speaking from (C1). Read Song 1:12-2:2

Understand that the "rose" here, was not a literal rose as we know it to be, but the rose of Sharon was a beautiful bulbous flower that grew on the plain of Sharon, probably a wildflower, either a meadow saffron, which was a beautiful yellow flower or an Autumn Crocus.

Sharon means level place or plain; Sharon was about a 50 mile stretch along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It was a beautiful and fertile plain with valleys, probably full of these wildflowers and lilies.

The "Lily" is defined to be a white lily of the field. Both flowers were said to have grown in that region and in the plain of Sharon. *Isaiah 33:9, 35:1-2*

The wilderness and desert (of this world) shall blossom under the gospel, (it means it will bud, sprout, send out shoots, and flourish) and the desert and wilderness shall rejoice when it shall blossom abundantly!

This is the only other place that this word "rose" is used. This word "Chabitsaleth".

IS THIS ROSE, rejoicing and blossoming abundantly under the blessings of the gospel, in the fertile ground of Carmel, and upon the plains of Sharon, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ? I ask you!

And then, "the lily of the valleys" on Sharon!

Then there is Song 2:2, which is no doubt the bridegroom speaking, after, as it appears to me, that the bride has ceased speaking:

Song 2:2: "As the lily among thorns, so is my love (the bride) among the daughters"

The church of Jesus Christ in the world is persecuted, distressed, she suffers, she is always delivered unto death for the sake of the Kingdom; she is the lily among thorns.

Back to the rose of Sharon, is this Christ? Or is that rose the church, adorned with beauty and grace from Christ?

This beautiful rose that grows on the plains and valleys and the wilderness and desert place of this world..