

LESSON 5 - CHRIST, OUR PRESERVER

Song of Solomon 2:1-7

(2:1) - I AM THE ROSE OF SHARON, AND THE LILY OF THE VALLEYS. - Christ speaks again and declares Himself to His bride in terms that glorify and honor His character. He speaks as the great *"I AM,"* the sovereign, eternal, self-existent God. And to think of this God as being one who could love sinners like us, redeem us, and give us the very best of all that He has is overwhelming to us. He describes Himself to His bride as *"the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the valleys."* He speaks of His own beauty and glory as He has revealed (and continues to reveal) Himself to her. This is no boast with Christ. If a mere man or woman would speak of him/herself in this way, we would consider it a proudful boasting. But it is essential that our Lord speak of Himself to us because HE IS OUR SALVATION (*John 14:6*). CHRIST IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, and WE ARE RIGHTEOUS ONLY IN HIM (*Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15-16*). HE IS OUR LIFE (*John 11:25; 1 John 5:11-13*). *"Sharon"* was a very fertile land (*Isa.35:2; 65:10*). Christ chose this fruitful and luscious place to describe Himself, because He is the one who creates and gives the beauty of eternal life and glory to His people. The red color of many roses can certainly refer to the blood of Christ that covers our sins and brings forth the only righteousness by which we are justified before God (*Isa. 1:18; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9*). Roses are usually the pride of the garden, and Christ is the pride of His people (*1 Cor. 1:29-31; Gal. 6:14; Php. 3:3*).

Roses are usually planted, and in a sense, our Lord was planted as sent of the Father into this world. He is the seed of woman (*Gen. 3:15*), conceived in the womb the virgin. He was sent to grow and accomplish the work of redemption for the objects of His love (*Psa. 85:10-13; John 5:30-37; 6:39-44; 10:36; Gal. 4:4-6*). The lily grows wild and is abundant, even without being touched by man (*Matt.6:28-29*). The common phrase *"lily white"* describes one beyond reproach, and this describes our Bridegroom who is sinless within Himself, but who was made sin by the imputation our sins to Him (*2 Cor. 5:21*). The valley could symbolize the depths of His humiliation, the *"valley of the shadow of death"* (*Psa. 23:4*) through which He walked to put away our sins and establish righteousness for us (*Php. 2:5-9*).

(2:2) - AS THE LILY AMONG THORNS, SO IS MY LOVE AMONG THE DAUGHTERS. - Here is a testimony to God's amazing grace. Christ, the Bridegroom, describes His bride (unworthy sinners saved by grace) in the same way - *"the lily among thorns."* How can this be? We are so sinful and *"black"* (*Song 1:5*). Our Bridegroom has created for us a lily-white robe of righteousness wherein we stand before Him without sin imputed to us (*Rom. 4:6-8; 8:33-34; 2 Cor. 5:21*). This is no fiction or pretense. IT IS REAL! How do we know it is real? It is because our Bridegroom states it! All who are married to Christ, all who believe the Gospel of His grace, are considered by Him to be lilies *"among thorns."* Thorns symbolizes the fallen, unregenerate world of unbelieving sinners. When Adam fell, he brought this world under God's curse (*Gen. 3:17-19*), and he brought the whole human race into a state of sin and death. But before Adam fell, God chose His people in sovereign, electing love in Christ - *"so is My love among the daughters"* (sinners saved by grace). He set His love upon those whom the Father gave to Him. He was made their Surety to bear the debt of all their sins and to work out righteousness for them to be justified before God. He gives to them spiritual and eternal life to live as lilies among thorns, shining lights of His glory and grace in a dark world.

(2:3) - AS THE APPLE TREE AMONG THE TREES OF THE WOOD, SO IS MY BELOVED AMONG THE SONS. I SAT DOWN UNDER HIS SHADOW WITH GREAT DELIGHT, AND HIS FRUIT WAS SWEET TO MY TASTE. - Apple trees are very special and loved for their fruit. The bride expresses how special Christ is to her. He is so unique and fruitful in the salvation of His

people. He is identified in the Bible as the Son of God, and He stands among all the sons of God. But He alone is THE only begotten Son of God. All believers are the fruit of His death (*John 12:24,31-33*). All believers are brought by God the Holy Spirit to sit “*down under His shadow with great delight*” and feed upon the sweetness of His presence and His Word. They look upon Him as their life and their light. They submit to Him as the Lord their righteousness and submit to His Word of grace.

(2:4) - HE BROUGHT ME TO THE BANQUETING HOUSE, AND HIS BANNER OVER ME WAS LOVE. -

Again, we see the salvation by God’s grace in Christ typified as sitting down in His house as full-fledged members of His family and feasting on the banquet at the table He has prepared for us. He gives His bride “*all things that pertain to life and godliness*” (*2 Pet. 1:3*), “*all spiritual blessings in heavenly places*” (*Eph. 1:3*). Notice how “*He BROUGHT*” her to this place. She did not come on her own or of her own “*free-will.*” He brought by His will, power, and grace. He drew her with cords of love. By nature, she had no heart to come to Him or be with Him, but He gave her a new heart and new will that caused her to long for Him and come to Him for salvation (*Jer. 31:3; John 1:11-13; 6:44-45*).

He spread “*His banner*” of love over His bride. This is that godly, redemptive love that He expressed in His death for her sins (*1 John 4:10*). This is that godly love that secures her whole salvation and eternal glory by virtue of the merits of His obedience unto death as her Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. This is that godly love from which they cannot be separated (*Rom. 8:33-39*). The Lord Jesus Christ is the Banner of His people. One of His names is “*Jehovah- Nissi*” which means “*the Lord is my banner*” (*Exod. 17:15*). The Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, is Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord our Banner. In the majesty of His person, in the power of His redemptive work, in the merit of His blood, in the perfection of His righteousness, in the certainty of His victory, and in the glory of His second coming, Christ is the Banner of His Church. Under this Banner we fight. Under this Banner we prevail.

(2:5) - STAY ME WITH FLAGONS, COMFORT ME WITH APPLES: FOR I AM SICK OF LOVE. -

The bride asks her Bridegroom to preserve, keep, settle her in peace by His Spirit and His Word as pictured in “*flagons*” of wine. She asks for the luscious “*apples*” of His word of judgment and guidance, “*a word fitly spoken*” (*Prov. 25:11*). By His Spirit and His Word, the Lord causes us to be “*sick of love,*” which means to long for more revelation of His love that He keeps our minds focused on Him (*Isa. 26:3*).

(2:6) - HIS LEFT HAND IS UNDER MY HEAD, AND HIS RIGHT HAND DOTHT EMBRACE ME. -

Christ not only saves us from sin, but He also preserves us by His grace and power. HE WILL NOT LET US GO (*John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Heb. 7:25*). He saves all for whom He died, and He preserves all whom He saves.

(2:7) - I CHARGE YOU, O YE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM, BY THE ROES, AND BY THE HINDS OF THE FIELD, THAT YE STIR NOT UP, NOR AWAKE MY LOVE, TILL HE PLEASE. -

The “*roe*” is a gazelle, and the “*hind*” is a deer. This describes creatures who are easily preyed upon. This is what we are while on their earth, and, so, we must continually recognize that we are totally dependent upon the Lord for salvation and eternal well-being. We must also wait upon Him and not provoke Him or dishonor Him in any way. Christ will never leave or forsake us, and we can never leave or forsake Him because He keeps us by His Spirit and His Word (*1 John 3:9*). We are to rest in Him and submit to HIS will in HIS good time when it pleases HIM to work in our lives.