Lesson 16 - HOW CHRIST VIEWS HIS PEOPLE

(7:1) - HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THY FEET WITH SHOES - The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus concerning the whole armor of God that by God's grace through Christ, we "stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace" (Eph. 6:14-15). "Feet with shoes" speaks of our walk. Christ has made our feet beautiful by His grace and power to cause us to walk by faith in Him and to walk in His Word, giving glory to Him. In Christ, and based on His righteousness alone, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we who believe in Him, like Enoch of old, walk with God. This means fellowship and security. It also means the beauty of holiness which is the beauty of Christ given to us. O PRINCE'S DAUGHTER! -Here is another name Christ gives to His bride. This is one Hebrew word as used in Song 6:12 - "nadib," which means inclined or willing. Christ's bride is made willing whenever He gives her a heart and willingness to believe and follow Him and submit to Him as the Lord our Righteousness (Psa. 110:3).

THE JOINTS OF THY THIGHS ARE LIKE JEWELS, - The thighs represent the strength by which we stand on our feet. This strength is the power and grace of God in Christ. Paul wrote, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10). When the Apostle Paul sought the Lord to rid him of his thorn in the flesh, the Lord revealed that HIS grace and power were sufficient - "And He said unto me, MY grace is sufficient for thee: for MY strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Cor. 12:9). He wrote in Philippians, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Php. 4:13). We who are in Christ stand firm on Him Who is our Rock. We shall not be moved.

THE WORK OF THE HANDS OF A CUNNING WORKMAN. - True believers are the workmanship of God Who is a skilled and masterful workman. We are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph. 2:10). We are not self-made. We are sinners saved securely and eternally by God's grace in Christ. We are justified in Him and redeemed by Him. Our spiritual life and faith are His works within us.

(7:2) - THY NAVEL IS LIKE A ROUND GOBLET, WHICH WANTETH NOT LIQUOR: - The "navel" is the umbilical cord; i.e., that by which a baby is sustained and nourished. Solomon says the navel is like a cup full of wine, refreshing and invigorating. It is well-shaped and full of life, not uncut, bleeding, and loathsome, like it was when He found us (cf. Ezek. 16:4). Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:8 that the fear of the Lord is said to be "health to the navel" (Prov. 3:1-8). The "goblet" is the cup of salvation that is full and "runneth over" with God's grace, power, and love (Psa. 23:5). The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily, and we are complete in Him (Col. 2:9-10). THY BELLY IS LIKE AN HEAP OF WHEAT SET ABOUT WITH LILIES. - The "wheat" refers to fruitfulness (Gal. 5:22-23). It is connected with the "belly" because it feeds our hunger for Christ and righteousness in Him. The "lilies" refer to the beauty of righteousness and pleasantness of life.

(7:3) - THY TWO BREASTS ARE LIKE TWO YOUNG ROES THAT ARE TWINS. - This refers to the Word of God, the Old and New Testaments. Like twin fawns, full of life as they point us to Christ for all salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, and life, they are in perfect agreement, showing forth the riches, the glory, and the grace of God in Christ (1 Pet. 2:2).

(7:4) - THY NECK IS AS A TOWER OF IVORY; - The faith of God's elect, by which we are joined to Christ our Head, is both strong and precious. It guides our way as we walk by faith and look to Christ. THINE EYES LIKE THE FISHPOOLS IN HESHBON, BY THE GATE OF

BATHRABBIM: - Our eyes are blessed by God to see His glory in Christ. These are eyes of faith that look to Him and eyes of repentance that look away from self and our works. They are eyes blessed with love and devotion, sincerity and truth. The eyes that weep over sin are as beautiful fountains in the eyes of Christ. *THY NOSE IS AS THE TOWER OF LEBANON WHICH LOOKETH TOWARD DAMASCUS.* - This speaks of the boldness and courage of the church in facing her enemies in the cause of Christ.

(7:5) - THINE HEAD UPON THEE IS LIKE CARMEL, - Christ our Head is exalted above the earth and reigns as King over all the earth. AND THE HAIR OF THINE HEAD LIKE PURPLE; THE KING IS HELD IN THE GALLERIES. - A woman's beauty is in her head, and the hair of her head is her glory. Even so, Christ our Head is our great glory and beauty. We have no beauty except what we have in and from Him. And His greatest beauty is seen in His agony at the cross, when His hair was dyed crimson with blood, and He was robed in purple.

(7:6) - HOW FAIR AND HOW PLEASANT ART THOU, O LOVE, FOR DELIGHTS! - As His bride is an object of His mercy, and He delights to show mercy, He loves her in light of that mercy. "As the Bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you (Isa. 62:5).

(7:7) - THIS THY STATURE IS LIKE TO A PALM TREE, AND THY BREASTS TO CLUSTERS OF GRAPES. - He compares her to the tall and noble palm tree. He has made her a tree of righteousness, "the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified" (Isa. 61:3). The "clusters of grapes" refers to the fruits of righteousness - spiritual life, faith, repentance, and perseverance unto glory. Christ's righteousness is both the GROUND of salvation (justification) and the SOURCE of spiritual life.

(7:8) - I SAID, I WILL GO UP TO THE PALM TREE, I WILL TAKE HOLD OF THE BOUGHS THEREOF: NOW ALSO THY BREASTS SHALL BE AS CLUSTERS OF THE VINE, AND THE SMELL OF THY NOSE LIKE APPLES; -

Christ's ascending the palm tree is expressive of His right to His church. It is HIS church which He has by His Father's gift, His own purchase, and the power of His grace. He is the head of His church and is always present with her. He takes hold of her branches, meaning He keeps, controls, and guides her. Her breast as clusters of grapes expresses His delight in her viewing her stature and fruit which flourishes by His grace and power. Her "nose" and the "apples" refer to the sweet and fruitful fragrance of His Word upon which she feasts (Song 2:5).

(7:9) - AND THE ROOF OF THY MOUTH LIKE THE BEST WINE FOR MY BELOVED, THAT GOETH DOWN SWEETLY, CAUSING THE LIPS OF THOSE THAT ARE ASLEEP TO SPEAK. - The "roof" of her mouth and the "best wine" refer to her taste by which, in the power of Christ, she distinguishes between the truth and a lie. The Word of God goes down sweetly (Psa. 119:103; Heb. 5:12,14; 1 Pet. 2:2-3). This is the Gospel and the whole Word of God leading souls directly to Christ - His person, blood, righteousness, and sacrifice, for peace, pardon, justification, reconciliation, assurance, and motivation for obedience. The Gospel in the power of the Spirit is the wake-up call for spiritually dead sinners who are brought by the Spirit and the Word to come by faith to Christ and repent of dead works. It is also a wake-up call to believers who have fallen asleep and need to be awakened to serve and witness the truth.