

Song of Solomon 2:4 – 11

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~ The first recorded miracle Jesus performed was at a wedding in Canaan, where He turned water into wine. Water speaks spiritually of the Word of God throughout Scripture, and wine speaks of joy. Jesus teaches those He loves many things through allegories. According to ancient Hebrew custom, the bridegroom would leave his father's house and, after some time, return unannounced to suddenly claim his bride. The bride would have been waiting for him in excited anticipation. That's the context in which Jesus told the disciples He was going away, saying, *"if I go and prepare a place for you I will return and receive you unto Myself; that where I am there shall ye be also."* That's the same way you and I – the church – are awaiting the return of Christ to take us to be with Him forever. That's part of the picture being painted for us by the Spirit of God in this song.

So, our Spiritual Safari continues to listen to Solomon's song in Scripture today; and we're not really getting anywhere fast in this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God. In fact, we're playing this music over and over and over again now. Well, we're going to continue to look into the lyrics for the next several reports. After that, I trust you will be able to read the Song of Solomon and glean a wealth of meaning that you have never realized before; and which will lead you into the Holy of Holies – and into the direct presence of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ....

4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

~ The Song of Solomon is not a chronologically ordered recitation of events. Here, Solomon has won the heart of and brought this little Shulamite girl back to his palace in Jerusalem. The spiritual picture this presents of Christ and His church as His bride also reveals the personal relationship that you and I can have with Him. The banqueting house speaks of the marriage supper of the Lamb, which takes place in Heaven. If you and I are there, we'll only be there because of the mercy and grace of

God that endures forever. That's when full satisfaction in our hearts will take place.

In the meantime, Christ has brought me to the table of salvation and fellowship. The Lord prepares the table with delicacies and all good things from His Word — such as Solomon's song as performed on safari today! This is where I can eat and be full; and this is where I can experience His graciousness. This should cause us all to sing praises unto Him. When Christ was born into this world, He brought profound joy to myriad groups of people. The announcement of Jesus' conception was a banqueting house for Joseph and Mary. Remember, Mary was David's great, great, great granddaughter. Mary said, "*.... He hath filled the hungry with good things.*" Solomon, David's son, had already sung this praise. Simeon and Ana were in the temple waiting for the birth of Jesus. They had hope that Christ would come in their lifetime; and that's when Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus into the temple. That was a banqueting house for them at that time as they received the salvation of the Lord.

Only the Spirit of God can bring discernment in these matters, friends. Only Christ can heal us of our blindness and open our eyes to behold Him in beauty and glory. The banner of love remains over His children today. It's a banner of His conquest for us over the things of the world. Christ still goes forth to war; make no mistake about that. Christ fights for us. We are told to put on the armor and — what? — Fight? — oh, no — we're told to put on the armor and *STAND*. Of course, the present battle today is for the souls of men — but you and I cannot fight that battle. Only the Lord Jesus can prevail in that battle.

I recognize myriad ways I initially resisted God in my life. I never wanted to come to the Lord. I'll never forget the day I was saved at Vacation Bible School when I was seven years old. I didn't want to go to Vacation Bible School; I had no interest in that whatsoever. It was the middle of summer, and all of my friends were doing other things. Fun things. I wanted to be with them — not in some church. Well, that's when and where I was called by the Lord, and the decision was made in my life to believe in God. Before I reached the age of accountability, I ran very far from the Lord, for many years — but His banner of love was always over me; and, looking back, I can

see the fingerprints of God handling my life very definitely – even when I was disobedient, out of His will, and not trusting Him at all. Some of it wasn't nice; but His banner of love was over me — which is also the banner of salvation and protection....

5 Stay me with flagons, comfort me with oranges: for I am sick of love.

6 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

~ There are such acute pictures of loveliness in this passage, that it is nearly impossible to articulate. Verses five and six are deeply personal. Do you find joy, delight and satisfaction today in the Person of Christ? Spend some time in the pages of this song, friends; it is a highly neglected section of Scripture that could become tremendously meaningful to you. The truths are paradoxical – they will literally make you lovesick to ponder. When we contemplate the things of Christ, we'll eventually arrive at the point where we have to ask God to turn off His glory — at least for a while — so we can regain strength. Most Christians have never even got their foot in the door of the banqueting house. They know so little about Christ and fellowship in His Name that these reports are utterly meaningless to them. When I am sick, the Word of God makes me whole; when I am whole, the Word of God makes me sick. I fail God continuously – but He always overcomes on my behalf....

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.

8 The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.

~ Apparently, verse eight begins another song, according to church fathers. Solomon had, obviously, been away and has returned home now. This speaks of the anticipation of the church looking for the coming of Christ to take us out of the world. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. I give unto them eternal life.”* The very thing that marks the beginning of the rapture is the voice of the Son of God. His subsequent return to the earth to establish His Kingdom involves His feet

physically touching down on the Mount of Olives. All of that is right here in verse eight.

The appeal at the rapture is to the ear. The appeal at His revelation of His return to put down the rebellion and dash them as potter's vessels is to the eye. That's when they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of glory. See, the church is made up of people who have *heard* something. We have *heard* of His death, burial and resurrection. We listened to the Holy Spirit speak in the Word of God and, therefore, we believed. Paul said, "... *the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout.*" This is poetic language, of course; because this is a song we're studying now. God is trying to speak to your heart today, friends; and it just happens to be all-important to listen and understand all of this....

9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.

~ Christ is behind the wall as He has ascended to Heaven to God's right hand. You and I are far below down here on earth. Just as when Jesus went up into the mountain to pray after feeding the five thousand – the apostles were down below in the Sea of Galilee – in a storm. That's where I am today – in the boat, and in the storm. Christ is on the other side of the wall of indifference, rebellion, and sin, looking down at us from the windows of Heaven; but showing Himself through the lattice at the same time. Everything in the earth is trying to keep you and me from Him, too; the world, the flesh and the devil – all making an attempt to preoccupy our mind with anything and everything *EXCEPT* Bible study. Because Satan understands that the Word of God is where the Lord is going to speak to our hearts – and *NOWHERE* else....

10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

~ Christ will take the church away — out of this world — and present it to Himself as His bride. That's going to be a purified church, too, by the way. All of us require purification and sanctification; being washed by the water

of the Word of God. That's why we have a Spiritual Safari. Are you having a difficult time today, my Christian friends? Jesus said, *"in this world you WILL have trouble."* That's not a maybe – it's a promise. Frankly, if you don't have any trouble in this world, then you don't belong to Him; because trouble in the world is one of the defining marks of a child of God. That's where the so-called safari becomes deeply unpopular. And this is where many part ways with Jesus.

Well, that's going to end when Christ returns for us — His church. Every tear will be wiped away at that time, and every broken heart will be healed. Every sorrow will miraculously vanish instantly when we are brought into His presence. We'll see Him walking up and down amongst the lampstands at that time, by the way; holding the keys of hell and of death. When the winter passes and the rains are over in Heaven, there are going to be a whole bunch of flowers. I have a few flowers I want to grow myself....

11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone ~

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