

## *Song of Solomon 1:14 – 17*

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is moving rather slowly through this beautiful song of Scripture. Actually, it is so sweet, beautiful and poetic, that we have been playing parts of it over and over again. We met a Shulamite girl as she worked her family's vineyards and kept her brothers sheep; and ran across a shepherd in the field with whom she fell in love – and who fell in love with her. Unbeknownst to her, the shepherd would turn out to be King Solomon; whom she had heard of, but had never seen. We have learned how this song is a clear depiction of the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and the true and living church; who will someday become His bride. Moreover, this is the account of the individual believer who loves Christ Jesus; and desires to grow closer to Him in fellowship! If you have not read our first five reports from the Song of Solomon, then I suggest you go back and do so now....

### ***14 (Church) - My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.***

~ “Camphire” is Cypress. Some translations of the Bible identify these as Henna flower. Someone has done an extensive study on the plants of the Bible and, as it turns out, Cypress grows in abundance in the land of Israel and in Turkey – and throughout the region. There are great rows of impressive Cypress across the land. The Cypress is generally agreed to be the Henna of the Arabians. The deep color of the bark, the light green foliage, and a softened mixture of whitish-yellow blossoms are as beautiful to the eye as the odor is to smell. The flowers grow in dense clusters and the fragrance is appreciated as much today as it was in the time in which we are studying. A relatively small bunch of these flowers will heavily scent the air of a home.

Naturally, it is helpful to know what we're talking about when reading this type of Biblical detail. The comparison of the flower and the region of Engedi to Christ are extremely interesting; at least, to me it is. Engedi is a desert oasis with lovely springs by the Dead Sea. It is where David hid from

King Saul when David was fleeing for his life. If you have ever been there, I am sure you would agree it is a very good hiding place. It seems almost impossible that anyone could be located in the barren hills that surround the area if they were trying to remain hidden. All types of lovely spices and herbs are grown there. It is an exquisite spot in the middle of the desert.

Christ, referred to as *"the Beloved"* in this song, is depicted as full of beauty. He looks good, smells good and is, generally, just a great place to be. Now, I recognize our safari heavily emphasizes the deity of Christ; and it is possible that we present a somewhat lop-sided viewpoint by doing so. Jesus was lovely in His Person as a man – as a human being. We know He was like us in all ways; except He had no sin. See, most of us are *"lumpy."* *"Lumpy"* means psychologically unbalanced. Each of us is a bit off, mentally – one way or another; and any credible psychologist will confirm we all have extreme peculiarities. Well, in the meal offering of Leviticus, which speaks of the mind of Christ, there was well-beaten fine flour mingled with oil. There were no lumps at all in that offering. Christ was the perfect human being. We'll have to have the mind of Christ to worship Him properly. That's how this all comes together.

John said, of Jesus, *".... behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world."* God the Father is satisfied with the redemptive work of His Son Christ Jesus on the cross. God said, *"this is My Son in Whom I am well-pleased."* God never said that about Andrew Hunt – and He never said that about Y-O-U, either. So, the question is: are YOU satisfied with Jesus? When I look around today at the endless activities in all of these religious organizations – and the psychological gimmickry they each employ – from programs to methods to conferences to crusades – where they have to introduce modern music or some new gimmick, and approach everything from a single, particular viewpoint, I know very definitely that those people are not satisfied with the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Quite frankly, and this will come as a shock for some of you to hear from me, but some people can even become so engrossed in Bible study that they actually lose sight of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, He is a bundle of camphire to me; and that has a private, personal meaning. Christ may mean something else to you. Either way, verse fourteen means Christ

is everything that is anything good. He is one cluster with myriad beautiful fragrant blossoms! He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Every man and woman that seeth the Son and believeth on Him hath eternal - everlasting - life. There is a great emphasis in Scripture regarding the Oneness of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Father. He is the *ONLY* begotten Son. He is the *ONE* Good Shepherd. He is the *ONE* True Vine. He is the *ONE* Rose of Sharon. He is *THE* light of the world. Christ is the *ONE* and *ONLY* sacrifice for sins. He will be the *ONLY* Chief Shepherd. In that fulness of perfection, there is a unity that is literally mind-exhausting.

His innumerable graces gather together harmoniously in the Lamb of God description. In Christ, we have the faith of Abraham, the persuasiveness of Jacob, the meekness of Moses, the seal of Elijah, the holiness of Job, the love of John - all full and made perfect in Him. Christ is truth, righteousness, holiness, compassion, pity, love, majesty, might, sovereignty, lowliness, patience, faith, zeal, courage - and anything else that is perfect and just. Christ is all in all; and He is ours *today*. See, the bride is responding to all of this loveliness in this passage. This is critically important to learn and understand. Have you ever seen Jesus this way? Do you know Him in that capacity? What, exactly, does Christ mean to you? Does He know *YOU*? ~

***15 (Christ) - Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.***

***16 (Church) - Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.***

~ If you have your eyes fixed upon Christ as the Bridegroom, then you have dove's eyes. See, you and I have sinned, committed iniquity, and have done wickedly. We have rebelled by departing from the laws, precepts, and judgments of God Almighty. That is the confession of every genuine and sincere Christian who is a child of God. The Lord Jesus prayed to the Father, *"I have given them Thy Word and they have kept Thy Word."* That's His pleading to the Father for you and me presently. God saw no iniquity or perverseness in Israel because of the temple sacrifices - which all spoke of Christ on the cross. Because they had that approach to God, He wouldn't

allow Balaam to curse them. In the Millennial Kingdom, the temple sacrifice will be reinstituted, according to Ezekiel, or there would be no approach to God available to anyone *in that day*.

In our last report, we saw the shepherd tell this little Shulamite girl to get busy working. I get a bit weary of all the self-professing, “*dedicated*” Christians who are as lazy as they can be. I hear a lot of incessant talk about “*dedication*” to Christ given by people who render no acceptable service to the cause of Christ. Frankly, those who talk about it are usually profoundly lousy in their work for the Lord. That may be a harsh and broad judgment, which isn’t good — but what they’re doing isn’t good, either. They talk, talk, talk about their dedication and how they want to serve the Lord; but they are as lazy and stingy as they can be. If you serve the Lord, then you don’t talk about it — you reveal it — with *WORKS* - and in your life. For most Christians, that responsibility equates to paying the Bible teacher. That’s how people know about our love for Jesus. If love for God is not manifest in your life then — guess what? — there is no love for Christ in your life.

Verse sixteen ties into the twenty-third Psalm, which says, “....*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.*” The green grass is the place where the sheep were. When a sheep lies down in the pasture, you can know very definitely it is a content, satisfied sheep. A sheep lying down is full and needs nothing. Christ’s invitation to us is to rest. Only He can give it to us. If you’re tired and weary, come to Christ and rest in Him now. Honestly — because I always am honest with you dear readers — I am not sure I am satisfied with any interpretation *for you* of the green bed — but that’s what it means to me. Christ is our Sabbath rest....

***17 (Church) - The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir ~***

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