

SONG OF SONGS: THE VINDICATION OF THE BRIDE

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Songs. 7:1-5

"How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of an artist's hands. 2 Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. 3 Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle. 4 Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. 5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This portion shows once again that both the maidens and the Beloved affirm the beauty and qualities of the bride. Throughout this book we see this constant expression of affection and appreciation for Jesus who values both spiritual progress and the love of His Bride who is the church.
- B. In **Songs 7:1-9** the question of **6:13** is answered **"Who is the Shulamite that someone should pay attention to her?"** reaffirmed the ten virtues of which He has already spoken before which are practical definitions of holiness and fruitfulness.

II. THE WIFE IS VINDICATED BY UNDERSTOOD BELIEVERS

- A. It is clear that **v.1-5** those who speak are the daughters and in **6** to **9** who speaks is Jesus. The maidens take a stand towards the Bride, declaring that **"she is beautiful"** calling her **"daughter of the Prince"** which indicates her appropriate character to reign with Him.
 - 1. **v.1a The Bride's feet in sandals speak of evangelism.** Her success in evangelization is a sign of her beauty (**Eph. 6:15**). How beautiful are to God and to us the feet of those who bring good news (**Isa. 52: 7**).
Rom. 10:15 "...As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
 - 2. **v.1b The hips or legs of the Bride speak of the strength of her walk in God.** This athletic trait was developed through discipline, which speaks about our determination in the spiritual disciplines: reading, praying, fasting, evangelizing, etc.
Jos. 1:8 "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." (NLT)
 - 3. **v.2a The navel, speaks of the food that a child receives in his mother's womb.** This refers to our past years in which our inner life in God developed.
Dan. 6:10 "But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open

toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God [Daniel was already over 80 years old]."

4. v.2b The womb as a heap of wheat speaks of how the daughters observe the Bride already prepared for the coming harvest. v.3 The breasts speak of the ability to feed others. She is ready to feed the harvest that she will bear.

Mat. 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

5. v.4a The maiden's neck refers to her will submitted to the authority of God (Rom. 13:1). v.4b Her eyes speak of the ability to receive revelation (Eph. 1:18). The Bride has a dedicated spiritual vision (Song 1:15; 4:2, 9; 6:5). Our priority is to see clearly, because this knowledge is the door to spiritual growth.

Col. 1:9b-10 "...We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God"

6. v.4c The nose refers to discernment. His nose is like a protective tower looking towards Damascus, the capital of Syria (enemy of Israel). v.5a The head of the Bride speaks of her inner life that is as powerful as the top of Mount Carmel. Her mind is filled with the thoughts of the Kingdom of God (Isa. 35: 2). **Our thoughts are important in spiritual warfare, especially related to our perception of God (2 Cor. 10: 3-5).**

Eph. 6:14 "Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness."

7. v.5b Hair refers to our dedication to God; This dedication of the Wife keeps the heart drawn to God, His love is so intense that they tie him to a weak people who love Him. **Being captivated by the love of His people is the glory of the Lord** (not his weakness). His heart is touched by us.

Is. 63:15 "Lord, look down from heaven; look from your holy, glorious home, and see us. Where is the passion and the might you used to show on our behalf? Where are your mercy and compassion now?"

B. JESUS VINDICATES HIS BRIDE

Cnt. 7:6-9 "How beautiful you are and how pleasing, my love, with your delights! 7 Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. 8 I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit... the fragrance of your breath like apples, 9 and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my beloved..."

1. The heart of Jesus is truly captivated by the Bride (Song 7: 5) when He responds, **"How beautiful you are, and how soft, oh delightful love!"** (v.6). Jesus sees His people beautiful and charming about him. His fruit is sweet and pleasing to Him (Song 1:16; 2: 3; 4: 16-5: 1).

2. **"Oh love" expresses the passion in God's heart for her.** God loves us in the same way that He loves Jesus (**John 15: 9; 17:23**). This is beyond human understanding (**Eph. 3:18**). Our love is better than wine for Him (**Song 4:10**). **There is nothing more pleasant for Jesus than the love of his people. Our voice is sweet and our face is charming to Him even in our weakness and in our struggle (Song 2:14).**
3. **Jesus affirms the stature of the spiritual maturity of the Bride proclaimed by the daughters in Cnt. 7: 1-5. A palm tree is a symbol of victory and conquest (Rev. 7:9) and is a picture of maturity (Jer. 10: 5).** She grows even in drought because her roots go deep, finding water under the surface, therefore she grows exceptionally tall and straight. Strong winds cannot break a palm tree. Her breasts, or ability to feed, are like palm clusters that feed many.
4. **Jesus promises to "hold on" to his people or to unleash a great manifestation of his presence in them.** Jesus said that He is the vine and we are the branches into which he pours out his power (**John 15:5**). Jesus promises to **"climb"** the palm tree and take its fruits.
5. **v.6-9a When the Lord "takes possession" of his people, He commissions them in three important ways:**
 - a) **His first commission is to feed others in the power of the Spirit.** Her breasts are to feed the people with the dimension of the activity of the Holy Spirit working in her in a new measure.
 - b) **His second commission is to let the fragrance of his breath refresh the people like apples.** His breath speaks of her inner life. Apples speak of sweetness (**Song 2: 3**).
 - c) **His third commission is that his palate or communion with God is like the best wine for the Lord.** Our intimacy with the Lord is the best that the Spirit works in us, for Jesus.

Cnt. 4:10 "How delightful is your love...! How much more pleasing is your love than wine...!"

III. THE STRUGGLE TO LIVE IN THIS REALITY

- A. **This way in which Jesus constantly affirms us should fill us with hope and a determination to continue to fight sin and feel confident in the midst of the tribulations we face, however it does not. There are other voices that contradict and want to nullify this powerful affirmation of our identity and our position as beloved sons and daughters.**
 1. **The voice of the accuser that reminds us of our mistakes and sins and those of others and that wants to eliminate all desire to continue fighting.**
Rev. 12:10b "For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."

2. **The voice of comparison:** we live in a system where we are too exposed to everything that others do and say and we tend to compare ourselves and think that the grass on the other side of the fence is greener, which is a lie.

2 Cor. 10:12 "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

3. **The Voice of Rejection:** None of us grew up in a perfect home or ideal environment. **We have all lived experiences of rejection, abandonment, betrayal, mockery and even abuse and because of this we were conditioned to think that we are not loved or we are not worth it and we interpret the things that happen to us now as adults with the same type of perception and we react without thinking, just as an emotional response.**

Mat. 16:23 "Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

4. **The voice of our own fight against sin:** We are all facing a fight against our flesh and what the world offers us and wants to hook us. **This struggle is permanent and wants to become the only definition of who we are but we need to receive the truth of God** revealed in his Word to silence these voices and live in the identity and power that corresponds to us as sons and daughters loved and paved by God.

Rom. 8:12-13 "Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live."

- B. We must leave these things behind and by the Spirit renew our thoughts.

Eph. 4:21-23 "Since you have heard about Jesus... ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes."

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the qualities that Jesus loves have you developed in your life? Explain
2. Do you consider that any of the voices prevented you from walking in your identity as the Lord's beloved? Explain
3. What can you do to effectively combat these voices that want to move you from your identity in Christ?