

Love Better Than Wine

Contemplations on the Song of Songs of Solomon

Part 7: "The winter is past, the rain is over and gone"

Written by
A Mighty Arrow
Gerges Gad
St. Mary & Archangel
Michael Church
Houston, TX



THE SHULAMITE:

Song of Songs 2:9 ...Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice.

The Lord Jesus Christ stands behind the wall that she has set up herself through her sins. He looks from the windows and shows Himself to her. Then He breaks down this wall by His Holy Cross and enters into the depth of her soul.



"The middle wall You broke down, and the old enmity You abolished" (Reconciliation Prayer of St. Gregory)

"For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace; And that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity thereby." (Ephesians 2:14-16).

THE SHULAMITE:

Song of Songs 2:10 My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away.

He declares to her that He wishes her to be with Him, yet He awaits her to yearn to be with Him. He will not force Himself on her. He tells the soul to "Rise up ... and come away". He is

reinstating His invitation that she be joined with Him. His heart is occupied with the salvation of the precious soul for which He died. He pleads to her to accept Him as her bridegroom.

We are the ones who set up the middle wall by our sins, and have not strived for our own salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one who came down and broke down this wall, and granted us salvation by His Blood. How delightful is it to realize that in spite of all that, He will not force Himself upon us, though we owe Him our life. Rather He pleads and waits for us to accept His invitation...

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelations 3:20)

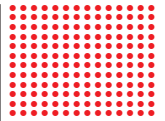
2:10 "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away.

2:11 For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone.

2:12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.

2:13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines with the tender grapes Give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!

The Lord Jesus Christ declares to her that the winter is past, meaning that the "cold era" - when man was afraid to stand and face the God, the fearsome Judge - is over. Now the Cross of the Sun of Righteousness has revealed the depth of God's Love. He is no longer to be feared, but rather loved.



"Now hope does not disappoint; because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:5)

"But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him." (1 Corinthians 8:3)

"Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1)

> "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

In His delineation of the end of the winter and the coming of spring, He declares:

1. "The Winter is past": as this is the era of the New Testament

"Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining." (1 John 2:8)



2. "The flowers appear on the earth": after the rain and the rising of the (Crucified) Sun of Righteousness, man is able to bring forth fruit being

supported in his struggle to grow by the Holy Spirit that abides in him.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches: He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

3. "The time of the singing of birds is come": This portrays the joy and gladness in the heart of the believer. Certainly this joy is a result of the fruits being brought forth.

"And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47)

"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people.'" (Luke 2:10)

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:1-2)

4. "The fig tree puts forth her green figs..." This is a sign of the new life with the Lord Jesus Christ. It brings forth sweetness and pleasant aroma. It brings peace and happiness.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man who trusts in Him." (Psalm 34:8)

"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ, among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:15)

THE BELOVED:

Song of Songs 2:14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff...



The Bridegroom (Christ) addresses His bride with "my dove"; because though she may not be free from blemish (Hosea 7:11), yet in His love He sees her as a pure dove without blemish:



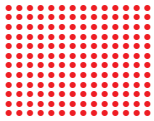
"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

(Matthew 10:16)

St. Augustine comments on this verse saying that doves are characterized with simplicity and love. Doves gather together for food and drink. When we (rarely) see them fighting, they soon reunite. Hence, even when there are quarrels between them, they are conducted with a heart full of love that helps them reconcile quickly.

Doves are devoted to their homes. Even if the chicks of the doves are taken and slaughtered before them, they do not abandon the nest (as most other birds would); they remain and continue to lay eggs in the same nest.

Look at the difference between the raven that



Noah sent from the Ark which found for itself a place amidst the dead rotting corpses, and the dove which could not find a place for itself amidst the filthiness of the world, so it returned back to the Ark (Church). When he sent her again, she returned with a green olive leaf... a symbol of peace.



This dove is "in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff". He praises her because she has chosen to be protected by Him, the Rock:

"For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. 4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He."

(Deuteronomy 32:3-4)

"No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God." (1 Samuel 2:2)

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psalm 18:2)

The bride is in the secret places of the stairs; she is hiding away from the world and its troubles in order to concentrate on her beloved.

Song of Songs 2:14 ...Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely."

The Lord Jesus Christ desires to enjoy some quality time with His beloved. He desires to hear her voice (in prayers and praises), for He sees that her voice is sweet and she is lovely.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is His delight." (Proverbs 15:8)

"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5)

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." (Hebrews 13:15)



The Holy Eucharist Instituted In the Church Past and Present

"And He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" (Luke 22:19)

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take eat, this is My body.' And He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying 'Drink from it all of you.'" (Matthew 26: 26-27)

"And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." (Matthew 26:30)

I. What the Lord Jesus Christ did at the Last Supper:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ took Bread (Luke 22:19)
2. Gave thanks (Luke 22:19)
3. Blessed It (Luke 22:19)
4. Sanctified It (Luke 22:19)
5. Broke Bread (Luke 22:19)
6. Gave It (Luke 22:19)
7. Praised It and went to the Mount of Olives (Luke 22:39)

II. The Sequence of How We Partake of the Holy Communion:

1. Offering of the Lamb (Took bread)
2. Thanks-giving Prayer (Gave thanks)
3. Institution Narrative (Blessed it)
4. Coming Down of the Holy Spirit (Sanctified it)
5. Fraction (Breaking the Bread)
6. Communion (Gave it)
7. Singing (Praising it)

