

## ***Song of Solomon 3:6-11***

### **I. Song 3:6-11 The revelation of Jesus, the safe Savior**

***(Song 3:6-11) “What[Who] is this coming up from the wilderness Like columns of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all the scented powders of the merchant? 7 Behold, it is the traveling couch of Solomon; Sixty warriors around it, Of the warriors of Israel. 8 All of them are wielders of the sword, Expert in war; Each man has his sword at his side, Guarding against the terrors of the night. 9 King Solomon has made for himself a sedan chair From the timber of Lebanon. 10 He made its posts of silver, Its back[support] of gold And its seat of purple fabric, With its interior lovingly inlaid By[for] the daughters of Jerusalem. 11 Go out, you daughters of Zion, And look at King Solomon with the crown With which his mother has crowned him On the day of his wedding, And on the day of the joy of his heart.”***

- a. Review: Jesus invites the maiden into deeper partnership and greater obedience
  - i. Jesus is revealed as Lord of the Nations as He leaps over the mountains(obstacles; governments). He bids her to arise and come away with Him to a new level of partnership. Out of fear and immaturity, the maiden tells Him to turn away and leap without her on the mountain of Bether(separation).
  - ii. The presence of God was withdrawn from the maiden out of loving discipline; she sought the Lord but “did not find Him” or did not experience His presence. The Father loves us too much to let us fall short of the fullness of what Jesus wants from our relationship with Him. Jesus is not angry, but lifts His presence out of His jealous desire for a greater partnership with us.
  - iii. When Jesus raises the standard and invites us to deeper partnership, we must choose to respond or to go backwards in our relationship with God. Yesterday’s obedience is not a significant measure for today. He withdraws His presence to get our attention when we neglect to respond. This loving discipline leads the maiden to cling to the leadership of Jesus and “never let Him go”. She resolves to embrace the cost of obedience, no matter what she faces.

### **II. Song 3:6 The Holy Spirit asks a question as He reveals Jesus: The Saving King of Glory**

***(Song 3:1) “What[Who] is this coming up[ascending] from the wilderness[this fallen world] Like columns of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all the scented powders of the merchant?”***

- a. The Holy Spirit is asking a leading question to the maiden. As she held on to Jesus and would not let Him go (Song 3:4), the Holy Spirit gives her a new revelation of the King she is holding. This new revelation will convince her that Jesus is the safest person to be with and that it is safer with Him in the wilderness or on the mountains than at home without Him.

- b. The picture revealed through this question is that of the ascension of Christ the King into the Eternal City of Heaven after His resurrection. The smokes and fragrances point to the sacrifice of His death and His great ministry of Intercession. He gave it all to give safety and eternal security to us, the Bride.
- c. **“Coming up from the wilderness”** refers to the ascension of Christ into heaven from this fallen world. Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness is a picture of our struggle in this fallen world on our way to the promise. In Song 8:5, the Bride will come up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved.
- d. **“Columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense”** refers to glory of God as well as the fragrant offering of the cross as Jesus ascended. In Exodus 19:18, smoke rose from the mountain as God descended upon it. In Isaiah 6:4 and Revelation 15:8, “smoke from the glory of God and from His power” filled the temple. The myrrh, as in other places, symbolizes the death and sacrifice of Christ on the cross as myrrh is a burial and embalming spice. The frankincense speaks of His ministry of intercession; His death was a sacrifice that redeems us from sin and our fallen nature. He now lives as intercession on our behalf.

***(Revelation 8:3-5) “Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel’s hand with the prayers of the saints before God. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder and sounds, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”***

***(Hebrews 7:25) “Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”***

- e. **“scented powders of the merchant”** refers to the commitment Christ has to us. Jesus spoke of Himself as the merchant who sold everything to purchase a beautiful pearl (His Bride). A merchant was scented as a result of handling (buying and selling) the perfumed powders in the marketplace. Jesus is the perfumed merchant who sold everything out of deep commitment to us.

***(Matthew 13:45-46) “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold everything that he had and bought it.”***

- f. If Jesus suffered on our behalf, how much more will He protect us and care for us? The picture of His death and resurrection here proves that He is for us. In the wilderness, He will protect us from sin and all that comes against us by His death (myrrh) and intercession (frankincense). We can risk leaving comfort and perceived safety because of His commitment (merchant powders).

***(Romans 8:31-32) “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”***

III. Song 3:7-8 Our military protection in Christ

***(Song 3:7-8) “Behold, it is the traveling couch of Solomon; Sixty warriors around it, Of the warriors of Israel. 8 All of them are wielders of the sword, Expert in war; Each man has his sword at his side, Guarding against the terrors of the night.”***

- a. We are given a picture here through military terms of how secure we are in Christ. Before, the maiden was afraid to leave the comfort and security behind her wall, now she sees how silly it was for her to be afraid. Throughout the song, Solomon is a picture of Jesus the King in all His majesty. The picture here is that Solomon came from Jerusalem through the wilderness to the city of Shunem (where Shulamite comes from) to pick up the maiden for the royal wedding. The people would have seen this traveling couch coming with the dust(smoke) from behind it carried on the shoulders of servants and surrounded by skilled Israeli warriors.
- b. ***“the traveling couch of Solomon”*** is symbolic of the wedding chariot of Christ that we are being carried in as we ascend from the wilderness of this fallen world. This gospel couch provides all that we need for our hearts to be safe in our journey of sanctification. It escorts the Bride that is seated with Christ through this fallen world into glory where we are enthroned.

***(Ephesians 1:20-21) “which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”***

***(Revelation 3:21) “The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.”***

- c. ***“sixty warriors”*** are symbolic of the Holy Spirit’s extravagant protection. As with the smoke and incense, the Song continues to use tabernacle language; there were 60 pillars of support in Moses’ tabernacle. They are ***“of Israel”*** meaning that they are not hired mercenaries who would flee from danger when they are overwhelmed. These men had loyal and courageous hearts to defend the King’s chariot to their death.
- d. ***“wielders of the sword, Expert in war”*** shows that these warriors are seasoned and well-trained; they will not be ambushed or surprised. They have all girded a sword on their thigh to be drawn at a moments notice in defense of the King and His bride-to-be even ***“against the terrors of the night”*** which refers to the kingdom of darkness or demonic attack. These warriors could symbolize angels or even intercessors
- e. The Holy Spirit is an expert in war, knowing every scheme of Satan and is the commander of the heavenly hosts. He uses many tactics from the agency of God’s grace. He may give us prophetic dreams, open or shut doors, call intercessors, send angels, release power through us or revelation to us to lead us to safety. He is diligent, skillful, and passionate to protect and deliver us.

***(Ephesians 6:12) “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”***

- f. God is able to keep us from quitting early or stumbling along the way as we give our hearts to God and submit to His leadership.

*(1 Corinthians 10:13) “No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”*

*(Jude 24) “Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy...”*

IV. Song 3:9-10 The safety in our salvation

*(Song 3:9-10) “King Solomon has made for himself a sedan chair From the timber of Lebanon. 10 He made its posts of silver, Its back[support] of gold And its seat of purple fabric, With its interior lovingly inlaid By the daughters of Jerusalem.”*

- a. *“King Solomon has made for himself”* We see here that the gospel chariot was built by the King Himself. In the same way the Christ created the tree He was crucified on, He has made out salvation Himself. We are saved by grace and are given the life of God as a free gift. Jesus became a man and died on our behalf instead of staying in heaven.
- b. *“a sedan chair from the timber of Lebanon”* shifts the focus from a traveling couch in military terms to a sedan chair in wedding terms. In ancient times, a sedan chair would carry an eastern bride to where she was betrothed for her wedding. Wood is used often a picture of humanity or human flesh. The wood of Lebanon was the strongest and most beautiful, fragrant, and expensive wood in Israel. Solomon’s temple was built with the same cedars and housed the glory of God. The grace gospel was made of the strongest and most expensive flesh that ever walked the earth. Jesus lived and died in perfect humanity.
- c. *“posts of silver, its back of gold”* refers to the redemption (silver) of Christ and His divine character (gold). The posts and supports of the gospel show that our salvation and protection is established on God’s infinite wisdom and His character. No matter what obstacles we face in the wilderness of this life, we are held secure and supported.
- d. *“seat of purple fabric”* speaks to the royal authority of Christ. The gospel releases this authority throughout our lives in defense against the enemy and his kingdom. The interior is *“lovingly inlaid”* and woven by the love of God and His love for each person. The inner lining of the gospel chariot is God’s love. God’s plan is only carried out through His love for the saints. “His banner over me is love,” is our confession. All that Jesus does in His leadership is inlaid love. We are most safe when we understand God’s affections for us and are enabled to love Him back.

V. Song 3:11 The church exhorted to the bridal paradigm

*(Song 3:11) “Go out, you daughters of Zion, And look at King Solomon with the crown With which his mother has crowned him On the day of his wedding, And on the day of the joy of his heart.”*

- a. We are called to gaze on and grow in knowledge of Jesus and the Bridegroom King. When we see Jesus crowned, we are no longer fearful of leaping on the mountains with Him. He has all authority and power. **“his mother”** refers to the church (Matthew 12:46-50) as the witness of a believer is the agent used by God to bring someone to salvation. God is our father and the church is our mother that nurtures us in partnership with the Holy Spirit as friends(brothers) of the Bridegroom.
- b. The *wedding crown* is one of the many crowns of Christ and symbolizes the accumulated response of the redeemed to His sacrifice throughout history. Our life is defined by the **“day of the joy of his heart”** when we will cast our crowns before Him in voluntary love. Our greatness and dignity is found when we walk in the anointing and power the Holy Spirit to love Jesus.
- c. The Church crowns Jesus as our personal Bridegroom King when we love Jesus with all our heart. He is the one who has many crowns, but this is the crown He desires more than any other (Rev. 19:12). It is the crown that brings joy to His heart.
- d. The daughters of Jerusalem are now referred to as **“daughters of Zion”**. When we see Him as Bridegroom King, then we see who we are in Him. When the daughters of Jerusalem(earthly) see their destiny, they will begin to live as the daughters of Zion(heavenly). We are called to gaze on this One thing.

*(Isaiah 33:17) “Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will see a distant land.”*

*(Philippians 3:8) “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...”*

*(Hebrews 12:2) “looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(Isaiah 62:5) “...as the groom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.”*

### *Questions for Discussion*

- 1) What was one point of tonight’s session that was profound to you? How will you live differently as a result?
- 2) Have you ever experienced the protection of the Holy Spirit from demonic powers? How does this inform your understanding of the 60 warriors encamped around you?
- 3) How can you begin to gaze on Jesus, the Bridegroom King, so you can become a daughter of Zion? How does this equip you to grow in intimacy with Christ?