

Song of Solomon 5:10-16

(Song 5:10-16) “My beloved is dazzling and reddish, Outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is like gold, pure gold; His locks are like clusters of dates And black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, And perched in their setting. 13 His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of herbal spices; His lips are lilies Dripping with drops of myrrh. 14 His hands are rods of gold Set with topaz; His abdomen is panels of ivory Covered with sapphires. 15 His thighs are pillars of alabaster Set on pedestals of pure gold; His appearance is like Lebanon, Choice as the cedars. 16 His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, You daughters of Jerusalem.”

I. Review: The Daughters of Jerusalem question the Bride about Her Beloved

(Song 5:9) “What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That you make us swear in this way?”

- a. The Bride responds to their question with a proclamation and a 10-fold description of the beauty and excellence of Jesus. She calls Him **“dazzling and reddish”**: the transfigured Christ poured into human flesh; fully God, fully man. She declares Him to be infinitely greater than any other God or man; He is **Outstanding among ten thousand**. She then describes 10 of His attributes (parts of His body) as a way to communicate His beauty and glory. She describes His **head[leadership], locks[devotion], eyes[wisdom/knowledge], cheeks[emotions], lips[words], hands[works], abdomen[compassion], thighs[ways], appearance[impartation], and mouth[intimacy]**.

b.

II. Song 5:14a The Excellence of His Omnipotence

(Song 5:14a) “His hands are rods of gold Set with topaz;”

- a. The **Hands** symbolize His actions or His power to accomplish that which is in His heart. Like rods of gold, he is omnipotent and perfectly capable of performing all that He purposes in human affairs (creation, redemption, etc.). His divine character is represented by the gold while His power is represented by the rod. Jesus is the Branch of the Lord, the scepter of righteousness in the hands of the Father. Moses and Aaron performed the works of the Lord through the staff as an extension of God’s power.
- b. **Topaz** is one of the 12 foundation gemstones used in the breastplate of the high priest and the New Jerusalem (*Exodus 28, Ezekiel 28, Revelation 21*). The name Simeon[*the one who hears*] was likely written on the topaz. Even in His ways, He makes room for us to be heard.

(Isaiah 59:1) “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short That it cannot save;”

(Isaiah 4:2) “On that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious,”

(Hebrews 1:8, Psalm 45:6) “But regarding the Son He says, “Your throne, God, is forever and ever, And the scepter of righteousness[justice] is the scepter of His kingdom.”

III. Song 5:14b The Excellence of His Compassion

(Song 5:14b) “His abdomen is panels of ivory Covered with sapphires.”

- a. The **Abdomen**[yearning heart] symbolizes His tender compassion. The Hebrew word “me’eh” can mean the innermost parts or feelings of a person. In Song 5:4, it is the yearning heart of the maiden as her feelings are stirred for Him when He reaches through the opening of her heart. The deep feelings of Jesus and His compassion are as rare and beautiful as ivory covered in sapphires. He truly enjoys us and is tender to failing and struggling believers.
- b. **Sapphires** are also one of the 12 foundation gemstones used in the breastplate of the high priest and in the foundation of the New Jerusalem. The name Issachar[reward] was likely written on the sapphire. In the same way, Jesus is yearning for us as His reward. The blue sapphire speaks of revelation knowledge. The throne of God is a sapphire throne (Ezekiel 1:26). Isaiah 54:11 describes the city of God founded on sapphires. The heart of Jesus is the Most Holy Place.

(Song 5:4) “My beloved extended his hand through the opening, And my feelings were stirred for him.”

(Jeremiah 31:20) ““I certainly still remember him; Therefore My heart yearns for him; I will certainly have mercy on him,” declares the Lord.”

IV. Song 5:15a The Excellence of His Ways

(Song 5:15a) “His thighs are pillars of alabaster[marble] Set on pedestals of pure gold;”

- a. The **Thighs**[legs] symbolize the administration His purposes (walking them out). The way Jesus fulfills His purposes and plans are as strong and orderly as alabaster[marble]. Pillars are strong and permanent building structures. In the same way, the ways of Jesus are strong, permanent, established, ordered, and beautiful.
- b. **Pedestals of pure gold** speak of the perfect foundation of God’s decisions. There is no impurity to His motives, no wound that affects His inner thoughts. The ways of Christ are strong and perfect, stable and beautiful. He is standing as the Rock of Ages on pillars of marble set in pure gold.

(Revelation 15:3) “And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”

(Psalm 25:10) “All the paths of the Lord are faithfulness and truth To those who comply with His covenant and His testimonies.”

V. Song 5:15b The Excellence of His Impartation

(Song 5:15b) “His appearance is like Lebanon, Choice as the cedars.”

- a. The **Appearance**[countenance/face] symbolizes His impartation of glory to His people. To pray for the light of God’s countenance to be lifted up is a request of the manifestations of God to be released to His people. Lebanon’s Cedars were the most costly and sturdy for building beautiful habitations. The waters from Lebanon spoke of His glory being poured out over His people. When you look at the appearance of Jesus, the beauty and glory of Lebanon streams into you. His face imparts light and joy to the human heart. The knowledge of His glory is there.

(Psalm 4:6) “Lift up the light of Your face upon us, Lord!”

(2 Corinthians 4:6) “For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

VI. Song 5:16a The Excellence of His Intimacy

(Song 5:16a) “His mouth is full of sweetness.”

- a. The **Mouth** symbolizes spiritual intimacy between Jesus and His beloved ones. Song 1:2 introduced the kisses of His mouth as the intimacy available to every believer. Intimacy with God is **full of sweetness** because nothing delights the human heart more than this. She has been asking the Lord for the sweetness of His intimacy since the beginning of the Song.

(Song 1:2) “May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is sweeter than wine.”

VII. Song 5:16b The Comprehensive Beauty & Excellence of Christ

(Song 5:16b) “he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend...”

- a. Jesus is **Wholly Desirable** and altogether lovely. This phrase literally means “He is all desires”. He fulfills every longing and desire of the human heart. He is the essence of every delight and pleasure. He is radiant in His majesty and yet has humbled Himself to be our beloved friend. What good news that we have friendship with one such as He. He is worth everything that we can sacrifice or endure in our pursuit of loving Him well. In the most difficult trial she has ever faced, her response is entirely rooted in the glory of the Bridegroom. *Revelation of His attributes will bring stability to our hearts when we are in the storms of life.* Being lovesick allows us to endure trials by searching out the excellencies of Christ and longing for Him in the face of difficulty. *She is lovesick because her revelation of the Beauty of Jesus outweighs her desire for influence or acceptance. He is enough.*

(Psalm 145:16, 19) “You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing... 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him...”