

The bridegroom Prophetic declaration over the bride

The bridegroom prophetic declarations over his bride: these statements are powerful because Jesus speaks blessings on eight budding virtues in the bride life. They are in seeds form yet to mature but Jesus is speaking here as though they have already mature calling the things that be not as though they were. This is not wishful thinking but when someone who has paid a high price for your redemption begins to release His blessings on you, someone who has the power to make it happen, all He needs is a yes in our spirit and our obedience to follow his leading.

My prayer journal :

Lord, you define me by my qualities even before they mature. You cherish me; you embrace me even in my weakness. You see the desire of my heart to fully obey you. The declaration of your love over me, they give me boldness, they give me courage and strength to pursue after you to your Holy Mountain. How precious are your thoughts to me , O God, how great is the sum of them, If I should count them , they are more in number than the sand: when I awake I am still with you (Psalm 139: 17-18

Eight prophetic declarations regarding her emerging character: every phrase is God's poetic romance that aims at the heart in a specific way

Eyes like doves
Hair like goats
Teeth like shorn sheep
Lips like scarlet
Kisses of her mouth
Cheeks like a piece of pomegranate
Neck like the tower of David
Breast like two young gazelles that are twins

The king spoke to her in agricultural language that she is familiar with since she tended goats and kept vineyards. He uses her physical attributes as a metaphor for spiritual beauty. This is how Jesus washes and releases his glory over his bride; it's by nourishing and cherishing her. Cherishing is the way a man changes his wife or children. You look at their budding seeds of dedication and greatness, what they have set their hearts on, not by what they have attained

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church (Ephesian 5:29)

Jesus called Peter a rock knowing that he will soon deny him. He saw the seeds of courage, stability and faithfulness in him and he named him according to the seeds of greatness that was in him. The angel of the Lord saw the seeds of faith and courage in Gideon and called him a mighty man of valour.

4:1 Behold you are fair, my love, behold you are fair, you have dove's eyes within your veil.

Literally, look, wow, you are beautiful. Jesus emphasizes her beauty to him twice. Why is the bride so beautiful to him? It's because she has eyes only for him. A dove can only focus at one thing at a time. It is not distracted by what is happening to its right or to the left. The bride has an eye only for him. She has set all her affection on him to be wholehearted even in her weakness.

4:1 your hair is as a flock of goats that appear from mount Gilead

Hair in scripture is a symbol of devotion and consecration. Numbers 6:1-8, the Nazarite vow, the hair was not to be cut. It was an outward sign of his consecration to God. John the Baptist was a Nazarite. He was thrust out into the wilderness to live a lifestyle of prayer and fasting to become a voice. The church has seen the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists but where are the Nazarites, the shulamites. The Nazarites, the shulamites are coming, they will go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of God's people back to wholehearted love.

Your consecration to me is like a flock of goats going down from mount Gilead. There are several kinds of goats in Palestine; one kind having long hair was fed on Mount Gilead. It was a fertile area with bountiful pastures where goats were known to eat in abundance. The goats are coming down from mount Gilead for the purpose of being offered up as a sacrifice for temple worship

The depth of her dedication is as a result of being well fed on scripture and living a lifestyle of standing before his presence. She is ready to be offered up as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

4:2 your teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing whereof every one bear twins and none is barren among them.

The teeth speak of the ability to chew meat and eat the word of God. Infants have no teeth. Hebrews 5:13 for every one that uses milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age

Her ability to live a lifestyle of eating the word of God so as to have been consumed by it: it's what we call eating the scroll (Ezekiel 3:1-3, Revelation 10:9). You eat the word by meditating on it day and night until it becomes engrafted in your heart and then you speak the word over and over again by releasing prophetic oracles or singing it back to God. It is not just enough to meditate on the word; we need to turn that word into a prayer dialogue by releasing prophetic oracles or singing phrases from it back to God.

Son of Man, eat that you find, eat this scroll and go speak to the house of Israel (Ezekiel 3:1)

And I went to the angel and said to him, give me the little book. And he said to me, take it and eat it up and it shall make your belly bitter but it shall be in your mouth sweet as honey....you must prophesy (Revelation 10:9)

The entry of your word gives light (Psalm 119:130) Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21).

It is the word that has been engrafted in your heart through meditation day and night and then spoken by releasing prophetic oracles or singing it over and over again back to God that has the power to cleanse sanctifies and transformed your life. Her teeth are like shorn sheep: shorn sheep are those from whom the wool has been removed (the energy of the flesh has been removed, from her ministry to the Lord). The priests of Zadok were forbidden to wear wool because it made them sweat. Which came up from the washing: the bride's meditation in the word has cleansed sanctifies and transformed her life.

Every one bear twins: the double portion of fruitfulness that is in her life as a result of eating the scroll.

This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein,; for then you shall make your way prosperous and then you shall have good success (Joshua 1:8)

But his delight is in the Law of the LORD and in his law does he meditate day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters, that brings forth its fruit in its season, its leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper (Psalm 1:2-3)

4:3 your lips are like a tread of scarlet

Her lips speak of her speech. Her words are like scarlet, they bring redemption to others. Wholesome speech is an indication that that your heart has been transformed by the grace of God. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body (James 3:2)

4:3 your mouth is comely

The lips speaks of speech, the mouth speaks of intimacy. The kisses of her mouth: her beloved is intoxicated by the words of affection and love of his bride. How fair is your love, my sister, my spouse! How much better is your love than wine! (4:10). All the spenders of heaven don't move him as the affection and love of his bride

4:3 your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate within your veil

The word temples here are also translated cheeks and refer to her emotions. The cheeks are windows into our emotions. Her cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate: when a pomegranate fruit is ripened, it is full with juicy red seeds. There are many levels to our emotions that have been damaged because of sin but when they have the touch of redemption on them, they become sweet and passionate fill with glory and freedom of expression that they bring pleasure to the Lord. This is what the Lord wants to do; I want to restore to you the delight of a healthy emotion

4:4 your neck is like the tower of David built for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.

The neck speaks of the will, you can have a stiff neck (a resistant will) or a submissive will (one whose delight is to do thy will O Lord). A will whose delight is in doing God's will is like a strong high tower of defence against the attack of the enemy

Your neck is like the tower of David built for an armoury. The tower of David was an armoury, a place where weapons of warfare are kept for times of battle and it was also a place where soldiers are trained. It speaks of the bride's ability to wage war; she had a great storehouse of weapons at her disposal 1000's shields, the equipment of mighty man. She is well prepared and trained for battle but it is the LORD who is fighting her battles

When your will is in full submission to the LORD, their defence is departed from them, there shall no man be able to stand before you, the LORD shall cause your enemies that rise up against you to be smitten before your face: they shall come out against you one way, and shall flee before you seven ways. The reason why David was a mighty Warrior, the LORD fought for him.

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 and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies. (Psalm 18:2-3)

It is God that girds me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like hinds feet and sets me upon my high places. He teaches my hand to war so that a bow of steel is broken by my arms (Psalm 18:33-34)

He that dwells in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I will trust. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence (Psalm 91: 1-3)

4:5 your two breasts are like two young gazelles that are twins which feed among the lilies.

The breasts speak of the ability to nurture others. Her breasts are like two young gazelles that are twins speak of her double ability to nurture others. Song 8:10 we see further growth in the bride's ability to nurture others: her breasts are like towers. She is like a tower of milk; she has a supernatural abundance of milk to nurture others.

The bride's response

4:6 until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of Myrrh and to the hill of frankincense

The bride responds to these affirmations of her beauty by continuing on the mountain of sufferings and the life of prayer until all shadows of compromise and darkness in her heart flees away

We can never ascend the mountain of Myrrh without the hill of frankincense. Our prayer life empowers us to embrace the cross of self-denial and to conquer a great mountain. I will go my way: God has a tailor made journey that is unique for His calling on our lives