



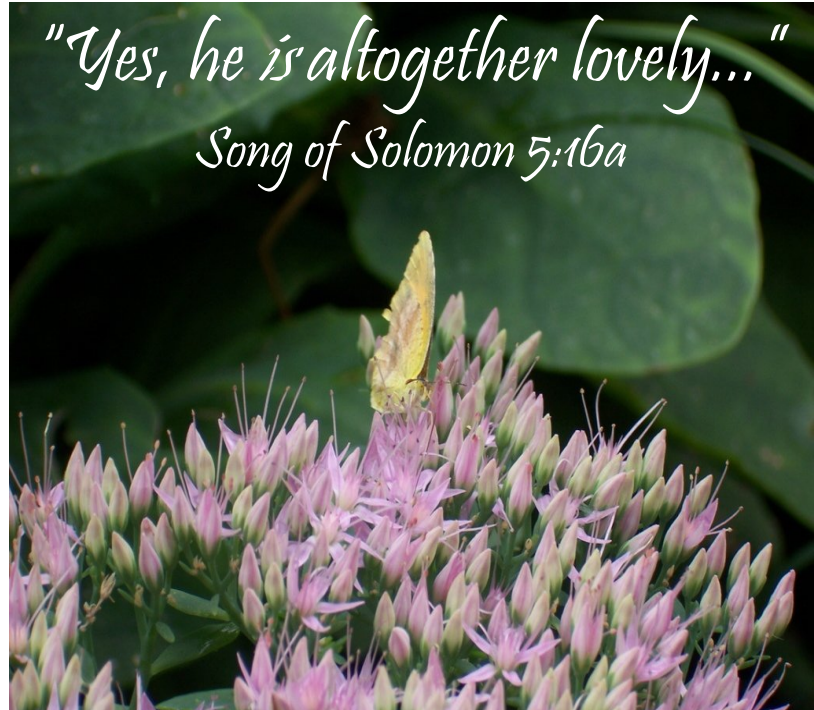
Notes

If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at jim@calvaryroswell.com or phil@calvaryroswell.com

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Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



Song of Solomon 1-8, Part 2

November 29th-December 5th, 2007

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

Song of Solomon—

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable, and hence no part is, or can be, neglected without loss. Few portions of the Word will help the devout student more in the pursuit of this all-important "knowledge of God" than the too-much neglected "Song of Solomon." Like other portions of the Word of God, this book has its difficulties. Is not the fact that they surpass our unaided powers of comprehension and research a mark of divinity? Can feeble man expect to grasp divine power, or to understand and interpret the works or the providences of the All-wise? And if not, is it surprising that His Word also needs superhuman wisdom for its interpretation? Thanks be to God, the illumination of the HOLY GHOST is promised to all who seek for it: what more can we desire? Read without the key, this book is especially unintelligible.

-James Hudson Taylor

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)
[http://preceptaustin.org/
song_of_solomon_commentaries.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/song_of_solomon_commentaries.htm)

Sermon Links:

“Union and Communion” by Hudson Taylor
[http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Voice/
Union.and.Communion.html](http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Voice/Union.and.Communion.html)
“Loved and Loving” by C H Spurgeon
<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/song2-16.htm>

Commentary:

The commentary used throughout this booklet is
With the Word Bible Commentary
by Warren W. Wiersbe.
ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Song of Solomon

This week, we are seeking to read Song of Solomon a second time. Last week we focused on what God is showing us about what He intended for marriage and for romance in marriage. This is vital, because God tells us that the relationship of marriage is a picture of the relationship that He created and longs to have with His people. If we have a wrong or sin-twisted view of marriage, we can miss the riches of what God has for us. Having covered this from the marriage view, let us now consider what this book shows us about our relationship with God.

Consider the picture in these passages:

... the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, ...; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (Is 62:4-5)

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (2 Co 11:2)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Eph 5:22-32)

Part of the problem with seeing this book as a picture of our relationship with God is that many, if not most of us are far from this

depth of relationship with the Lord. Yet, can I tell you—there is more than you have ever imagined in the Lord—the relationship with Him is deeper than any of us have plumbed!

It does not have to flow this way, but for many Christians, their relationship with God starts with a master-servant kind of relationship. Then it grows to a friendship type of relationship. But the aim is closer, and the only equivalent is the closest human relationship—marriage.

One of the biggest struggles that people have with seeing this book as a picture of their relationship with God is the intimate language. Honestly, I know I am far from understanding all that it calls for. But I want to lay two pictures for you to consider this week. On one hand, consider the intimate pictures as a picture of the close times you can have with the Lord in worship and prayer and fellowship—those times are sweet and far more than many have yet experienced. On the other hand, see those times of intimacy as pictures of the service that we do with the Lord, when He works with us to touch the world. The depth is richer than both of these...but at least a challenge to consider and grow in.

This book holds a treasure of insight for our relationship with the Lord. So many of the great men and women who loved and walked with God in times past have seen it and found it to be one of their favorite books because of the depth it drew them to. The Song of Solomon was the favorite book of D. L. Moody, C. H. Spurgeon, and St. John of the Cross. John Gill, a Puritan preacher mined one hundred twenty-two sermons from its riches. Bernard of Clairvaux, a French mystic, delivered eighty-eight teachings from the first chapter alone.

The church is the bride of Christ. In this book God uses a picture of human affection to convey to our dull minds, our dead hearts, our distorted affections, and our diseased wills His so great love. He uses the very best of human love to arouse us to realize the wonderful love that He has for us. This book can lead you into a marvelous, wonderful relationship with the Lord Jesus which you probably have never known before. I am afraid that very few of us are experiencing this today. My prayer is that God would use this week's study to draw us deeper and further after Him!

The Song of Solomon

Jewish tradition sees this book picturing Jehovah's love for Israel, and Christians see it illustrating Christ's love for the church (Eph. 5:23–33) as well as the individual believer (John 14:21–24).

The “plot” centers on King Solomon's love for a humble maiden. Courtship (1:1–3:5) leads to marriage (3:6–5:1) and then to the joys and trials of married love (5:2–8:14). The book is indeed a beautiful presentation of the love of husband and wife, for the Jews accepted sexuality as a precious gift from God, a holy expression of true commitment in marriage.

The Song of Solomon is also an expression of the love relationship of the believer and the Savior. Christ calls us away from the trivial things of life that we might enjoy a deeper communion with Him. This communion is not without difficulties and disciplines, but it leads to a happier and holier life.

As you read the Song of Solomon, be sure to distinguish the various people speaking. Many recent translations of the Bible, such as the New King James Version, will identify them for you. Also keep in mind that this is a poem for mature people, rich in Oriental imagery, and must be “felt” as well as read. Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes for the inquiring mind, Proverbs for the obedient will, and the Song of Solomon for the loving heart. It takes all three for a balanced life.

“The historical books I may compare to the outer courts of the temple; the gospels, the epistles and the psalms bring us into the holy place, or the court of the priests; but the Song of Solomon is the most holy place—the holy of holies, before which the veil still hangs to many an untaught believer.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (So 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Thursday, November 29th, 2007

Passage for today: Song of Solomon 1-2

Questions to Ponder

1. How is the Lord's name like fragrant oil poured forth? What response did the virgins have to this in verse 3?
2. Think again about the exhortation in verse 15. What is the meaning of this verse? How does this apply to your relationship with the Lord?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 1

Christ loves you, no matter what you may see in yourself (vv. 5–6, 8, 15). Be sure that your love for Him is expressed in both words (vv. 2–3, 16) and deeds (John 14:21–24). Spend time with Him and enjoy His love as you would food and drink (vv. 2, 12) and the fragrance of sweet perfume (vv. 3, 12–13; John 12:1–8).

Your love relationship must never become stagnant because He wants to lead you into deeper experiences in His chambers (v. 4) and His banquet hall (2:4). Never be afraid to follow Him, for His love will never lead you astray. Enjoyment and enrichment will be yours as you commune with Him.

At the same time, never neglect your work (v. 6); faithful service is one way you show Him your love. You do not choose between Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38–42), for both service and devotion belong to the balanced Christian life. Also, do not allow yourself to become isolated from others. Follow His flock and His footsteps and you will walk in paths of loving fellowship (John 21:15–25).

“Love is the greatest thing that God can give us; for Himself is love: and it is the greatest thing we can give to God.”

Jeremy Taylor

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (So 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 2

As you grow in your love for Christ, you must expect a variety of experiences, both pleasant and painful. You will enjoy His shade (v. 3), His banquets (vv. 4–5), and His tender expressions of love (v. 6). But you must also expect mountains (v. 8), walls (v. 9), winter seasons (v. 11), and enemies that creep in and try to destroy your work (v. 15).

You never know when your Lord will come to you for a time of communion, so be ever alert. When you least expect it, He will come (v. 8), stand (v. 9), look (v. 9), and speak (v. 10). No obstacle stands between Him and you except the ones you put up yourself. He leaps over the mountains because He yearns to be with you and lift you higher (v. 14).

When you spend time in loving communion with Christ, it is like springtime after the winter (vv. 10–13) and the dawning of a new day (v. 17).

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Jesus, the very thought of Thee

With sweetness fills my breast;

But sweeter far Thy face to see,

And in Thy bosom rest.

When once Thou visitest the heart

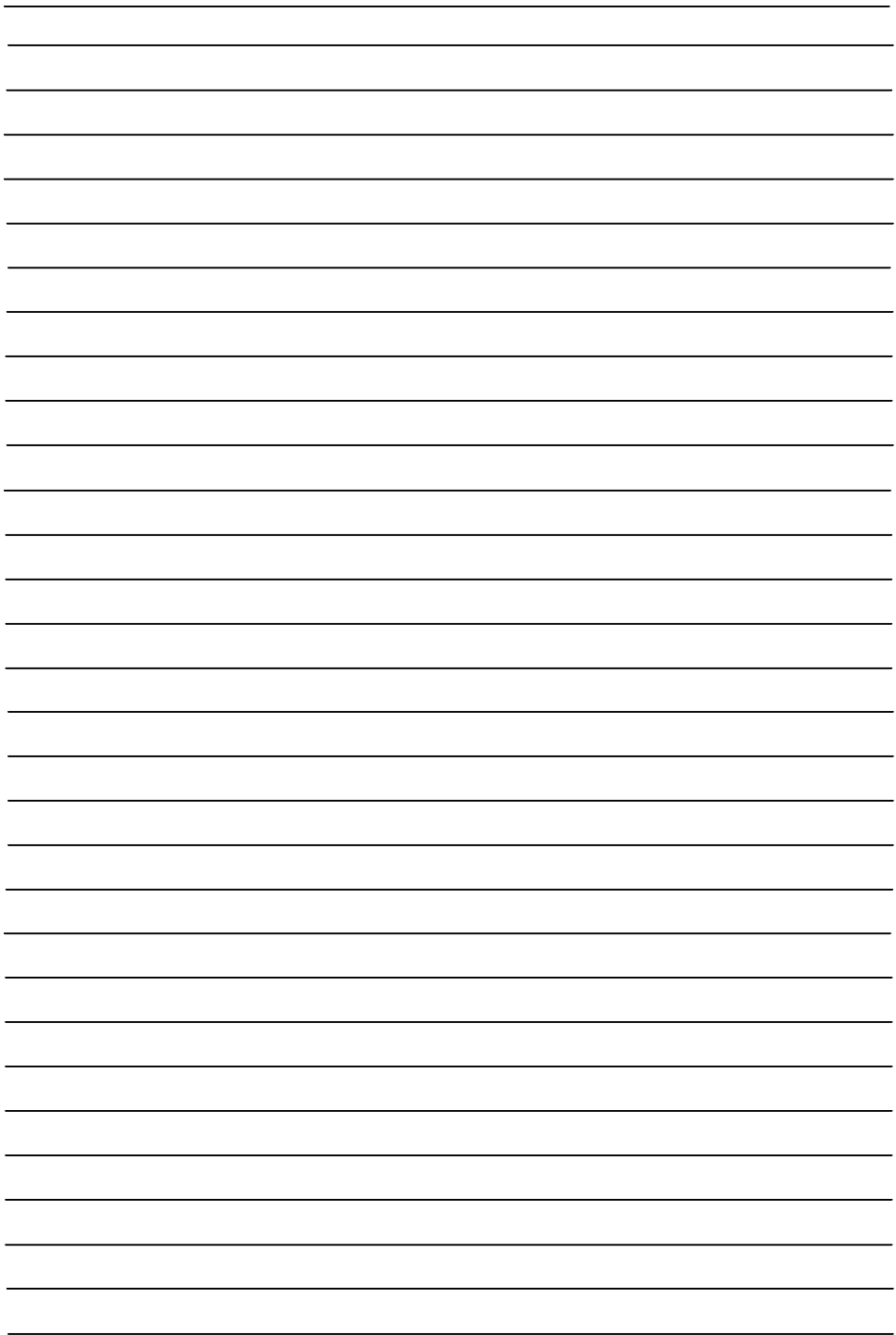
Then truth begins to shine,

Then earthly vanities depart,

Then kindles love divine.

*Twelfth-century Latin hymn,
attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux; translated by Edward Caswall*

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary
(So 2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



Daily Bible Study

Friday, November 30th, 2007

Passage for today: Song of Solomon 3

Questions to Ponder

1. Why is the woman seeking her love in chapter 3? How does the search and its need picture what our relationship with God is like?
2. In the latter part there are 60 warriors accompanying Solomon's carriage. They're there to protect from the numerous perils in the night. What could this be a picture of?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 3

Seeking (1–3). There are times when the Lord comes to you (2:8), but there are also times when you should seek Him. It was not easy for her to leave the comfort and security of the bed for the danger of the street, but love cannot rest until it finds its beloved. Do you have that kind of love?

Finding (4–5). She was not satisfied with information from the watchmen; she wanted personal communion with her beloved. It is not enough merely to listen to what others say about Jesus, as helpful as that may be. Press on until you enjoy Him personally.

Enjoying (6–11). In a triumphant and beautiful wedding procession, Solomon claims his bride and takes her home. The church is awaiting the Lord's glorious coming, but as we wait, we experience His love and joy (vv. 10–11; John 15:9–11). Find your delight in Him today and the joys of heaven will be greater.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (So 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, December 1st, 2007

Passage for today: **Song of Solomon 4**

Questions to Ponder

1. Why are the words in this chapter so key for our lives? What does the repeated place of the love and words from the Beloved show us of our need from Him?
2. How does this chapter show how God feels about us?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 4

Do you want to experience His love?

Listen to His words (1–8). He wants to tell you how fair you are in His sight because of His grace (Eph. 1:6). If you listen to what others say about you, you may be led astray, and if you listen to yourself, you may become discouraged. Believe His Word and rest in His love. Let your heart listen for His voice.

Look to Him in love (9–11). You cannot see Him physically, but you can still love Him (1 Pet. 1:8). See Him in His Word, in the world He has made, and in His providential care for you each day. Tell Him that you love Him!

Live to please Him (12–16). A garden, spring, and fountain are not useful if they are shut up, so open your life to Him and let Him bring out of you all that will delight Him and help others. Sometimes He must send trials to bring out the best blessings (v. 16). You are His unique garden and He is the loving Gardener (John 20:15), and He will cultivate your life and make it fruitful as you commune with Him (John 15:1–8). When the Lord comes to your garden, let Him enjoy your love (5:1; John 20:11–18).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (So 4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Sunday, December 2nd, 2007

Passage for today: Song of Solomon 5

Questions to Ponder

1. What caused the Shulamite to miss a time of intimacy with her beloved? What insight does this give us concerning times of intimacy with the Lord?
2. How does her interaction with the watchmen differ from chapter 3? What could be the reason for this?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 5

No matter where you are or what you are doing, fix your heart on the Lord and keep alert to His voice. You never know when He may come to have fellowship with you.

When He comes, He will speak and knock, and you must respond to Him immediately. No excuses! She heard his knock and his voice, and she saw his hand, but she did not yield to his call. When finally she opened the door, he was gone, even though he left a token blessing behind (v. 5). Better to have your beloved than any blessing he might give. A loving heart will seek the Lord, no matter what the cost (vv. 6–8). How much better it would have been for her to respond to Him when she first heard His call. But she does not blame her Beloved; she gladly tells others how wonderful He is (vv. 10–16).

An affectionate heart is an alert heart, quick to respond to the Beloved's calls

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (So 5:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Monday, December 3rd, 2007

Passage for today: Song of Solomon 6

Questions to Ponder

1. How is the confidence that the Shulamite feels a picture of feelings of love and relationship we have with God?
2. Why is there a request for the Shulamite to return? What could we display that brings about a similar reaction?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 6

The friends of the bride noticed that her Beloved was missing, and they asked about Him (v. 1). Often others can tell when we are out of fellowship with the Lord. Of course, we know where He is (v. 2) and what we must do to be reconciled to Him (1 John 1:9). We know that we belong to Him (v. 3) and that He still loves us and sees beauty in us (vv. 4–10) in spite of our lack of loving response. Contrast verse 3 with 2:16 and 7:10.

The bride went where her beloved was (v. 11) that she might be forgiven and restored. If we are to be reconciled to him and enjoy his communion once more, we must go back to the place where we left him (Gen. 13:3). Instead of being beaten (5:7), she is now in his glorious triumphal procession (vv. 10–12; 2 Cor. 2:14), sitting regally in the lead chariot!

Her friends begged her to remain that they might enjoy her beauty (v. 13). Do God's people today impress the world with their beauty and Christlikeness? Perhaps we need to meet the Beloved in His garden.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (So 6:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, December 4th, 2007

Passage for today: Song of Solomon 7

Questions to Ponder

1. Notice the call to get away in this chapter. How is it different from the call to get away in chapter 2? What is significant about the difference?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 7

He admires you (1–5). Once more, the Beloved tells His wife how attractive she is to Him. This reminds us that husbands and wives need to express their love to each other often and find their joy freely in each other. Perhaps we would use different similes today, but each of these descriptions was meaningful in that day.

He desires you (6–13). What incredible love that He should want to share His life with sinners such as we are (1 John 3:1)! Verse 10 is an improvement over 2:16 and 6:3, for it focuses on His desire for us and not just on our relationship with Him. Ask Him to go with you to some special place where you can give Him your love (vv. 11–13). There are times when He invites you (2:10ff.), but He enjoys it when you invite Him.

“I ask you, Lord Jesus, to develop in me, your lover, an immeasurable urge towards you, an affection that is unbounded, a longing that is unrestrained, a fervor that throws discretion to the winds! . . . There is no one more blessed than he who dies because he loves so much. No creature can love God too much.”

Richard Rolle

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (So 7:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, December 5th , 2007

Passage for today: Song of Solomon 8

Questions to Ponder

1. What is the meaning of the often-repeated phrase in this book, that we are “not to awaken love until it pleases”. What does that mean? How do we apply it to love with God?
2. Notice how the Beloved longed to hear the Shulamite’s voice. How does this apply to our relationship with God?

With the word Bible Commentary

SONG OF SOLOMON 8

Imagining love (1–2). When you love someone, you think about that person and imagine all kinds of wonderful experiences together. But true love cannot remain only in the mind; it has to be fulfilled in life. An imaginary love for Christ is fatal to a vital Christian life.

Experiencing love (3–5). Your love for Him must be a living and growing experience, not something you manufacture yourself. You can commune with Him in private worship, lean on Him in the wilderness, and enjoy Him in the field. Everywhere, He awaits your affection.

Cherishing love (6–7). Solomon used three images to illustrate true love. The seal speaks of ownership, two lovers belonging only to each other until separated by death. This is the permanence of love. The fire reminds us of the power of love—nothing can quench it. And the wealth illustrates the preciousness of love.

Protecting love (8–11). The picture is that of a family, protecting a young daughter until she is old enough to marry. If she is a “door” (open to everybody), she must be protected, but if she is a “wall,” she has the integrity to protect herself.

Listening for love (12–14). The Savior listens for your voice (v. 13; 2:14), and you must listen for His voice (2:8; 5:2). He will speak to you through His Word and by His Holy Spirit, so be attentive.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (So 8:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

“Yea, he is altogether lovely.”

Song of Solomon 5:16

Taken from *Morning and Evening*

By Charles Spurgeon

The superlative beauty of Jesus is all-attracting; it is not so much to be admired as to be loved. He is more than pleasant and fair, he is lovely. Surely the people of God can fully justify the use of this golden word, for he is the object of their warmest love, a love founded on the intrinsic excellence of his person, the complete perfection of his charms. Look, O disciples of Jesus, to your Master's lips, and say, “Are they not most sweet?” Do not his words cause your hearts to burn within you as he talks with you by the way? Ye worshippers of Immanuel, look up to his head of much fine gold, and tell me, are not his thoughts precious unto you? Is not your adoration sweetened with affection as ye humbly bow before that countenance which is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars? Is there not a charm in his every feature, and is not his whole person fragrant with such a savour of his good ointments, that therefore the virgins love him? Is there one member of his glorious body which is not attractive?—one portion of his person which is not a fresh lodestone to our souls?—one office which is not a strong cord to bind your heart? Our love is not as a seal set upon his heart of love alone; it is fastened upon his arm of power also; nor is there a single part of him upon which it does not fix itself. We anoint his whole person with the sweet spikenard of our fervent love. His whole life we would imitate; his whole character we would transcribe. In all other beings we see some lack, in him there is all perfection. The best even of his favoured saints have had blots upon their garments and wrinkles upon their brows; he is nothing but loveliness. All earthly suns have their spots: the fair world itself hath its wilderness; we cannot love the whole of the most lovely thing; but Christ Jesus is gold without alloy—light without darkness—glory without cloud—“Yea, he is altogether lovely.”