

THE MAIDEN SPEAKS | SOS 2:1-6

- Verse 1 – The self-description of the maiden
 - Even though this has most often been associated as a title of the Lord, it is more likely that the bride is speaking. Probably, the reason this is associated with Christ is the prevailing mindset that one should look for Christ in every line of the Old Testament.
 - When is a **rose** not a rose? When it is a *crocus*. The word used here is somewhat unknown, but undoubtedly not a rose.
 - **Sharon** is the fertile plane along the coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Verse 2 – An interjection from the King
 - Here the king speaks to the maiden, who had compared herself to the lily.
 - Both the rose of Sharon in the lily-of-the-valley we're very humble flowers.
 - The king seeks to encourage the young lady.
- Verse 3 – The maiden's description of her King
 - Continuing the comparisons with nature, the maiden compares the groom to the **apple tree among the trees**, and the blessing of its fruit.
 - Notice that there is a Hebrew word for **apple**, thus the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was likely not an apple.
- Verse 4 – The invitation to the **banqueting house**
 - The Hebrew says, "the house of wine."
 - The word for wine is used 141 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, and only here translated "banqueting house."
 - The word **banner** is used 14 times in the book of Numbers and translated "standard," designating the tribes by their identity.
- Verse 5 –
 - According to www.onelook.com, a flagon is, "a large metal or pottery vessel with a handle and spout; used to hold alcoholic beverages (usually wine)."
 - However, the Hebrew word is "grape cakes" (or raisin-cakes).
 - It is an unknown term and every ancient and modern writer has struggled with its meaning.
 - Therefore, it is best to say that this was something that would "sustain" the maiden.

THE KING SPEAKS | SOS 2:7-9

- Verse 7 – the charge
 - The pronoun **you** is inherently in the masculine (See Ruth 1:9), but this is the groom speaking to the daughters of Jerusalem.
 - A KJV note: **you** is part of an object while "ye" is a subject, as in "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."
 - This is either feminine or neuter, so "till he please" would not be correct.
 - NKJV says, "till it please"
 - Young's Literal says, "till she please."
 - Since the maiden represents the remnant of Israel, we see that the groom has a tender love for Israel, but he will not allow her to be disturbed "till she please." Until this time, God protects and sustains her.

- God's work among His people-
 - In Nehemiah, God deals directly with His people who return to Him.
 - In Esther, God deals indirectly with His people who are away from Him.
 - In this passage, God is allowing His people (the bride) to sleep "till she please."
- It is no mistake that, as soon as "she pleases," she hears **the voice of my beloved** and **he cometh**. Compare to the tears of Jesus and His promise of return given in Matthew 23:39.
- Verse 8 - How eager is the love of the King, yet he will not allow the maiden to be awakened before she is ready.
- Verse 9 - After "she pleases," then He comes. And when He comes, He enters Jerusalem and thus **standeth behind our wall** and is **showing himself through the lattice**.

THE MAIDEN QUOTES THE KING | SOS 2:10-13

- Verse 10 - Compare Matthew 24:30-31.
- Verse 11 - Compare Matthew 24:29-30.
- Verse 12 - In every appearance, this seems to be the beginning of the millennial Kingdom. Compare Is. 35:1-2, Hosea 14:5-7, Ps. 40:3,
- Verse 13 - Both the fig and the grape are pictures of Israel.
 - In Luke 13:6-7 the fig tree was cut down. Here the fig tree is putting forth fruit.
 - Matthew 24:32-34 says that when the fig tree "puts forth its leaves" that "He is near."

THE KING SPEAKS | SOS 2:14

- The King continues to show his delight in the bride, who is hidden in the **secret places of the stairs**.
- Literally, that would be "the secret place of the ascent" (YLT) or the "secret place of the steep place" (Strong's).
- Remember that in the last days God will prepare a secret place for His people (Psalm 91:1).

THE COUPLE SPEAKS | SOS 2:15

- The word **take** is a strong word, as in "capture" or "seize."
- This is either the King or the King and his bride together (note the "us").
- **The foxes** –
 - Ezekiel 13:4 compares the false prophets to foxes.
 - In Luke 13:32, King Herod is called a fox by Jesus.
 - This has to be a derogatory phrase, meaning, "Capture the false prophets" (which will be many in the day of the Second Coming).

THE MAIDEN SPEAKS | SOS 2:16-17

- Here, and continuing into chapter 3, the bride longs for her King.