

Song of Solomon 8: 14; “Make Haste, My Beloved”, Sermon # 75 in the series – “I am My Beloved’s”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on September 18th, 2022, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

We have come now to the end of the book of Song of Solomon. My preaching of it to you has been a real delight for me personally. For as I have told you many times, the truths that Solomon by the Spirit of God placed here for us, are meant to give us instruction on how we can deepen our heart relationship with Christ. The design of Christ in and through this book is for you to come to the place where you will see Him as your First Love, and that you would not leave off loving Him. Instead you will often be praying that Christ would make haste and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

What does this mean? What is being referred to, here? Well, I believe that it is evident that the Bride is longing for her Bridegroom’s Coming. And I think that we can open this subject up by thinking about her words, as 1st of all – The Old Testament saints who longed for His 1st Coming in His Incarnation, and what He would do for sinners. And then, 2nd – Of all the New Testament saints who long for His 2nd Coming, where He will take us to be with Himself forever. Let us ponder what our own prayers should be, as we think about Christ’s Coming.

1st of all – These words refer to the longing of the Old Testament saints for Christ’s 1st Coming in His Incarnation, and what He would do for sinners.

“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.” Let us remember that in every generation of the world, that Christ’s saints are looking forward. In the Old Testament God’s saints were looking forward to the coming of Christ in His Incarnation. They were given certain Scriptures which told of Christ’s coming, and as such, those who knew the Lord looked for it with great expectancy. You remember that dear man Simeon who was there in the temple when Jesus was brought into the temple by His mother Mary, and Joseph.

In Luke 2, verse 25 it says – “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” “And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” When he saw Jesus, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ‘Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.’ So, Simeon’s being able to see the Lord’s Christ was the fulfillment of what many, many saints in the Old Testament times had longed to see for many generations.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, when He was 30 years of age, it was the fulfillment of Isaiah chapter 9, verses 1-7 – “Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.” “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” “You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.”

“For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.” “For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire.” “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder.” “And His name will be

called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.” “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

We see from these words that in Old Testament times, at many points in their history, there was a gloom that came to the people because of God’s judgments upon them for their sinfulness. According to these verses there was a gloom that came upon the people of the land of Zebulun and the Naphtali when God lightly esteemed them during the days of Menahem the king of Israel, because he was such a wicked man. And then when Pekah came to rule a few years later, it says in 2nd Kings 15: 29 – “Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and carried them captive to Assyria. And afterwards God more grievously afflicted them by Shalmaneser king of Assyria, in the reign of Hoshea king of Israel. (2nd Kings 17) God had this Assyrian king take Samaria, and he carried Israel into captivity.

But when Jesus Christ our Lord was born into the world, and when He began His earthly ministry, when He came into Galilee preaching the gospel of peace, by which He Himself would establish peace for every sinner who believed in Him, it says in verse 2 – “Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” What great encouragement the light of His teaching brought to the Israel who was waiting for their Messiah. When He came to them He preached to them and said – Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” When He came, He came doing great miracles to heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead. He came to do battle with sin and overcome it.

He came to cast down the strongholds of self-righteousness in the scribes and Pharisees, and rulers of Israel. He did battle with them spiritually by demonstrating His love for sinners at the cross. He overcame the Devil and the world there as well. And in this great way of redemption, He set the spiritual captives of Israel free; those who beheld His great light. All the battles of men in the world could not deal with sin, but when Christ came, He waged a different kind of warfare. By His burning love and His flaming zeal for righteousness and truth, He laid down His life for us while we were yet sinners. The death He died, He died to sin, once for all. He died for our sins once and for all. And now when we trust in Him He becomes the Captain of our salvation.

He is the King of glory and the Prince of life. The government of His kingdom is upon His shoulder. It is by His strong name that we are saved. This is what the Old Testament saints were longing for, and looking forward to; His 1st Coming. They all said – Make haste and be like a young stag on the mountains of spices. What are these mountains of spices that the Lord Jesus is prancing upon? Some commentators call them – The mountains of division. Well, in terms of His first coming, He came to fulfill the moral and ceremonial law, and to break down the barrier (the division) between Jew and Gentile and make us into one new people. He would heal this division by His sufferings.

Those Jews who knew the Lord in those times knew that their own righteousness was not enough to fulfill the righteous requirements of God’s law. But they knew that One was coming who would. John the Baptist said in John chapter 1, verse 26 – I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know.” “It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” A little later in John chapter 3, some came to John and told him that Jesus and his disciples were baptizing people, and they told him – All are coming to Him!

Well, John said to them – A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but, I have been sent

before Him. He who has the Bride is the Bridegroom; but the friend of the Bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice." "Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled." "He must increase, but I must decrease." The reason that He must increase was so that He could purchase these mountains of spices for all the world to be saved by; all those who would trust in Him from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Mountains here means that there is great and abundant supply of grace and strength which are in Christ. He is the Rock of our salvation. He stands upon mountains of spiritual blessings which He has purchased for us by His righteousness and by His sufferings. The Spices relate to the good medicinal and odiferous effects of Christ's death. There are mountains of these spices which are sufficient to save all of God's elect people in all the world, in all generations.

I hope that you can see that when Christ sends forth His Spirit into the heart of a person, there is spiritual healing and blessing that comes to them. All those for whom Christ has died are most certainly made a part of His Bride. They will be washed with water by the word. They will be nourished and cherished because they are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. Christ will someday present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. We will all be holy and without blemish. Even now, He intercedes on our behalf to the Father. All these blessings come to everyone who will say to Christ – Make haste, my Beloved. Make haste to save my soul and minister to me in Your love and grace. It is to that person that He will come.

All the sinners in all the various kingdoms of this world shall someday know the truth when the gospel is preached to them by the Bride of Christ, and they will rejoice in the day of Christ's power when He comes to make His blessings flow to them. The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. These spices, the mountains of myrrh, the cassia, and the aloes are mentioned over in Psalm 45, verses 6-8 – "Your Throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." "You love righteousness and hate lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." "All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, out of the ivory palaces by which they have made You glad." These mountains of spices are the mountains of God's great goodness which is stored up for all who will fear Him, and love Him, and serve Him, through and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2nd – Let's think about these words in terms of all the New Testament saints who long for His 2nd Coming.

"Make haste, my Beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices." There is only one literal physical 2nd Coming of Christ which is talked about in the Bible. And it is referred to as "His appearing" in 1st Timothy chapter 6, verse 14. Paul says to Timothy – Keep this command without spot, (that is, the command to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life to which you were called), keep this command blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate the King of kings and Lord of lords."

Also, these words, "His appearing" are found in 2nd Timothy 4, verses 1 and 2. "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word!" Also verse 8 – "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." Now, you will notice that Christ will judge both the living and the dead at His appearing. That is, both those who know Him who are

righteous, and those who do not know Him and are wicked; dead in their trespasses and sins. He will judge them both on that final Day.

The New Testament knows only of one Second Coming of Christ. The real question is whether you will love His appearing. For if you have trusted in Christ, and have sincerely loved Him and tried to do what is right, according to the truth of the Bible and the grace that He has given to you, you will love His appearing. You will have nothing to fear, and it will be the most joyous of days to you. Do you say, in regard to this great Day which is coming – Make haste, my Beloved? This kind of language is also used by the apostle Paul in his letter to Titus, chapter 2, verses 11-14: For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

This is wonderful language, full of every promise of our redemption being completed when Christ appears. This is why we long for it with such great longings. In Philippians chapter 3, verses 20 and 21 Paul says – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body, that it may be like His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” “Therefore, my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.” Why should you stand fast in the Lord? Because He is coming!

This is the truth that we preach to each other. This is the truth which we proclaim to all men. Not everyone believes that Christ will come again. But we most certainly do. The apostle Peter in 2nd Peter 3, verses 3-7 – You should know this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ “For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water , by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.” “But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

Some people say Christ is not coming back. They say – Where is the promise of His coming? But Peter says that God destroyed the world with a flood in Noah’s day. And He will destroy this world by refining fire in a day which is coming. Which day is that? It will be just following the appearing of Christ and His judgment of the world. Verse 10 – The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...”

Let me ask whether you are looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Do you look forward to these things? It says there in 2nd Peter 3: 14 – Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation. The Day of Christ’s return is fixed. His coming cannot be any sooner than it will come. And yet we are told that if we are be praying earnestly for it, we will hasten it. We are hastening the coming of that Day by preparing for it, and being ready for it, so that when He shall appear we will rejoice to meet Him.

We do not know the hour or the day, but it will not matter if we are ready. Many of generations of people have lived and died, and not seen Christ come back in their generation. Every sincere

Christian is living for that Day when Christ shall come. No one shall miss it for John says in Revelation 1, verse 7 – Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. Jesus says in Revelation 22, verse 12 – And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. And verse 17 says – The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Verse 20 He says – Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices. Let us all live our lives in the expectation that He can come for us at any time, and when He does come, we shall then be ready.