

The Song of Solomon 6:11,12

“I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded. Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib.”

We are continuing in our study of *The Song of Solomon* and I trust that, - far from being a soppy, meaningless love song, - you have come to view this book in a different light. You see how it describes the intimate relationship of love between the Saviour and His Bride. More importantly, you *personally* can relate to this love, for in it you recognise the love between the Saviour and you.

We shall be concentrating on verses 11,12. Now, their context. This is how ch. 6 is laid out:

- * The women standing about, question the Bride (v.1)
- * The Bride answers them (vv.2,3)
- * The Bridegroom speaks, and His love for His Bride is evident (vv.4-13)
 - * vv.4-10, He describes Her
 - * Her beauty is outstanding (6:4; 4:1)
 - * Her hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead (6:5; 4:1)
 - * Here teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is alone (6:6; 4:2)
 - * Her temples behind her veil are like the halves of a pomegranate (6:7; 4:3)
 - * vv. 11,12, He retires again to His garden
 - * v.13, He yearns the presence of His Bride; in deed, His garden will not be complete until His Bride is with Him.

She is always refreshing, ... always appealing, ... always the centre of His attention.

His Direction

“I went down into the garden ...”

- * In the temple at Jerusalem a man called Isaiah went to worship God.

- * As he took time and waited before God he experienced a tremendous vision,
 - * He saw a throne, and upon that throne he saw Who he believed to be the Lord.
 - * He not only saw the throne and saw the Lord, but he also experienced something of the majesty of God in that place.
 - * He could see the angels surrounding the throne, and he could hear what they were crying out to each other,
 - * v.3 Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
 - * And the doorposts of the temple trembled, as the whole building was filled with smoke.
- * What he saw changed his life!
- * What happened next? What did he do?
- * Instead of being filled with joy, satisfaction and happiness, his attitude before God was one of remorse and repentance,
 - * v.5 Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.
- * Isaiah was a follower of God, but here in God's presence, he saw his own life as God would have seen it and he was filled with shame and sadness.
- * That's true repentance! He recognised that he was a sinner in the presence of the holy God.
- * That's the difference in a person who is saved, and one who is only playing at it,
 - * The person that is truly repentant before God sees his own sin so much that he is not even aware of the sin of others.
- * And then as the sins of Isaiah brought him low in the presence of God, one of the angels lifted a live, burning coal from off the altar and he touched Isaiah's lips with it,
- * In that single act Isaiah's guilt was taken away, and his sin was atoned for, vv.6,7.
- * Then he heard a voice asking a question,
 - * Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
- * Without any hesitation, Isaiah replied, "Here am I! Send me."
- * There and then Isaiah was commissioned into the work of God,

- * ““Go and tell this people” (v.9).
- * And from that place Isaiah went out amongst his own people with the word of God.
- * The Lord Jesus, the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world, was called upon by His Father, to undertake a mission that would ultimately end in a cruel death.
- * The decision was made in eternity: Jesus would hang on a cross in order that sinners would be saved.
- * In the Garden of Gethsemane He cried out that the cup of suffering would be taken away from Him,
- * Yet it was the Lord’s will that He should die on the cross.
- * In this way it can be said that the Lord Jesus Christ went “down into His garden.
- * He went down into the ‘garden’, and His walk through the ‘garden’ took Him to ...
 - * Bethlehem, and to Egypt, and to Nazareth, to Galilee, to Jerusalem and to Calvary.
- * He came down on to His own, and for His own,
 - * 4:12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
- * ... that was how He could say,
 - * (Jn. 17:4,5) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
- * Yes, that was the direction He took, - down into the “garden”, to His beloved Bride, the Church.

His Diligence

“... to see the fruits of the valley, ...”

- * In Greek mythology you often come across myths about the gods coming to earth to satisfy their lusts and desires.
- * You see, the people who believed in all these gods believed that *what the gods desired the gods got!*
- * The visits that the gods made were totally and selfishly for their own self-gratification.
- * How different was the purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- * His purpose was to “see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.”

- * What is the significance of the Bridegroom coming to the garden?
 - * Remember that the man was created and placed in the Garden,
 - * Remember that the Lord Jesus cried on to His Father from the Garden,
 - * Remember that the final destination of the born again believer is the Garden,
- * What did Isaiah prophesy regarding the garden?
 - * Is. 51: 3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.
- * Yes, the Church is the 'garden' of the Lord, and like the proud gardener He tends that which is *particularly* His.
- * There was no other nation that enjoyed the *particular* attention of God that Israel enjoyed.
- * Israel was His 'garden'.
- * Out of all the peoples of the earth God chose unto Himself Israel, for no other reason other than He loved her.
 - * He didn't choose Israel because, looking into the future, He thought Israel would be the best of all the nations,
 - * He didn't choose Israel because of anything that she possessed,
 - * He chose Israel *because he loved her*.
- * Child of God, - those of you who have been sought and found by the Great Shepherd of the sheep, - Jesus found you,
- * Your salvation is 100% of the Lord,
 - * He didn't look into time and see that you were going to cry unto Him and be saved,
 - * In other words, your salvation is a bit down to you and a bit down to God.
 - * No, you had no interest in Him,
 - * It was because He came to you, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, He caused you to be saved
 - * Your salvation is 100% of the Lord.
- * He loved the nation of Israel with a particular love, even despite their sin, and He still loves them today, for, according to Romans 11, there is a remnant that will be saved by His grace.

- * And here, expressed in the Song of Songs 6:11 is the diligence of the Lord Jesus Christ for his people, His redeemed.
- * He's interested in His Garden, His Bride, His Church, - He looks after it, He cares for it, He tends it.
- * He notices all about His bride, His garden.
- * As part of His garden, He cares for you today,
- * He desires to see you grow, - yes, there is the autumn and the winter, but there is also the spring and the summer.

There is the **direction** that He takes, and the **diligence** that He shows, and this leads on to our final point, ...

His Desire

“Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib. I went down into the garden ...”

- * (N.I.V.), “Before I realised it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people.”
- * The A.V. mentions Amminadib; who was *Amminadib*?
- * There are three people in the Bible who are called Amminadib:
 1. Aaron's father-in-law (Ex. 6:23). Father of Nahshon, who led the tribe of Judah in the wilderness (Num. 1:7). Ancestor of David (Ruth 4:19) and Jesus (Matt. 1:4; Luke 3:33).
 2. Son of Kohath in genealogy of Levites (1 Chron. 6:22), but this may be copyist's change for Izhar (Ex. 6:18,21).
 3. Head of a family of Levites (1 Chron. 15:10). He helped carry the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 15:11-29).
- * However, this Amminadib was probably a man like Jehu, who was famous as a charioteer,
- * ... and the symbolism here points to how the Bridegroom is swift because His love for His Bride carries Him along.
- * The every **desire** of the Bridegroom is the Bride, - He never becomes tired in His love for her,
- * Yes, he knows there may be 'plenty more fish out in the sea', -
 - * v. 8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.
- * - but there is only One for Him,
 - * the Lord Jesus was taken up to the high mountain by the devil, and He was shown all the kingdoms and their splendour,
 - * “You can have all this, if you will only bow down and worship me”, said the devil.

- * But if Jesus would have stepped back, sat down on a rock, and pondered the words of Satan, He would never have been able to fulfil the love that He has for his people.
- * If Jesus hadn't expelled Satan and if He hadn't gone to the cross there would be no salvation for sin today.
- * The Bridegroom in the garden could have had His choice, - but He chose the woman!
 - * v.9 My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.
- * In love, God chose you from before the foundation of the world, for no other reason than He loved you.
- * And His love never changes, ... never lessens, never weakens,
- * ... the love that He had for you at Calvary, - that's the love that He continues to have for you today.

CONCLUSION. It is an old message.

- * It's a message that the Protestant, Reformed Church was built upon.
- * The early Baptists believed it, - Carey, Spurgeon, Gill, Meyer, McLaren, - all believed and preached it.
- * Doesn't it humble you that God could have looked in other directions, but His eye was upon you, ... to save you?!
- * He died for you, to take away your sin.
- * He defeated death and hell so that He would bring you unto Himself.
- * **Look**, v.13, He is yearning to be united with His Bride.
- * Someday soon He is coming again, for all those who have been washed in His blood, whose sins have been dealt with at Calvary,
- * Is He coming back for you?
- * This love story here, do you see yourself in it?
- * Don't cast it off as the ranting and raving of a Minister, or as a sappy old tale,
- * No, it's a story of how much God loved that He would sacrifice His all for the One who is the very centre of His attention, - His Church, ... that which is made up of every born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.