

Song of Solomon 3: 5-11; “Behold it is Solomon’s Couch”, Sermon # 33 in the series – “I am my Beloved’s”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on February 13th, 2011, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

A question is being asked here by the daughters of Jerusalem to each other, concerning the appearance of a procession which is coming out of the wilderness. In verse 7 it is declared to be Solomon’s couch, surrounded by sixty valiant men all holding swords, who are expert in war. Those men are described as the valiant of Israel. In verse 9, this couch is described as a palanquin; a portable enclosed sedan chair with curtains; which the King Himself sends to pick up His Bride, the Church, and to take her to the place where they shall be married. The description of this couch is quite elaborate, and so it will form the subject matter for the things which I shall say to you this afternoon. What does the couch, the palanquin represent? In the King James Version the couch is called a bed, and the palanquin is termed a chariot.

I believe that it represents that vehicle which Christ’s Bride, the Church, rides in as she goes through this life on her way to heaven. She is conveyed in this vehicle as she goes about to live her Christian life to Christ’s glory; and in the process, comes out of the wilderness of this world. She is conveyed in this vehicle as she attempts to faithfully live her life for, and to, her husband-King. She is espoused to Him and many people will wonder and take notice of her as she comes out of the wilderness, because it is a very wonderful, unusual, and beautiful conveyance that she is riding in. If I am not mistaken, it represents the Covenant of Grace; that wonderful Covenant wrought by the Father and the Son before time began, whose purposes to have and save an Elect people were lovingly planned out, and then brought to pass by our Lord Jesus Christ. In time and space He came into this world; lived a life of perfect righteousness, suffered on the cross, died; rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven. He did this for sinners like you and I.

When this redemption was accomplished by our Lord Jesus Christ; you and I would have a way to be conveyed through this world and brought into the next. What is amazing is that this Sedan-Chariot existed in Old Testament times, as well as New. God’s people have always, from the foundation of the world, been saved by New Covenant grace whether they lived in the times before Christ came, or whether they lived after He came. These verses are saying that we shall most certainly, as Christ’s Church, be brought to the day of our espousals, both as His Universal Church, and as individuals who have believed in Him for salvation unto eternal life. We shall be carried there, to the praise of the glory of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This; that we have read about in verses 6-11, is that which ought to gladden our hearts this afternoon; as we come to realize how great are the provisions and preparations made for our going through this world, and being brought out of it, to that glorious place and day when we shall be married to Him forever. What I want to do this afternoon is to tell you 1st of all, where you are being conveyed when you step into Solomon’s Sedan-Chariot. 2nd – What Solomon made this Sedan-Chariot from, and its look and fragrance. And thirdly, who is escorting you when you step into Solomon’s Sedan-Chariot. Let us rejoice in these truths of the security of every believer.

1st – I want to tell you where you are being conveyed when you step into Solomon’s Sedan-Chariot. (Verses 6 and 11)

“Who is this coming out of the Wilderness”, it says in verse 6. And verse 8 says, “Go forth, O daughters of Jerusalem, and see King Solomon with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day of the gladness of His heart.” The day in which you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is the day in which you become espoused to Christ. It is the day when you start coming out of the wilderness of sin and the wilderness of this world and start heading for heaven, the Celestial City. The true Christian is one who now sees this world as a City of Destruction. He has fled from the wrath to come, and he has set his feet upon the highway of holiness. He has stepped into the Sedan-Chariot which Christ has prepared for him and he will

now proceed to come out of the wilderness of this world. Christian, you are espoused to Christ, of whom King Solomon is a type, and you are on your way to heaven; where you will as a part of His Bride, see Him face to face, and be married to Him forever. Because of this, you are setting your mind on these wonderful things which will come to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. You will no longer run with the people of the world; people who love sin and unrighteousness.

Turn with me to Philippians Chapter 3, verse 17. “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk as you have us for a pattern.” “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.” “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 conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

There it is, dear Christian. When you placed your faith in Christ’s finished work on the cross, He gave you a new spirit; a spirit to leave the sinful, and time-wasting things of the world behind. You are coming out of the wilderness. When Christ laid down His life at the cross for your sins, O believer, the blood of the Everlasting Covenant was shed for you. In dying for you, He died that you might receive the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with and will be in you.” “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14: 17, 18)

When you believe in Jesus Christ you are crucified to the world, and the world is crucified to you. You do not boast in the things of the world which you have; you no longer love the world or the things of this world. Galatians Chapter 6, verse 14 says, “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.” That is what you are; a new creation. The old things have passed away; all things are new. The ceremonies of worldly Christianity not only do not appeal to you, but you oppose them as errors and heresies. You are coming out of the wilderness, like pillars of smoke. You are now a part of the true church which is the pillar and ground of the truth.

The strongest believers are like pillars of smoke in Christ’s Church because their affections smoke against sin and error and threaten to burst into holy fire of zeal against the worldliness, pride, and self-sufficiency of people who deny their need of Christ and His word. They are angry, but they do not sin. In Romans Chapter 12, verse 2, the Apostle Paul urges Christians to offer themselves up to God as a living sacrifice unto God; holy and acceptable and perfect, so that they might prove that God’s will is good for their lives. The smoke of the Old Testament sacrifices used to ascend upwards like pillars in the sight of Israel and God. So, when you turn away from worldliness, your pillar of smoke, your offering of yourself in service to God is seen and blessed by Him.

Pillars of smoke are also a picture of deliverance from the Lord’s judgments upon sin and worldliness, and His giving of the Holy Spirit. In Joel Chapter 2, verse 28, it says, “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” “And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke.” Verse 32 says, “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” “For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls.”

Coming out of the wilderness means that you have been delivered from this present evil age. This is why Christ died. Galatians 1: 3 – “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,

according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.” You are coming out of the wilderness, if you are a Christian.

2ndly – I want to tell you what Solomon made this Sedan-Chariot from, and its look and fragrance. (Verses 9 and 10, and also verse 6b)

“Of the wood of Lebanon Solomon the King made himself a palanquin; He made its pillars of silver, its support of gold, its seat of purple, its interior paved with love by the daughters of Jerusalem.” You are on the way to the greatest marriage feast of all time. And the reason is this; that the greatest person who has ever lived has taken you into spiritual relationship with Him. The Lord Jesus Christ is the greater than Solomon. He is the true Son of David. The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Bridegroom-King of His Church “made Himself a palanquin.” He made Himself an offering for sin. He worked out a righteousness on our behalf. He did it, “of the wood of Lebanon”. John Gill says that “Christ was conceived and born of the virgin Mary, who dwelt at Nazareth, a city of Galilee, at the foot of Mt. Lebanon; and the wood of that mountain, which was cedar, being of an incorruptible nature, may very well express the incorruption of Christ’s human nature; for though he died and was buried, yet he never saw corruption: moreover, this being very excellent and valuable wood, may denote the excellency and glory of Christ’s human nature.”

Christ took to Himself a body, and came in the likeness of sinful flesh. What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh. This glorious work He did on a wooden cross; perhaps from the wood of Lebanon. It is when believers place their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross that they are saved. Dear sinner, have you seen that you have been invited by Christ to come up into this palanquin of His finished work and be saved? Have you seen that He would have you ride in it all the way to heaven, never doubting that His work will be sufficient to convey you there? You are secure in Christ. His work is perfect and completely accepted and acceptable to the Father. It will be sufficient for you. The Father sees you in Christ; perfect and complete, and holy in the Beloved.

Do you in all sincerity see yourself, by faith, in this way? This was the intention of the Covenant of Grace and Redemption; for Christ to do all the work of righteousness, and to suffer all the punishment necessary to free you from sin and death and the condemnation of the law. O dear believer; never doubt the work of Christ on your behalf. You may doubt yourself all that you want to; but looking unto Jesus, and stepping into the palanquin of His finished work will always bring your soul to rest and peace. You are now in covenant with God, through Jesus Christ your Bridegroom-King. That is why this palanquin is also called a couch. You may rest your weary sin-sick soul upon all the work which Christ has done for you. Come unto Me, He says, and you shall find rest for your soul.

The pillars of this palanquin are of silver and its support of gold, and its interior is paved with love for you. There is an orderliness and a stateliness in the Covenant of Grace and Redemption. It has pillars of silver which hold it up. They are the oath and covenant of God; His precious and magnificent promises which he gives to all who will trust in Christ and enter into Him. Look at Proverbs Chapter 9, verse 1 - “Wisdom has built her house, she has her out her seven pillars; she has slaughtered her meat, she has mixed her wine, she has also furnished her table.” “She has sent out her maidens, she cries out from the highest places of the city, ‘Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!’” “As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ‘Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.’” “Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding.”

Wisdom is personified here, in a female person; I believe that this is the Bride of Christ, who is building her house; helping Christ build His church by preparing the food of the gospel and the meat and wine of the truths of grace, and furnishing her table every Lord’s Day in the services of worship and every day by spreading the truth far and wide. Sending out her maidens, the daughters of Jerusalem, she proclaims the gospel of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. She sets forth Christ crucified as true flesh which sinners should eat; and sets forth the wine of Christ’s

blood as that which they should drink if they are wise. This is the covering of purple. We are covered by the blood of Christ. This is the undercarriage and floor of gold; the blood and righteousness of Christ. Look at how it is all being paved with love for the daughters of Jerusalem it says in the King James. In the New King James it says, "by the daughters of Jerusalem." How well the Lord's Supper portrays these things! To know that we are loved by Christ, and that because of that love, we can love Him in return, and learn to walk by faith, and render unto Him a loving obedience to His commands.

God's wisdom which is preached by Christ's Church is saying to the daughters of Jerusalem; those who are looking on, who may or may not know Christ; "Get into the palanquin of the Covenant of Grace with us; we who have believed!" Become a partaker of the Divine Nature through Jesus Christ the Lord! Listen to the Apostle Peter in 2nd Peter 1, verse 2: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

When you do get into the palanquin you will smell "the myrrh and frankincense and all the powders of the Merchant." The merchant-man who brought these spices and powders is Christ Himself whose sufferings and righteousness mediate between ourselves and God the Father. He was raised from the dead by the Father and crowned with glory and honor so that the sweet-smelling savor of His life is upon your conveyance through this world, and all the way to heaven. When you have been in this palanquin for only a short time, you will find that the sweet smell of Christ will be upon your life. You will as it says in Ephesians 5, verse 2, be able to "walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor."

And then 3rdly – Let us look together at who is escorting you when you step into Solomon's Sedan-Chariot. (Verses 7 and 8)

"Behold it is Solomon's couch (his bed), with sixty valiant men around it, of the valiant of Israel." "They all hold swords, being expert in war." "Every man has his sword on his thigh because of fear in the night." A person could do a whole exposition on these verses alone. But let us understand that this conveyance which represents the Covenant of Grace and Christ's finished work as the main part of it, requires guarding by the ministers of Christ's Church, and every valiant man in the Israel of God. Those who are valiant for truth hold the sword of the Spirit in their hands, and they know how to wield it. They will defend the doctrines of God's grace and His sovereignty in salvation. They will defend the gospel of God's Electing love, and Christ's active and passive obedience to God's law. They will defend the atonement and particular redemption. They will also help all sincere believers defend themselves from "fear in the night".

Those who are valiant for truth will wield the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, in such a way that they will promote the spiritual safety and assurance of those who are trusting in Christ to be saved. Their job is not to promote fear and doubt; their job is to guard the truth, and wield truth in such a way that fears and doubts are addressed and cut down in the name of the Lord. Sometimes Satan comes to attack the believer's faith. And He will usually try to make a sincere believer believe that because of their sins of infirmity; their spiritual weaknesses, that they are not accepted by God. This fear must be addressed and cut down. The way that the valiant man in Israel will address this is with the promises of the Word of God.

Psalms 92, verse 1 says, "He who 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 Him I will trust.'" "Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence." "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler." "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the

pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.” “A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.” “Only with your eyes shall you look, (looking out from the windows of the palanquin), and see the reward of the wicked.” “Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your tent.” O how great it is to be seated with Christ in the heavenly places and to ride in His Sedan-Chariot all the way to heaven!