

**Song of Solomon 1: 9; "My Filly among Pharaoh's Chariots",  
Sermon # 11 in the series - "I am My Beloved's", Delivered by Pastor  
Paul Rendall on August 16th, 2009, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

The Book of Song of Solomon is spiritual picture book of the love relationship between the Bridegroom who is Christ and the Bride who is His Church. So far in this first chapter we have seen that she has been pictured as a Bride, and as a Bride she has compared herself to the tents of Kedar and the curtains of Solomon in her state as a believer in Christ. She was espoused to Christ and was receiving all the benefits of His grace which were transforming her life. She was black in herself because of her remaining sin and because of the trials which came into her life as a follower of Christ, but she was beautiful because of the grace of Christ which adorned her life. In verse 6b she is pictured as a worker in the vineyards, but her mother's sons were angry with her. They believed that she had not kept her own vineyard, and even she herself was not satisfied with her work in this regard. She was not downcast or discouraged. She did not want other people interested in following her husband King, to think that the Christian life was not the best life. She simply wanted them to understand that she believed that His grace and favor were sufficient to help her through all the trials of misunderstanding and persecution that would come to her. She wanted them to know that His love for her was equal to whatever sufferings that she experienced at the hands of those who were angry with her for not having kept her own vineyard. She is pictured as a Shepherdess desiring to feed her flock by the shepherd's tents at noon in the place where Christ makes it to rest. She has been told by the great Shepherd of the Sheep that if she cannot find this place of rest that she would "follow in the footsteps of the flock; that she would remember the examples of faith and perseverance of the saints that had gone before her and follow their example as they had tried to follow Christ. He now makes a comparison which we might think at first sight, to be quite rude, but which as we examine it further, we will find His comparison to be a high commendation of her value to Himself and of His love to her. He compares her to His filly among Pharaoh's chariots. The American Standard of 1901 states it this way: "I have compared thee, O my love, to a steed in Pharaoh's chariots. In the margin it says, "to the steeds". The King James says, "I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots." And so, this afternoon, we want to open up this comparison by thinking first about the Church of Jesus Christ as being compared to a steed which pulls his chariot when He goes forth to fight His spiritual battles. And secondly, we will examine several ways in which the Church is like a royal horse. Let's see if we can together learn more about how our Lord Jesus Christ views His Church.

**1st of all - Let's think about the Church of our Lord Jesus as a horse which pulls the chariot upon which He rides to spiritual victory.** (Verse

9)

"I have compared you, my love, to my filly among Pharaoh's chariots." The best horses in the world were always obtained in Egypt in the days when this book was written. You can see this if you turn with me to 2 Chronicles 1, verse 16. "And Solomon had horses, imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price." "They also acquired and imported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; thus, through their agents they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria." In other words, they got into the retail business in regard to chariots and horses. But God Himself did not approve of Solomon multiplying horses as you will see if you turn over to Deuteronomy 17, verse 14. "When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you, whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother." "But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'" Now you can see that this was a commandment of God's law which Solomon, as king, was bound to obey, and yet he did not do so. Let's continue on a few verses. Verse 17 says, "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself." Now all of these things Solomon did. And his heart was turned away from God for some time. And so we must conclude that this passage in Song of Solomon is not talking about Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter and all the horses that he multiplied for himself. This is not something that we can draw deep and meaningful spiritual lessons from, in any sense. It must be speaking spiritually in figurative language about the Lord Jesus Christ who is comparing His love, His Church, to His filly among Pharaoh's chariots - in this sense. Everyone that the Lord Jesus Christ saves is drawn from the World, and purchased out of the World in their conversion. Egypt is often used in Scripture figuratively to represent the world. Christ, the King and heavenly Bridegroom has purchased the Church with His precious blood from this Egypt; He has redeemed her from the World, and service to its earthly kings and kingdoms, to become His special horse, to draw the chariot of the gospel around the world. Christ rides in this chariot to victory in not only bringing the gospel to millions and billions of people, but through His people he shows forth the beauty and power and strength of His grace through this creature the horse which represents His Church. "I have compared you, my love, to my filly among Pharaoh's chariots." The Filly is a mare colt. And the Church in this sense was to be considered as young in the Old Testament. They were "under tutors and guardians until the time appointed by the father;" that is, to send Christ into the World. But when Christ came, and the New Covenant came with His giving of His life's blood, the Church came to be completely under His immediate care through the power of the Holy Spirit, in each and every believer's life. And the Church's

boast is in the cross of Jesus Christ, "by whom the world has been crucified to each believer, and each believer to the world." Now the Church has become Christ's war horse drawing His chariot of the gospel.

You can see this prophesied in Zechariah Chapter 10, verse 1, if you will turn there with me. "Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain." "The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone." "For the idols speak delusion, the diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain." "Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; they are in trouble because there is no shepherd." "My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the goatherds." (that is the leaders, as it is translated in the margin.) "For the Lord of hosts will visit His flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as His royal horse in the battle." "From him comes the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together." " "They shall be like mighty men, who tread down their enemies in the mire of streets in the battle." "They shall fight because the Lord is with them." "And the riders on horses shall be put to shame." To understand this we need to remember what it says in Psalm 20, verse 7. "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." "They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright." What this is saying is that unbelieving people trust in their military might; they trust in the strength of their chariots and power of their horses to prevail over others. But the Christian trusts in the name of the Lord their God and in the truth of the word of God; knowing that this is the way that Christ shall prevail over all men, believing and unbelieving. It is stated well in Psalm 44: 4. "You are My King, O God; command victories for Jacob." "Through You we will push down our enemies; through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us." "For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me." "But You have saved us from our enemies, and have put to shame those who hated us." "In God we boast all day long and praise Your name forever." That is how faith in God prevailed in Old Testament times, over the enemies of Israel. But in the New Testament times, our warfare as the Church is not against flesh and blood. It is "against the principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. We, as the Church of Jesus Christ are His spiritual war horse. We are Christ's royal horse which He takes great pleasure in using to draw His chariot of truth. Do you remember the wording of Psalm 45, verse 3 in this regard? "Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty." "And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness..." Who is the Mighty One, the Lord Jesus Christ, riding on? He is riding with His royal horse; His friend the Church, which is pulling His chariot; for the cause of truth, and meekness, and righteousness are only seen during this Church age, being displayed and declared by His Church. This is how His cause and kingdom go forward. And this is how they triumph.

Turn with me to Revelation 19, verse 11. Some people believe that these verses are speaking of the return of our Lord in His literal, physical, and visible 2nd Coming. But in the context it is speaking of the fall of the Antichristian powers of false Babylon. The Lord and His Church are pictured going to the last triumphant battle with the Antichristian beast and the false prophet in this way. "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse." "And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and make war." "His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns." "He had a name written that no one knew except Himself." "He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God." "And the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses." In other words, this is that same "company of horses" which the Bridegroom compared the Bride to, in our verse from Song of Solomon. The Lord is riding upon His steed, His Filly, the Church, and with His "company of horses", who are all His saints. The picture is just as it should be; one church; but one church composed of many members. And both descriptions are of a horse or a company of horses. "Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the Nations." The sharp sword is the truth of His word being preached and declared by His Church in the power and strength of His Spirit. "And He Himself shall rule them with a rod of iron." The Antichristian powers will be forced to give way before the sovereign power of Christ who is working both immediately in His own providential ordering of events both political and spiritual. And He will be working also in and through His Church to bring about the victory of His cause and the advent of the Millennium when the gospel shall indeed conquer among the nations of the world. And this leads us to our second point this afternoon.

**2ndly - I would like us to examine several ways in which the Church is like a royal horse.**

Turn with me to the book of Job Chapter 39, verse 19. We have already seen that the Church is considered very beautiful by Christ. Indeed when she thinks herself most dark and black; He sees her as beautiful. She is seen by Him as His Filly among Pharaoh's chariots. She is in the World, but she is not of the World. Here we see, how it is God who gives the horse its strength. "Have you given the horse strength?", God says to Job. "Have you clothed his neck with thunder?" "Can you frighten him like a locust?" "His majestic snorting strikes terror." "He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; He gallops in to the clash of arms." "He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; nor does he turn back from the sword." "The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and javelin." "He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded." "At the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Aha!'" "He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of captains and shouting." Here we see that it is God who gives the horse its strength. He gives it its boldness and braveness; He gives it its passion and lively feelings to want to go to battle. And it will not be going beyond what is written to say that it is God, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who gives the Christian these same abilities at the right time. It is through the grace of the Lord Jesus that out of weakness, we are made strong. We are encouraged by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6: 10, and even commanded there, to "be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might." We are told by that intrepid Apostle in 2 Timothy Chapter 2, verse 3, that Christian pastors are "soldiers who must learn to endure hardship"; that they are engaged in a warfare against the enemies of truth. And that battle can only be won by each Christian "fighting the good fight of faith" as he says in 1 Timothy 6: 11. In this sense, the Christian looks to God to be like the horse in this passage in Job 39. He hastens to the battle at His Master's command. He "pursues righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness." He resists the Devil by taking up and using the sword of the Spirit; by taking up and putting on the breastplate of righteousness, and the belt of truth, and holding up the shield of faith. He runs to the line of battle, as David did when facing Goliath. He keeps the honor of God in the forefront of his thoughts.

You see; God acts in His providence to arrange the circumstances of the spiritual battles that we will fight. And it is then at His command that we go forth to fight and to win them. Turn with me to Micah Chapter 4, verse 11 and you will see this. Speaking here of Israel being taken away to captivity in Babylon, the Lord says through the prophet something that is quite amazing. She had come into captivity because her sin had made her morally and spiritually weak. But now God is going to come to her rescue. "Now also many nations have gathered against you, who say, 'Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.'" "But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord, nor do they understand His counsel; for He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor." "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hooves bronze; you shall beat in pieces many people; I will consecrate their gain to the Lord, and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth." Again the language of a horse going to trample their enemies. This is what the Church of Jesus Christ is called to do in her spiritual battles. It is not that we are commanded to kill people as they were commanded to do in the Old Testament. No, instead we are called to do battle with Satan's strategies and the false doctrines and practices put forth by men. We are called to do battle with the World, our flesh, and the Devil, and to prevail.

When the book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John, and the time period of the opening of the 1st of the seven seals was being described; it is described in this way. "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, 'Come and see.'" "And I looked, and behold a white horse." "He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and the conquer." Surely this is Christ going forth with His Church to spread the gospel throughout the Roman Empire and to the ends of the earth, in that day. But after that we find a red horse going out after it and a black horse after that one. And these were pictures of martyrs and trials and afflictions and difficulties that came to the saints

of that day. And after that, there was a pale horse with the name of death on him. It doesn't sound like the Church was very victorious. But do you not remember the words of Paul in Romans Chapter 8, verse 35? "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" "Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" "As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long.'" "We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." You see the Bridegroom began this verse, here in Song of Solomon Chapter 1, verse 9, by saying, "I have compared you, my love, to my Filly among Pharaoh's Chariots." It is by His love that we conquer. His grace that has not given us a spirit of timidity or fear. He has given us a spirit of power, and love, and a sound mind. He sees us as a well-trained, beautiful horse; the one whom He has Himself groomed and fed and trained and led into battle. Let us go forth to do His bidding and to fight His battles for what is true and what is right. We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.