

“The Rose of Sharon”

Song of Solomon 2:1

The Lord Jesus Christ is the main character of the Bible. He is found in all 66 books. One of the names of Christ is *“The Word of God.”*

- Jesus is the living Word—The Bible is the written word.
 - Jesus is the incarnate word—The Bible is the inspired Word.
 - The Bible is God’s Word on *paper*—Jesus is God’s Word in *person*.
 - The Bible is God’s Word in ink—Jesus is God’s Word in blood.
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- The O.T. is the N.T. *concealed* / The N.T. is the O.T. *revealed*.
 - The message of the O.T. is “somebody’s comin’”. The N.T. conveys two messages: “Somebody has come” and “He’s coming again!”
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There are many types of the Lord Jesus Christ in the O.T.—Noah’s Ark... The Passover lamb... Manna from heaven... The brazen serpent lifted up.

Christ is also pictured as different plants. Isaiah 53:2 says of the Lord Jesus Christ: *“He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground...”* This *“root out of a dry ground”* would become *“the branch of the Lord beautiful and glorious”* (Isa. 4:2). In John 15, Jesus said He was *“the true VINE.”*

Jesus is likened to an **apple tree** in 2:3—*“The apple tree among the trees of the wood.”* There were many wild trees in the forest. Some provide shade or shelter. But when one is hungry or thirsty he must look elsewhere. In the midst the forest he finds an apple tree—A tree that is uncommon in Bible lands—A tree different from the rest—An exceptional tree provides all one needs—Shade, shelter, and *“sweet”* to the taste (vs. 3, 5).

There are all kinds of people and provisions in the world. But none can refresh or strengthen the spirit like Jesus. Jesus is *“the apple tree among the trees of the wood [world]”* who alone can satisfy the hunger and thirst of man’s soul.

➡ In our text, Jesus is pictured as two kinds of flowers. (1) *“The rose of Sharon.”* (2) *“The lily of the valleys”* [tonight’s sermon].

➡ The word “*rose*” occurs only one other time in the Bible—Isaiah 35:1-2—“...*the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly... the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of ...Sharon.*” This is a prophecy relating to the Kingdom. The “*desert*” will “*blossom as THE ROSE*” because “*the rose of Sharon*” will restore the Promised Land to its original condition described in Deuteronomy 11:9-12.

➡ **How do we know the text is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ?**

1. The **STATEMENT that is made**—“*I AM*” (all capitalized—Why? Because He is a *capitalized* God!). He is the great “*I AM...*”

God told Moses His name is “*I AM THAT I AM.*” There has never been a time when He was not God. He is God right now and He will always be God. Jesus said, “*Before Abraham was, I AM!*”

- The statement “*I am*” is mentioned in reference to God about 350 times in the Bible (246 in the O.T. / 104 in the N.T.)
- The first reference to “*I am*” in the Bible is Genesis 15:1 when God told Abraham, “*I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*” The last reference of “*I am*” is Revelation 22:16 when Jesus said, “*I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*”

2. The **SYMBOL that is manifested**—“*The Rose of Sharon.*”

I thought sending a dozen roses on Valentine’s Day was a symbol of saying, “I love you.” However, I recently found out that sending roses was actually a way of saying, “I’m sorry.” If you want to say “I love you,” you send chocolates. What’s a man to do? A wise man will do BOTH!

But the truth is, either way, both roses and chocolate will never communicate unconditional love—Roses fade and chocolate melts.

➡ **Four ways “*the rose of Sharon*” pictures the Lord Jesus Christ:**

I. His SUPREMACY—

- A. “*THE rose*”—not “a rose.” Ezekiel 34:29—“*And I will raise up from them a plant of renown...*”

One writer wrote: "If a king were set over flowers, it would be the rose that would reign over them, being the ornament of the earth, the splendor of plants, the eye of flowers, and the beauty of the field."

- B. Christ's glory and beauty is His alone. Nothing compares (5:10; Ps. 45:2). He cannot be *DUPLICATED*—He can only be *RADIATED*.
- Daffodils are pretty... Petunias are pretty... Daisies are pretty... Hydrangeas are pretty. But, there is nothing quite as pretty as a rose.
 - Jesus is the loveliest of the lovely—He is the fairest of ten thousand. There is not a friend like the lowly Jesus!
 - He is better than the best... higher than the highest... and greater than the greatest.
 - Hebrews tells us He is **better** than the angels... **better** than Moses... **better** than Aaron... He is the Mediator of a **better** covenant... His blood speaks **better** things than that of Abel... that we might obtain a **better** resurrection and go to a **better** place!

II. His STEM.

- A. A rose stem is dry and ugly. How could anything beautiful come out of that? Because the beauty is not in the root system.
- Rev. 22:16—*"I am the root, and the offspring of David."*
 - Jesus came from a root system with murderers, harlots in it.
- B. Christ's Divine nature was concealed until He was manifest in the flesh.

III. His SWEETNESS—It is the sweetest of all flowers. It's fragrance is very sweet.

➡ Jesus is not just...

- Saving Jesus
- Strong Jesus
- Sovereign Jesus
- Sanctifying Jesus

- Sho-nuff Jesus
 - He is also SWEET Jesus.
- A. Burnt offerings for sin were a “*sweet smelling savor*” to God.
- Eph. 5:2—*Christ...hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a SWEETsmelling savour.*
 - “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, SWEETEST Name I Know!”
 - “’Tis SO SWEET to Trust In Jesus...”
- B. The longer a person stayed in the plain of Sharon, the stronger the fragrance of the roses would remain on them. People should be able to tell we’ve spent time with the Rose of Sharon (Acts 4:13).
- One of the many uses of rosewater is it can be used as a room freshener.

IV. His SPECIFICS—This was a specific rose—“*The rose of SHARON.*”

- ➡ The Valley of Sharon lies in the coastal plain of Israel, extending from Caesarea to Jaffa. In the valley of Sharon grew some of the most beautiful wild roses in all of the world.

“*The rose of Sharon*” is not the same as roses you send on Valentine’s Day. “*The rose of Sharon*” is a small flower that covers the landscape in the plain of Sharon—Similar to the “rock roses” around the church (see image).

➡ **What made “*the rose of Sharon*” special over other roses?**

- A. They were **FREE**. They were profuse and anybody could go to the plain of Sharon and help themselves. They were not hard to obtain. All one would have to do is stoop down to pick one.
- B. They were **PLANTED BY GOD**. No man planted the roses of Sharon. Christ was born of no man—He was the offspring of a virgin’s womb.
- C. They were often **TRAMPLED BY MAN**. Many wars have been fought in this region, yet the Roses of Sharon keep growing.
- How often the world has tried to stomp out the Lord Jesus Christ, but He lives on!

- D. There were **NO THORNS** on the rose of Sharon. Thorns are the result of sin. Jesus is sinless!
- E. The rose of Sharon is **BEAUTIFUL** in it's simplicity. Has there ever been a more beautiful person walk on the face of earth than Jesus?

SUMMATION:

1. Jesus is the **BEAUTIFUL** Rose of Sharon.
 - The rose of Sharon was what made the plain of Sharon beautiful. Roses can turn a dreary room into a cheery room.
 - Anything beautiful in our lives we owe to Christ. (#70 in Silver book—*"Something Beautiful"*).
2. Jesus is the **BROKEN** Rose of Sharon (Crucifixion). *"The Broken Rose"* by Squire Parsons:

Words cannot describe its beauty, as upon the stem it grows
 Matchless in its glory, the tender little rose
 But, when its petals are broken, its greatest beauty it shows
 Far more sweeter the fragrance of the broken Rose

CHORUS: The most beautiful Rose was broken one day.
 Nailed to a tree on a hill far away.
 Forsaken by His friends, bruised by His foes
 How sweet is the fragrance of heaven's sweet Rose.

3. Jesus is the **BLOOMING** Rose of Sharon (Resurrection)

They laid heaven's Rose in a borrowed tomb
 But on the third day, that Rose again did bloom
 Now to the heights of heaven, down to the deepest hell
 The fragrance of heaven's Rose continually dwells.

REPEAT CHORUS

"I AM the Rose of Sharon"— Is He *"the rose of Sharon"* to you?