



Apple As a Restorative; Occupation with Christ as Maximum PSD; Darby's Bible; Promise of Right Person Provides Patience; Abstinence equals Perfect Sex

13. The Shulammite does not need an aphrodisiac! Her right man is in her soul and while apart she has recall of him and her experiences with him.
14. However, the verbal assaults by Solomon have brought so much pressure on the Shulammite that she almost faints and is not in need of an aphrodisiac but rather a restorative.
15. Today such a compound would be ammonium carbonate mixed with perfume and generally referred to as smelling salts. The ancient world did not have such a thing available but they did have an alternative which is brought out in the definition of the word for apple:

תפוח *tappuah* -

“Apple.” Etymology of this word is important:

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1980), 586:

Tappuah. Apple. The ideas of “breathe” and “exhale an odor” are related. The by-form [parallel or stem] *puah* means both “blow” (of wind) and “exhale a pleasant odor, be fragrant.”

Tenney, Merrill C. (gen. ed.). *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), 229:

Apple, Apple Tree (*Apple*, S of Sol 2:5 and 7:8; *Apple tree*, S of Sol 2:3, 8:5). The fruit was sweet, attractive, had pleasing fragrance, was gold in color, had silvery leaves, while its juice had rejuvenating properties.

Orr, James (gen. ed.). *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 209:

Apple, Apple-Tree (תפוח *tappuah*). In all the (Song of Solomon) references the true apple, *Pyrus malus*, suits the conditions satisfactorily. The apple tree affords good shade, the fruit is sweet, the perfume is a very special favorite with the people of the East. Sick persons in Palestine delight to hold an apple in their hands, simply for the smell.

16. Thus the smell of apples was considered refreshing and pleasant as its aroma was inhaled and exhaled. Smelling salts arouse consciousness because of the release of ammonia gas that irritates the membranes of the nose and lungs and thereby trigger an inhalation reflex, i.e., it causes the muscles that control breathing to work faster.
17. We will see the apple serve as a restorative for her in verse 5. Here in verse 3 the Shepherd is the apple tree and the Shulammite is the apple. Right tree-right fruit.
18. Of all the men of Israel she has identified her beloved as the right one for her. Not Solomon. She is the apple of this man's tree and again we see her occupation with him sustaining her under pressure.
19. The Shepherd's presence in her soul continues to be a source of protection for her while Solomon continues his efforts to lure her into his harem.
20. We also see the principle of occupation with Christ. When in a pressure situation the believer must have the presence of mind to remain occupied with Christ. The events that God allows to confront us in our life's course will cause us to faint if we do not have doctrine available and ready for application.
21. A wonderful illustration of this was included in this month's newsletter (October 2005) from George Mueller, our missionary to Germany. The enclosure is a copy of an inscription found in the Bible of John Nelson Darby (1800-1882). Darby was responsible for codifying premillennial-dispensational theology following the Reformation, doctrines that had been lost due to allegorical hermeneutics during the ascendancy of the Catholic Church.



22. The inscription is not titled by Darby and begins with a paraphrase of:

1 Kings 12:24 - "... it is because of Me that this happened."

The disappointments of this life are in reality Proof of My Love. I have today a message for you, My child; I will tell you this, so that the mounting storm clouds have a golden edge and the thorns, on which you have to step, lose their sting. The message is encapsulated in a tiny sentence, but let it sink into the depths of your hearts! May it be a cushion on which your tired head can rest! It is: "Because of Me this happened."

Have you never realized that every event in your life also becomes Mine? "He who touches you, touches the apple of My eye" (Zechariah 2:8). Because you are precious and valuable in My eyes, I have a special interest in your growing up. If you face temptation and enemies confront you, know this: "It is because of Me, that this happened." I am the God of circumstances. It is no accident that you are in the place where you are. Rather, I have chosen this place for you.

Did you not ask for humility? You see, I have placed you where you can learn this lesson. Through people and things in your environment My will becomes effective. Do you have money problems? Are you not able to manage with what you have? "Because of Me this happened." It is I who owns the heavens and the earth. I want you to ask all things from Me and be totally dependent on Me. My wealth is without boundaries (Philippians 4:19). Take Me by My word, so that it must not be said of you, that you did not trust your God in this matter.

Are you experiencing the darkness of grieving? "Because of Me this happened." I, Jesus, know what that means. I am "the Man of sorrows acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). I took away all human crutches, so that you would turn to Me and find eternal comfort (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

Have certain friends disappointed you? Maybe even one, in whom you confided? "Because of Me this happened." I permitted this disappointment, so that you may learn, that I, Jesus, am your best Friend. I support you and fight for you. I want to be your trusted Friend.

Did someone create a public lie about you? Do not pay attention and seek closer fellowship with Me, under My wings, far away from verbal fights. When you suffer injustice, I will "let your righteousness appear as light and your right shall be as the noon" (Psalm 37:6).

Have your plans been destroyed? Are you depressed and disappointed? "It is because of Me that this thing happened." Did you make plans and ask Me to bless them? It is I Who makes plans for you. "This matter is too difficult for you, you cannot execute it by yourself" (Exodus 18:18). You are only a tool used by Me carrying out My plan.

Did you fervently wish to do something great for Me? And now you find yourself lying on a sickbed? "It is because of Me that this happened." It was impossible for Me to get your attention while you poured yourself out in never ceasing action. I still want to teach you some of my deepest lessons. Only he who has learned to wait patiently can serve Me. My best coworkers are often they who cannot join in active service, but learned to use the weapon of prayer.

Have you suddenly been called upon to do a difficult task of great responsibility? Walk ahead courageously, count on Me. I placed you in this responsible position, that you may know, that "Jehovah, your God, will bless you in everything you do" (Deuteronomy 15:18).

Today I give into your hand a vessel of holy oil. Make free use of it, My child, so that you in every circumstance of your life's path will pour this oil of trust in Me and comfort from Me on every word which causes you pain, every circumstance which demands your patience, every situation which reveals your weakness. Do not forget, your difficult times are God's opportunities. The sting will diminish according to the measure in which you recognize Me in all things. "Concentrate your heart on all words, which I declare to you today ... it is your life" (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

23. I have no idea if this is authentic. So many of the articles sent around today are hoaxes. Nevertheless these comments, allegedly credited to John Darby, are biblically sound and address the various challenges that believers face in this life.
24. The Shulammite is presently enduring her testing. The Song of Solomon presents with historical accuracy her consistent dependence upon the presence in her soul of her Shepherd Lover which serves as her source of protection.



25. The book's accounts serve as an illustration of occupation with Christ which requires that on every difficult occasion or challenge we will depend upon His presence in our souls to preserve us as we apply His Word.
26. The issue of passions and desires are circumstances that young people face as they begin to deal with the emotions of sexuality. The problem-solving devices for handling these emotions are found in the Word of God.
27. There is no question that you are going to get ideas, that you are going to be challenged, tempted, and even lured as Solomon lures the Shulammitte.
28. But remember this: you are promised a right person by the authority of the Word of God. He selected your partner for life in eternity past and will present that person in His perfect timing.
29. Each young man is an apple tree and there is a certain young woman who will be assigned to him as his very own apple.
30. Confidence in this and other doctrines that we have discussed will sustain you and enable you to endure until that day arrives.
31. And when it does the two of you will be able to begin a life of phenomenal spiritual, soulful, and sexual rapport that is not contaminated by memories of bad decisions, lack of capacity due to a distorted frame of reference, and the ramifications of sexually transmitted diseases.
32. I would stress that if you have passions and desires—and you do—then when the day comes for them to be expressed within the divine institution of marriage there should be nothing in your soul's memory center that would in any way cause you to have any restraint, misgivings, or shame.
33. Sex is designed by God to be a ritual that commemorates the reality of soul rapport. As a matter of fact, marital sex is the only ritual that is mandated for all dispensations and like any other ritual it is to be carried out under the filling of the Holy Spirit.
34. We have discussed many reasons why a long engagement is necessary but we can now add another: during the engagement period which should last around a year, the man and woman go through mental attitude transformations away from control and restraint of their passions and desires over to complete freedom and unrestraint.
35. This is something that is done privately in anticipation of the honeymoon and is not the subject of discussion on Internet Chat Rooms, coffee klatches, and especially sex-ed classes.
36. Once marriage occurs they are mentally ready to assume the status quo that was enjoyed by Adam and Eve in Eden before the fall:

Genesis 2:24 - A man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall have sexual relations face-to-face with his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

v. 25 - And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.