

Message Nine

A Land of Pomegranates

JL Hymns: 841, 820

Scripture Reading: Deut. 8:8; Exo. 28:33-34; 1 Kings 7:18-20;
S. S. 4:3b, 13a; 2 Pet. 1:3-8

- Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Exo 28:33 And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:
- Exo 28:34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.
- 1 Kings 7:18 So he made the pillars; and there were two rows of pomegranates around the one network, to cover the capitals that were at the top of the pomegranates. And he did the same for the second capital.
- 1 Kings 7:19 And the capitals that were at the top of the pillars in the portico were of lily work, four cubits in diameter.
- 1 Kings 7:20 So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals.
- S. S. 4:3b ... Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil.
- S. S. 4:13a Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; ...
- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- 2 Pet 1:5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;
- 2 Pet 1:6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;
- 2 Pet 1:7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.
- 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. In the Bible pomegranates signify the fullness of life, the abundance and beauty of life, and the expression of the riches of life—Deut. 8:8; Exo. 28:33-34; 1 Kings 7:18-20; S. S. 4:3b, 13a:

- Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Exo 28:33 And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:
- Exo 28:34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.
- 1 Kings 7:18 So he made the pillars; and there were two rows of pomegranates around the one network, to cover the capitals that were at the top of the pomegranates. And he did the same for the second capital.
- 1 Kings 7:19 And the capitals that were at the top of the pillars in the portico were of lily work, four cubits in diameter.
- 1 Kings 7:20 So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals.
- S. S. 4:3b ...Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil.
- S. S. 4:13a Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; ...
- A. A ripe pomegranate with its seeds gives the impression of the fullness of life and of the abundance and beauty of life.
- B. If we experience and enjoy Christ as wheat, barley, the vine, and the fig tree, the abundance of the life of Christ will be with us, and the beauty of Christ will be about us; this is the experience of Christ as the pomegranate.

- C. If we grow in life to maturity, we will become pomegranates—Col. 2:19; 1:28:
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
1. The more we are willing to be ruled and restricted by the Lord Jesus out of our love for Him, the more we will grow in life—vv. 13, 28.

Col 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
 2. If we see the vision of the all-inclusiveness and extensiveness of Christ, we will concentrate our whole being on this Christ, and He will fill and saturate us—v. 12; 2:9, 16-17; 3:10-11:

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

 - a. Our being will be occupied with the vast, unsearchably rich, extensive Christ—Eph. 3:18.

Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
 - b. To us to live will be the Christ who takes possession of us and fills and occupies us with Himself—Phil. 1:20-21a; Eph. 3:17a.

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 3. To be full-grown in Christ is to be filled, saturated, and permeated with Christ—Col. 1:28:

Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

 - a. This is to have every part of our being occupied with Christ—Eph. 3:17a; Gal. 4:19.

Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
 - b. This is the growth in life and the maturity in life, the issue of experiencing the Christ revealed in Colossians—2:9, 19; 3:4, 10-11.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

II. Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church—Exo. 28:33-34:

Exo 28:33 And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:

Exo 28:34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.

- A. The church should be full of life in her humanity; this is the significance of pomegranates made of linen.
- B. The church has humanity for the expression of the fullness of life and also divinity for the sounding of the golden bells:
 - 1. The fullness of life is expressed in the church's humanity, but the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity (the golden bells).
 - 2. We first have the expression of the fullness of life and then the sounding of the golden bells, that is, the speaking from the divinity of the church.
 - 3. The beauty of life expressed in our humanity and the divine sounding from the golden bells are signs of a proper church life.

III. The two hundred pomegranates surrounding the capitals at the top of the pillars in the temple signify the expression of the riches of life—1 Kings 7:18-20; 2 Chron. 3:15-16; Jer. 52:22-23:

1 Kings 7:18 So he made the pillars; and there were two rows of pomegranates around the one network, to cover the capitals that were at the top of the pomegranates. And he did the same for the second capital.

1 Kings 7:19 And the capitals that were at the top of the pillars in the portico were of lily work, four cubits in diameter.

1 Kings 7:20 So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals.

2 Chron 3:15 And at the front of the house he made two pillars, thirty-five cubits high; and the capital that was on the top of each was five cubits high.

2 Chron 3:16 And he made chains in the innermost sanctuary and set them on the tops of the pillars, and he made one hundred pomegranates and put them on the chains.

Jer 52:22 And a bronze capital was upon it; and the height of each capital was five cubits; and the network and pomegranates were upon the capital all around, all of bronze; and the second pillar and the pomegranates were like these.

Jer 52:23 And there were ninety-six pomegranates toward the open air; all the pomegranates on the network were a hundred all around.

- A. Those who judge themselves (bronze) and regard themselves as nothing will be able to bear responsibility in full in the midst of an intermixed and complicated situation (nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work) because they live not by themselves but by faith in God (lily work); thus, they express the riches of life two hundredfold (pomegranates)—1 Kings 7:15-22.

1 Kings 7:15 And he formed the two bronze pillars; eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and a line of twelve cubits encompassed each pillar.

1 Kings 7:16 And he made two capitals of molten bronze to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the second capital was five cubits.

1 Kings 7:17 There were nets of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals that were at the top of the pillars, seven for the one capital, and seven for the second capital.

1 Kings 7:18 So he made the pillars; and there were two rows of pomegranates around the one network, to cover the capitals that were at the top of the pomegranates. And he did the same for the second capital.

1 Kings 7:19 And the capitals that were at the top of the pillars in the portico were of lily work, four cubits in diameter.

- 1 Kings 7:20 So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals.
- 1 Kings 7:21 And he erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. When he erected the right pillar, he called its name Jachin; and when he erected the left pillar, he called its name Boaz.
- 1 Kings 7:22 And at the top of the pillars was lily work. And the work on the pillars was completed.
- B. Out of every one hundred pomegranates, ninety-six were exposed to the open air, and four were covered—Jer. 52:22-23:
- Jer 52:22 And a bronze capital was upon it; and the height of each capital was five cubits; and the network and pomegranates were upon the capital all around, all of bronze; and the second pillar and the pomegranates were like these.
- Jer 52:23 And there were ninety-six pomegranates toward the open air; all the pomegranates on the network were a hundred all around.
1. The expression of the riches of life is eternally complete, in the freshness of resurrection, and in the Spirit.
 2. The fact that four of every one hundred pomegranates were hidden indicates that our natural being, our natural life, and our self must be concealed.
 3. When our natural being disappears, we have the ninety-six pomegranates, the rich expression of the life of Christ in the reality of the spiritual air.

IV. According to Song of Songs, pomegranates have a spiritual significance in the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ—4:3b, 13a; 6:7, 11; 7:12; 8:2b:

- S. S. 4:3b ... Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil.
- S. S. 4:13a Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; ...
- S. S. 6:7 Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil.
- S. S. 6:11 I went down to the orchard of nuts / To see the freshness of the valley, / To see whether the vine had budded, / Whether the pomegranates were in bloom.
- S. S. 7:12 Let us rise up early for the vineyards; / Let us see if the vine has budded, / If the blossom is open, / If the pomegranates are in bloom; / There I will give you my love.
- S. S. 8:2b ... I would make you drink spiced wine / From the juice of my pomegranate.
- A. "Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil"—4:3b; 6:7.
- B. "I went down to the orchard of nuts / To see the freshness of the valley, / To see whether the vine had budded, / Whether the pomegranates were in bloom"— v. 11.
- C. "Let us rise up early for the vineyards; / Let us see if the vine has budded, / If the blossom is open, / If the pomegranates are in bloom; / There I will give you my love"—7:12.
- D. "I would make you drink spiced wine / From the juice of my pomegranate"— 8:2b.
- E. "Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit"—4:13a:
1. In Christ's enjoyment of His lover, she is an enclosed garden that grows all kinds of plants in different colors as different expressions of the inner life and in a variety of fragrances as the rich expression of the mature life— vv. 13-14.

S. S. 4:13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; / Henna with spikenard,

S. S. 4:14 Spikenard and saffron; / Calamus and cinnamon, / With all the trees of frankincense; / Myrrh and aloes, / With all the chief spices.
 2. This becomes the lover's beauty to the Lord; the lover of Christ is now rich in life, producing fruits to nourish and refresh, giving forth sweet fragrances, and displaying beautiful colors for Christ's enjoyment.

V. In 2 Peter 1:3-8 we have the development of the excellent virtues through the enjoyment of the divine nature:

- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- 2 Pet 1:5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;
- 2 Pet 1:6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;
- 2 Pet 1:7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.
- 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- A. “All things which relate to life and godliness” are the various aspects of the divine life typified by the riches of the produce of the good land—v. 3:
- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
1. Life is within, enabling us to live, and godliness is without as the outward expression of the inward life.
 2. Life is the inward energy, the inward strength, to bring forth the outward godliness, which leads to and results in glory.
- B. Faith may be considered the all-inclusive seed of life, and love, the fruit in its full development—vv. 3, 8.
- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
- 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. Eventually, we will have the full development and maturity in life from the seed of faith, through the roots of virtue and knowledge, the trunk of self-control, and the branches of endurance and godliness, to the blossom and the fruit of brotherly love and love—vv. 5-8.
- 2 Pet 1:5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;
- 2 Pet 1:6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;
- 2 Pet 1:7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.
- 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.