

Bether: The Mountains of Separation

050401-5

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Song of Solomon is an allegory. By the end of **chapter 2**, the maiden, who represents the believer who has Christ in her heart, is caught up with the experience of that **secret place**, the house of joy, living out the excitement of her feelings. She then begins to learn that her Lord and Saviour is not restricted to a place, but is the resurrection life in her daily duties, in her family, in the world, in a mountain-leaping, hill-skipping way. He is everywhere! Wherever she is, He is there.

In **verse 17**, we read -

17 Until the day break, and shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether. The maiden is too weak to ask for His strength to understand that the Lord was with her everywhere. So when He called her to go with Him, she simply asked Him to, "Hurry up and come back quickly." That is how we are with the Lord. We don't want to go where He is telling us to go, so we say, "Don't be long, but I need You." We do not understand that when we are in Christ, where He is we are. ***The mountains of Bether (B-e-t-h-e-r)*** speak of separation. They speak of refusing to go with the Lord. She did not understand what suffering would be incurred. She just

thought, “He is going to come back and I am going to be just the same after all this.” You see, the Lord never did leave her. The Lord’s outward departure made her feelings believe Him gone, as the Lord was not allowed to gain from her life. Notice, she also could not gain from the knowledge of His presence. Therefore, she suddenly felt this gap. He had gone! What had happened? She had missed Him! Whereas she so valued the Lord’s presence, she found she lost His past grace, and she also received no new grace from Him. When she chose the ***mountains of Bether***, which is *separation*, by preferring not to go to the world, by letting the world take care of itself and letting the Lord take care of His own work and His own interests, she deliberately allowed her union with the Lord to become incomplete. He therefore, would act apart from her. Because she had lost the feeling of His presence, she thought she had lost the Lord and lacked spiritual knowledge or experience. The Lord allowed her to lose her feelings of His presence. Perhaps you are at that very place right now. You wonder what happened. You look back and you just thought it would be the same even if you did not obey and go where God told you to go or do what God told you to do. You don’t realize that the Lord all the time is there, but He has withdrawn so that you have to seek after the Lord in outward things to obey Him.

It is interesting in **chapter 3, verse 1** -

1 By night on my bed I sought him . . . That is about how some people do seek the Lord. We lay on the bed and we seek Him. She had been told to go with the Lord, but instead, she is on the bed trying to seek Him. . . . **I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.** Now the phrase *by night* meant *nights; a few nights in a row*. She foolishly thought she was seeking Him. She thought laying there she would be going to seek the feelings of his presence. Her seeking was genuine! She did everything she could to rouse up this feeling. She probably sang a few hymns; she probably tried everything she could to make Him come back to where she was.

But she did not realize that the object which she sought had failed to find the real thing. So she says -

2 I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The *rising up* is still a seeking *on the bed*! She is already getting herself ready to put herself in a different position, but she is still *on the bed* ! She has not left her own position and her own position is still wrong. The Lord calls the maiden out of the bed she is resting in. He makes it clear to her that His presence is no longer there. She realizes she is not advancing in her faith and that her feeling is gone. The Lord teaches her to transcend over a rest that depends on time and place to learn to experience a rest that is satisfied in every kind of circumstance.

This is only when Christ is All in all in our life. It doesn't matter where we are; it doesn't matter what is happening. Christ is there! He is in every situation.

Philippians 4:11-13 –

11 . . . for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Is there a mountain of separation in your experience with the Lord? Has it been such a long time since you really knew Him? Will you, at this moment, respond and say, *Lord, I want the experience of You being All in all at whatever cost in my life. For Your glory.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen.