



Day One: Ready to Arise

Oh the word 'arise'. We probably all have a picture in our hearts of what that means... what 'arise' looks like. Yet how many times does that picture in our heart look different from what our Bridegroom-King means when He says this word?

In the Song of Songs, when He says that His love is not to be disturbed until she is ready to arise, we need to see this in the context of what is happening. The Shulamite Bride has just discovered life in His arms, resting in the shade of His Presence. And from this place she starts to see clearly possibly for the first time ever... she recognises revelation in her heart. And He says to those around her not to disturb her until she is ready to arise.

What does it mean to be 'ready to arise'? My old self would have guessed that this meant that she was ready to 'get on with it'... that she finally had the willpower to get the job done... that she was ready to tackle her excuses. Even when I continued to read in the Song of Songs and He makes His invitation to her to arise, I initially saw it as an invitation to climb the peaks of action and accomplishment as I waged warfare with Him. Yet that's not at all what He was asking.

He was actually inviting her to come alive in His life.

Consider the words He uses in His invitation. ***Song of Songs 2:9 – 15 (TPT)***

Now He comes closer, even to the places where I hide.

Now He gazes into my soul. Peering through the portal as He blossoms within my heart. The Man that I love calls to me:

Arise, My dearest! Hurry My darling, Come along with Me! I have come as you have asked to draw you to my heart and lead you out!

For now is the time My beautiful one.

...the bondage of your barren winter has ended

...the season of hiding is over and gone....

...the season for pruning the vines has arrived.



...to awaken you and guide you forth

...The budding vines of new life (your new, real life) are now blooming everywhere...

Arise My love... my beautiful companion...

You are hidden in the split open Rock.

You must catch the troubling foxes, those sly little foxes which hinder our relationship. For they raid our budding vineyard of love to ruin what I've planted within you. Will you catch them and remove them for Me? We will do it together.

This is not an invitation to muster up some passion and take on the world! Everything about this invitation is inviting her to arise in His life – He IS the split open Rock! It's an invitation to stop hiding and to live from the inside out – revealing her innermost treasure. It's all about aligning herself with His life within, recovering her true life and arising in Him.

In the Aramaic (the original language), the word 'arise' implies 'resurrection'. Could it be that to arise is that point at which we consider the old man dead with Christ Jesus and the new man to be alive – resurrected with Him?

The word arise actually means to emerge or become apparent. To make an appearance, or to surface. To enter the picture... emanate... get or stand up! All of these are word pictures which indicate real life that was once hidden but then becomes visible. In other words, He is saying to her:

Would the real you please emerge!



This is your invitation, too. What does it mean for the real you to emerge?
Who is the real you?



Day Two: Living as One

If only she realised who she really is! The Shulamite Bride is receiving an invitation to finally be who she really is - to live through the fullness of His life in her - and yet all she can see... is herself!

Song of Songs 2:16 - 17 (TPT) *I know my Lover is mine and I have everything in You for we delight ourselves in each other. But, until the day springs to life and the shifting shadows of my fears disappear, turn around, my Lover, and ascend to the holy mountains of separation without me. Until the new day fully dawns, run on ahead like the graceful gazelle and skip like the young stag over the mountains of separation. Go on ahead to the mountain of spices – I'll come away another time.*

All she can see is that SHE is not ready. All she can see is that she's afraid... that she's not qualified. She hopes that one day in the future she will be, but right now she feels that she's not. She sees herself as separate to Him! He's ready to run and skip on the mountaintops, but she's not.

She is still looking at circumstances to affirm her, instead of trusting in the truth of her identity. She thinks that because the day has not yet sprung to life and because she is still feeling the shifting shadows her fears that there can be no truth in her identity other than the reality she's lived in her entire life up to this point – that she's not enough!

Have you ever felt like that before? Like, *'Come on Lord, you've got to be kidding?!?! I can't do that! I'm not ready to go with you. You are perfect but I'm so imperfect... so unqualified... so worthless. I can't go with you. I'm sorry... maybe someday I'll be enough.'*

What the Shulamite Bride fails to realise, and what many times we fail to realise, is that it's got nothing to do with us any more and whether or not we're qualified, feeling brave or ready. It's got nothing to do with the circumstances surrounding us and what they say about us. His invitation was not an invitation for her to arise in her own life – it was an invitation for her to arise in His!

He invited her to oneness... to live as one.



He invited her to stop holding her old man in her heart and start walking as the new man He'd created her to be... the new creation being filled with His life and living through His strength. In His heart, the mountains of separation no longer existed – they were one. But she couldn't see it that way.

And thus is the saddest line in the song, as she refuses Him. *'I'll come away another time.'* And she sends Him away alone.

Soak Time

Have you ever answered His invitation with *'I'll come away another time'*? Why did you give this response? How were you seeing yourself in light of your identity and your circumstances?



Day Three: Fastened to Him

Sad as it is, the Shulamite Bride refuses the invitation of her Bridegroom King. She is still trying to work it out on her own... to change on her own... to become good enough before she commits herself to Him fully.

And what does He say? He doesn't berate her. He doesn't get mad with her. He just knows she's not yet ready and she simply needs to stay in the place of rest and identity until she can see herself as one with Him. Notice that He does not give her a single thing to DO – not one thing! He just allows her to BE.

This is the same honour that He gives to us. He calls us each to this – staying in an extended place of rest until we know who we are. Because if we get up before we know who we are, we'll never walk in the truth of it. But if we get up after we know who we are, we will be fruitful. Indeed, this is what it is to arise.

The good news is that right after the Shulamite Bride refuses His invitation and she sends Him away from her, she realises she's made a mistake and cries out, 'Why did I let Him go from me?' (*Song of Songs 3:1 TPT*). Listen closely to those words. This is not only a cry of remorse – she's actually realised that she doesn't want to be separated from Him! Her identity is starting to shift and as soon as she tastes life without Him, she realises that she's actually not as separate from Him in her heart as she'd originally felt.

She suddenly realises it's about who He is within her!

She suddenly realises that the invitation has been all about oneness with Him, and she goes out immediately to find Him again, because she wants to be with Him with all her heart. She searches high and low, even going past the devotion of others... even that of her 'spiritual leaders' (the city overseers). What a delight it is to her when she finds Him again!

Song of Songs 3:4 (TPT) *Just as I moved past them I encountered Him, I found the One I adore! I caught Him and fastened myself to Him, refusing to be feeble in my heart again. Now I'll bring Him back to the temple within where I was given new birth –into my innermost parts.*

Does this sound like a woman who has any intention of walking away from Him again? Absolutely not! She's seen a glimpse of her oneness with Him now and she's determined to walk in it! It may not yet be her moment-by-moment



reality, but she has tasted it and she wants to learn how to never walk apart from Him again. Once again, the Bridegroom King knows what she needs and He simply says to the Jerusalem maidens around her:

Song of Songs 3:5 (TPT) *Promise Me... that you'll not disturb My love until she is ready to arise.*

He knows that for her to walk out what she has determined in her heart, she simply needs to stay there... soaking in His love... delighting in His rest... allowing Him to tell her who she is and who He is in her. He knows that when this is her reality, her arising is inevitable.



Your Bridegroom-King gives you permission to simply rest and BE, until you know that you know in your heart who you really are. How do you feel as a result of this permission?



Day Four: Sitting Together

It's so beautiful watching the Shulamite Bride discovering her value and worth and her true identity of oneness with Him! This is also our journey – we can all see ourselves somewhere in this story. Are we still tending the vineyards of our brothers? Are we pursuing Him to the place of rest? Have we allowed ourselves to truly receive His love? Have we started to see revelation of ourselves and who we are? When He's invited us to arise, have we still seen ourselves as separate to Him or have we started to see ourselves as one with Him? Wherever we are on the journey is important and we can celebrate it because we've started... and He's taking us from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18).

Once the Shulamite starts to see that she no longer wants to be separate from her Bridegroom-King, her journey moves forward quickly. She sees revelation by the Holy Spirit of her Bridegroom-King in His Marriage carriage, and her own royalty as she sits together with Him.

Song of Songs 3:7 – 11 (TPT) *Look! It is the King's marriage-carriage! The love-seat surrounded by sixty champions – the mightiest of Israel's host like pillars of protection. They are angelic warriors standing ready with swords to defend the King and His fiancé... The King made this mercy seat for Himself out of the finest wood that will not decay. Pillars of smoke, like silver mist – a canopy of golden glory dwells above it. The place where they sit together is sprinkled with crimson. Love and mercy cover this carriage, blanketing His tabernacle-throne. The King Himself has made it for those who will become His bride! Rise up Zion maidens, brides-to-be! Come and feast your eyes on this King as He passes in procession on His way to His wedding.*

You cannot sit together with Him on the mercy seat in His marriage-carriage unless you know who you are. He is joyful to be marrying her! She is royalty along with Him! He doesn't see her as less than Him – He sees her as equal to Him... He is not unequally yoked when He is with her.

Then the Bridegroom King speaks to her and His words are precious – telling her from His own heart who she is. He tells her that she's beauty itself to Him and the pleasure that she brings to Him through her eyes of devotion and her words of grace. He sees her as strong and full of faith and love, nurturing those around her and bringing refreshing to Him. He adores her and He tells her so.

And something incredible happens at this point... the greatest of miracles.



She just decides to believe it!

Her entire journey pivots around this one moment. No doubt the voice of questioning arises... She could believe her doubts about herself. She could believe her circumstances. But she just decides to believe Him!

She makes the decision to live from the inside out instead of the outside in and she says what must have been the most joyful words to His ears, *'I've made up my mind. Until the darkness disappears and the dawn has fully come, in spite of shadows and fears – I will go to the mountain top with You. I will climb with You the mountain of suffering love and the hill of burning incense. **Yes, I will be Your bride.**'*

She makes the decision that makes all decisions.

No longer will she look to her circumstances to tell her if she will follow Him. No longer will she see herself as separate to Him. But she has decided, *We're one and I'm going wherever You're going.*

As we'll find out, they're going some pretty amazing places!



'She just decides to believe it!' Is Holy Spirit asking you to 'just believe' anything?



Day Five: Show Yourselfes

What does it look and feel like when we make the decision that makes all decisions? It's a change of perspective from separateness to oneness. From natural eyesight to spiritual eyesight. This is the moment of...

Living through His Life in Us.

Amazingly, the moment she makes the decision to live through His Life in her, He immediately responds with, *"NOW you are ready, bride of the mountains, to come with Me as we climb the highest peaks together..."* (Song of Songs 4:8 TPT).

He knew exactly when she was ready... and it wasn't until she saw herself as one with Him and was ready to allow His life to flow through her. It was then and only then that He knew she was ready to arise.

You see what so often happens is that we hear His invitation to come with Him to the higher places... but we think we can do it in our own strength. We try to wage warfare when we haven't arisen. Our definition of 'arisen' is all wrong – it's not when we can muster up the courage to make ourselves 'get up' and 'just do it'. We've arisen when our true life – His Life in us – is released and revealed. Our courageous efforts, our force, our self efforts are not our true life – they are a counterfeit... they are our old man, our flesh. Yet very often the church prizes the 'make it happen' attitude, so we do too. Don't applaud a deception – it will only keep you bound.

When we live in the reality that our old man has been crucified and our new man has been resurrected with Christ Jesus, that is arising.

Of course, this is not only an invitation given to the Shulamite Bride – WE are the Shulamite. This is OUR invitation. He gives us the invitation to live like this, and we see it all through the Bible:

Isaiah 60:1 (AMP) *Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you – rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!*

Can you see the correlation? Just as the Shulamite discovered, the invitation to arise is an invitation to no longer live according to circumstances and no longer



see ourselves as separate from Him. For indeed our light and our glory has already come because He lives in us. He's just waiting for us to believe it.

Arising is the crossover from the external to the internal. It's going from the place of our flesh and our circumstances defining our identity, to **being defined and led by the glory of the Lord within.**

We arise as we live in oneness with Christ Jesus, from the inside out. And when we do, our true self – Christ in us – is revealed.

Isaiah 49:9 (AMP) ...saying to those who are bound, come forth, and to those who are in [spiritual] darkness, show yourselves.

This is the revealing of the treasure that is within us. "Come forth" and "show yourselves" aren't commands that you must change yourself or become something. They are declarations that what is already true of you is made visible to both yourself and those around you.

Isn't it time to show your true self?

Soak Time

'Show Yourself!' This is a declaration to you. Knowing what you have discovered this week, what does the declaration 'Show Yourself!' now mean to you?
