

- 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:
- 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:
    - 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—Col. 1:13, 28.
    - 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—Col. 1:12; 2:9, 16-17; 3:10-11:
      - Our being will be occupied with the vast, unsearchably rich, extensive Christ—Eph. 3:18.
      - 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.
    - To be full-grown in Christ is to be filled, saturated, and permeated with Christ—Col. 1:28:
      - This is to have every part of our being occupied with Christ—Eph. 3:17a; Gal. 4:19.
      - 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.
- II. **Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church**—Exo. 28:33-34:
- 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:
    - 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).
    - 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.
    - 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:
- 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.
  - B. Out of every one hundred pomegranates, ninety-six were exposed to the open air, and four were covered—Jer. 52:22-23:
    - The expression of the riches of life is eternally complete, in the freshness of resurrection, and in the Spirit.
    - 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.
    - 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.

EXPERIENCE

- IV. According to Song of Songs, pomegranates have a spiritual significance in the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ—S.S. 4:3b, 13a; 6:7, 11; 7:12; 8:2b:**
- A. "Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil"—S.S. 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"—S.S. 6:11.
  - 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"—S.S. 7:12.
  - D. "I would make you drink spiced wine / From the juice of my pomegranate"—S.S. 8:2b.
  - E. "Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit"—S.S. 4:13a:
    - 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—S.S. 4:13-14.
    - 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:**
- 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—2 Pet. 1:3:
    - Life is within, enabling us to live, and godliness is without as the outward expression of the inward life.
    - 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—2 Pet. 1:3, 8.
  - 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—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

- I. **In the Bible pomegranates signify the fullness of life, the abundance and beauty of life, and the expression of the riches of life**
  - A ripe pomegranate with its seeds expresses the fullness, abundance and beauty of life. We would experience Christ as the pomegranate if we experience and enjoy Christ as wheat, barley, the vine, and the fig tree; the abundance and beauty of the life of Christ will be with us and about us. 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. If we see the vision of the all-inclusiveness and extensiveness of Christ, our whole being will concentrate on Him, He will fill and saturate us with His vast, unsearchably and extensive richness; occupy every part of our being and possess us that we will be full-grown in Christ and live Christ. This is the growth and maturity in life, the issue of experiencing the Christ revealed in Colossians; we will become ripe pomegranates. [Deut. 8:8] A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates... [Col. 2:19] ...holding the Head, out from whom all the Body...grows with the growth of God. [Eph. 3:17-19] That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are...that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- II. **Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church**
  - The church should be full of life in her humanity, signified by the pomegranates made of linen, and also have the divinity for the sounding of the golden bells. 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. The beauty of life expressed in our humanity and the divine sounding from the golden bells are signs of a proper church life. [Exo. 28:33-34] 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: A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.
- 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**
  - 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)..
  - Out of every one hundred pomegranates, ninety-six were exposed to the open air signifies the expression of the riches of life is eternally complete, in the freshness of resurrection, and in the Spirit. The remaining four covered pomegranates signifies our natural being, our natural life, and our self must be concealed. 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. [John 7:38] He who believes into Me...out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. [Jer. 52:23] And there were ninety-six pomegranates toward the open air; all the pomegranates on the network were a hundred all around.
- IV. **According to Song of Songs, pomegranates have a spiritual significance in the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ**

[S.S. 4:3] ... 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. [S.S. 4:13a] Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; ...

  - Christ's lover is an enclosed garden that grows all kinds of plants in different colors as different expressions of the beauty of the inner life and in a variety of fragrances as the rich expression of the mature 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**
  - Life is the inward energy within, the inward strength enabling us to live and to bring forth the outward godliness, the outward expression of the inward life which leads to and results in glory. Faith may be considered the all-inclusive seed of life, it will develop fully unto maturity in life 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, the fruit in its full development. [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. 1:5-7] And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;...and in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.

In order for pomegranates to be placed alternately with bells in the church life, we need to grow in life and eventually blossom in life. Then we shall become pomegranates. Instead of gossiping, we shall give forth a divine sound. Furthermore, this growth in life will influence others and cause gossip and criticism to be replaced by the proper sounding of little golden bells. If this is the experience of a certain brother, he may come to the meeting to testify of how he has been dealt with by the Lord in a particular matter. Through his speaking others may be warned, for they shall hear the sound of golden bells placed alternately with pomegranates.

If the church is proper and is truly Christ's fullness, His train, then on the skirt there will be pomegranates and bells. In the church there will be the expression of life and the divine sounding.

*<Excerpts from "Life-study of Exodus", Message 130, "The Priestly Garments (15)">*

Second Peter 1:3 says, "As 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 to His own glory and virtue." The "all things" in this verse refer to all the aspects of the riches of the Triune God. These things pertain to the divine life, to zoe, not to the life that is for our pleasure. All things have been given, imparted, infused, into us so that we may live the divine life and also live out this life. The life is inward, but godliness is outward, for it is God Himself expressed.

In all of our living we should express God. We should testify of God and speak about Him. When God becomes our expression, this is godliness. In our conversation we should express God. If we are expressing God, surely we could not engage in gossip. We should have God in our being and also in our living. Our mind should be filled with Him, and the very fiber of our being should be constituted of Him. Then we shall have godliness, the outward expression of the inward life.

*<Excerpts from "Life-study of 2 Peter", Message 5, "The Divine Provision (5)">*