

The Rose of Sharon

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Devotion: Why do we call Jesus the "Rose of Sharon?"

Unfortunately many of us say things without truly understanding what we are saying. Case in point if you have been in Church for any length of time then you've heard the phrase referring to Jesus as the Rose of Sharon." But if you are anything like most of the people singing, truth be told, you do not know what the term "Rose of Sharon" means. So, what does it mean?

- This may come as a shock, **but the phrase is used only once in the entire Bible**, and **it does not refer to Jesus**.
- **In Song of Solomon 2:1**, Solomon's wife describes herself as the "rose of Sharon." From her description, we can see that it is a complimentary term that expresses beauty.

The word Sharon (also spelled Saron) **means a level place or plain**,

- Several passages are found in the Bible, including Acts 9:35 and 1 Chronicles 27:29. In God's Word,
- **The term is used to describe one of the largest plains in all of the land of Palestine.**
- You can locate this valley by looking just north of the city of Joppa on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

From what we know about the place, **the Sharon valley was a fertile plain that was home to many beautiful flowers**. Isaiah 35:2 lists Sharon in a context discussing blooming plants and describes the valley as "excellent." **Sharon was renowned for its majesty and beauty**, but what about its "rose?"

- ❖ A true rose, like the one sweethearts exchange on Valentine's day, **is probably not** what the Bible calls the "rose of Sharon,"
 - **Because these flowers are very uncommon in Palestine**. In fact, although no one can say for certain which flower is the actual "rose of Sharon," many scholars think the best guess is the cistus (**also known as the rock-rose**).
 - **Selah: As hard and steadfast as a rock yet as gentle and beautiful as a rose!**
 - The cistus blooms in various parts of the land of Palestine,
 - **In ancient times was known for its soothing aroma and pain-relieving qualities.**

No one knows for sure when or why the term "rose of Sharon" was given to Jesus. But some reasons do make good sense. **Christ's healing powers and pain-relieving actions were similar to certain traits of the rock-rose**. Is it any wonder that the "Great Physician," **Who came to physically heal the sick and spiritually take away the plague of sin from the world, should be given the name of a flower known for its sweet aroma and pain-relieving qualities?**

Conclusion: Jesus The Rose of Sharon

- Sharon means: Level Place, Consistent, able to hold footing, sureness
- Scripture refers to Jesus many times by saying “as was his custom” which is to say that He was very consistent, emotionally level. In turn we are able to have firm foundation on Him.
- Sharon means: excellent, fertile
- The Cistus Flower: Known for its pain relieving qualities
- Its soothing aroma
- **Isaiah 53** Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The Cistus or (“Rose” of Sharon)



Jesus the One on which we can stand, Jesus whose Word is consistent, Jesus whose precious Blood is a sweet aroma in the nostrils of God, Jesus who heals and restores our broken life

Jesus “The Rose of Sharon”

Thank you Holy Spirit for insight to your Word!

Devotion for November 22, 2011