

Beloved of the Lord:

"HIS BODY IS AS BRIGHT IVORY OVERLAID WITH SAPPHIRES"-S.ofS. 5:14.

This body is described by the appearance of the breast and arms, or as much of the person as was not covered by the robes. The sapphires are probably the precious stones that adorned either the robe, or girdle. In Revelation 1, the Lord is described with a girdle of gold; here with a girdle of sapphires.

1 - THE GLORY OF HIS BODY - "His body..as wrought ivory". Oh! the wonder of His Incarnation! "Great is the mystery of godliness, GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH"-1 Tim.3:16.

a - Its Divine Preparation - "A body hast THOU prepared ME"-Heb.10:5. Its special preparation by God for the indwelling of the Eternal Word! - John 1:14.

b - Its Blessed glory - The "ivory palace" in which the Lord of glory was to abide! He Himself compared His body to the beautiful white marble of Jehovah's Temple - Jno.2:21. The Bride compares it to a palace of white ivory. There are two qualities to ivory:

1 - Its Smoothness - The ability of ivory to receive a polish represents His body "without wrinkle", the absence of any defect. He possessed the fulness of grace and truth.

2 - Its Whiteness - This denotes the spotlessness of Jesus our Lord, not a blemish, not a speck, not a flaw on its polished surface; whiter than milk, purer than snow - "holy, harmless, undefiled" etc. Heb. 7:26

c - Its Amazing Sacrifice - The judgment of God upon SIN was laid upon HIS body - Isa.53:6. "He bore our sins in His own body on the tree"-1Pet.2:24. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots"? wrote Jeremiah, ch.13:23. YET, God took the dark stain of the Ethiopian and the spots of the leopard that represents our SINS and laid them on the spotless ivory body of Jesus. In bearing our sins, the Lamb of God took away the sin of the world - John 1:29. He has taken the sins of His own, in order that we may be IN HIM without "spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" - Eph. 5:27. WHAT A CHANGE!

d - Our Precious Privilege - At the Lord's Supper we recall His words - "This is MY BODY, which is given for you" - Luke 22:19. LET US DISCERN HIS BODY! - 1Cor.11:23-30.

2 - THE GLORY OF THE SAPPHIRES - "Overlaid with sapphires" presents two thoughts:

a - His Heavenly Character - The sapphire girdle or robe, suggests the heavenly character of the "Man of Sorrows". The sapphire is used to represent heaven. Note Exodus 24:10 - "They saw God...under His feet a paved work of a sapphire stone, etc. Read it! With all the lowly beauty of His manhood, the Son of God on earth was still "the Son of Man which is in heaven" - John 3:13; for about His blessed body was always the sapphire mantle of His heavenly character, His Deity! On earth or on the Cross, HE is still "THE SON...IN THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER" - John 1:18.

b - His Infinite Riches - His riches are suggested by the "sapphires". The treasures of heaven, not earth. Earthly riches cannot be valued with "the gold of Ophir" or with the precious onyx and sapphire. When the "kingdom of the heavens" will be manifested on earth through Israel, God says - "I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires". Isa.54:11. Likewise, when the glory of the heavenly city of the Bride is described in Rev. 21, among the twelve precious stones of the foundation "of the wall of the city" will be the sapphire - Rev. 21:19. Note Ezek. 1:26.

c - OUR AMAZING RICHES - When the Lord laid aside His garment and washed His disciples feet, this typified Him exchanging girdles with us, taking the "towel of our humanity"! HE KNEW "that the Father had given ALL THINGS into His hands"-Jno.3:13 -yet, coming from God to be in the "form of a servant" (Phil.2:6-8), by so doing, HE has given to us, HIS OWN, His girdle of sapphires! His riches of glory, the glory of an everlasting kingdom will He share with us (2 Pet.1:11). HIS RICHES ARE OUR RICHES - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through HIS poverty might be RICH". Hallelujah! what a Saviour! With amazing wonder and worship let us, each believer, say - THIS IS MY BELOVED!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

