

ARISE, MY LOVE, COME AWAY!

Do you have a good hope? Death will be terrifying for you if you are trusting your eternal acceptance with God upon anything you have done. But those resting in Christ will close their eyes and be awakened by their Savior saying, *“Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle [dove] is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”* (Song of Solomon (2: 10-13))

This life has much joy in it. God has given many things to enjoy and we should. But overall sin has made this life like a long cold winter. Satan’s temptations blow hard as arctic winds. Persecution comes as frigid blasts. Afflictions are icy-sharp. At times a nor’easter blows in from the coast and sits upon us. Dark clouds hide our Beloved. The blizzard blankets us till all is still, silent, lifeless. We become grey, barren trees of winter. Our inner man becomes weak and hungry like the little animal in its den. But then comes the Voice of our Beloved saying, *“Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.”* Our Beloved takes us by the heart and ushers us back into communion with him where, *“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle [dove] is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell.”* The springtime of Life returns to our souls!

But one day soon, my brethren, our Beloved shall usher us into his eternal garden where there will be eternal spring. Oh to awake completely whole! Oh to behold he who loved us and gave himself for us! Oh to be made like him and dwell with him! Then the winter will be over for good! Then we will be with Christ forever with absolutely no more sin and no more storms to interrupt our communion!