

Song of Solomon 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.

Analysis

He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem. The description details the chariot's opulent construction: **pillars of silver** (amudav asah keseph, עֲמֻדָּיו עָשָׂה כֶּסֶף), **bottom of gold** (raphidato zahav, רַפִּידָתוֹ זָהָב), **covering of purple** (merkavo argaman, מֶרְכָּבוֹ אֲרָגָמָן, royal purple fabric). The phrase **midst thereof being paved with love** (tokho ratsuf ahavah, תּוֹכוֹ רָצוּף אֲהָבָה) is remarkable—the interior is 'inlaid' or 'tessellated' with love itself.

The chariot combines precious metals (silver, gold), royal fabric (purple, expensive Tyrian dye), and intangible treasure—love. The exterior displays wealth and status, but the interior reveals love's motivation. 'Paved with love' suggests love is the chariot's true foundation and beauty, more precious than gold or silver. The phrase 'for the daughters of Jerusalem' indicates this public display invites witnesses to marvel. Spiritually, Christ's preparation for His Church combines divine resources (gold, silver = righteousness, redemption) with royal covering (purple = kingly authority), all motivated and sustained by love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-10).

Historical Context

Silver and gold were precious metals reserved for royalty and sacred vessels. Purple dye (argaman, אֲרָגָמָן) from Murex shellfish was extraordinarily expensive,

making purple fabric royal attire (Judges 8:26; Esther 8:15). Solomon's wealth made such extravagance possible (1 Kings 10:14-29). The phrase 'paved with love' is unique—ancient readers would expect description of more precious stones or materials, but instead the poet names love itself as the chariot's interior beauty. This teaches that external splendor means nothing without internal love. The 'daughters of Jerusalem' as witnesses suggests covenant love should be publicly celebrated and attested by community. Early church fathers saw gold as divinity, silver as humanity, purple as royalty—all united in Christ. The 'love' paving anticipates 1 Corinthians 13's supremacy of love over all gifts. Modern readers see that genuine love, not external show, makes relationships beautiful.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How is your life 'paved with love'—motivated and sustained by love for Christ and others—beneath whatever external appearance you present?
2. What does it mean that Christ's provision for His Church combines both external glory (gold, silver, purple) and internal reality (love)?

Interlinear Text

עֲמֻדָּיו	עָשָׂה	כֶּסֶף	רִפְיֹתָיו	זָהָב	מְרַבֵּי
the pillars	He made	thereof of silver	the bottom	thereof of gold	the covering
H5982	H6213	H3701	H7507	H2091	H4817
אֶרְגָּמָהּ	תּוֹכּוֹ	כָּצוּף	אַהֲבָה	מִבְּנוֹת	
of it of purple	the midst	thereof being paved	with love	for the daughters	
H713	H8432	H7528	H160	H1323	
יְרוּשָׁלַם:					
of Jerusalem					
H3389					

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