

Doctrine of Beauty

1. The first expression of beauty in Scripture is associated with the special priestly garments worn by Aaron.
 - *Exodus 28:2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty. Exodus 28:40 And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.*

2. The *Scriptures* make a distinction between physical beauty, poetical beauty, and spiritual beauty.

3. Physical beauty is primarily associated with the innate attractiveness of a person's outward appearance or the ornate decoration of a building, city or object.
 - Person.
 - Rachel. *Genesis 29:17 Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.*
 - David. *1 Samuel 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.*
 - Absalom. *2 Samuel 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.*
 - Abigail. *1 Samuel 25:3 Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.*
 - Bathsheba. *2 Samuel 11:2 And it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*
 - Queen Vashti. *Esther 1:11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.*
 - Esther. *Esther 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*

- Building.
 - *2 Chronicles 3:6 And he garnished the house [of God] with precious stones for beauty: and the gold was gold of Parvaim. Psalms 96:6 Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*
 - City.
 - *Ezekiel 27:3 And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty. Ezekiel 27:4 Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty.*
 - Object: The Gate Beautiful.
 - *Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.*
4. Poetical beauty is associated with the mystical pleasantness of Zion.
- *Psalms 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.*
5. Spiritual beauty is associated with the essence of God, worship of the Lord, warfare, and personal holiness.
- The Essence of God. *Psalms 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. Psalms 90:17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*
 - Worship. *1 Chronicles 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalms 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalms 96:9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth*
 - Warfare. *2 Chronicles 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

- Personal Holiness. *Psalms 45:11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. Job 40:10 Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty.*
6. Physical beauty does not last in people or in the places they dwell for sin robs everything it touches of its beauty. Attention would be focused then upon the Message and not the Man.
- People. *Psalms 49:14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.*
 - Places. *2 Samuel 1:19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! Psalms 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*
7. Prophetically, there was to be no physical beauty associated with the Messiah.
- *Isaiah 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*
8. Because physical beauty is fading it is not to be unduly emphasized lest it lead to sinful lust and fornication.
- *Proverbs 6:25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.*
 - *Ezekiel 16:15 But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.*
 - *Ezekiel 16:25 Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.*
9. Young girls and young ladies must be taught to cultivate spiritual beauty.
- *Proverbs 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*
10. The demise of physical beauty is sometimes to be associated with divine discipline.
- This is true personally. *Psalms 39:11 When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.*

- This is true nationally. *Isaiah 3:24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty. Isaiah 13:19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.*
11. God's divine discipline will certainly fall upon the false images of gods no matter how beautiful they may be.
- *Isaiah 44:13 The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. Isa 44:15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.* Sometime in the year 2000/2001 while the Taliban ruled Afghanistan a 1700-year-old colossal figure of Buddha was blown up and the stone hauled away as rubble.
12. Though the Lord may take away beauty as a form of Divine discipline He may restore the same.
- *Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*
 - *Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*
13. The day shall come when the glory of the Lord shall be an object of beauty for all the nations on earth to behold.
- *Isaiah 28:5 In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,*
 - *Isaiah 33:17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.*
 - *Isaiah 4:2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.*
14. The Lord desires spiritual beauty characterizes His people. One way spiritual beauty can be cultivated is by proclaiming the gospel.

- *Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*
- *Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

15. Tragically spiritual beauty can be falsified.

- *Matthew 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

16. Despite her imperfections the Lord looks upon His people as being lovely.

- *Jeremiah 13:20 Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?*