

CREATOR

VOLUME 5

NUMBER 3

“BE STILL”

Psalms 46:10

Part 2

A blur of hot lead whizzes by the delicate, white flower head of the Queen Anne’s lace.¹ A moment later, the ground nearby explodes, shaking the flower’s very roots. How can it know the danger it is in, for it lacks a mind and cannot think. It has no way to hear or see what is going on around it. This particular Queen Anne’s lace was planted near the stone wall by the Lamb of God. It can not run away—it has no choice but to remain and endure the fight.

The morning started like any other. A dawn mist gave way to the heat of the summer sun. It is now afternoon, and the air is hot and humid. At 1:00 p.m. the earth starts to quake with cannon fire, and great black clouds of irritating smoke fill the sky, temporarily blocking the sun from view. This makes it difficult for the somewhat disoriented, but undaunted honeybees to navigate from their home in the oak tree to the field beyond the stone wall. The hive of bees usually visits a million or more flowers every day. Imagine their confusion when flowers start disappearing from sight as men trample them underfoot!

Every fiber of the Queen Anne’s lace has been commanded by God to complete the task Christ has given it to do. Its job is simple, but important—make seeds so that new plants can take its place and, in so doing, continue to radiate the holy character of its Creator.

...

The Lord Jesus Christ designed flowers in such a way that they usually need help to carry on their seed-producing work. In order to attract outside assistance, God created the flower as a storehouse of food for a multitude of animals: beetles, bees, birds, bats, and butterflies. The Queen Anne’s lace, as an example, has an abundant supply of sweet, energy-giving fluid called *nectar*, which insects are free to drink. Insects are also permitted to collect protein-rich *pollen* to eat



¹*Daucus carota*; also called Wild Carrot, Laceflower, or Bird’s Nest.

and feed to their young. In return, honeybees, for instance, unwittingly spread pollen from one flower to another, in a process called *pollination*. Pollination is essential to seed production.

To better understand the importance of pollination, we need to look at the anatomy of flowers. Jesus made each using the same basic design. Most flowers are found on the end of a long, green stalk called a *stem*. When it's a tiny bud, a flower is wrapped in the protective covering of sepals (SEE - pals). As it opens, the green *sepals* (which resemble small leaves) spread out in a circle at the base of each flower.

The *petals* of a flower give it its color and shape. Brightly painted petals also help attract insects, such as the honeybee, to that part of the plant where seeds are produced. The seed manufacturing of the flower is divided into two parts: *stamens* and the *pistil*. A stamen consists of a thin stalk, called the *filament*, and a bag of pollen, known as the *anther*, at the upper end. The pistil resembles a tiny tower and is sticky on top (the *stigma*). Normally, pollen must be transferred from

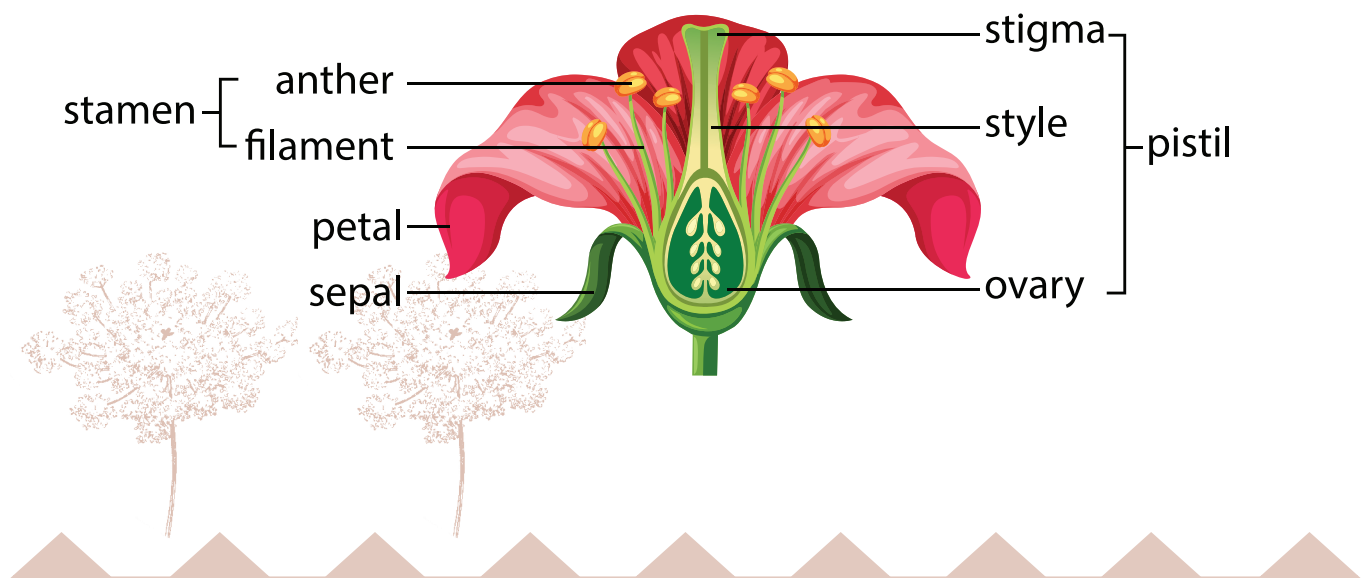
the anthers of one flower to the stigma of another flower, in order for seeds to develop.

Let's picture the typical flower in a somewhat more imaginative way. Think of a flower as the city of a kindly prince. The sepals are his guards and the petals, the walls of his beautiful palace. Royal wisdom is represented by pollen, which is posted high above on the filaments for all to read.

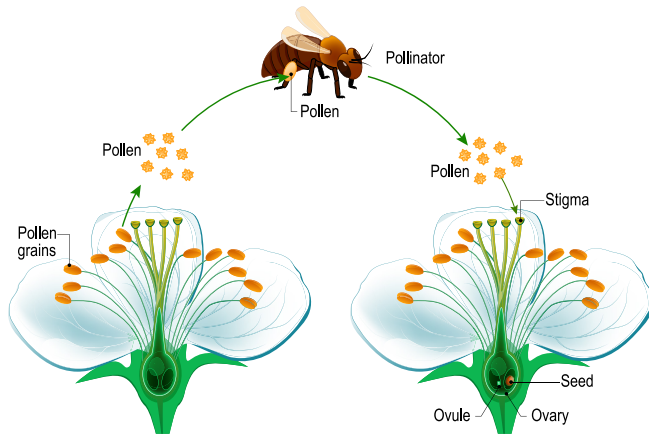
Now faithful palace messengers, the bees, take the prince's words of wisdom (pollen) to the villages in his kingdom, which are other flowers. Due to the generosity of the prince, these towns are built as splendidly as the palace city. In each town (flower), his subjects—the pistils—eagerly await his instructions. The good prince's wisdom (pollen) finds its way to his people in the heart of the village and there, they use it to produce choice fruit and seeds.

The plant kingdom freely demonstrates the delightful creativity of our Lord God by the thousands upon thousands of different flowers it showcases. In each, we see Christ's beauty, wisdom, holiness, and gentle Spirit!

Parts of a Flower



Pollination



The role of the flower as a marketplace for animals is especially realized when it turns into fruit. While feeding His creatures, Jesus uses fruit to spread seeds throughout the countryside for He puts many types of seeds into these delicious packages. When an animal, such as a deer, eats an apple, some of the seeds pass unharmed through its digestive tract and are then eliminated at a place some distance from the parent plant.

In the case of a dandelion flower, its fruit is so small as to be indistinguishable from the seed itself . . . it does not possess the tastiness of an apple. The Lord is no less ingenious, however, in spreading its kind. Attached to



each dandelion seed is a delicate “parachute.” The dandelion seed finds passage, not with an animal, but on the gentle breeze that blows through a field.

The fruit of the Queen Anne’s lace doesn’t look like fruit either. Instead, seeds are packaged in prickly burrs that easily attach to the fur of a passing animal (see *kids’ kreation* #25). In this way, a trip to another field or meadow is almost assured.

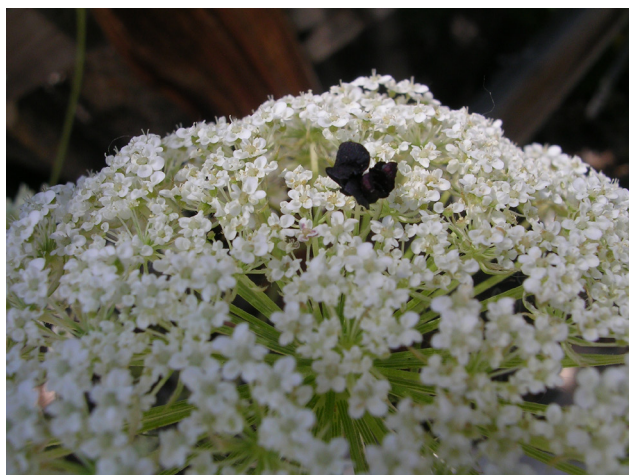
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The raging gunfire makes it possible for only an occasional honeybee to visit the beautiful white Queen Anne’s lace for sweet nectar and pollen. The sensitive antennae of the bees easily sense the strange odor of spent gunpowder in the air. Fortunately, this does not stop them in their task, and another generation of flowers will live to experience more peaceful days.

Our Heavenly Father, however, has an even more noble task for the Queen Anne’s lace. Many flowers mirror the awesome purity of their Lord God, but few reveal the Lamb of God in such a special and unique way! The Queen Anne’s lace is actually a cluster of numerous tiny flowers called florets placed at the end of a stem. Thousands of pure white florets compose the flower head or *umbrel*. This composite flower is a picture of countless saints lifted on high for all to see (Romans 8:19; Colossians 3:1). In the midst of this beautiful bouquet, our Heavenly Father carefully placed a single dark red, crimson floret to represent the sacrifice of His Son—just one blood-tinged floret in a sea of unstained white.

“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne”
(Revelation 5:6).

If we stop to ponder the appearance of the Queen Anne's lace, we clearly see a symbol of the blood of Christ, which makes His people pure white (Isaiah 1:18).



“White, which comprehends all other colors, is made use of in Scripture often to signify holiness, which comprehends all moral goodness and virtue, sometimes to denote the holiness of God, as Rev. 19:11; Mt. 17:2; Rev. 20:11, and elsewhere, and sometimes the holiness or righteousness of the saints, either imputed or inherent, Rev. 3:4-5; and 18; 4:4; 7:9; 13; 15:6; 19:8, 14.” Jonathan Edwards, *Images of Divine Things*, Entry # 58.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands (Revelation 7:9).

Sadly, it seems that the soldiers did not notice the revealed hand of God on July 3, 1863. They apparently did not recognize His holy character reflected in the honeybees or

the Queen Anne's lace of the meadow near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Had they seen this emblem of the Lamb, maybe a war would have ended; maybe no more brave men would have died. Ours is not to criticize what did occur, but to be reminded of God's much higher purpose:

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
He burns the shields with fire.
He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth”
(Psalm 46:9-10).

FLORA AURA

“Pssst! Ay, follow me!”

Editor's Note: We're headed for a secluded section of the Denver Public Library's second floor. Leading us is a gentleman who resembles an Olympic weightlifter. He's a mountain of a man: six-foot-two-inches tall and 275 pounds. But there's also something quite gentle about his manner. His name is Brick²—he's wearing faded blue jeans and a white t-shirt that reads, “Real Men Love Jesus.” He also speaks to us in a thick Jersey accent.

“I wanted ta talk with ya, but I didn't want any ah my friends ta see me; dar over watching a video on wrestling techniques. I'm a little shy about dis, but I recently received Christ into my life and I need ta come clean about somethin'. I got a secret, but I can't tell my buddies—day'd razz me. Ya see . . . ahh . . . I really love flowers: azaleas, daffodils, rhododendrons, and chris . . . chris . . . chrysanthemums!

2 Brick is a fictitious character.

“Did ya know dat the biggest flower in da world is three feet across? No, really! It’s called Ralph . . . Raff-something, and it grows in jungles.³



“And, ahhh, duckweed is da smallest plant with flowers. It floats on ponds. Da most common flowers in da world are da ones produced by grass, but day don’t got no petals so day don’t look much like flowers.

“Jesus made more den a quarter million kinds ah flowers in da world, but I only know a few ‘cause I’m not too smart. I do know dat some flowers, like orchids, live in trees, and others grow on water.⁴

“God made a kind ah mornin’ glory dat’s pink early in da day, but blue in da evening—has somethin’ ta do with its sap and how acidic it is. Honeysuckle flowers got a stronger smell at night den during da day, ta attract moths. And da Lord made some orchids ta look and smell like insects ta attract bees, wasps, and flies. Most insects can’t see da color red, so a red flower, like hibiscus, is pollinated by birds, not bees. Isn’t dat neat!

“Ohh, I gotta go. Here comes my friend Mad Dog. He’s not as mean as he looks, doe. Remember, dar’s nuttin’ wrong with guys liken’ flowers if day know and love da One Who made em!”

³ Rafflesia grows in the rainforests of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo.

⁴ For example, water lilies

POLLEN ETERNAL

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. . .

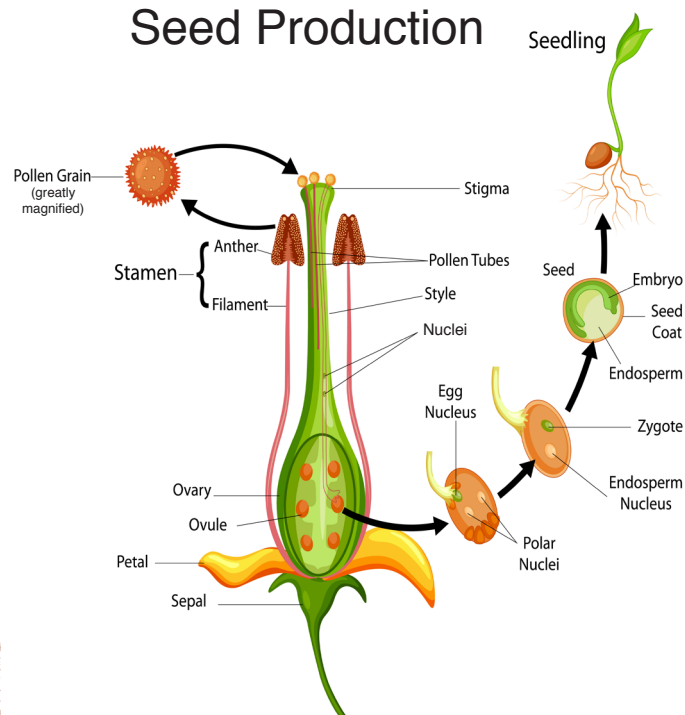
The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever.”

Isaiah 40:6b & 8

Have you ever been distracted? I mean, have you ever set out to do one thing and found yourself doing something completely different? I think we’ve all experienced this. In a way, flowers are fortunate—they can’t get distracted. Our Creator gave them a singularly important job—make fruit and seeds.

When the pollen of one flower lands on the stigma of another flower it tunnels its way down into the ovary at the base of the pistil. There, eggs (called ovules) divide and grow

Seed Production



and become seeds. Once this process has begun, there's nothing stopping it—the flower must complete the task it's been given. So it can't be distracted by worries, possessions, quarrels, or any of a hundred things that grab our attention.

In the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, people are compared to flowers. After studying flora, I've come to better understand why God uses this analogy.

We were originally made in God's image to radiate the beauty of His character. But like a lovely flower, we are also very fragile; we can easily be trampled underfoot by the world. At some point in our lives we all need to realize that our time here on earth is very, very brief. The Lord God has created us for a much higher purpose than simply growing up, getting a job, earning money, and owning things. He has made us to produce fruit, so that the seeds of His glory and truth may be spread around the world (John 15:16).

In the Bible, God's Word is compared to seed (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23). We could also think of our Lord's truth as pollen, which is necessary for seed production—its purpose is to penetrate the hearts and lives of His people. If we allow His truth into our lives, it will have a profound effect upon us (Isaiah 55:11). Now if you know Jesus and He knows you, then please allow me to encourage you to study the Bible every day. Let His Word ripen within you and produce good fruit in your life!

If you've never received Christ into your life, please consider doing so right now. As Scripture clearly teaches, your life is like that of a flower—it will be over before you know it (1 Peter 1:24). But if you receive Christ, you have the opportunity to reproduce His glory.

Do you also desire to be planted in the garden of God's eternal paradise with a new body of unfading beauty? Then you must repent of your sins and believe that Christ died on a cross for those sins. He died to pay the penalty for your rebellion against His Father, if you will receive Jesus.

Like pollen to a flower, allow His truth to come into you and fulfill the ultimate purpose of your life—to *glorify God and enjoy Him forever*. He will place eternal seed within you that will survive your death and go on to produce a new body for you in heaven—one that will never die!

Yet to all who received Him,
to those who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children of God
(John 1:12).



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