

Overview of Song of Solomon

Sunday School Series

by Dave Lueloff

Introduction to the Song of Solomon

Review – the Bible has 66 Books. 39 in O.T. & 27 in N.T.

O.T. 17 Historical Books / 5 Poetical Books / 17 Prophetical Books

5 Poetical Books are written with the individual in mind and have to do with the heart

Job	Death to Self Life
Psalms	New Life in God
Proverbs	In God's School for Wisdom
Ecclesiastes	Set Affections on Things Above – not on Things of the Earth
Song of Solomon	Love of God

As we wean ourselves off of ourselves and off of the things of this world, we allow the love of God to flow through us. Job (tribulation) to Song of Solomon (love of God) is a progression as:

Romans 5:3-5 And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Solomon: **1 Kings 4:32** And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

The only song that God inspired is Solomon's Song of songs. The title means *the finest of all songs*. Some say Song of Solomon is just a poem of wedded bliss. However, there is a spiritual message for us:

It shows us the Love Jehovah has for His wife, Israel

It shows us the Love Christ has for His bride, the church

- **Oneness – We are one flesh with Jesus Christ**

Ephesians 5:30-32 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- **Giving Union**

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

- **Lasting Union**

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

- **Unfathomable Union**

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

- **Wealthy Union**

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Our love for Jesus Christ ought to increase. The more we know Him, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more we give of ourselves to the cause of Christ.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

We see this progression of increased love – from “what can Jesus Christ do for me” to “what can I do for Jesus Christ.” Our love matures:

Song of Solomon 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 6:3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies.

We are separated from the world by our love for Him:

Song of Solomon 8:5 Who *is* this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth *that* bare thee.

Song of Solomon 3:6 Who *is* this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?

We are longing for His return:

Song of Solomon 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

Israel, the people of Jehovah, were used of God to give the world the Bible and the Saviour of the world. Israel has been set aside as they rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah. However, God will restore Israel.

Just as the Israelites are a supernatural people, the church is a supernatural institution and the individual believer is a supernatural person. God will supernaturally preserve, protect and provide for His own. Notice Benjamin Netanyahu's speech as He trusts Jehovah to protect Israel.

The Christian life is a love affair. It has everything to do with the heart. We need to cultivate our relationship with the Lord via the Word of God, the Spirit of God, fellowship with God, prayer and walking with God.

Does your heart trust God? Do you truly love God? The love of God is truly our motivating factor.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us...

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Introduction to Song of Solomon

Solomon wrote The Song, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. They represent his life:

The Song	Early Life	His domestic weakness
Proverbs	Mid-Life	Ethical Wisdom
Ecclesiastes	Late-Life	Disillusionment and disgust with 'everything under the sun'

Saul had 1 wife and 1 concubine, David had 8 wives and Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He built the Temple with slave labor which included 10,000 Israelites and 150,000 heathen. The Temple was 80' long, 40' broad and 30' high, exactly twice the dimensions of the Tabernacle.

There are many views on the writing of Song of Solomon. Some see it written chronologically with a love story of a shepherd (Solomon himself) dressed incognito wooing a Shulamite maiden. A king comes to compel her to be his bride. She protests that she doesn't love the king; she loves the shepherd. The king reveals himself to her and she realizes that the king and the shepherd are one and the same...and they live happily ever after in this romance story.

However, Richard Moulton breaks this book into 7 separate narratives:

Wedding Day	1:1-2:7	Courtship Reminiscences 2:8-3:5
Betrothal Recalled	3:6-5:1	Bride's Troubled Dream 5:2-6:3
King Meditates on Bride	6:4-7:10	Bride Longs for home 7:11-8:4
Renewal of Love	8:5-8:19	

We will cover these sections one at a time with an emphasis on the application of Jesus' love for us. The Christian life is a love affair.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To understand the Scriptures, we need to understand who is speaking. Here is one's opinion:

The Wedding Day

Outside the Palace. The Bridal Procession approaches: the Royal Bridegroom leading the Bride, followed by an Attendant Chorus of Daughters of Jerusalem.

The Bride

Song of Solomon 1:2-3 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love *is* better than wine. Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name *is as* ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

A pause is made at the threshold of the Palace.

The Bride (to the Bridegroom)

Song of Solomon 1:4 Draw me –

The Attendant Chorus

we will run after thee:

The Bridegroom lifts the Bride across the threshold

The Bride

the king hath brought me into his chambers:

Attendant Chorus

we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine:

The Bride

the upright love thee.

Inside the Palace. The Bride addresses her Attendant Chorus

The Bride

Song of Solomon 1:5 I *am* black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

The Bride and Bridegroom whisper reminiscences of their courtship: how she sought to penetrate his disguise and he answered mysteriously.

The Bride

Song of Solomon 1:7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

The Bridegroom

Song of Solomon 1:8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

The Procession from the Banqueting House to the Bridal Chamber.

The Bridegroom (Verse 9-11)

The Bride (Verse 12-14)

The Bridegroom (Verse 15)

The Bride (1:16-2:1)

The Bridegroom (Verse 2:2)

The Bride (2:3-6)

Refrain (2:7)

Application – 2 great truths of the N.T.

1) The Love of Jesus Christ is better

Song of Solomon 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: **for thy love is better than wine.**

Thy love - Better as margin, i. e., thy endearments or tokens of affection are more desired than any other delights.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Do you love Jesus Christ? His love for was shown via allowing His body to be broken and His blood to be shed to pay for your sins. In fact, He gave thanks to God for this *before* His death!

Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

2) The Name of Jesus is wonderful

Song of Solomon 1:3 Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

...thy perfumes are good, thy name the best of all perfumes...

Is as ointment poured forth - - most lovely, and acceptable, and refreshing

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The name of Jesus is the most precious name ever Eph. 1:20-21, Phil. 2:9-11

Song of Solomon 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for **thy love is better than wine**.

Thy love is better... a freely given love / like wine, will never turn sour / gives joy / a covenanted love
a chastening love / forgiving love / ever-abiding love / love in spite of what we do & who we are....

Is His love not better?

Song of Solomon 1:3 Because of the savour of thy good ointments **thy name is as ointment** poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

His name is ointment – a sweet smelling fragrant – as ointment poured forth!

Isn't His name Wonderful? Jesus, oh how sweet the name. Let our love for Him be our motivation!

Song of Solomon 1:4 Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

God is ever drawing men to Himself. His Holy Spirit is working on the inside while God is using circumstances on the outside to get one saved. The work on Calvary is completed, and now the love that God has is to woo sinners by love to Himself. In romance, the male is the one who first seeks and then the female responds. Even so, the Father is wooing sinners to salvation.

Don't procrastinate

Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

What holds us back? Our will / love of money / particular sin / pride / rebellion / love of the world --- but if one gives in to the love of Christ; a new creature is created – as supernatural as the very act of creation from Genesis 1:1.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are **his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Song of Solomon 1:4 Draw me, **we will run after thee**... a new life / a new direction / a purposeful life inviting others to run with us...

Satan is drawing you – a downward draw to this world

God is drawing you – an upward draw to the next world – a heavenly kingdom

The world, the flesh and the devil are drawing you to stay lost

The Father, the Son and the Spirit are drawing you to get saved

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

When you come to Christ, you will be a “satisfied customer.” You will have ‘to tell somebody...’

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Song of Solomon 1:5-6 I *am* black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon. Look not upon me, because I *am* black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; *but* mine own vineyard have I not kept.

This bride does not feel worthy. She looks at herself and does not understand why this shepherd-lover would desire her. She is *Cinderella – like*.

What does Christ see in me that would have Him desire me to be saved? Nothing but His love – and that is beyond my comprehension. When the opportunity is given, share your personal testimony of the marvelous story of the great love to you; so will you and those who hear be blessed.

Song of Solomon 1:4 Draw me, we will run after thee: **the king hath brought me into his chambers...**

The invite to salvation; to eternal life; to inherit the kingdom; to be joint-heir with Christ! You tell me something that is of more importance, more value, a greater priority, and greater love than this.

Song of Solomon 1:4 the king hath brought me into his chambers: **we will be glad and rejoice in thee...**

Ingratitude of a born-again believer is despicable. May our love never grow cold. We must rekindle that love and be glad and rejoice in thee.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

The Bridegroom & Bride love each other

- **Christ's Love for you**

Song of Solomon 1:9-11 I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots. Thy cheeks are comely with rows *of jewels*, thy neck with chains *of gold*. We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.

Song of Solomon 1:15 Behold, thou *art* fair, my love; behold, thou *art* fair; thou *hast* doves' eyes.

Song of Solomon 2:2 As the lily among thorns, so *is* my love among the daughters.

His love is immeasurable, beyond all imagination, or comparison. It is liberal, bountiful and unfathomable. **Ephesians 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

The bride see herself as 1:5-6, but the groom sees her as 1:9-11.

Dove's eyes – "I only have eyes for you" – they sit real close to each other to see the one they love.

Christ is the Lily of the Valley (2:1), but we are as the lily (2:2); a likeness of Him. Chosen as from among the thorns! Thorns are worthless but a lily is a thing of beauty. One day Christ will call for His lilies to be gathered into their forever home.

- **Our Love for Christ**

Song of Solomon 1:12-14 While the king *sitteth* at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof. A bundle of myrrh *is* my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts. My beloved *is* unto me *as* a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.

Song of Solomon 1:16 Behold, thou *art* fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed *is* green.

Song of Solomon 2:3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so *is* my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit *was* sweet to my taste.

He is unutterably precious as a delightful smell. He is to be loved as one of a kind (2:3). As the apple tree among the trees of the wood – if you are in the woods, an apple tree in the midst of all other trees will satisfy your hunger.

That apple tree, a rare thing in the woods, would bring great delight and wonderment to the appetite. What delight is brought by the comfort of the shade and the sweetness of taste. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Do you love Him? Is His love the driving force of your life? Will you live forever in heaven with your Saviour?

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ **constraineth** us (compels us with zeal for souls and self-denial)

- **Wedding Day**

Song of Solomon 2:4-6 He brought me to the banqueting house, and **his banner over me *was* love**. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I *am* sick of love. His left hand *is* under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

The Bride speaks of the Groom coming to ‘sweep her off her feet’

Remember this romance story in the poetical section of Divine Scripture tells us of a spiritual application – Christ’s love for you as He has sought you, bought you and keeps you. He loved you, loves you and will always love you. It is an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3; Heb. 13:5).

❖ Christ is Seeking You vs. 8-9

Song of Solomon 2:8-9 The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.

The groom leaping and skipping – the love Christ has for you – like a ‘young love’ – full of energy and passion. Verse 9, He draws near to you – from the wall, the windows, and then to looking thru the lattice seeking to draw you to Bible salvation. You getting saved is a love story. After salvation, it is a love story. There is truly one that loves your soul.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

❖ In the Spring-time vs. 11-13

Song of Solomon 2:11-13 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 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.

Spring-time is a time of delight. The usual time that God works on a human for salvation is the spring – at the age of 20. I am 59 years old – the winter of life. If I live to be 80, then 80% of my life is over. If I live to be 70, 85% of my life is lived. The time to get saved is spring-time --- 20 years old. The older you get, the more set you are in your rejection of the love of Christ.

❖ Invitation Given vs. 10

Song of Solomon 2:10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

The Groom / the man speaks first to invite the one He is attracted to. His message is: “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

The message of salvation in Jesus Christ is similar – leave and cleave. Give your all to Jesus Christ – rise up and leave.... It is a message of love to a worthless sinner. Would you come to Christ today?

❖ The Call vs. 13c

The message is repeated. **Song of Solomon 2:13** 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.**

How many times has the invitation been given? Here it is repeated again – it is a message of wooing you to salvation. Luke 15 tells of the Good Shepherd seeking the 1 lost sheep as He leaves the 99. How long does the shepherd seek for that one lost sheep?

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and **go after that which is lost, until he find it?**

❖ **The Distraction vs. 15**

Song of Solomon 2:15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

Tender grapes (vs. 13) are susceptible to foxes. The tender grapes represent our faith and the foxes represent the crafty, and deceitful seducers of the faith. False teachers and false doctrine are actually from the devil and are meant to spoil the vine. *Little* foxes – often the error is considered *small*.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in **damnable heresies**, even **denying the Lord that bought them**, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Philippians 3:18-19 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end *is* destruction, whose **God is their belly**, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who **mind earthly things**.) (Food & Money are important to them)

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and **doctrines of devils**;

❖ **Invitation is Accepted vs. 16-17**

Song of Solomon 2:16-17 My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his: he feedeth among the lilies. Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

The invitation *to come away my fair one* is accepted. It is a true love story.

It is not, “I hope, I think, I trust it to be so,” but a 100% give it all I have...I love Him. A true romance is 100% / 100% and truly the Lord Jesus Christ loves you 100%. How about your love for Him?

1 Corinthians 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

❖ **The Dream – Apparent Disappearance of Her Beloved 3:1-4**

Job 23:3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat!

Sometimes God seems far away. May it be our heart's desire to stay close to the One we love. May our love never wane or grow cold. May our quest for His closeness be similar to:

Song of Solomon 3:2-3 I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets...I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: *to whom I said*, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?

Conclusion

Song of Solomon 3:4 *It was* but a little that I passed from them, but I **found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go**, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

- He arrives 3:6-11

Where is He coming from? **Song of Solomon 3:6** Who *is* this that cometh out of the wilderness...

Coming up out of this world – Jesus Christ is “not of this world.”

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Likewise, saved people are not of this world. We become one flesh with Christ, our beloved.

Song of Solomon 8:5 Who *is* this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

The greatness and majesty of His life:

His bed (vs. 7); His protection (vs. 8); His vehicle (vs. 9); His beauty (vs.10); and His crown (vs. 11)

The royal procession is exquisite and protected by 60 valiant men, all experts in war! (vs. 7-8)

The Queen of Sheba had heard of the majesty of King Solomon -- a picture of Christ’s kingdom.

1 Kings 10:4-6 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her...

1 Kings 10:7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

What grandeur heaven will be? Let us always keep one eye upon our eternal home.

- He pours out His love for her 4:1-5

He sees her for her beauty (4:1-2)

He describes her beauty (4:3-5)

He sees her with great wonderment (4:7)

He invites her to leave Lebanon (4:8)

How does the Lord Jesus Christ see us? “He looked beyond my faults and saw my need.” His love for us is beyond description. That he would love us as sinners is remarkable.

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

- Actual Proposal for Marriage 4:7-15

The invitation given / she has ravished his heart! (4:8-9)

The proposal: **Song of Solomon 4:8** Come with me from Lebanon, *my spouse*, with me from Lebanon...

Jesus' proposal for salvation: **Matthew 4:19** ...**Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men.

Only correct response: **Matthew 4:20** And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

He again tells her of her beauty 4:10-15. When you find real love – no need to look elsewhere:

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the **water that I shall give him shall never thirst**; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that **cometh to me shall never hunger**; and he that **believeth on me shall never thirst**.

When you get born-again, you will never need to desire salvation again – truth satisfies. When truth is found, the quest is over!

- Solomon's response to her acceptance is joy 5:1

Salvation will transform you and change you from the inside out. It changes your attitude:

❖ **God knows all my heart**

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

❖ **Submit to His will**

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

❖ **Attitude toward money**

Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.

❖ **Desire to see others saved**

John 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

❖ **Tell others of Christ**

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

❖ **Desire fellowship with brethren**

Acts 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise **joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who **for the joy that was set before** him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand...

You attitude changes in your life as a result of your love for God. Salvation is a love story!

Love Transforms a Life

Bride's Troubled Dream 5:2-6:3

Her beloved comes to her at night, seeking admission. She delays and when she opens the door, he is gone. She seeks her beloved in her grief. She finds him (6:2) and awakes with a song on her lips (6:3).

➤ The Beloved seeks Admission

Song of Solomon 5:2 I sleep, but my heart waketh: *it is* the voice of my beloved that knocketh, *saying*, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, *and* my locks with the drops of the night.

Salvation - an invitation for you to respond with your heart and now service is also a voluntary response.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

The bride is asleep, yet awake (5:2)?? Could it be that the church is half-heartedly 'serving.' His voice is tender, "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled..."

➤ She Delays

Song of Solomon 5:3 I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?

It is not convenient for me at this time. I will answer on my terms! Wait, wait, wait – ok, I am now ready – but He is gone:

When she is ready, He is gone

Song of Solomon 5:6 I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, *and* was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Almost, but lost may very well be the description of millions.

Yes, saved people can delay in responding to the Lord. **Ecclesiastes 12:1** Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth... **Isaiah 55:6** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

The unusual events of life can prove our love for the Lord. It is easy to serve the Lord when life is grand. The real character is revealed when trials come.

➤ **She now seeks Him in grief**

Song of Solomon 5:8 ...if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I *am* sick of love.

Song of Solomon 2:5 Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I *am* sick of love.

Sick of love: can be from an excess of delight at His *presence*; or an excess of pain at His *absence*.

Love-sick can refer to euphoria from being in love or pain from the loss of a loved-one. Here it is the absence of her lover. Have you ever been sickened by your lack of love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you ever pondered how the heart of God feels toward humanity that rejects the blood of Jesus Christ and then His own children that ignore Him as they live their lives? The heart of God – ponder it.

Love, the heart and a literal physical sickness can go hand-in-hand. These verses should reflect our life:

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Psalms 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

You can seek happiness in alcohol, drugs, adultery, pornography, buying things, having more money, pleasures of life, traveling abroad... but the only lasting contentment is found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

She describes Him (5:10-16) as the most wonderful, handsome, gracious man ever! And He is.

➤ **She finds Him**

Song of Solomon 6:2 My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

Finding Him causes her to once again express her love for Him. She is unashamed of her love for Him.

Song of Solomon 6:3 I *am* my beloved's, and my beloved *is* mine: he feedeth among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 5:10 My beloved *is* white and ruddy, **the chiefest among ten thousand.**

If you had 10,000 friends, He would be the chiefest of them .

Ephesians 1:20-21 Which he wrought in **Christ**, when he **raised him from the dead**, and **set *him* at his own right hand** in the **heavenly *places***, **Far above all** principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and **every** name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

What think ye of Christ? Your heart, your love and the Lord Jesus Christ – what do you think? What do you truly love? Is there anything in this world better than the love of the Lord?

Song of Solomon 5:16 His mouth *is* most sweet: **yea, he *is* altogether lovely**. This *is* my beloved, and **this *is* my friend**, O daughters of Jerusalem.

King Meditates on Bride 6:4-7:10

Song of Solomon 6:4 Thou *art* beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem...

Song of Solomon 7:6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!

- The King muses upon her (focus is on her head) as the “one he loves.” (6:4-9)
- He ponders (6:10) the time he noticed her as strikingly beautiful. (Perhaps an interlude – unsure who is speaking in 6:11-6:13)
- The King describes her beauty (7:1-9) from the bottom of her feet to the top of her head.
- The response of the bride: (7:10) “I *am* my beloved's, and his desire *is* toward me.”

There are many wives and concubines, but you, my dove are the fairest.

The King sees her as one that stands out and is superior to all others

Song of Solomon 6:8-9 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled is *but* one; she *is* the *only* one of her mother, she *is* the choice *one* of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; *yea*, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

The application – Jesus Christ loves the church. There are 60 queens and 80 concubines.... There are the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Lodges, Brotherhoods, Fraternal Orders, and many institutions, but the church of Jesus Christ excels them all.

Ephesians 5:31-32 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

The application – Jesus Christ loves you. You are unique and the beloved of Jesus Christ. There are scores of people on this earth, but only the born-again ones are children of the Father. A Father loves each of His own children as if he/she were the only child.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

One day we will truly be united as one flesh with Jesus Christ

Revelation 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

There is much discussion amongst preachers on who the bride will be. She will be arrayed in a white robe. It would seem to be all the saved will be the bride.

Revelation 7:13-14 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Humans tend to enjoy arguing. Let us read **Revelation 19:7** "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him...."

The King describes her beauty (7:1-9) from the bottom of her feet to the top of her head.

Song of Solomon 7:1 How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.

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!

Nahum 1:15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows...

Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 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!

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Proverbs 25:25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

The response of the bride: (7:10) "I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me."

"In the happiest couples, the husband rated the wife more positively than she did on *every single quality*...in the happiest couples, the husband stays blind. Positive illusions create an upward spiral of love." (*The One Thing You Need To Know* by Marcus Buckingham – Gallup Poll author)

Rename flaws as strengths: *she not impatient, she's intense or she's not narrow-minded, she's focused.* Your perception of your spouse will determine your love for her. Jesus' perception / reality of us:

John 17:9-10 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for **them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.** And all **mine are thine, and thine are mine;** and **I am glorified in them.** WOW

Bride Longs for home 7:11-8:4

In this passage, only the bride is speaking. She yearns to see the country home on Mount Lebanon again. She makes a tender appeal that she and her husband should visit it, and there renew their love.

She yearns for fellowship – “Let us...”

Song of Solomon 7:11-12 Come, my beloved, **let us go forth** into the field; **let us lodge** in the villages. **Let us get up early** to the vineyards; **let us see** if the vine flourish, *whether* the tender grape appear, *and* the pomegranates bud forth: **there will I give thee my loves.**

A human being will be most contented when in fellowship with God.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:14 ...and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Psalms 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

Psalms 119:162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

How long have you been saved? Are you right with God? If not, why not? Are you contented?

Self examination:

“...**let us see** if the vine flourish, *whether* the tender grape appear, *and* the pomegranates bud forth...”

There is pleasure in sin for a season, and it always brings discontentment. Note the contrast:

Proverbs 5:3-4 For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

Fruit bearing is a wonderful thing.

Song of Solomon 7:13 The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates *are* all manner of pleasant *fruits*, new and old, *which* I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

Fruit bearing is from God. Fruit comes from the seed received in good soil. It grows from rain and sunlight. **1 Corinthians 3:6** I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Fruit bearing is an evidence of salvation.

Matthew 7:17-18 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that **ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

The Bride proves her love by the service she renders, by the fruit she bears. She loves Him, she lives for Him, she works for Him, she dreams of Him, she waits for Him, and she longs for His return.

John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Bride and Groom a closeness as Brother & Sister without the thought of incest

Song of Solomon 8:1 O that thou *wert* as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! *when* I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised.

The Bridegroom calls her, "my sister, my spouse." (Song of Solomon 4:9, 4:10, 4:12, 5:1)

Jesus Christ calls us his bride, and he also calls us His brethren! We can also be His friend.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...

Hebrews 2:11-12 ...for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?

Song of Solomon 8:1-2 ...*when* I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised. I would lead thee, *and* bring thee into my mother's house, *who* would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.

1 Corinthians 8:3 *But if any man love God, the same is known of him.*

Renewal of Love 8:5-8:19

Here is the renewal of love in the Lebanon vineyard. The royal pair reaches the spot where they had first met. They speak of 'to love and to be loved, and the wonder of being in love'

Song of Solomon 8:5 Who *is* this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth *that* bare thee.

We, the saved, are 'not of this world' and leaning upon our beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ. He brought us up out of the miry clay and set our feet upon a solid Rock and established our goings. Amen for that.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love *is* strong as death; jealousy *is* cruel as the grave: the coals thereof *are* coals of fire, *which hath* a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

What is stronger than love? It can be as a seal upon the heart. It cannot be quenched nor drowned, and it is as strong as death.

Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution...

Rom. 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 21:17 ...Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee...

John 6:68 ...Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Name one thing that is greater than to love the Lord, for the Lord to love you and for that love to grow

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Seal = Ownership

Eph. 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The Bride now recalls the remarks of her brothers which had puzzled her in younger years, and which she now understands

Song of Solomon 8:8-10 We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? If she *be* a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she *be* a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar. I *am* a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour.

She yearns for His return

Song of Solomon 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants **things which must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 22:7 Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, **I come quickly**; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.

John 14:1-2 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: **if *it were not so*, I would have told you**. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

He is coming again. The prophets foretold it; Jesus promised it; and the Apostles preached it. Every book and writer of the N.T. mentions it except Galatians and Philemon. 1& 2 Thessalonians and Revelation are end time books with a theme of the return of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the bridegroom is coming again, literally, bodily, personally and pre-millennially. Are you ready?

Are you waiting for His return? There is a crown for those who love His return:

2 Timothy 4:8 ...a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.