



Through the Bible Series: Song of Solomon

Book of Song of Solomon

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Copies of Tortoise and Hare coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of Groom & Bride coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of Word Trace
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



Books of the Bible Series:

Song of Solomon

Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson and every lesson in this series is for our children to become familiar with the structure and order of the books of the Bible and point out how each book is written to specifically picture the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reference

Song of Solomon

Lesson Instructions

1. For the last few weeks we have been learning the books of the Bible and what they are about. Can any of you name the books we have learned so far? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalm, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Can you find them in your Bible? Today we are going to learn the next book of the Bible. That

book is called Song of Solomon. Find the very first chapter and verse and point to it for me.

2. In order to understand this next book of the Bible I want us first to learn what an allegory is. Have any of you heard this word, if so, do you know what an allegory is? I am going to give you some examples of allegories. You have actually seen them many times, but you just didn't know that is what they were called. An allegory is when you have a made up story or a fictional cartoon picture, and the things in that fictional story or picture actually represent other things. The story or picture is teaching a deeper meaning.
3. Have you ever heard of the story of the Tortoise and the Hare? This is a great example of an allegory. It is a story about a turtle and a rabbit, but once you hear the whole story you realize in the end it is teaching a moral lesson. The story ends up having a bigger meaning than just a race between a turtle and a rabbit. I am going to tell you the story so you can see what I am talking about... (Read them the story attached - give them the hand out to color while you tell the story).
4. Now that we have read this story and you heard what happened between the turtle and the rabbit, what is the lesson we can learn here? Can we learn more from the story than just being entertained by the storyline? Sure we can. There are two characters in the story: the turtle and the rabbit. Who could the rabbit represent: a person who is cocky and proud and bragging? Who could the turtle represent: the humble and hard working person? What lessons can we learn from this story? We learned that you don't have to be fast to win a race. We learned that you don't have to be the best to do well at something. We learned you just have to be smart and consistent and work hard to be successful at something. We learned that pride and bragging can actually give you a false sense of accomplishment when actually it is the steady hard work that makes you successful. There are a lot of things that can be learned from this story. In the end, is this story just about a turtle and a rabbit in a race? No. It teaches a lot more than that. It teaches us

ideas. It teaches us a way of thinking about things. It has a deeper meaning.

5. That is exactly what the Song of Solomon is. It is an allegory. It is a fictional story with fictional characters, and the way they talk and act toward one another teaches us something that means much more than just conversations between characters. The Song of Solomon is a recorded conversation between a man and a woman who are deeply in love who join together in marriage and dedicate themselves to one another forever. It is a beautiful poem and song, but since this is an allegory, it teaches us something much more than this. It is a picture of Christ and His church and the love of Christ for His church and the love of His church for Him.
6. There are two characters in this book: One is the bridegroom which represents Christ, and the other is the bride which represents Christ's church - His people. As you read the book and learn how these two people feel for one another and you see how they interact, you see the Lord God is teaching us that this is the kind of dedicated love and commitment Christ has for His church and the kind of dedicated love and commitment His church has for Him. It is not really just about a husband and a wife and their love for each other, but to understand this book's real meaning, it is something much bigger and deeper than that.
7. It helps us to understand the deep trust and love that Christ has for His people and His people have for Him. The highest, strongest, most tender, most absolute devotion of love is not what exists between a mother and a daughter or a mother and a son; it is not that between a father and his daughter or a father and his son. The strongest, most tender, most absolute devotion of love, that which is the deepest affection known among all humans, is the love of a man for his wife and his wife for him. Our savior said for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother. The Lord gave us this husband and wife relationship because without it we wouldn't have a way to know how the Lord feels about His people and how much He is dedicated to them and loves them. Marriage and the union between a man and woman is an

allegory too.

8. We don't have time to read this whole chapter but I am going to give you one verse as an example and I want us to talk about how that pictures Christ and His church so you can understand what I mean. There is one wonderful verse. Can any of you read this verse to me? "My Beloved is mine, and I am his" (Song of Solomon 2:16).
9. What could this mean? If you know that Christ is the groom and Christ's church is the bride then this verse is the bride speaking of her possession of Christ and Christ's possession of her. It is just like when a man marries a woman they become one. I am my husband's possession and he is mine. He is mine because he has given himself for me and to me. I am Christ's because I have been bought with His blood and called by His grace, and because I have given myself to Him.
10. It is a wonderful thing that the Lord gives us our earthly relationships so we might understand how Christ loved and gave Himself for the church. If it were not for the Lord giving us these relationships we would never have a way to understand these things! The Lord is gracious and wise. We respect and are grateful for these earthly relationships that God has ordained and set up to show what they REALLY represent. They represent Christ's love for His church and how He came to this earth, became a man, and paid for the sins of His bride. Why? Because He knew she was helpless to do it for herself and His love for her was so strong He couldn't bear to be apart from her and knew that was the only way for them to be together forever. Amen.

Lesson Activities

- Word Trace
- Tortoise and the Hare Coloring Sheet
- Bride and Groom Coloring Sheet



Take Home Lesson Overview

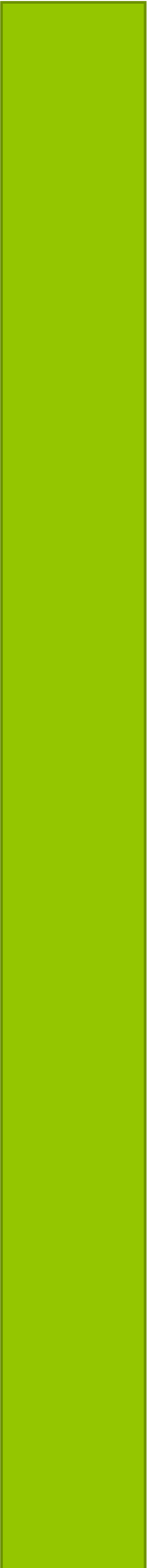
Through the Bible Series: Song of Solomon

Scripture Reference:

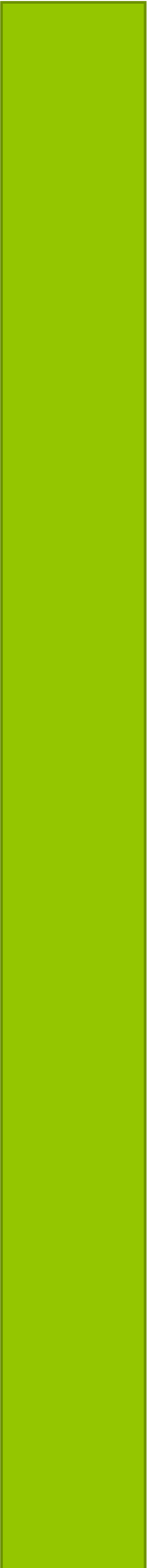
Song of Solomon

Lesson Overview:

Today we learned about the book in the Bible called the Song of Solomon. This story is an allegory. It is a fictional story with fictional characters, and the way they talk and act toward one another teaches us something that means much more than just a conversation between characters. The Song of Solomon is a recorded conversation between a man and a woman who are deeply in love, who join together in marriage and commitment, and dedicate themselves to one another forever. It is a beautiful poem and song, but since this is an allegory it teaches us something much more than that. It is a picture of Christ and His church and the love of Christ for His church and the love of His church for Him. There are two characters in this book: One is the bridegroom which represents Christ and the other is the bride, which represents Christ's church - His people. As you read the book and learn how these two people feel for one another and you see how they interact - the Lord God is teaching us that this is the kind of dedicated love and commitment Christ has for His church and the kind of dedicated love and commitment His church has for Him. It is not really just about a man and a wife and their love for each other. To understand, this book



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couldn't bear to be apart from her and knew that was the only way for them to be together forever. Amen.

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The Tortoise and the Hare

Posted on Jul 2, 1997

One of Aesop's Fables
Illustrated by Arthur Rackham



Once upon a time there was a hare who, boasting how he could run faster than anyone else, was forever teasing tortoise for its slowness. Then one day, the irate tortoise answered back: "Who do you think you are? There's no denying you're swift, but even you can be beaten!" The hare squealed with laughter.

"Beaten in a race? By whom? Not you, surely! I bet there's nobody in the world that can win against me, I'm so speedy. Now, why don't you try?"

Annoyed by such bragging, the tortoise accepted the challenge. A course was planned, and the next day at dawn they stood at the starting line. The hare yawned sleepily as the meek tortoise trudged slowly off. When the hare saw how painfully slow his rival was, he decided, half asleep on his feet, to have a quick nap. "Take your time!" he said. "I'll have forty winks and catch up with you in a minute."

The hare woke with a start from a fitful sleep and gazed round, looking for the tortoise. But the creature was only a short distance away, having barely covered a third of the course. Breathing a sigh of relief, the hare decided he might as well have breakfast too, and off he went to munch some cabbages he had noticed in a nearby field. But the heavy meal and the hot sun made his eyelids droop. With a careless glance at the tortoise, now halfway along the course, he decided to have another snooze before flashing past the winning post. And smiling at the thought of the look on the tortoise's face when it saw the hare speed by, he fell fast asleep and was soon snoring happily. The sun started to sink, below the horizon, and the tortoise, who had been plodding towards the winning post since morning, was scarcely a yard from the finish. At that very point, the hare woke with a jolt. He could see the tortoise a speck in the distance and away he dashed. He leapt and bounded at a great rate, his tongue lolling, and gasping for breath. Just a little more and he'd be first at the finish. But the hare's last leap was just too late, for the tortoise had beaten him to the winning post. Poor hare! Tired and in disgrace, he slumped down beside the tortoise who was silently smiling at him.

"Slowly does it every time!" he said.

The Tortoise and the Hare

Coloring page by Erin O'Leary



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Student Name _____

Date _____

Handwriting Practice **Basic Print - Large Letters** - 13/16 inch

To print worksheet widest side horizontal click "File" - "Page Setup" and "Landscape"

Song of Solomon

Song of Solomon

Song of Solomon

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Sermon #22¹
Series

Through The Bible

Title: **THE SONG OF SOLOMON**

I Am His and He is Mine

Text: Song of Solomon 1:1-4

Subject: *Christ and His Bride*

Introduction:

In many respects, this is the most precious and most refreshing of the Books of Inspiration. **This is altogether a book about fellowship and communion with Christ. It is not in any sense to be interpreted literally. It is spiritual. It is an allegory, a spiritual dialogue between Christ our heavenly Bridegroom and the church his Bride.**

John Gill said, “The whole Song is figurative and allegorical; expressing, in a variety of lively metaphors, the love, union, and communion between Christ and his church; setting forth the several different frames, cases, and circumstances of believers in this life. There is no case, no circumstance, no spiritual condition which we may be in, regarding our relationship to Christ, which is not expressed in this sacred Song of Love”

C. H. Spurgeon said, “This Book stands like the tree of life in the midst of the garden, and no man shall ever be able to pluck its fruit, and eat thereof, until first he has been brought by Christ past the sword of the cherubim, and led to rejoice in the love which hath delivered him from death. The Song of Solomon is only to be comprehended by men whose standing is within the veil. The outer court worshippers, and even those who only enter the court of the priests, think the Book a very strange one; but they who come very near Christ can often see in this Song of Solomon the only expression which their love to their Lord desires.”

CONTRAST

The Song of Solomon is set in the Scriptures in direct contrast to Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes shows us the emptiness of life without Christ. The Song of Solomon shows us the fulness of life in Christ. Ecclesiastes expounds the first part of our Lord's statement to the Samaritan woman—"Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again." The Song of Solomon expounds the second part of his statement to her—"Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

This is a Book full of Christ. Here he is presented not only as our God, our Redeemer, our Savior, and our King, but in the most intimate character and personal relationship imaginable—our Bridegroom, our Beloved! Here we see the Son of God in marriage union with his elect.

This sweet, precious, intimate song of love begins with the church, Christ's chosen, beloved bride speaking to him, expressing her desire for intimacy with him (1:2-4, 7).

(Song of Songs 1:2-4) "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love *is* better than wine. (3) Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name *is as* ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. (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."

(Song of Songs 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?"

HUSBAND AND WIFE

The highest, strongest affection known to humanity is not that of mother and daughter, or father and son, but the love of a husband and wife. Our Savior spoke of this devotion when he said, "*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh*" (Matt. 19:5).

When we realize the tremendous truth found in Ephesians 5—that the union of a husband and wife is an earthly illustration of the heavenly relationship between Christ and His church—the Song of Solomon takes on a new meaning. We see the love of Christ for his church and the church for him portrayed through the love of a man for his wife and of the wife for her husband. **The Song of Solomon is intimate, even passionate, because it is all about the love life of Christ and his church** (Eph. 5:22-32).

(Ephesians 5:22-32) "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. (25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: (30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. (31) 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. (32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

TYPICAL

This love of a man for his wife is set before us throughout the Scriptures as a type and picture of Christ's love for his church.

- Adam and Eve
- Abraham and Sarah
- Jacob and Rachel
- Boaz and Ruth
- Hosea and Gomer
- Paul said to the Corinthians, "*I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as chaste virgin to Christ.*"

The Lord Jesus Christ loves his people, everlastingly, immutably, and unconditionally. And all who are born of God, all who know his Son, love him. To know him is to love him. We do not love him like we should. We do not love him as we would. And we do not love him as we shall. But we do love him (1 Cor. 16:22; 1 John 4:19).

(1 Corinthians 16:22) "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."

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

Christ loves us perfectly; and we want to love him perfectly. His love for us is without variation; but our love for him is not. Our love for him (Let us blush with shame to acknowledge it; but acknowledge it we must.) varies greatly. We have been forgiven much and we love much; but our love is sometimes (Must honesty force us to say, "often"?) grows cold. **The Song of Solomon shows us, in pictures with which every believer becomes familiar by personal experience, of how our Beloved keeps us in his love.**

REDEMPTION

The Song of Solomon does not mention the word redemption or portray it in any way. Yet, redemption is clearly at the very heart of the relationship portrayed in this love song.

In the fifth verse of the first chapter, the bride confesses both what she is by nature and what she is in Christ.

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

She says, "**I am as black as the goat hair tents of Kedar.**" Blackness within and blackness without, in heart and in deed, is our nature. **But in Christ we are as comely (as beautiful and magnificent) as the curtains of Solomon's temple.** This beauty is not natural to us and was not in any way achieved by us. It is the beauty of redemption and grace. Our righteousnesses are but filthy rags, but **Christ has clothed us with the robe of his righteousness.** (Ezek. 16:6-14).

(Ezekiel 16:6-14) "And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live. (7) I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: *thy* breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou *wast* naked and bare. (8) Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. (9) Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. (10) I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin,

and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. (11) I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. (12) And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. (13) Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment *was of* fine linen, and silk, and broidered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. (14) And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD."

"O my dove, thou art in the clefts of the rock" (2:14), the Beloved says to his bride. Hidden in the cleft Rock of Ages, *"crucified with Christ."* Being crucified with Christ, we are therefore dead to the law that would condemn us and the world that would allure us away from him.

"Behold, thou art fair, my love. Behold, thou art fair" (4:1) is our Savior's constantly reiterated assurance to us. He tells us again and again, **"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee"** (4:7). He does not simply say, "Soon thou shalt be fair and one day there shall be no spot in thee." He says, *"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee."* *"For Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy, and without blemish"* (Eph. 5:25, 27).

(Colossians 1:21-22) "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (22) In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:"

This is talking about what Christ has done. It refers to the present state of God's saints in this world. In Christ we are both as justified and sanctified, clothed with his spotless righteousness, in which we are perfectly comely, all fair, and without spot.

“MY BELOVED”

Throughout this song, Christ is spoken of as “*my Beloved.*” His majesty, beauty, excellence, and supremacy are described in a variety of ways.

“*He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valleys*” (2:1-2). The Rose of Sharon is a beautiful, fragrant, white rose. The Lily of the Valleys is the wild flower of the buttercup family, with showy flowers of brightest crimson color. The white rose of Sharon suggests our Lord's spotless, sinless character. The crimson lily of the valleys suggests his blood shed for us.

“*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*” (2:3).

The apple tree, as it is set before us in Scripture, seems to be an emblem of Christ, the Tree of Life. It (He) provides us with shade from the heat of the sun (2:3), sweet fruit (2:3), and delightful fragrance (7:8).

(Song of Songs 5:9-16) "What *is* thy beloved more than *another* beloved, O thou fairest among women? what *is* thy beloved more than *another* beloved, that thou dost so charge us? (10) My beloved *is* white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. (11) His head *is as* the most fine gold, his locks *are* bushy, *and* black as a raven. (12) His eyes *are as the eyes* of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, *and* fitly set. (13) His cheeks *are as* a bed of spices, *as* sweet flowers: his lips *like* lilies,

dropping sweet smelling myrrh. (14) His hands *are as* gold rings set with the beryl: his belly *is as* bright ivory overlaid *with* sapphires. (15) His legs *are as* pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance *is as* Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. (16) His mouth *is* most sweet: yea, he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, and this *is* my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

(Revelation 1:9-18) "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. (10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, (11) Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. (12) And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; (13) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. (14) **His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;** (15) **And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.** (16) And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was as* the sun shineth in his strength. (17) And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: (18) *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

DEEPENING LOVE

As we read the Song of Solomon, though there are acknowledged struggles, we see the bride's love deepening with experience. So it is with us. **Through our experience of grace, as we grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, our love for him deepens.** The more we enjoy his communion, the more we grow in love and devotion to him.

Twice in these chapters that communion is interrupted for a season. But **the interruptions** only make us to know our need of him and graciously compel us to seek him ardently. These seasons when our Savior hides his face are either the result of our own declensions or times of trial by which our Beloved wisely and graciously makes himself the more precious to us.

- **What we want is for Christ himself to embrace us and make his love for us known to us** (1:2-3).

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

- **We are fully aware that we will never seek him, except he draw us. We will never embrace him, except he embrace us** (1:4).

(Song of Songs 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."

That is how it was in our first experience of grace, when the Son of God first wed our hearts to him; and that is the way it is now. Everything depends upon him (2:4-6).

(Song of Songs 2:4-6) "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me *was* love. (5) Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I *am* sick of love. (6) His left hand *is* under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me."

- **The place where communion is found is in that place where our Savior feeds his flocks, and causes them to rest (1:7).**

(Song of Songs 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?"

As we seek him, in his house, by the guidance of his watchmen (faithful gospel preachers), we find him, find him for ourselves and bring him into our mother's house (the assembly of the saints) with us (3:1-4).

(Song of Songs 3:1-4) "By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. (2) I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. (3) The watchmen that go about the city found me: *to whom I said*, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? (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."

- **We see this languishing repeated in chapter 5. The lessons of that chapter are too important to merely mention.**
Pause briefly to consider them

(Song of Songs 5:1-8) "I am come into my garden, my sister, *my* spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. (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. (3) I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? (4) My beloved put in his hand by the hole *of the door*, and my bowels were moved for him. (5) I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped *with* myrrh, and my fingers *with* sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. (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. (7) The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me. (8) I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I *am* sick of love."

There is within each of us a terrible tendency to become neglectful, indifferent, and lukewarm towards the Lord Jesus Christ. This common, sinful tendency of our nature must be marked, acknowledged and avoided.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love:
Here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

"I sleep."

Here is a very common sin. — "*I sleep.*" The wise virgins often sleep with the foolish. Far too often this is the bad effect great

privileges have upon our sinful hearts. When we indulge ourselves in carnal ease and security, our hearts become cold, neglectful, drowsy, and indifferent. Prayer becomes a burden. Devotion languishes. Worship sinks to nothing more than bodily exercise. Zeal dies.

“But my heart waketh!”

Here is a hopeful sign. —“*But my heart waketh.*” It is a hopeful sign that there is grace in the heart when the heart struggles against that horrid, sinful sluggishness to which we are so prone. Ours is not the sleep of death. There is life within, struggling, struggling hard against sin (Rom. 7:14-22).

“It is the voice of my Beloved.”

Here is a very loving and tender call. —“*It is the voice of my Beloved.*” All is not gone. Though my heart sleeps so foolishly, yet Christ is my Beloved. Though my love is so fickle, so shameful, and so unworthy of him, I do love him. And what is more, I still hear his voice and know his voice.

The Lord Jesus Christ tenderly knocks to awaken us to come and open to Him (Rev. 3:20). By his Word, by his providence, and by his Spirit, the Son of God knocks at the heart’s door of his beloved, because he will not be spurned by the object of his love. He will not leave his own. Neither will he let his own leave him. He has betrothed us unto himself forever (Hos. 2:19).

He not only knocks for entrance. Our beloved Redeemer graciously calls us, wooing us to himself by his grace. Whose voice is it? “*It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh.*” Who is he calling? “*My Sister!*” “*My Love!*” “*My Dove!*” “*My Undeified!*” What does he call for? “*Open to me.*” Why is he calling? “*My head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops*

of the night” the night of his agony in Gethsemane, in the judgment hall, when he was crowned with thorns, piercing his brow.

“I have put off my coat!”

Here is a most ungrateful excuse. —“*I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?*” (v. 3). Because of her carnal ease, she refused the Lord’s gracious invitation to communion. She did not want to trouble herself, and she did not want to be troubled, not even by him! Her heart was so cold that she preferred her ease to the fellowship of Christ. Let us be honest. We are often so wrapped up in worldly care and carnal ease that we become almost, if not altogether, indifferent to our Lord Jesus Christ!

“My Beloved put in his hand!”

But our Lord is gracious still. Our Redeemer’s love cannot be quenched. He is longsuffering, patient, and gracious to his people, even in our most sinful rejection and denial of him. Here is a picture of our Savior’s persevering, effectual grace. —“*My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him*” (v. 4). It is written, “*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth*” (Ps. 110:3). How our hearts rejoice to know that Christ will not leave his people to themselves. As the hymn writer put it, “He will never, never leave us, nor will let us quite leave Him!” His grace is effectual. His grace is persevering. His grace is irresistible. His grace is preserving. Yes, his grace is indestructible! He knocks; but we are so cold, so indifferent, so hard that we would never open to Him.

“My Beloved had withdrawn himself!”

Here is a sad picture of the loving chastisement our neglect and indifference brings upon us. — *"I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. 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. The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me"* (vv. 5-7; Isa. 54:9-10). Thank God for faithful watchmen who will not allow us to hide behind any veil, excusing our indifference and sin, but faithfully expose us to ourselves and point us to Christ for mercy and grace!

"If ye find my Beloved..."

Here is one last hope. — *"I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love"* (v. 8). She could not find Christ for herself, so she employed the help and assistance of the Lord's people.

Cherish the precious fellowship of Christ. Let nothing rob you of your rich privilege. Do nothing to drive him away (Eph. 4:30). But when you have grieved the Spirit of God, when the Lord Jesus hides his face from you, do not despair. It is not because he has ceased to cherish you (1 John 2:1-2), but because he cherishes you so much that he is determined to make you pine for him. Are you sick of love? Does your soul long for fresh tokens of Christ's love to you? When your soul languishes, child of God, when sin robs you of Christ's manifest presence and sweet communion, as soon as he calls, open to him. *"Today, if ye will hear his voice harden not your heart."* Go back to the cross. Confess your sinful negligence. Go on seeking him. Trust Him still (2 Sam. 23:5; Lam. 3:18-33). **We will find our Beloved**

right where we left him, in his garden (his church), gathering his lilies (6:2).

Return, O Son of God return!
Come knock again upon my door.
Dear Savior, my Beloved, return.
Possess me and depart no more!

ASSURANCE

Though we are fickle, weak and wavering, our marriage to Christ is firm. “*He hateth putting away.*” Our communion is sometimes broken; but our union is indestructible. Why? The union is all his doing, not ours. It depends altogether upon him, not at all upon us. Look at three text with me.

“**My Beloved is mine, and I am his**” (2:16). Here the bride speaks of her possession in Christ and his possession of her. He is mine because he has given himself for me and to me. I am his because I have been bought with his blood and called by his grace, and because I have given myself to him.

“**I am my Beloved’s, and my Beloved is mine**” (6:3). Here the thought of his ownership of her seems to hold the chief place. “*Ye are not your own. Ye are bought with a price.*”

“**I am my Beloved, and his desire is toward me**” (7:10). Here his ownership of and devotion to her swallows up every other thought. I am his, but more—“*His desire is toward me!*”

In these three verses we have the same picture of a double inheritance that Paul describes in Ephesians 1.—Christ the inheritance of his church; and we are the inheritance of Christ. “*In (Christ) we have obtained an inheritance*” (v. 11); and we

are “*the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints*” (v. 18).

HIS GARDEN

“*A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a well shut up, a fountain sealed*” (4:12). Here our Lord gives us an idea of his inheritance in the saints. It is a quiet spot where he delights to dwell, enclosed for his use, full of all manner of precious fruits and flowers.

Our Prayer—(Song of Songs 4:16) “Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, *that* the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.”

Christ’s Promise—(Song of Songs 5:1) “I am come into my garden, my sister, *my* spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.”

The church is his garden, but **he shares the fruits** of his garden with his chosen friends. “*Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.*” Christ promised to both to bless Abraham’s seed and to make his seed a blessing.

The sealed fountain in the midst of the garden is first for the Master’s use, for he says, “*Give me to drink;*” but it flows out to others. “*A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon*” (4:15).—“*Whoso drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.*” The soul’s thirst quenched at the Fountain.—“*The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.*” Here is an unfailing supply in the soul of every believer.—

But there is more. “*He that believeth on me, out of him shall flow rivers of living water,*” “*streams from Lebanon,*” flowing through the believer to thirsty souls.

CHAPTER 8

As the Song of Songs, this blessed song of love closes we have several instructive words.

- **Here is a picture of the believer’s life of faith in this world** (v. 5).

(Song of Songs 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.”

- **Here is a description of Christ’s love for us** (vv. 6-7).

(Song of Songs 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. (7) 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.”

- **Here is our Savior calling for us to constantly call upon him** (v. 13).

(Song of Songs 8:13) “Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear *it*.”

(Hebrews 4:16) “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

- **Here is the longing of our souls** (v. 14).

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

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

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1. Date: Danville (Tuesday PM—07/08/03)
Rescue Baptist Church, Rescue, CA (Sunday AM—07/06/03)
Tape # X-68b
Readings: *David Burge & Rex Bartley*