

East Bay Prayer Furnace & Parkway Fellowship Combined Service (Feb. 2, 2020)

INTRODUCTION TO THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Studies in the Song of Solomon (Song 1:1-2)

¹ ***The song of songs, which is Solomon's.***

² ***Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—***

For your love is better than wine.

Song of Solomon 1:1-2 (NKJV)

THE SONG OF SONGS

- It's the greatest song. E.g. King of kings, Lord of lords.
 - Solomon himself wrote 1,005 songs (1 Kg. 4:32). This is the only one we have. Middle of the 10th Century B.C.
 - There are many other songs that are recorded in the Bible. 150 of them in the Psalms, the Song of Moses (Exo. 15, Rev. 15), 2 Chron. 5:13 *"For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,"* in the Prophets (5 Lamentations), etc...
- It mentions 22 types of plants, 15 different animals. Some say it wasn't written by Solomon. Others say it is a random collection of love poems (up to 30 different ones), some even claim that its origins are from a Babylonian cult and not divine at all.
- Interpretation
 - It was seen by the Jewish people as to be about God's love for His people, Israel.
 - Later, Christians interpreted it as Christ's love for His Bride, the Church.
 - In more recent history, the Song has often been studied as a random collection of love poems about married love.
 - The approach we'll take is to take it as literal history, not an allegory. It's historical, so it's not technically allegorical. We'll mainly apply it personally/devotionally.
- There are different genres of literature in the Bible: history, prophets, poetry, letters, etc...
 - There are 5 books of poetry. Solomon wrote 3 of them: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.
 - The Jewish Fathers in ancient times compare the Song to Solomon as the holy of holies.

WHICH IS SOLOMON'S

- This is a song that has been attributed to King Solomon, the Son of David, and the 3rd King of Israel (1 Kings 11). He was a wealthy and wise king. He built the first temple in Jerusalem. His father was King David.
 - WISDOM: He is most notable for his wisdom. Solomon had a supernatural impartation of wisdom (1 Kings 3:5, 9-12).

- IDOLATRY: Later in his life, he fell into idolatry, married foreign women, and eventually turned away from God. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kg. 11:3-4). The wives brought along their gods and Solomon built high places for these idols (1 Kings 11:7)
 - The Lord had appeared to Solomon twice (1 Kg. 3, 9). The first time at the beginning of his reign, the second time after the temple was completed.

1 Kg. 11:9-10 So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.

WHY STUDY THIS SONG?

1. This Song, along with all of Scripture, points to Jesus

- All of scripture points to Jesus ultimately (Luke 24:27)
- Marriage ultimately points to and is fulfilled in Christ and the Church. Eph. 5 love in marriage is a reflection of Jesus and the Church. Jesus has deep passion in His heart for His Bride. (Eph. 5:25-32)

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Gen. 3:23-24 And Adam said:

***"This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."***

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2. The Song empowers our heart to live in God's Wisdom

- Solomon had a supernatural impartation of wisdom.
- God is calling us to awaken love: we're going to pursue intimacy with God *and* 100-fold obedience based out of love. It's a call to come out of our comfort zone and pursue Jesus in each stage of our life.
- This Song helps us to keep the First Commandment in first place (Matt. 22:37-40)

3. The Song is our guide through the different facets of love unto maturity

- This Song is foundational in grasping our identity in Christ. It's based on the finished work on the cross (Phil. 1:21). How do we make the cross central to our identity? It needs to go from intellectual, head knowledge to our life- identity.

If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15)

- To Awaken Love is to love Jesus deeply and obey Him fully.
 - Initially she refused to obey His call to come to the mountain (2:10). But in Song 4:6, she commits to go to the mountain of myrrh—a fragrant burial spice that speaks of suffering.
 - Being secure in our identity in Christ is crucial if you want to come out of your comfort zone and follow Jesus into areas of authority and ministry, conquering the mountains and hills with Him.
- This Song shows the development of love unto maturity. You can follow Jesus through every season of your spiritual journey. It begins with being rooted in our identity in Christ, being called out of the comfort zone, facing the dark night, and ending in mature love. There can be seasons of discipline, testing, spiritual attack. It's all unto love.

THE KISSES OF HIS WORD

²Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth (Song 1:2)

- How do we move forward in the truths of the Song? By hearing and living this Song. This is how we internalize the Gospel.
- Zeph. 3:17 speaks of the time that God delivers Israel. They are living in wickedness. Yet, there is a remnant that God will allow to remain. He is going to rejoice over them with singing.
- Jesus sanctifies and cleanses the Church with the washing of water by the word. (Eph. 5:25-30)

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