

## Introduction

### I. Historical Background

#### A. Author - Solomon

1. King over Israel - *I Kings 4:29-34*
2. Builder of The Temple - *I Kings 6:11-13*

#### B. Style

1. Dialogue - Greek Chorus
  - a. Maid from Shulam (Shulammitte) - Beloved
  - b. Rustic Shepherd - Lover
  - c. Assorted Background Voices: young maids, watchmen, friends
2. Language of Intimacy
  - a. Sexuality - collection of romantic love, sometimes erotic
  - b. Prayer - movement between God and people

#### C. Title - The Song of Songs

1. Supreme State of Being
  - a. King of Kings
  - b. Lord of Lords
  - c. Holy of Holies
  - d. Vanity of Vanities
2. Follows the book of Ecclesiastes - antithesis
  - a. A life of searching/ a life of love and rest
  - b. Knowledge puffing up/ love building up
  - c. The pursuit of all things/ the pursuit of Christ

### II. Sacred Languages

#### A. God Comes

1. God comes on His own terms - lover of our soul
2. God comes to each person - personal and intimate

#### B. God Speaks

1. God speaks hope - a change for the better
2. God speaks forgiveness - a chance for redemption
3. God speaks life - a choice besides death

#### C. God Moves

1. God moves us into vertical relationship - faith
2. God moves us into horizontal relationship - love

*“My lover spoke and said to me, Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, com, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”*

*Song of Songs 2:10-13*

## Reflection

- I. The Coming of the Holy Spirit - *Song of Songs 2:14-15*
  - A. The Work of Jesus Christ - **Atonement**
    1. He who knew no sin was made sin for us – *2 Corinthians 5:21*
    2. He who was under no curse was made a curse for us - *Galatians 3:13*
    3. He who had done no sin, bore our sin in His own body in the tree – *1 Peter 2:24*
  - B. The Work of the Holy Spirit - **Regeneration**
    1. He will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment – *John 16:8-11*
    2. He will guide the faithful into all truth - *John 16:13*
    3. He will speak only what he hears from the Father and Son - *John 16:13*
    4. He will tell the faithful what will happen in the future - *John 16:13*
    5. He will bring glory to Jesus Christ by dwelling in us - *John 16:14*
    6. He will bless the faithful with the blessings of Christ - *John 16:15*
  - C. Jesus Christ Sends the Holy Spirit
    1. To show the countenance of God to us -  **blessing**
    2. To speak the words of God to us -  **revelation**
    3. To search our hearts and bring grace to us -  **conviction**
- II. Reflection - *Song of Songs 2:16-3:5*
  - A. The Beloved must remember the calling of Christ
    1. To seek and save the lost - “*among the lilies*”
    2. To conquer kingdoms of darkness - “*shadows flee*”
  - B. The Beloved must remember the calling of the faithful
    1. To hear the voice of God;
    2. To take up the Cross and follow Christ;
    3. To receive the Holy Spirit;
    4. To overcome sin, Satan and the World; and
    5. To live in resurrection power.
  - C. The Beloved remembers and we must remember:
    1. We look for the One who satisfies our hearts.
    2. We look for the One, the Only One.
    3. We rise up and go forth.
    4. We search everywhere for the One.
    5. We inquire of the Holy One.
    6. We find the One we love.
    7. We hold on to the One we love.
    8. We take the One and Only home to live forever.

*“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”*

*Isaiah 55:6-7*

## New Creation

- I. The Coming of the King - *Song of Songs 3:6-11*
  - A. The Signs of Salvation
    1. Coming out of the desert - like Exodus
    2. Perfumed with myrrh and incense - life and death
    3. Escorted by the noble warriors - faithful witnesses
    4. Dressed like a King - silver, gold, purple and a crown upon his head
  - B. The Order of Salvation
    1. Christ lived and died; and rose again
    2. We die (to self) and then live to Him.
- II. A New Creation - *Song of Songs 4:1-15*
  - A. Jesus Christ Makes All Things New - *II Corinthians 5:17*
    1. Eyes - vision, insight, perception and understanding - *Matthew 6:22-23*
    2. Hair - a sign of consecration and obedience - *Numbers 6*
    3. Teeth - formation and order - to feed upon the Word of God – *Hebrews 5:12-13*
      - a. Washed by the blood of Christ.
      - b. Stripped by the cross of Christ
    4. Lips - expression and life - *Proverbs 13:3*
    5. Temples (cheeks) - fullness of life - *Colossians 2:10*
    6. Neck - will and desire - *Isaiah 3:16*
      - a. Preserves the life in times of chaos.
      - b. Preserves the heart in times of testing.
      - \* Leaning towards God is like a shield of faith.
    7. Breasts - heart and emotions, faith and love, grace and law – *Proverbs 4:23*
      - a. Learning to balance what we believe and what we do.
      - b. Learning to imitate Christ
  - B. Jesus Christ Makes All Things Perfect - *Colossians 1:28*
    - a. A Beautiful Person - “*No flaw in you*”
    - b. A Loving Person - “*how much more pleasing is your love*”
    - c. A Fruitful Person - “*you are a garden foundation*”

*“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”*

*Galatians 5:22-26*

## Dark Nights

### I. The Dark Night of the Soul

#### A. Life Proposes Many Unanswerable Questions

1. Who am I?
2. Where am I going?
3. What am I doing?
4. Why?

#### B. Life Brings Many Unwanted Changes

1. No one is exempt from pain, anguish or loss
2. No one is excused from suffering
3. Everyone will face a “dark night”
4. Everyone will eventually ask “why?”

#### C. The Nature of Faith

1. A deep conviction of what we hoped - *Hebrews 11:1a*
2. A certainty of what we do not see - *Hebrews 11:1b*
3. A shield refined by fire - *I Peter 1:7*
4. A knowing that leads to overcoming - *I John 5:4*
5. A fight that requires grace - *I Timothy 6:12*

#### D. Life and Faith

1. God tests our faith to make us mature and complete - *James 1:2-3*
2. God moves our faith beyond human wisdom - *I Corinthians 2:7*
3. God strengthens our faith through obedience - *Colossians 2:7*
4. God adds to our faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love - *II Peter 1:5-7*

### II. The Testing of Love

#### A. God Comes - *Song of Songs 5:1-2*

#### B. Time of Decision - *Song of Songs 5:3-4*

#### C. Time of Testing - *Song of Songs 5:3-4*

1. We die to self
2. We look for God and He is gone
3. We call for God and He does not answer
4. We ask for God and people ridicule us

#### D. Time of Remembrance - *Song of Songs 5:9-6:3*

1. Remembering his presence
  - a. appearance - radiant
  - b. head - divine
  - c. hair - power
  - d. eyes - gracious
  - e. cheeks - endurance
  - f. lips - sweetness
  - g. arms - strength
  - h. body - beauty
  - i. legs - righteousness
2. Remembering his purpose
  - a. He has gone to the garden - The Kingdom of God
  - b. He browses among the lilies - The Saints of God

#### E. God Speaks - *Song of Songs 6:4-9*

1. Words of Assurance
2. Words of Blessing

#### F. Fellowship - *Song of Songs 6:10-13*

## Fecundity

### I. The Way of Holiness

- A. Intimacy - God is a person - *Song of Songs 1:1-17*
- B. Invitation - God seeks a relationship - *Song of Songs 2:1-13*
- C. Reflection - God allows for a decision - *Song of Songs 2:14-3:5*
- D. New Creation - God makes new creations - *Song of Songs 3:6-4:16*
- E. Dark Nights - God tests our faith - *Song of Songs 5:1-6:13*
- F. Perfection - God perfects our hearts - *Song of Songs 7:1-13*
- G. Fecundity - God brings forth fruit - *Song of Songs 8:1-14*

### II. New Testament Living

- A. Intimacy - *John 15:4*
    - 1. Jesus Christ is the vine - we are the branches.
    - 2. God works the garden.
  - B. Fecundity - *John 15:5-8*
    - 1. We must remain (or live) in Jesus Christ.
    - 2. We must conform our will to God's will.
    - 3. We must let God work in and through us.
  - C. Ecstasy - *John 15:9-12*
    - 1. God give us His joy.
    - 2. His joy is made complete (perfect, pure, unmixed) in us.
- \*God wants to move us from a house of fear to a house of love.*

### III. Mature Love

- A. Connecting to God - *Song of Songs 8:1-4*
  - 1. Learning to let go of the world.
  - 2. Learning to embrace the life of God.
- B. Waiting for Christ to Come Again - *Song of Songs 8:5-9*
  - 1. The church must be patient and fruitful.
  - 2. The church must be faithful to God.

*\*This is the second reference to coming out of the wilderness.*
- C. Bearing Fruit - *Song of Songs 8:10-14*
  - 1. Imitating the life of Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Reproducing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
  - 3. Reconciling people back to God.

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."*

*John 15:1-2*