
Session 1

Introduction to Song of Songs

A. Introduction

1. There are two significant books of the Bible we must know as the generation that Jesus is returning:
 - a. **Song of Songs** – a book that describes the journey of the pursuit of passion for Jesus.
 - b. **Revelation** – a book that answers the fundamental and foundational question of “Who is Jesus?” in Matthew 16:15.
 - c. Both books emphasis the Person and our Relationship with Jesus.
2. Song of Songs is one of the most beautiful books in the Bible pertaining to our pursuit of intimate relationship with Jesus.
3. It is a “must know” book in our pursuit of intimacy and passion for Jesus as it serves as a divine “roadmap”, “sign-post” and instruction menu in guiding us in this journey of pursuing of holy passion.

B. Three focuses of the Song of Songs

1. Through the Song of Songs, the Holy Spirit records the principles necessary in growing into full passion for Jesus.
 - a. It sets forth the Divine Principle of growing in intimacy and love for Jesus. This is the perfect transcript given by Holy Spirit and cannot be improved on.
 - b. It sets forth the Divine Pattern of growing in maturity in our faith.
 - i. It reveals the significant and necessary themes within the whole council of God that are necessary in the process of growing into maturity in Christ.
 - ii. It is an unbroken love song that continues for over eight chapters. It is a roadmap for growing progressively into matured passion. The end goal of the entire book is Song 8:5 is a Bride that comes out of the wilderness leaning on her Beloved.
 - iii. All the essential major principals needed to be trained and prepared in spiritual maturity are clearly set forth in the Song of Songs.
 - iv. The order and sequence of the progression is magnificent and perfect.

- c. It sets forth the *Divine Understanding* in the journey of our faith.
 - i. The pattern of the book will help us to identify the issues that God is specifically dealing with in our lives in a specific season.
 - ii. Song of Songs helps us realize that He is dealing with all of us with the exact same principles yet there are different applications because we all have different needs in our heart. God uses the same principles to train each of us.
 - iii. We will also be better equipped to discern the seasons of our lives in this pattern. This knowledge assists us in our progression to spiritual maturity.
 - iv. We may find ourselves in two different places in this Song in the same timeframe. And in different seasons of our life, we will go back and forth to different places of testing or blessing described throughout this Song.
2. The Song of Songs gives us insight of *the eight-fold revelations of Jesus*.
 - a. Each reveals a unique aspect of His relationship with the Bride and the Bride's relationship with Him.
 - b. The purpose is to strengthen our faith and to build confidence in Jesus in each season.
 - c. The eight revelations are
 - i. The counseling and tender-hearted *Shepherd*. (Song 1:8)
 - ii. The affectionate *Father*. (Song 1:12 – 2:6)
 - iii. The sovereign and conquering *King*. (Song 2:8 – 9)
 - iv. The safe and trustworthy *Savior*. (Song 3:6 – 8)
 - v. The passionate *Bridegroom*. (Song 4:1 – 15)
 - vi. The suffering and humble *Servant*. (Song 5:2)
 - vii. The majestic and beautiful *God*. (Song 5:10 – 16)
 - v. All consuming *Fire* (Song 8:6 – 7)
3. The Song of Songs helps us understand and grow in the *three fundamental principles in the pursuit of intimacy with God*. These are vital keys in giving us confidence in approaching God. (Eph. 3:12)
 - a. *How we view God* – Who is God.
 - b. *Knowing how God view us* – God's feelings and emotions towards us.
 - c. *How we view ourselves* – Who are we (i.e. our spiritual identity in Christ).

C. Our Approach to the Song of Songs

1. It is important to be biblical in our study of all the Books in the Bible.
2. Our desire is to equip everyone with understanding by giving information both about the context and the principles of interpretation so as to see the big picture of the Song of Songs.
3. The subsequent sessions are primarily targeted at the heart to give inspiration and bring transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Song of Songs.
4. There are two general interpretations of Song of Songs throughout Church history. Both approaches are valid, biblical and edifying. (**NOTE:** We must not be critical of the other approaches as long as it is biblical.)
 - a. **Natural Interpretation**
 - i. This school of interpretation depicts a literal human love story between King Solomon and his Bride, the Shulamite. It is a natural love story based on biblical principles written to honor and inspire deeper love within marriage.
 - ii. It is a wonderful love story that gives symbolic principles on the beauty of married love. There are many excellent commentaries written from this point of view. The natural interpretation has become very popular in the last hundred years.
 - iii. There are two basic story lines when viewing the book as a natural love story:
 - The most popular one depicts a young maiden wooed by the handsome and rich King Solomon. He progressively wins her heart throughout the story.
 - The other main approach to the natural interpretation is of a godly young maiden who deeply loves a poor young shepherd in her hometown. One day the great King Solomon was passing by her vineyard and noticed her extraordinary beauty. He then sought to win her from her loyalty to the poor shepherd. But she remains loyal to the poor shepherd boy even in the temptations that come from the presence of King Solomon's wealth and power.

b. ***Allegorical interpretation***

- i. It depicts a story that is totally symbolic without any historical facts as its basis. Natural details of facts are not important.
- ii. This interpretation says Solomon was writing a love song to describe spiritual truth about our love relationship with the coming Messiah.
- iii. This is the most common interpretation for the 1900 years of Church history and the 2800 years since Solomon first wrote it (which includes the rabbinical tradition).

NOTE:

- i. The Bible itself affirms the use of allegorical interpretations. In Galatians 4, Paul allegorically speaks of things that happened with Hagar and Sarah. There are several other references in the bible to allegorical interpretation. The book of Esther is entirely written in allegorical form with no mention of God.
- ii. But allegorical interpretations must be based and established on the truth of the New Testament Scriptures and not based on subjective opinions or interpretations. They are powerful in illustrating important truths with emotions.

D. Three Common Allegorical Interpretations

1. The relationship between God as the Bridegroom and Israel as the Bride. (Jer. 2:2; Hos. 2:16 – 20; Ezk. 16:8 – 14, 20 – 21, 32, 38; Isa. 54:5 – 6)
 - a. This is primarily how the Old Testament believers interpreted this Book – knowing God's deep bridal love for Israel.
 - b. Some Jewish rabbis still interpret the Song of Songs in this allegorical way till this day. They interpret it from a messianic point of view without understanding the person of Jesus. They believed in God and they interpreted strictly from the point of view of Yahweh, the heavenly Bridegroom, in love with the Bride, being natural Israel.
2. The relationship between Jesus and the corporate Church of Christ. (Rev. 19:7 – 9, 21:9; Eph. 5:23 – 25; 2 Cor. 11:1 – 2)
 - a. One common allegorical interpretation of the Song of Songs is to see the Bride as the universal church throughout all history and within each generation she has “*made herself ready*”. (Rev. 19:7)
 - b. This has been used mostly from the early Church to about the 16th century by the Catholic Church. They interpreted the Song of Songs mostly through the view of the Bride as the corporate Body of Christ.

3. The relationship between Jesus and the individual believers describing the progression of spiritual development to maturity.
 - a. ***The focus of this study is to interpret the book as an allegorical love song between Jesus and the individual believer as His bride.***
 - b. This approach offers practical spiritual insight for our personal lives as we relate to growing in personal passion for Jesus. In this particular study our focus will be on principles that aid individuals in a progression of passion for Jesus.

NOTE:

- i. it is important to understand that some groups interpret the Bride as a very small and spiritually elite remnant within the larger body of Christ. This is not biblically correct as the Bible teaches that the whole Church is the Bride.
- ii. In heaven and in eternity, all believers are mature in love. Some will press in more on this side of eternity, but on the other side of eternity the Holy Spirit will bring His work to full completion.
- iii. 4 biblical reasons why all believers will be the Bride:
 - The maturity of the bride is the fruit of Jesus' prayer. (John 17:26)
 - The power of full revelation in eternity transforms all believers to become the Bride. (1 John 3:2)
 - The ravished heart of God that assures us of our Bridal destiny. (Song 4:9)
 - God's people will be "one" in heaven and in eternity. (John 17:21)

E. Five Main Characters in the Song of Songs

1. King Solomon as a picture of resurrected Jesus Christ.
 - a. King Solomon is depicted in the allegorical interpretation as a type of the triumphant resurrected Jesus Christ who is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
 - b. Jesus is the real king and Solomon is only the type of Christ.
2. The Shulamite woman as a picture of the Bride of Christ
 - a. She is introduced as a young maiden who becomes the mature Bride. She was initially introduced as the maiden and later as the Bride.
 - b. She becomes a bride as she becomes spiritually mature. This transition is recorded in the middle of the Song of Songs. (Song 4:8)
 - c. She starts off in the book as an immature maiden. She is fervent, but she is immature. By the end of the Book, she is the mature Bride who is full of glory.
 - d. The name Shulamite is mentioned only one time in the entire Song of Songs. (Song 6:13)
 - e. Shunam was a very small city in Israel located several miles north of Jezreel. The maiden lived in the city of Shunam, therefore she is called the Shulamite.
3. Daughters of Jerusalem as a picture of immature fellow believers.
 - a. The “daughters of Jerusalem” are a group that appears regularly throughout the Song of Songs.
 - b. They are most characterized by a spiritual dullness and passivity and yet they clearly possess an inquisitive and sincere spirit to seek Jesus. They often ask questions and ponder what it is that makes the bride so fervent.
 - c. This group seems to refer to those who are genuinely born again. They love the King in a sincere yet immature way. They seem to personify the condition of immature believers in a general way.
4. Watchmen in the city as a picture shepherds or spiritual leaders in the Body of Christ. They can both good and bad.
5. The Voice that proclaimed in Song 2:7, 3:5 – 6 and 8:4 – 5 is a picture of the Holy Spirit who made a few declarations of “who Jesus is” or “who the Bride is”.

F. Uniqueness of the Song of Songs

1. Solomon wrote three books in the Old Testament: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs. It was common for the Jewish fathers to relate the three books of Solomon to the temple he built.
 - a. They related the book of Proverbs to the outer court of Solomon's temple.
 - b. They related the book of Ecclesiastes to the inner court of Solomon's temple.
 - c. They related the Song to the Holy of Holies in Solomon's temple.
2. The Song of Songs must be studied with Ecclesiastes as it will give us an even greater insight and understanding of the heart of the Song of Songs.
 - a. Ecclesiastes was written to reveal the vanity of vanities of life and the emptiness of life without God. Song of Songs provides the answer in how to have that emptiness being fulfilled.
 - b. Ecclesiastes targets the mind that grows in practical understanding of life. Song of Songs targets the heart that grows in passionate intimacy with God and having our satisfaction being fulfilled in God.
 - c. Ecclesiastes stresses how impossible it is to be truly satisfied with even the most desirable external circumstances. Thus, the book speaks of the endless wanderings of man who cannot find rest apart from God. Song of Songs reveals the true joy of life that can be attained without any regard to external circumstances. It highlights how meaningful and full life is when our one consuming passion is to love and know the glorious Lord Jesus.
 - d. Ecclesiastes speaks of life without rest and fulfillment based on worldly experience, knowledge, and self-assertion. Song of Songs speaks of entering rest and total fulfillment through humility, submission and the divine impartation of love.
 - e. Ecclesiastes speaks of pursuing the best things found in earthly life while Song of Songs speaks of pursuing the best things found in heavenly life.
 - f. If Ecclesiastes is properly understood it, it is a book that prepares us to fully understand and appreciate the Book of Song of Songs. The book of Ecclesiastes leads us to the awakened fervency that begins the journey of Song 1:5.

G. Importance Signposts in Song of Songs

There are seven signposts in the Song of Songs. These are helpful keys to understand the book as they guide us in our progressive journey in the pursuit of holy passion for Jesus.

1. **Divine Metaphors** – There are three divine metaphors that teach us how to encounter the truths of Who Jesus is.
 - a. Divine Kiss (Song 1:2) – this speaks of the Spirit of revelation.
 - b. Divine Embrace (Song 2:7; 3:5; 8:4) – this speaks of the unseen work of God in our life.
 - c. Divine Seal (Song 8:6) – this is the Spirit of grace and fire of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Inheritance Statements** – There are four inheritance statements that are strategically placed throughout the Book (Song 1:4; 2:16; 6:2; 7:10). They show the progression of the maturity of the Bride in the journey. They are important signposts in revealing our journey or progression in our level of maturity.
3. **Revelations of Jesus** – There are eight-fold revelations of Jesus in this entire Book.
4. **Passion and Emotions of Jesus towards the Bride** – These can be found in different parts of the Book where it reveals the feelings and emotions of Jesus towards us. (E.g. Song 1:15; 4:9)
5. **Different Seasons of the Bride's Journey** – Song of Songs lays out the different seasons where we progress in our journey into maturity. Growth is the process of becoming and therefore, we go through seasons in life. For a baby to become an adult, he or she must experience the seasons of life as a toddler, a child, a teenager, etc.
6. **Confession and Declaration of the Bride** – There are many truths hidden in the Book. It is vital for us to lay hold of these truths. We must take these declarations and proclaim them over our own lives so that they become a reality and are established in our life. Romans 10:14 teaches us to confess with our mouth the truth of who we are in Christ according to the Word of God.
7. **Prayers of the Bride** – Song of Songs gives us many bible prayers as the foundation for our conversation with Jesus as our Bridegroom.

H. Conclusion

1. The general purpose of this book is to fully capture people's heart with the greatest prophetic song ever. There are several very clear unique distinctive related to the Song:
 - a. A condensed revelation of the passionate affections in Jesus' personality including His enjoyment and affection for weak yet sincere believers.
 - b. Insight into the beauty of Jesus specifically as a Bridegroom King.
 - c. The revelation of the unique beauty and loveliness of the individual believer.
 - d. The revelation of the honor and beauty of the corporate Church through history.
 - e. The principles related specifically to growing in the first commandment and mature bridal partnership with Jesus.
 2. The Song of Songs is a vital book for the Global Worship and Prayer Movement at the End-of-the-Age that God is raising up.
 - a. King Solomon wrote 1005 songs (1 Kings 4:32). This is his best song, thus referred to as the Song of Songs.
 - c. When Solomon describes this song as the Song of Songs, it conveys in the Hebrew language, the Highest of the Highest. There's no song higher than the Song of all songs.
 - d. This Song is named with the highest honor. It is the greatest song ever penned by the redeemed in all redemptive history. It is probably the greatest prophetic song given to the Church age.
 - e. The Book of Revelation gives us about 23 songs. All the songs in the Book of Revelation point us to the hint of the full meaning of songs in heaven and eternity. This 8-chapter love song is a hint to the fullness of this song as it exists in the heart of God. It is the Song that Jesus will sing over us in eternity (Heb 2:12) as well as the song we will sing to Him.
 - f. Revelation 15:2 – 3 describes two songs that will be sung in eternity: song of Moses (i.e. Exodus 15:1 – 21 and Deuteronomy 31:30 – 32:47) and the song of the Lamb.
 - g. If the Song of Moses is recorded in the Bible, it is inconceivable that Song of Jesus is not in the Holy Scripture. If it is found in the Scripture then it cannot be second to the Song of All Songs. It is my personal belief that this is the Song of the Lamb.
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- h. The Song of Songs is meant to be sung. It is my challenge for all of us to sing through the Song of Songs as a daily devotion. It is my prayer and conviction that there is going to be a revival of interest in the Song of Songs in the final generation.

- i. The Holy Spirit will cause this Song of All Songs to become prominent again and will raise up men and women, young and old that will proclaim it, sing it, write about it and intercede it back to God until a revival of Holy Passion breaks out worldwide!