

Session 2

## Overview of the Song of Songs

### A. The Bridal Cry for Intimacy and The Bride's Life Vision (Song 1:2 – 4)

1. This passage is the summary of the Bride's theology on how to grow in holy passion. It lays out the theme of the entire book.
  - a. The theme of the Song of Songs is the Bride's spiritual journey - to be drawn near to Jesus in intimacy and then to run in deep partnership with Him in ministry.
  - b. The Bride states her 2-fold life vision: "*Draw me away and let us run*". She wants to be drawn into intimacy with God and also to run in service for God.
2. She matures in these two realities as she experiences the kisses of God's word touching her heart.

### B. Her journey begins - Spiritual Crisis and Divine Affection (Song 1:5 – 11)

1. The first revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Him as a counseling shepherd (1:8 – 9a). At this point, her journey begins with the paradox of grace: she discovers that she is dark in her heart but lovely to God (1:5 – 6b).
  - a. The paradox of our faith is that we are dark in our heart yet we are lovely to God.
  - b. Both truths must be held in tension to understand who we are before God. Some emphasize how sinful we are (darkness of our heart) and others emphasize how beautiful we are to God (lovely in Christ).
2. We are lovely before God even in our weakness for four reasons.
  - a. God's personality: is filled with tender loving emotions for His people. God sees us through His heart that is filled with tender love.
  - b. The gift of righteousness: we receive the beauty of Jesus' righteousness as a free gift. (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - c. The Spirit's impartation: of a sincere and willing spirit of obedience that cries for God. The "yes" in our heart. (Rom. 8:15)
  - d. Our eternal destiny: as Jesus' Bride. God sees the end from the beginning. He sees us in light of the billions of years in which we will be perfect in obedience.
3. Her journey begins with a spiritual crisis of sin, rejection and shame (1:6), yet she receives a fresh revelation of her beauty in God that flows out of divine affection.

4. She has a desperate cry to have more of Jesus. She wants Him to personally feed her spirit. (Song 1:7)
5. Jesus tenderly reveals His heart for her. Then He reaffirms her sincerity. (1:8 – 11)

**C. Understanding Her Identity in God's Beauty (Song 1:12 – 2:7)**

1. The second revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Him as a King expressing the affectionate heart of the Father. (1:12 – 14)
  - a. Her 3-fold response to the King's provision. (1:12b – 14)
  - b. She has an introductory revelation of the beauty & fragrance of Jesus. (1:13 – 14)
2. She experiences the joy of seeing the King's beauty and His desire for her. This is an exhilarating time for her life. The Lord loves and enjoys her, even in her weakness. She sees her identity in His beauty & in the provision of the cross. (1:15)
3. She has an initial revelation of the beauty of Jesus and the pleasure of knowing Him. (Song 1:16 – 17)
4. She receives revelation of her identity in Christ as a beautiful rose in God's sight. (Song 2:1)
5. Jesus is sweet to her heart as she rests under the shade of the finished work of the cross. She experiences the superior pleasures of knowing God as she feeds at His table and lives under the banner of His excellent leadership. (Song 2:3 – 5)
  - a. In this she becomes lovesick. The goal of her life is her own spiritual happiness. This happens best when she experiences God's Presence.
  - b. In the future, her goal will be to walk as His inheritance regardless of the cost.

---

**D. Challenging the Comfort Zone (Song 2:8 – 17)**

1. The third revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Him as a sovereign King (2:8 – 9a). Jesus is pictured as effortlessly skipping and leaping over the mountains as He does the work of fulfilling the Great Commission. The mountains speak of obstacles (human, demonic). Jesus has power over all of them. (2:3 – 5)
2. Jesus is calling her out of the comfort zone (2:10 – 16). This speaks of the difficult assignments that He gives His people that will enhance their partnership with Him. He desires partnership with her. He is calling her into Bridal Partnership.
3. She refuses Him by telling Him to turn and go to the mountain without her (2:17).
  - a. Her painful compromise is due to her immaturity and fear and not rebellion. She fears that total obedience will be too difficult and costly.
  - b. She loves Him, but does not think she has the strength to fully obey Him.
  - c. She prays for help to overcome her weakness. Her compromise is due to her immaturity but her love for the LORD is sincere.

**E. Divine Chastisement (Song 3:1 – 5)**

1. The young and immature Bride experiences the discipline of God. His divine chastisement is revealed as He hides His manifested presence from her. The sweetness of Song 2 is gone. He disciplines her out of His affections for her. (Heb. 12:5 – 12)
2. God's correction is not the same thing as His rejection. The Father promises to pry our fingers off what holds us in bondage. The Father loves us too much to allow us to come up short in partnering with Jesus as His Bride.
3. Eventually, she “arises” to obey the call to leave her comfort zone. (3:2)
4. Jesus suddenly renews His presence in response to her obedience. (3:4 – 5)

**F. A Fresh Revelation of Jesus as a “Safe Savior” (Song 3:6 – 11)**

1. Jesus reveals Himself as one who is safe to obey 100%. She believes that “100% obedience is the only safe place in life.
2. The Bride’s eyes are opened as she sees the extravagant protecting ministry of the Holy Spirit (3:7 – 8) and Jesus’ redemption of the Bride. (3:9 – 10)
3. This revelation is given to win her heart to a deeper confidence in Jesus. This proves to be the turning point for the Bride.

---

**G. The Prophetic Heart of the Bridegroom God (Song 4:1 – 8)**

1. The fifth revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Him as a heavenly Bridegroom with a special focus on His prophetic heart. (4:1 – 8)
2. The King reveals how beautiful the maiden is to Him. He describes eight distinct virtues of her beauty that He sees emerging in her life. (4:1 – 5)
  - a. Jesus prophetically proclaims her “budding virtues”. He calls things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17).
  - b. He sees the cry in her spirit, not just her failures. God defines us by the cries in our spirit not just by our struggles.
3. This is the transition point of the Song where the Bride’s focus is completely changed. She gives her commitment to 100% obedience. She understands that she is Jesus’ inheritance and is chosen by God to co-reign with Him. (4:6)
  - a. A life of total commitment is foundational for all who wants to be mature in ministry. (4:6)
  - b. Initially, she refused His call to come to the mountain (2:9 – 10). However, in this season she commits to go to the mountain. She is only in the initial stage of her obedience.
4. Jesus calls her again to Bridal Partnership. (4:7 – 8)

**H. The Ravished Heart of the Bridegroom God (Song 4:9 – 5:1)**

1. The King is now revealed as a Bridegroom. His heart is ravished with desire for her.
  - a. Jesus has passionate affections for His Bride. This revelation of His heart, equips her to fully embrace the cross. (Song 4:9)
  - b. Jesus describes His pleasure over her character. (4:10d – 11)
2. Jesus gives her a 7-fold description of her purity (4:12 – 15). Her garden speaks of her heart before God. She wants the fragrance of God’s spices to increase in her life.
3. The Bride is ruined with lovesickness and responds with a 2-fold prayer for an increased anointing for consecration. She cries out for her life to be filled with His spices and invites Him to come and take full ownership of His garden. (4:16)
  - a. The north wind speaks of the cold bitter winds of winter. The south wind speaks of the warm refreshing winds of the summer.
  - b. She is no longer afraid of the testing of God. She desires that Jesus receive His inheritance in her and cries, “*Let my Beloved come to His garden.*”

4. The Bridegroom responds to her cry by declaring His ownership of her life and ministry. Nine times He uses the ownership word “My”. (Song 5:1)
5. In the first 4 chapters she was concerned with her inheritance (her garden). However, in the last 4 chapters, Jesus’ inheritance in her is her focus. From now on, her heart is His garden not hers. She now defines her life radically different.

**I. The Ultimate 2-Fold Test of Maturity (Song 5:2 – 8)**

1. The sixth revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Him as the suffering Servant – Jesus embraced the cross in the long and lonely night in Gethsemane. Jesus comes to her as the man of sorrows in Gethsemane (5:2) and invites her to share His sufferings (Phil. 3:10).
2. Jesus asks her to, “Open up that He may come to her as the Man of Gethsemane.” Jesus wants to be the pursuit of her life, and not just the steppingstone to her agenda of success and happiness.
3. She responds in obedience saying she took off her dirty robes and washed her feet in His grace (5:3).
  - a. She is not afraid of obeying Jesus and thus, asked for the bitter north winds. She rises immediately with a heart yearning in love for Him. (Song 4:16)
  - b. The locks of her heart have myrrh on them, which speak of her heart’s commitment to embrace death in her pursuit of Jesus.
4. She experiences her first test as God withdraws His presence. (5:6)
  - a. This affects her ability to experience intimacy with God. In this passage, His presence leaves her for the second time in the Song.
  - b. However, this time it is not related to disobedience (as in 3:1 – 2), but rather to her mature obedience. Some medieval teachers called this “the dark night of the soul.”
5. She experiences her second test as her ministry is rejected (5:7). The watchmen or the leaders strike and wound her taking her veil (spiritual covering) so she can no longer function in ministry in the Body. Her ministry is gone. How will she respond to Him now?

6. The Lord is asking her, “Will you be Mine even if I withhold the things you deeply desire? Are you Mine when you cannot feel My Presence? Will you still love and trust Me when you are disappointed by circumstances?” She responds, “I am Yours, at the deepest level of love. She responds in humility by asking for help from the daughters of Jerusalem. (Song 5:8)
7. Summary: Jesus called her to join Him in Gethsemane. She responded in obedience. He gave her a 2-fold test related to her life vision to be drawn near Him and to run with Him (Song 1:2 – 4).

**J. The Bride’s Response to the 2-Fold Test (Song 5:9 – 6:5)**

1. The seventh revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Jesus as the majestic God. (5:10 – 16)
2. The daughters of Jerusalem ask the Bride a question. In essence, they ask, “Why do you love Him so much that you charge us to go find Him? He has abandoned you. He took His presence away from you (v. 6) and lets the elders wound you as they took their ministry from you (5:7). The Bride’s deep love for Jesus has provoked them. (5:9)
3. Her answer reveals her love for Jesus. She gives 10 descriptions of Jesus’ majestic beauty (5:10-16). This is one of the greatest proclamations on Jesus’ beauty in the Scripture.
4. Because of the passion of the Bride for her beloved, the daughters of Jerusalem are now seeking after Jesus. (6:1)

**K. Jesus praises her after the Season of Testing (Song 6:4 – 10)**

1. Her 2-fold test is now over. Jesus breaks the silence as He lavishes affection on her and describes her beauty. (Song 6:4)
  - a. He declares that she is as beautiful as Tirzah (became the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel) and as lovely as Jerusalem (the capital of Israel, spiritually and politically).
  - b. He proclaimed that she is as awesome as a victorious army with banners. When an army in the ancient world returned victorious from battle, they would display their banners in a military procession.
  - c. She defeated her greatest enemies, those found in her heart.

2. Jesus is “conquered” only by His Bride’s extravagant love. (Song 6:5)
  - a. Our eyes of devotion deeply touch the King’s heart.
  - b. All the armies in hell cannot conquer Jesus, but the eyes of His Bride “conquer” Him when they are true to Him in times of testing.
3. Jesus describes the Bride’s maturity and devotion. (6:5c – 7)
4. Jesus describes the Bride’s pre-eminence in the King’s court. Jesus’ attendants around His heavenly court are seraphim, cherubim, archangels and angels without number. (Song 6:8 – 9)
5. The Holy Spirit describes the Bride’s crown of glory. (6:10)

**L. The Vindication of the Persecuted Bride (Song 6:11 – 7:9a)**

1. As the Bride walks in this revelation of who she is before the Lord, she is persecuted. Mature love and commitment to serve the whole church (6:11) overcomes her (6:12).
2. She receives a sincere response from some in the church (6:13a,b) yet a hostile response from carnal believers within the Church (6:13c,d).
3. The Bride is vindicated by discerning saints (7:1 – 5). The Bride is vindicated by Jesus (7:6 – 9a)

**M. The Bride’s Mature Partnership with Jesus (Song 7:9b – 8:4)**

She walks out a life of mature bridal partnership with Jesus, which is expressed in obedience. (7:9b – 10)

1. She expresses Bridal partnership in mature obedience to Jesus. (7:9b – 10)
2. She expresses Bridal partnership in her intercession for more power. (7:11 – 13)
3. She expresses Bridal partnership in her boldness in public ministry. (8:1 – 2)
4. She expresses Bridal partnership in their full union. (8:3 – 4)

---

**N. The Bridal Seal of Mature Love (Song 8:5 – 7)**

1. The eighth revelation of Jesus in the Song reveals Jesus as the All Consuming Fire. (5:10 – 16)
2. Jesus invites her to receive the seal of fire upon her heart and to walk with Him in holy jealous love.
3. God is a consuming fire and desires to impart His fire into our hearts. (Deut. 4:24)
4. This is His supernatural love that seals our heart. It empowers us to live without the fire of our love being quenched.

**O. The Bride's Final Intercession and Revelation (Song 8:8 – 14)**

1. The Bride intercedes for the church (8:8 – 9) and for Jesus' return (8:14). In Song 8:8 – 9, her apostolic passion for the church is seen.
2. In Song 8:10, her 3-fold confidence is as a wall (selfless motives), as a tower (her supernatural abilities to nurture) and as one with peace (emotional hindrances are removed).
3. In Song 8:11-12, she experiences the power and enjoyment of living before His eyes instead of before the eyes of men. Her sense of importance is rooted in eternity as she has revelation of giving account before God (8:11). The Bride has a revelation of her own spiritual maturity before God (8:12).
4. Jesus' final commission to the Bride (8:13 – 14). The Bride's urgency is expressed in intercession. (Rev. 22:17)