

SONG OF SONGS: BELOVED MORE THAN WE IMAGINE

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I. GENERAL REVIEW OF SONGS OF SONGS 1 TO 4

Cant. 1:2-4 *"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! [Word]! For your love is better than wine;... 4 Draw me after you [intimidad]; let us run [ministry]."*

A. Let us remember that Song of Songs is about the spiritual journey of the Bride (church and each believer) to approach Jesus in intimacy and then run in deep union with Him serving in the work of God. She matures in these two aspects as she experiences the kisses of God's word touching her heart.

B. In chapter one the bride acknowledges the reality of her own brokenness, and yet she knows that she is beautiful to God. Believers must maintain both truths to understand who we are in God.

Songs. 1:5-6 *"I am very dark [in her heart]... but lovely [to God]."*

C. She also has an initial revelation of the beauty of Jesus and the delight of meeting Him.

Songs. 1:16 *"Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful [pleasurable]."*

D. In chapter two the beloved is seen resting under the shade of the apple tree (that is, of Her finished work on the cross). The goal of the maiden at that time is her spiritual happiness, just as she happens to many believers.

Songs. 2:3-5 *"...With great delight I sat in his shadow [resting on the finished work of the cross], and his fruit was sweet to my taste. 4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner [leadership] over me was love. 5 Sustain me... refresh me... for I am sick with love."*

E. Then the Beloved challenges her to get out of her comfort zone and that is what she does with us to lead us to mature in love.

Songs. 2:8-17 *"The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills. 9 My beloved is like a gazelle ... 10 My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away... 14... let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely... 17 Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved..."*

F. Jesus appears leaping easily over mountains to carry out the Great Commission (**Matt. 28:19**). Jesus has power over all mountains (human and / or demonic obstacles) and invites us to go with Him but when we only think of our own benefit we refuse to go with Him.

G. In chapter three the maiden refuses to leave her comfort zone and experiences God's discipline, the Beloved hides her face from her.

Songs. 3:1-4 *"On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not. 2 I will rise now... I will seek him whom my soul loves... 4 Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go..."*

- H. Faced with this discipline, she quickly gets up, leaving her passivity (**3:2**) and in response to her obedience the manifest presence of Jesus returns (3: 4). Later (**3:6-11**) she realizes that 100% obedience is the only safe place in life.
- I. **In chapter four** the prophetic heart of the Beloved is shown. The King-Bridegroom reveals how beautiful she is to Him by affirming eight virtues that are still forming in her. The bride responds to these statements by determining to obey her call to go to the mountains with Him (**4:6**).
- J. **Our obedience, although not perfect, captivates the heart of Jesus, therefore, we can safely receive the loving mercy of the Lord and feel His delight at every step of the process of our growth.** The revelation that a sincere believer is beautiful to God, even in his weakness, is fundamental to growing in God's grace. We are transformed by this revelation.

II. THE CALL OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Cnt. 4:8 *"Come with me from Lebanon, my bride... Look from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards."*

- A. **In this part of the Song, the Bride joins the King in spiritual warfare when He calls her His Bride for the first time.** Now, with her new commitment to go to the mountains, the young woman has the heart like that of a faithful wife. **The inheritance of Jesus is an eternal companion, full of affection that will be united in a yoke equal to His, in love.** The suffering of Jesus on the cross was not the end in itself but a means to win a bride worthy of Him (**Eph. 5: 26-27**). God provides Jesus with his Bride and Jesus provides the Father with his family. The Church will live with an identity as a Bride-Wife forever. (**Rev 22:17**).
- B. **"Come with me from Lebanon"** Jesus invites the maiden to come with Him from the mountains of Lebanon (mountains of spiritual warfare) and to follow Him wherever He wants to go. (**Song 5: 2-7**). Now she obeys the original challenge to go to the mountains (**Song 2:10, 13**)
- C. **Lebanon** refers to a geographic area which is a mountain range. **Senir, Hermon, and Amana** are different mountain peaks within the Lebanon area. **She must look from the tops of these mountains or from the divine point of view** (heavenly perspective). **If we see difficulties from a natural point of view, we fail.** We have to look from her point of view to prevail in spiritual warfare.
2 Cor. 4:17-18 *"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*
- D. **"From the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards"** The mountainous regions had wild animals that attacked the people of Israel (**Ps. 76:4**). The bride must fight against lions and leopards. Satan is a roaring lion who seeks to devour us (1 Pet. 5: 8). **She is a warrior Bride sitting in heavenly places who participates in spiritual warfare.** (**Eph. 1:3 y 6:10-12**).

III. THE HEART OF JESUS IS CAPTIVATED BY THEIR OWN

Songs. 4:9 *"You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace."*

- A. **This verse summarizes the Song of Songs.** Many believers do not know that God is **filled with emotions of joy or delight even though we may feel so broken.** Our salvation includes much more than receiving a legal standing of righteousness before God (**2 Cor. 5:21**). **We must understand God's affection for us because we will never have more passion for God than we understand about him his passion for us.** We love him because we understand that he first loved us (**1 Jn. 4:19**).

Songs. 7:10 *"I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me."*

- B. The revelation of God as a tender Father and a passionate Husband was a new idea in the history of God's people. In the Jewish tradition what was most emphasized about God was that He is Holy, in the sense of being totally separated from sin. They did not for a moment think that God would share human pain but Jesus came as the One who embraced human experience and therefore had compassion.

Heb. 4:15 *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."*

- C. It was inconceivable to the mentality of the religious of the first century to think that a Holy God had the ability to be sweet, compassionate and caring, much less put on human garments and experience the cross.

Jn. 15:9 *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide [live] in my love."*

- D. **The measure of God's love (affection) for Jesus is the measure of Jesus' love for us.** This is the ultimate statement of our worth. It gives every believer the right to see himself as "God's favorite."
- E. **"Affection-based obedience" as the strongest type of obedience,** as a 'lovesick' person will be able to endure anything for love. It is stronger than "duty-based obedience" (when we do not feel the presence of God) or "fear-based obedience" (motivated by fear of consequences).
- F. **The gospel flourishes more when we understand the extravagant passion in the personality of God.** It is essential to know what Jesus did for us on the cross and what he will do for us in the coming revival or even in eternity. **We need to know what He feels, or why He does what He does.**

Rev. 12:11 *And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb..., for they loved not their lives even unto death."*

- G. Paul reflected on his sacrifices for God and testified that what he left behind was lost compared to the glory of having known Jesus (**Phil. 3:8**). **There is no sacrifice that is too great for those who live for love.**
- H. **"with one glance of your eyes":** Jesus' heart is moved with every look of devotion that we give him. The look that moves the heart of God is the look of loving obedience. The obedient gaze is ingrained in the decisions we make to obey.

- I. ***“with one jewel of your necklace”*** these strands represent every obedience response she gives you. Every decision we make out of love moves the heart of Jesus.

Heb. 6:10 ***“For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name...”***

Mt. 10:42 ***“And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water... truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”***

IV. JESUS DELIGHTS IN OUR LOVE

Song. 4:10 ***“How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine...”***

- A. ***“How beautiful is your love!”*** For many of us this phrase may seem impossible to believe, how is it that Jesus appreciates our weak love so much? Yet this is what his love does and his work on the Cross (**Tit. 3:4-6**).
- B. ***“my sister, my bride!”*** Being called the sister of Jesus refers to Himself taking human form. He endured indescribable humiliations and sufferings, to be like his brothers in all things (**Heb. 2:17**). Jesus descended so low and we climbed so high, to meet him as our brother (**Mt. 12:49-50**). Her identity as His sister and His wife is emphasized 7 times in the Song. (**4:8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 5:1, 2**).
- C. ***“How much better is your love than wine”***: Jesus reverses the maiden's opening statement when she cried out ***“Your love is better than wine”*** (**Song 1:2**). Jesus is saying that *“our love is more beautiful to Him than the splendor of His creation.”*

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Are you willing to go to new levels of spiritual warfare for the love of Jesus? Explain.**
2. **What is the spiritual warfare you are experiencing at this time and how can you remain in victory?**
3. **Does knowing that Jesus delights in you and that your love is very precious to Him motivate you to obey 100 percent? Explain in which areas.**