

SONG OF SONGS: THE BRIDAL SEAL OF MATURE LOVE

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Song 8:5-7** deals with God's desire to supernaturally seal our hearts with His fiery love. This is the climax of Song of Solomon and the new covenant (**Heb. 10:16**). The Bride's journey begins with a cry for the kisses of God's word (**Song 1:2**) and ends with a fiery seal on her heart.

II. THE CHURCH OF THE END TIMES WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN LOVE

Songs. 8:5 *"Who is that coming up [in victory] from the wilderness [trials], leaning on her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor"*

- A. **"Who is that coming up [in victory] from the wilderness [trials]..."** The Holy Spirit speaks here, prophetically declaring the victory of the Bride in the end times; as she "rises" in victory in trials, temptations and difficulties in the desert of this fallen world.
- B. **"leaning on her beloved"** The fact that the bride rises from the desert leaning on her beloved is not only a romantic question, it speaks of how she remained firm until the end in her relationship with Jesus in the midst of the unique dynamics of end times; which means that she has had her focus totally on her Beloved, strengthened in love and gratitude. The Church ends the story in the end times with a passionate heart because she knows that she is loved and remains in that love (**Jn. 15:9**).

Rev. 15:2 *"I saw... those who had conquered the beast [Antichrist]... standing beside the sea of glass..."*

Eph. 5:27 *"so that he might present the church to himself in splendor... that she might be holy and without blemish."*

III. WE MUST PUT JESUS AS THE SEAL IN OUR HEART INVITING HIS PRESENCE

Songs. 8:6a *"[Jesus says] Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm..."*

- A. **Jesus calls the maiden so that she can put Him as a seal on her heart.** The context for understanding God's fire seal is found in understanding the Father's commitment to provide his Son with an eternal companion equally yoked with Him, in voluntary love.
- B. For love to be genuine it must be voluntary. He will not force us into a love relationship. God waits until we invite him to the affairs of our heart. God will not do our part and we cannot do his part. **Jesus prayed that his people would love Him in the same way that the Father loves Him.** In the passages of John **13** to **17** Jesus shows us the intensity, passion and desire that the Trinity feels for us.

Jn. 17:26 *"I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

- C. **It takes God to love God.** We need the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit to love God with all our hearts. The anointing to love God is the greatest gift that the Spirit imparts to a believer. The Holy Spirit is the **"consuming fire"** that baptizes us with His fiery love.

Rom. 5:5 *"...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

- D. The seal of fire is the progressive impartation of the power of the Spirit by pouring out the love of God in our hearts. **The seal of God's love points to the first commandment and union with the heart of God.** God will help us to love Him in the same way that He loves us.

Mk. 12:30-31 *"nd you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength 31... There is no other commandment greater than these."*

- E. **We must believe that in this age, the heritage and destiny of the Church is to walk in the two great commandments: to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves.** We must apply the principles of faith to grow in the anointing of love to the fullness that God has determined to give to the human spirit in this age.

Mk. 11:23 *"... whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him."*

- F. We cry out, *"Lord, we want more from you."* Jesus responds by saying, *"I want more from you."* This is the spiritual violence of love that Jesus said is required to take the promises of the kingdom by force.

Mat. 11:12 *"...the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force."*

- G. **"Set me as a seal":** In the ancient world, kings put a wax seal on important documents to protect them and declare them authentic from the King. This wax seal speaks of the King's property, his protection, and his authority over us. He was backed by the full power of his kingdom.
- H. **Putting Jesus as the seal on our hearts means inviting his fiery presence to touch (seal) our hearts.** This is an expression of His longing for intimate communion with us. We put Jesus as the seal on our hearts by putting on with Jesus.

Eph. 4:24 *"and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."*

Col. 3:10 *"and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator [God]."*

- I. **Song 8: 6** is one of the most mature decisions that as Christians we can make. Putting Him as a seal in our hearts speaks of fully embracing what is in His heart.

- J. **"as a seal upon your arm"** Talk about how our actions include calling others to live with this same passion for God. It is a mark that differentiates us from this world. It is the saying: "I will mark you on my arm, so that everyone knows that I am Yours and that nothing will be able to move me from here despite all that this may imply."

IV. JESUS CALLS US TO INVITE HIM AS THE JEALOUS HUSBAND

Songs. 8:6b *"for love [God's love in you] is strong as death, jealousy is fierce [demanding] as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord."*

- A. **"The love of God is as strong as death as hard as hell"** The Lord urges us to cry out to know him as the God of love that consumes everything; nothing escapes his grasp. God's love is as strong or demanding as death: nothing in the natural realm escapes the power of death. Thus the zeal of God's love will not allow any area of darkness to escape his grasp.
- B. **"Jealousy"** Jesus, as the jealous God wants everything from us. We walk with God according to the light He gives us. When we obey that light, the Spirit gives us more to show us how to grow in our love.

Jas. 4:5 *"Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the Spirit that he has made to dwell in us?"*

- C. **We must sincerely ask Jesus to come to us as the God who has a holy zeal that does not admit other lovers.** True love is exclusive; we tend to give what is most comfortable and reserve parts of our heart for other things or people who dominate our deepest desires.

Ex. 34:14 *"...the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."*

- D. Jesus wants to reveal Himself to us as more than our Savior (forgiver), Healer, and Teacher, but as the jealous Husband who will not give in to His search until we have our whole heart.

V. THE SEAL OF GOD CAUSES A FLAME OF DIVINE FIRE WHICH NOTHING CAN EXTINGUISH IT

Songs. 8:7 *"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it."*

- A. **When we cry out to be sealed, the Holy Spirit will cause an unquenchable fire.** Water always extinguishes fire unless fire is supernatural. The enemy will send the waters of temptation, apathy, disappointment, pain, etc., to put out this fire. The love of God poured into our hearts (when we are continually touched) is more powerful than the dark river of sin and temptation.
- B. **In Songs. 8: 7 the bride knows her identity, nothing of her will be able to move her from this love, even her own failures, doubts and her weaknesses will no longer have the strength to get her out of that love.** Today many may be struggling with receiving God's love because they feel that their sins reduce God's love for them, and although sin alienates us from God, He wants us to cry out for His grace that will eradicate the weight of

condemnation. and will give a freedom to run into His presence instead of fleeing from it.

VI. THE REWARD OF LOVE IS IN POSSESSING THE ABILITY TO LOVE

Songs. 8:7b "...If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised."

- A. **We are the only ones who can give God our love. It is our gift to Him.** Let us willingly love Him and cooperate with the work of the Spirit in our lives. The highest reward of true love is found in owning love itself.
- B. **"If a man gave all the wealth of his house for this love ..."** Those who are rich in love do not set the price. Anyone can give up less those who are in love. When we are tempted to give up, the obstacle in our way is that we love God. **God is raising up a people who will not give up under any kind of pressure.**
- C. **Paul spoke of this love that would pay any price.** The Holy Spirit will direct us to this statement like Paul, we will be so passionate, so in love with Jesus, that we will see the things of this world as nothing compared to His love. It will be a proclamation that flows from the passion of our hearts for Him.

Phil. 3:8 " Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ... For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ,"

- D. The Spirit is raising up many ministries that will also focus on making Jesus known as the Bridegroom and the Church as the devoted Bride, fulfilling the first commandment.

Jn. 3:29 "The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete."

Rev. 19:7 "Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready."

VII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you consider that you have pass the trials?
2. How can you put Jesus as a seal on your heart?
3. What does it mean for God to jealously long for you?