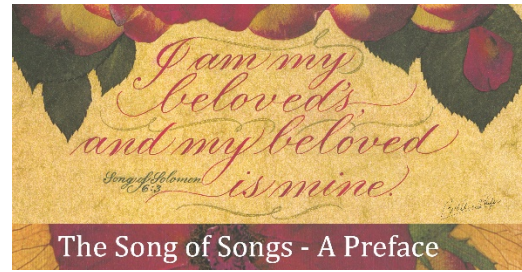




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writings by Beth Ann Phifer



The Song of Songs

Deepening in His Love

A Preface

November 21, 2021

My in-depth study of the Song of Songs began in 2016 when my husband and I listened to Rabbi K.A. Schneider's DVD series *Song of Songs – Journeying into Divine Love*. As we listened over a period of weeks, I read Jill Shannon's book *Unveiling the Song of Songs* and aligned her chapters with the DVD series. Later a dear friend and customer from Oregon, Lois Jean, who mentored many young women until she went home to be with her Bridegroom, introduced me to other books on the Song of Songs.

In 2019, Michael Card's book *Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness* had, perhaps, the greatest impact on my personal walk into God's love than any other resource. From the life-changing message of this book, I composed many writings at ShaleFragments.com including *Living in God's Undeserved Love*.

Over the past five years, I have compiled knowledge and revelation from many teachers. And now in 2021, I am revisiting and reformatting my notes from the study to immerse myself more fully in the truth of His infinite love for me and to clearly impart this truth to you. Why? Because...

In these last days when darkness increases, we must be grounded in His love. Our defense, strength to endure, and healing will be in knowing His intense love for us.

From the beginning of this study, I added my own Scripture connections, thoughts, and prayers and continued to add more. You will see **the Scripture connections in green type** and **the prayers in blue type**. All commentary is my own unless the author's initials *are noted in orange*.

Recently, wanting to further immerse myself in Jewish thought, I listened to several commentaries on the Song of Songs by Jewish Rabbis. During one of these teachings, all of a sudden, I began to ask, "How do these teachers come to these conclusions? What are their sources? Did they receive personal revelation from God with their translation? Do their thoughts come from personal experience?"

It was then that I remembered, as if a lightbulb was turned on, what is *always* needed for good interpretation of any Biblical text – the simple principles I learned through the years and have always enforced. (Please reference my *HIS SIGWORK* series at ShaleFragments.com to learn about 10 principles of interpretation. To read a detailed overview, see *HIS SIGWORK, An Overview*).

Remembering these principles encouraged me to completely review the study again on my own with these principles in mind! Following are the *HIS SIGWORK* principles of interpretation in a very brief version as they apply to the Song of Songs:

Highest Purpose – The highest purpose of the Song of Songs is to reveal the Creator and Redeemer of the Universe – Yeshua the Messiah!

Inexhaustible Riches – The Song’s riches cannot be mastered. So, we can rest, explore, and enjoy it! Also, many words from the ancient scrolls are impossible to interpret; we can only do our best.

Spirit – We must rely on the Holy Spirit to understand this beautiful poem.

Speculation, Imagination, Assumption and Connecting the dots – We must understand the difference.

Insider Scoop – The history, culture, and author’s intent are important for understanding.

Genre – The literary type of the Song of Songs is a prophetic poem or song that is part of The Writings.

Whole Counsel of God – Scripture interprets Scripture. The allegorical images in the Song, such as *lily*, *cleft in the rock*, and *dove* can be found in other verses of Scripture to help in our understanding.

Original Languages – A Bible version that is a word-for-word translation from the original Hebrew text enables you to research the fuller meanings of the original words more easily.

Rhema Revelation – And as you pray and meditate over the text, God will reveal Himself to you in surprising and personal ways.

Knowledge of His Love – Possessing a deep knowing that God could not love us more than He does right now will give clarity to our understanding of His Word.

I will add one more principle that, perhaps, it is not a principle, but a plus – **Years...** years spent in God’s Word. I am so grateful I was strongly encouraged as a new believer to read the Scriptures consistently every day. It is a delight to be able to close my eyes and let them roam through the books of the Bible in search of words, topics, and ideas. For instance, when the Bride in the Song of Songs speaks of the Bridegroom’s left and right hand around her (2:6), many verses immediately come to mind about the Lord’s embrace. (You will see those verses in *Part 3*.) Then, with just a bit more quiet-time, other verses come to mind.

It is not my preference to perform word searches in the Bible on the internet, although I may use it to see the text in a different version. The reason I don’t use the internet for cross-referencing is because the verses of Scripture that naturally, supernaturally come to my mind are ones that have become a part of me. I would rather teach from what the Lord has done in my life.

Recently, I laughed when I read Webster’s definition of a *scholar* – “A person who has studied a subject for a long time and knows a lot about it.” I have been studying the Bible for over 40 years. I don’t know as much as many of you, but the fact is, you and I can be scholars (smile)! So, come on board and share *your* findings with *me* as you soak in the beautiful Song of Songs!

In gratitude to my Savior for His incomprehensible love and for all those who have inspired me, I give this humble offering – *The Song of Songs – Deepening in His Love!*

Beth Ann