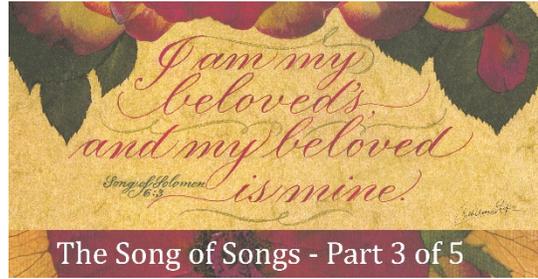




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The Song of Songs

Deepening in His Love

Part 3 of 5

November 2021

As I wrote in **The Song of Songs – An Overview**, Jewish thought teaches three progressions of intimacy: *Proverbs* is the *outer court*; *Psalms* is the *inner court*; and *The Song of Songs* is *the Holy of Holies*. Our goal in this study is to seek God's revelation of the love He has for us until the reality and depth of His love seeps into every fiber of our being, and we experience Him intimately in *the Holy of Holies*.

As I mentioned in the Overview, we, God's people, are the **Bride** of this song, and Yeshua is the **Bridegroom**. The **Chorus** is the Holy Spirit.

In **Part 1** of this study, the Bride tastes the Bridegroom's love! However, she focuses on *her* view of herself rather than on *His* view of her. Her wrong perspective leads her astray, but she returns.

In **Part 2**, the Bridegroom tenderly guides the Bride back to the flock where she is refreshed in the truth. He shares the purpose He has for her and softens her with affirming words. Their love blooms. *(RS)*

In **Parts 3 and 4**, the Bride encounters crises or tests. *(RS)*

- In **Part 3**, she will say **no** to Yeshua's request. His presence will leave her to bring about her *repentance and resolve*.
 - In **Part 4**, she will say **yes** to Yeshua's request. His presence will leave her again to bring about her *learning to walk by faith*. He disciplines those He loves. (See Hebrews 12:3-13 and Proverbs 3:11-13)
- With both lessons, His goal is to bring her to the mountaintop to share the view with Him! This peak is not a place of attainment but of increased yielding where she sees everything clearly and her Beloved in all His fullness. They rest in each other's arms and gaze into the light of the future.

In **Part 5**,... well, we can't wait for **Part 5**!

Part 3 – What I mean to God – Chapter 2:1-3:3

The Scripture verses and the **speaker** are aligned on the left. The teaching is indented. Additional Scripture connections are highlighted in **green**. Prayers are highlighted in **blue**.

Chapter 2:1-17

Bride

What she means to God, how she blesses Him, who she is.

¹ I am the rose [crocus, bulb] of Sharon,
The lily of the valleys.

- She is now secure in her position in His heart. "My heart is a special treasure to you." *(JS)* Pg. 67

Bridegroom

² Like a lily among the thorns,
So is my darling among the maidens.

- A lily of the valley is fragrant, white, beautiful, delicate, bowed down, humble, simple.
- The fruit of the Spirit is *hesed* (love), joy, *shalom* (complete well-being), patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentle strength, and self-control...(Galatians 5:22-23)

O, my Beloved, I am fragrant and beautiful to You. In this dark world, I am pure; I am light and salt. (Matthew 5:13-16) I am Your bride, and I look forward to our wedding day! (Revelation 19:7-9)

Bride

³ Like an apricot tree among the trees of the forest,
So is my Beloved among the young men.
In his shade [shadow] I took great delight and sat down.
And His fruit was sweet to my taste.

- He is her source of refreshment, nourishment, shade, and rest.
- O taste and see that the Lord is good. (Psalm 34:8)

O, my Beloved, I will live in Your shelter! I will sit and linger long in Your presence. (Psalm 91:1)

⁴ He has brought me to his house of wine,
And his banner over me is love.

- She has a new experience of joy, feasting with Him in His dwelling place. Wine represents feasting and joy.
- Yeshua is leading her by His flag of love that waves over her through the battle. His love is unconquerable!

I came under your arms of love and was covered with Your presence. You invite me to a spiritual place of feasting, like we are rehearsing for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Love is the motivation for all You do in my life, even the very hard things. You work to deepen my trust... (JS) Pg. 72

⁵ Sustain me with raisin cakes,
Refresh [support] me with apricots,
Because I am lovesick.

- She is overwhelmed in His love and wants to go deeper. She leans on Him for support. He sustains and nourishes her with refreshment from the Holy Spirit.
- Your words were found, and I ate them; they became the joy and delight of my heart. (Jeremiah 15:16)

⁶ Let his left hand be under my head
And his right hand embrace me.

- His left hand represents His unseen activity in her life – His protection and attentiveness. His right hand represents His manifest works – what she can see Him doing. (RS, JS, B & C S)
- You have enclosed me behind and before and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high; I cannot attain to it. (Psalm 139:5-6)
- He will not allow your foot to slip; He who watches over you will not slumber. Yahweh (YHWH) is your protector; Yahweh is your shade on your right hand. He will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. Yahweh will guard your going out and your coming in From this time and forever. (Psalm 121:3,5,7,8)
- You surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7b)

My Beloved, You never sleep. You are always holding me even when I cannot see You.

Bridegroom

He gently calls her deeper and higher out of her place of comfort.

7 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or the hinds of the field,
That you do not arouse or awaken my love until it pleases.

- “We must respect the delicate seasons of every believer’s journey. Only the Lord knows each one intimately and what issues need to be dealt with before they can enter this bridal love. It takes healing and maturity. He cultivates our readiness in an individually-tailored plan for our lives. Until that time, the ‘little ones’ must be protected.” (JS) Pg. 76
- Like a gazelle, the Bride is easily frightened and distracted. She is timid by Yeshua’s nearness. He does not want her to be disturbed as He gently woos her through this special season of deepening. He is sensitive until she is ready to go all the way up the mountain.

Lord, You have been making me ready, completing what You began, calling me deeper. Help me to lay aside distractions. Give me courage to go where You lead.

Bride

8 Listen! My Beloved!
Behold, he is coming,
Climbing on the mountains,
Leaping on the hills!
9 My Beloved is like a gazelle or a young buck.
Behold, he is standing behind our wall,
He is looking through the windows,
He is peering through the lattice.
10 My Beloved responded and said to me,

The Bride shares the Bridegroom’s words:

“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one
And come along.

- She hears Him! She sees His eyes wooing her upward in His love. He beckons to her, “Come out and up the mountain with me!” He is eager for her to be where He is!
- She is timid, hesitant, and fearful (see Verse 17) letting us know a sacrifice is involved.
- “He is calling me to a level of ministry that seems to push me beyond the limits of my endurance.” (JS) Pg. 84

Your presence is always with me. Your eyes are always peering through the lattice. I want to let You in, so You can take me where You are. You say continually, Come unto Me if you are weary and I will give you rest! (Matthew 11:28) You eagerly say, Come to the waters where the nourishment is free! (from Isaiah 55:1)

11 “For behold, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
12 “The flowers have already appeared in the land;
The time has arrived for pruning [also translated singing] the vines,
And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land.
13 “The fig tree has ripened its figs,
And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance.
Arise, my darling, my beautiful one,
and come along!”

- It is time. It is her time to lay aside the past, to see and listen to the beauty around her, and to let go of the old growth so she can flourish and sing new songs.
- It is her time to partner with Him in the harvest produced by the winter rains. The blossoms signal the coming fruit. It is time for her to proclaim the good news of His love! (John 4:35)

I am Your bride, Your partner in Your kingdom work of light. No matter how difficult the climb, no matter what I encounter on the path, we are together as one!

Bridegroom

14 O my dove, in the clefts of the crags in the rock,
In the secret place of the steep pathway [*cliff, stairway, ascending place*],
Let me see your form [appearance],
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice is sweet,
And your form is lovely.

- He sees her in the hidden, intimate place. **In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will set me high upon a rock.** (Psalm 27:4-5) He adores her!
- He calls her out, "I love you. You are Mine. Come to Me. Let me see you. Let me hear Your voice." He asks for intimacy, transparency, and an unveiled face. (2 Corinthians 3:18) "Be fully Mine."
- Yeshua is the Cleft of the Rock, my Hiding Place. **And all drank the same spiritual drink for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.** (1 Corinthians 10:4) (Colossians 3:3)
- Yeshua is my Path. He was buried, raised, and ascended. I was buried and raised with Him (Romans 6:4), now seated with Him in the heavens (Ephesians 2:6) so I can see His glory.
- Moses said to the Lord, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" Yahweh said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" Then He said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, a place of intimate communion and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:18-23)
- He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock that shadows a dry, thirsty land.
He hideth my life in the depths of His love and covers me there with His hand.
(Fanny Crosby, hymnwriter, 1890, *A Wonderful Savior*)

I remember Israel's craggy, rocky landscape full of sharp gashes that created caves and shadows. My Beloved, You are my hiding place in the cleft of the Rock. (Psalm 32:7) I am hidden in You. Give me courage when You call me out of my comfort zone to share the glorious view with You.

Chorus

15 Catch the foxes for us,
The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards,
While our vineyards are in blossom.

- The Bride must be cleansed from internal and external foxes such as errors in understanding and thought patterns. She must be cleansed from wounds, fear, past rejection, resentment, and people who tear her down or who keep her from bearing fruit.
- **...let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race set before us, fixing our eyes on Yeshua...**(read the entire Hebrews 12:1-2)
- **We destroy arguments and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah.** (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- **Create in me a clean heart, O God!** (Psalm 51:10)

Bride

16 My Beloved is mine, and I am His;
He pastures his flock among the lilies.

17 Until the cool of the day when the shadows flee away,
Turn, my Beloved, and be like a gazelle
Or a young stag on the mountains of Bethel. [*Bethel* is Hebrew for *separation*]

Crisis No. 1 – The Bride says, “No.” (RS)

- She has grown in confidence, but her fear (not rebellion) breaks their communion.
- “Until I have more light on this, I can’t follow; no, I am comfortable where I am.”
- She did not realize how costly and painful her refusal would be. (RS)
- Her reticence is the same as saying, “Go away.” Was she taking His love for granted? (BA)

Chapter 3:1-3

He disciplines her for her good.

Bride

1 On my bed night after night I sought Him Whom my soul loves;
I sought him but did not find him.

- The Bride is troubled in her sleep. She is not at rest without Him.
- Her fear caused a break in the sweetness of their fellowship. Yeshua had gone to the mountain of separation. He did not leave but withdrew to teach her the costliness of disobedience. (RS)
- Learn to recognize the Lord’s tests. His timing is perfect; He never abandons, just seems absent. (JS)
- He will always call us higher because He is transforming us.
- His discipline and testing is a gift and yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
- Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result that you may be complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-3)
- My son (daughter) do not reject the discipline of the Lord or loathe His reproof for whom the Lord loves He reproves even as a Father, the son in whom he delights. (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-7)

She repents (changes her thinking and actions).

2 I must arise now and go about the city;
In the streets and in the squares
I must seek him whom my soul loves.
I sought him but did not find him.

3 The watchmen who make the rounds in the city found me,
And I said, ‘Have you seen him whom my soul loves?’

- She responds to the discipline by arising, but she goes to the city, not the mountain where He asked her to come. She looks for Him in the place of distraction. (RS)
- We often go to spiritual leaders and others we think can help, but often our desperation is not their concern. We must seek Him. He is the Wonderful Counselor!

The Song of Songs, Part 3 Summary

- The **Bride** is secure in her **Bridegroom’s** love. They delight in each other. She is content.
- He gently calls her to higher ground knowing the timing is perfect for her, but she is frightened to let go of what she knows. He sees her hiding in the clefts of His protection. Her heart must be cleansed.
- He disciplines her. She repents and returns. She seeks him but in the wrong place, so she does not immediately find Him. (But she will.)