

SONG OF SONGS 2

- **REVIEW...**
 - o Three

by

Books...

- This is the FIRST of THREE books of the Bible written King Solomon...

- Solomon wrote the Song of Songs when he was YOUNG...
- He wrote the book of Proverbs when we was MIDDLE aged...
- And he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes when he was OLD!
- o Interpretation...
 - Literal...
 - There are THREE main ways people try to INTERPRET the book...
 - FIRST - the LITERAL interpretation takes things at face value...
 - Making the Song of Songs a LOVE story between a man and a woman!
 - Allegorical...
 - SECOND - others look at the book from an ALLEGORICAL [ἀλληγορέω] perspective...
 - This was NOT a real event - there was NO historical basis for the book...
 - It is ONLY mean to be a picture of the relationship between God and the church...
 - Most churches do teach the Song of Songs as ALLEGORY!
 - Typological...
 - THIRD - the TYPOLOGICAL interpretation admits the HISTORICAL basis for the book...
 - It is written about how Solomon fell in LOVE with the SHULAMITE woman...
 - But APPLIES the story to the relationship between Christ and the church - **Ephesians 5:32**
- o Outline...
 - Three Sections...
 - FIRST the Dating - **Song of Songs 1:1 - 3:5**
 - SECOND the Wedding - **Song of Songs 3:6 - 5:1**
 - THIRD the Marriage [and the problems] - **Song of Songs 5:2 - 8:14**
 - The speaker...
 - Each chapter in the book is divided up among THREE groups of people...
 - SHULAMITE [שׁוּלָמִית] - whose name means PEACE [שָׁלֵם]
 - BELOVED - the name given to Solomon [שְׁלֹמֹה] by the Shulamite - also means PEACE [שָׁלוֹם]
 - DAUGHTERS of Jerusalem - the friends of the Shulamite woman [everyone else]
- 1ST - FALLING IN LOVE... vs. 1-7
 - o 1st – Special... vs. 1-2
 - Common... vs. 1
 - Shulamite: I am the rose of Sharon - and the lily of the valleys!
 - The Shulamite woman doubted she was SPECIAL...
 - She did NOT think she was very pretty - because she was DARK - **Song of Songs 1:6**
 - Now she described herself as COMMON - like a wild FLOWER in the FIELD...
 - Some translations interpret FLOWER [הַבְּצֹלֵת] as ROSE - more likely it was a weed [daffodil]
 - That commonly grows in the FIELD [הַשְּׂרֹן] - the flat coastal region of Israel...
 - Emphasized by calling herself a LILY [שׁוּשַׁן] - another common flower from the VALLEY...
 - The idea is she was NOT special - she was just like every other flower [girl]!
 - The one... vs. 2
 - Beloved: Like a lily among thorns so is my love among the daughters!
 - Solomon answered by telling his LOVE - his FRIEND [רֵעִיָּה] - she was VERY special...
 - If she was like [כְּ] a LILY [שׁוּשַׁן] - that made every other woman a THORN [contrast]
 - She was the ONE for him - and there was NO other!
 - There is a common theology today – known as the ONE...
 - The idea is that for each person God has a chosen ONE that they should marry!
 - Now – it is true God KNOWS who we will marry – He knows everything – **Isaiah 46:10**
 - But interestingly the Bible says NOTHING about WHO we should marry...
 - Therefore - the idea the ONE is very dangerous...

- Because what can happen is we marry someone thinking they are the ONE...
 - But when inevitable challenges happen in marriage – **I Corinthians 7:28**
 - We can become disillusioned into believing we married the WRONG one...
 - Which opens up the door to look for ANOTHER one – and abandon the marriage...
 - Although the idea that there is ONE person for us - is NOT true...
 - When we put Jesus at the CENTER of our relationship - they become the ONE for us!
- o 2nd - Satisfied... vs. 3
- Shulamite: Like an apple tree among the trees of the wood so is my beloved among the sons.
 - I sat down in his shade with great delight and his fruit was sweet to my taste!
 - In RESPONSE to Solomon - the Shulamite also said he was SPECIAL...
 - If all the MEN in the world were TREES - only he was an APPLE tree [had fruit]
 - And she REALLY [piel] wanted to sit down in his SHADE [covered by him]
 - Because she knew his FRUIT was SWEET - and would SATISFY her!
 - I know guys who get marriage because they think it will stop their LUST...
 - But LUST is not a physical problem - it is a SPIRITUAL one...
 - And if Jesus is NOT at the center of the marriage - then the LUST will continue...
 - And it will end up causing their WIVES to be INSECURE in the marriage!
 - Ladies - if a man is NOT protecting you - protecting your purity...
 - If a guy is looking at pornography - he is bringing other women into the marriage...
 - It is going to cause there to be DOUBTS - and cause PROBLEMS...
 - Women need to know they are SAFE with their HUSBAND...
 - They need to know they are SATISFIED - CONTENT in the marriage!
- o 3rd - Unashamed... vs. 4-6
- The Banner... vs. 4
 - The Shulamite to the Daughters of Jerusalem:
 - He brought me to the banqueting house and his banner over me was love!
 - Solomon had taken the Shulamite to a FEAST - literally the house of wine [אֶל-בֵּית הַיַּיִן]
 - There he DECLARED his LOVE [אֶהְבָּהּ] for her - put [hiphil] his banner [דָּגָל] over her...
 - He was NOT ashamed for EVERYONE to know they were a TOGETHER!
 - None of us are perfect - we have ALL made LOTS of mistakes...
 - Yet it is amazing to think that Jesus is NOT ashamed of us...
 - With all of our imperfections - all of our flaws...
 - He boldly declares to the whole world that we are His BRIDE - **Revelation 21:9**
 - Fainting... vs. 5-6
 - Sustain me with cakes of raisins. Refresh me with apples for I am lovesick.
 - His left hand is under my head and his right hand embraces me!
 - The boldness of Solomon was too much for the Shulamite...
 - She begged [imperative] Solomon to get her some food [cake or apples]
 - Because she felt SICK - because of his overwhelming LOVE [אֶהְבָּהּ]
 - His right hand had to hold her HEAD - and his left had to help [piel] her stand...
 - Suggesting that she FAINTED - overwhelmed by the emotion!
 - This might have been a bit of a show [faint at a public feast]
 - But Solomon did NOT seem to care - he was more than willing to play along...
 - He was NOT ashamed of his DARK and beautiful FLOWER!
 - Emotions can be a VERY deceiving thing - we can FEEL love...
 - But if someone is HESITANT to tell others about us - that is a RED flag...
 - TRUE love is NEVER ashamed of the person who we care about...
 - We want the WHOLE world to know about our LOVE - we fly it like a BANNER!

o 4th - Waiting... vs. 7

- Do not stir...
 - I charge you O daughters of Jerusalem - by the gazelles or by the does of the field.
 - Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases!
 - Overwhelmed [sick] from the LOVE of Solomon...
 - The Shulamite made a PROMISE [hiphil] to the daughters of Jerusalem [בְּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם]
 - By the gazelles or the does - because they are sexually active in their SEASON...
 - They should NOT stir or wake up LOVE [אַהֲבָה] - before it was TIME!
 - There is a natural progression that takes places in a relationship...
 - When we fall in LOVE [sick] with someone - it begins...
 - It might start with holding hands - a stolen kiss - a gentle caress...
 - But it will NOT stop there - it is like being in a speeding car...
 - The faster it goes - the more likely we are going to end up in a CRASH!
 - The WISDOM is to NOT wake up LOVE before it is time [wedding day]
 - We must NOT put ourselves in a place where we will be TEMPTED...
 - Set BOUNDARIES - be careful NOT to be alone [no accountability]!
 - II Timothy 2:22 - "Flee also youthful lusts - but pursue... the Lord out of a pure heart."
- Will of God...
 - The Shulamite was READY to get physical - but since they were NOT yet married...
 - She needed PATIENCE now - so she could wait for the PASSION that would come later...
 - She wanted to WAIT until the wedding before intimacy...
 - Because she understood it was the WILL of God for her life!
 - I Thessalonians 4:3 - "This is the will of God - your sanctification - that you should abstain from sexual immorality [πορνεία]."
 - We live in a world that does NOT teach us to WAIT...
 - We are encouraged to buy on CREDIT - so that we can get what we want NOW...
 - We want FAST food - FAST cars - and FAST relationships!
 - But the foundation of a LASTING relationship CANNOT be based on sex...
 - The basis for a lifelong marriage comes from those who build their relationship on God...
 - And if someone does honor God BEFORE marriage by WAITING...
 - Why would we think they will prioritize God AFTER marriage!
- Spiritual...
 - I Corinthians 6:13 - "The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord."
 - Paul wrote to the church in Corinth to address this issue of intimacy...
 - The church there assumed that sex was just a natural function of the body...
 - No different than the need to EAT - like an ITCH that needed to be scratched...
 - But Paul warned them - NO - sex is NOT just physical it is also SPIRITUAL...
 - That is why God told Adam and Eve [the first couple]!
 - Genesis 2:24 - "A man shall... be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh."
 - There is something POWERFUL about INTIMACY in marriage...
 - It BINDS two people together not just PHYSICALLY - but also SPIRITUALLY...
 - That is why God RESTRICTED sex as something that is ONLY to take place in MARRIAGE...
 - It is meant to unite ONE man and ONE woman together for life...
 - When people treat sex casually - it cheapens it - makes it lose its adhesiveness...
 - God has a plan for intimacy - and we would be wise to follow it!
 - I Corinthians 6:20 - "Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit!"

● 2ND - SHOWING LOVE... vs. 8-14

- o 1st – Actions... vs. 8-9
 - The Shulamite: The voice of my beloved! Behold he comes leaping upon the mountains.
 - Skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag!
 - Solomon showed his love for the Shulamite in THREE ways...
 - FIRST - in his ACTIONS - he came RUNNING to see her...
 - BEHOLD [הִנֵּה] - he was LEAPING [piel] and SKIPPING [piel] over the mountains to get to her...
 - He was as excited as a ROE or young DEER [in heat]!
 - Ever wonder how people who are so in LOVE - walk down the AISLE with a SMILE...
 - Can devolve over the years into two people who seem to HATE each other...
 - The answer is because couples stop INVESTING in each other...
 - When they are DATING - they are always thinking about one another...
 - They want to spend EVER waking moment together...
 - But once they are MARRIED - they think there is NO longer any reason to INVEST!
 - **Matthew 6:21** - "Where your treasure is - there your heart will be also."
 - Too many relationships start with LEAPING - and end with SLEEPING [lose the excitement]
 - Getting married should NOT stop the pursuit of the women by the man...
 - Husbands - take the time to INVEST in your wife - make her your TREASURE!
- o 2nd - Looking... vs. 9
 - Behold he stands behind our wall.
 - He is looking through the windows. Gazing through the lattice!
 - Second - he had EYES that were only for the Shulamite...
 - BEHOLD [הִנֵּה] - He stood outside her house - just to STARE at her through the window...
 - Because he was willing to WAIT for her - although he was so excited to SEE her!
 - Men - make no mistake our wives watch our EYES...
 - They know WHAT we are looking at - they take note WHO we are looking at...
 - We should ONLY have eyes for our BRIDE - blind to everyone else...
 - If we find that our eyes begin to WANDER - it is because we are NOT investing...
 - The more we give TIME to our wives - the less we will find our eyes want to go anywhere else!
 - **Job 31:1** - "I have made a covenant with my eyes. Why should I look upon a young woman."
- o 3rd - Speaking... vs. 10-14
 - Come away... vs. 10
 - My beloved spoke and said to me: Rise up my love - my fair one - and come away!
 - Solomon [beloved] said to the Shulamite - get up [imperative]
 - His friend [רַעְיָה] - his beauty [יָפֶה] - and come [imperative] with him!
 - BEAUTY [יָפֶה] - is the name of the city Jaffa in Israel...
 - It is called that because it sits on the Mediterranean - and is breathtaking!
 - Poetry... vs. 11-13
 - For lo the winter is past. The rain is over and gone.
 - The flowers appear on the earth. The time of singing has come.
 - And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
 - The fig tree puts forth her green figs - and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell.
 - Rise up my love - my fair one - and come away!
 - Solomon then flows into POETRY for the Shulamite [take note men]
 - He describes the end of WINTER - the former [October-November] rains were over...
 - And SPRING was in the air - the flowers were beginning to bud...
 - The birds were singing - the fig tree has its first fruit - the fragrant grape were blossoming...
 - Pointing to a NEW season - a NEW beginning on the earth...
 - His point is that it was time for them to start their NEW life together...

- Therefore get up [imperative] - his FRIEND [רֵעִיָּה] and BEAUTY [יָפֶה] - come [imperative]!
- It is true that the one constant in life is CHANGE...
- No sooner does one season END - than another BEGINS...
- We go from TODDLERS - to SCHOOL - to a CAREER...
- We move from Parents to Grandparents - caregiver to being cared for!
- As we go through those SEASONS - people come and go in our lives [including our kids]
- But there are TWO relationships that are meant to LAST...
- FIRST is our spouse - the FRIEND [רֵעִיָּה] that stands with us to the end - **Matthew 19:6**
- SECOND is Jesus - He is the one who NEVER changes - **Hebrews 13:8**

▪ Best years... vs. 14

- O my dove in the clefts of the rock. In the secret places of the cliff.
- Let me see your face. Let me hear your voice.
- For your voice is sweet and your face is lovely!
- Solomon did NOT want to only see the Shulamite through the WINDOW...
- It was like she was HIDDEN from him - behind the rocks - or high up on a cliff...
- He needed [imperative] to see her face - hear her voice...
- Because her voice was SWEET - and her appearance BEAUTIFUL!
- The world paints a picture of marriage being front loaded...
- The best years are the early years - after that things go downhill...
- What began with a desire to NEVER be apart - end up apathetically being together!
- Our MARRIAGES are a reflection of our relationship with Christ - **Ephesians 5:32**
- Our BEST years with the Lord are NOT in the beginning...
- We do NOT have to dread what eternity will be like - apathy...
- As we INVEST in the Lord - spend time with Him - we get CLOSER...
- All the more we LONG to spend EVERY day together with our BEST friend!

● 3RD - THE PROBLEM... vs. 15-17

o 1st - The Foxes... vs. 15

▪ Not alone...

- Her Brothers:
- There is some uncertainty as to whom the couple is talking to here...
- The Hebrew only tells us that they are speaking to a group of people [second person plural]
- But it is clear that they are pleading [imperative] for help with their marriage!
- We have a tradition that when we get married: Maninoy and Maninay...
- Although it has largely become just a way to get MONEY...
- The true purpose for it is far more powerful - and necessary!
- We need people who have more EXPERIENCE to help GUIDE us...
- Marriage is NOT easy - two sinners living as one - causes problems - **I Corinthians 7:28**
- And WHEN [not if] those problems arise - we have more mature couples who can help us!

▪ Spoiled...

- Catch us the foxes. The little foxes that spoil the vines for our vines have tender grapes!
- The FOXES [plural]- repeated as LITTLE foxes [just getting started]
- Are the PROBLEMS that come into EVERY young [tender] marriage...
- These foxes attack while the marriage is still the most vulnerable...
- Here is a list [not exhaustive] of FOUR foxes that I have found cause a LOT of damage!

▪ Unconditional...

- The world has volumes of BOOKS available on how to have a good MARRIAGE...
- There are full time COUNSELORS who make a living dealing with MARRIAGE problems...

- Yet the BIBLE dedicates very little space to the subject – only a HANDFUL of verses...
- NOT because it is unimportant – but because it is NOT very complicated!
- The one command to the wife - SUBMIT [present - imperative] – **Ephesians 5:22**
- The one command to the Husband - LOVE [present - imperative] – **Ephesians 5:25**
- These commands are NOT contingent on the other person...
- We do NOT get to choose - only obeying if the other person does their part...
- YET it is impossible for a wife to SUBMIT to her [flawed] husband...
- AND it is impossible for a husband to LOVE [perfectly] his imperfect wife...
- Both are commands are IMPOSSIBLE – to drive us to Jesus...
- Marriage CANNOT be based on FEELINGS - ATTRACTION - or even COMMITMENT...
- These things are NOT consistent - because we are NOT consistent...
- The only CONSISTENT thing we can build a marriage on is Christ!
- Investment...
 - I Peter 3:7 - “Husbands... dwell with [your wives]!”
 - DWELL [συνοικέω] only here in NT – to live in the same house with their WIVES!
 - As we have already stated - our heart follows our TREASURE - **Matthew 6:21**
 - If anything else is more important than our marriage - there is a problem...
 - We need to be careful of other relationships [especially the opposite gender]
 - And our hobbies need to be kept in check - all things in proper balance...
 - Do NOT miss time with our wife and kids because of a video game - or cell phone!
- Provision...
 - Men are taught from youth that their ONE purpose is to PROVIDE...
 - But that is NOT true – God is the one who provides for the family – **Luke 12:31**
 - The one thing wives NEED - is the LOVE of Jesus from their HUSBANDS...
 - When men do NOT daily show their wives LOVE – they begin to feel insecure...
 - Then they will begin to challenge them - because they are unsure of our LOVE!
- Differences...
 - I heard story about a man who found a lamp - and when he rubbed it...
 - Out came a genie who offered to grant him ONE wish...
 - He first asked for a road that stretched all the way from Luzon to Mindanao...
 - The genie told him that was an IMPOSSIBLE task - too much red tape...
 - The man reluctantly agreed - and asked to instead understand his wife...
 - To which the genie quickly replied - would he like two lanes or four!
 - Men and women are NOT the same - and we will NOT understand each other...
 - There is always going to be some MYSTERY to our spouses...
 - But the strength of a marriage is found in our DIFFERENCES...
 - When God looked down at Adam and saw he was alone - it was NOT good - **Genesis 2:18**
 - God gave him Eve - and only together were they COMPLETE!
- o 2nd - Committed... vs. 16
 - The Shepherd... vs. 16
 - The Shulamite: My beloved is mine and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies!
 - Seeing Solomon address the potential FOXES in their relationship...
 - The Shulamite declares her DEVOTION to him...
 - He belonged to her - and she belonged to him [exclusively]
 - He was the SHEPHERD [הֹרֵעַ] over her LILIES [שׁוֹשַׁן]!
 - This of course does cause us to raise a question...
 - Because Solomon did NOT stay loyal to the Shulamite [he was not hers]
 - He ended up having a THOUSAND wives - **I Kings 11:3**

- But we need to remember that this is ultimately a picture of the Church...
- And where Solomon was NOT faithful - Jesus most certainly is...
- We belong to Him - purchased by His blood - **I Corinthians 6:19-20**
- He is our good SHEPHERD - who will always be there for us!
- **Psalm 23:1** - "The LORD is my shepherd [הִרְעָה]. I shall not want."
- Until Daybreak... vs. 17
 - To Her Beloved: Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.
 - Turn my beloved and be like a gazelle - or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether!
 - The desire of the Shulamite was that until the DARKNESS [shadows] went away...
 - Her Beloved [דֹּדִי] would continue to chase after her - over the mountains of BETHER...
 - BETHER [בֶּתֶר] - also used to describe the sacrifice of Abraham - Genesis 15:10
 - When he divided [בָּתַר] the animals in two - and God promised to be with him!
 - Like the Shulamite - we are NOT yet with Jesus...
 - But we have this PROMISE from Him - until the DARKNESS passes...
 - He will continue to pursue us - He will NOT let us go...
 - Until the day when we finally get to see Him face to face - and He brings us home!