Song of Songs 8

- **Review…**

- Interpretation…
  - There are THREE main ways people try to INTERPRET this book…
  - FIRST - the LITERAL - it is ONLY a love story between a man and a woman…
  - SECOND - the ALLEGORICAL - it is ONLY a picture of the relationship of God and the church…
  - THIRD - the TYPOLOGICAL admits the HISTORICAL basis for the book…
  - But APPLIES the story to the relationship between Christ and the church - **Ephesians 5:32**
- 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…
  - SHULAMITE [שׁוּלַמִּית] - whose name means PEACE [שָׁלֵם]
  - BELOVED [דּוֹד]- the name given to Solomon [שְׁלֹמֹה] by the Shulamite - also means PEACE [שָׁלוֹם]
  - DAUGHTERS of Jerusalem - the friends of the Shulamite woman [everyone else]
- Rekindled love…
  - SOLOMON described the SHULAMITE three times [three to one ratio]
  - FIRST time - SOLOMON noticed SEVEN things [from her head to her chest]
  - SECOND time - he noticed THREE things [trying to get over a fight]
  - But this final time he sees TEN things - her WHOLE body - he does NOT miss a thing!
  - Because the SHULAMITE humbled herself - I am my BELOVEDS - **Song of Songs 6:3**
  - Their relationship had been RESTORED - their marriage HEALED…
  - And she told SOLOMON to take here away - it was time for a VACATION!

- **1st - No shame in Love… vs. 1-4**
  - 1st - Like a brother… vs. 1
    - Looking back...
      - As we come to the CONCLUSION of the GREATEST love song…
      - Presumably some time has passed - perhaps some years down the road of life…
      - The SHULAMITE and SOLOMON are going to reflect back on their relationship!
      - There is something sweet about an old couple reminiscing over the years…
      - Looking back at old pictures - sharing their LOVE story…
      - Remembering both their SUCCESSES - and FAILURE - how God used BOTH…
      - And passing on what they LEARNED to the next generation who will fall in LOVE!
    - No shame…
      - Oh that you were like my brother - who nursed at my mothers breasts.
      - If I should find you outside I would kiss you. I would not be despised!
      - FIRST the SHULAMITE wanted us to know - how NOT to be ASHAMED…
      - She reflects on how she wished SOLOMON could have been LIKE [כְּ] her brother…
      - Because then she could have KISSED him in public without it being a SCANDAL…
      - Because in Old Testament times - public displays of affection [PDA] were NOT allowed…
      - Even husbands and wives were NOT permitted to kiss in PUBLIC!
      - When we were in Jerusalem a few years back - we were up on the Temple mount…
      - One of the couples with us was HOLDING hands as they walked…
      - The Waqf [Muslim temple police] rushed over and demanded they stop…
      - Going so far as to even insist they delete ALL pictures of them holding hands!
      - The simple point being there is a TIME and PLACE for physical affection…
      - The problem is we live in a world that wants to remove ALL restrictions…
      - Even teens today seem to have no limits on showing affection in public places [PDA]
      - What we fail to acknowledge is that removed BOUNDARIES that keep them safe…

- It opens the door for them to go FARTHER - which ends up getting them in TROUBLE…
- Which is why it is WISER to limit AFFECTION in public - and NOT stumble others!
- **I Timothy 5:2** - "[Treat the] younger women as sisters - with all purity."

o 2nd - Wise teacher… 2
  - Proud mother…
    - I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother. She who used to instruct me!
    - SECOND the SHULAMITE wanted us to know - she followed instructions…
    - She would [imperfect] lead SOLOMON back to the house of her MOTHER…
    - The one who TAUGHT [piel] her how to be a GODLY woman…
    - So her mother could see that she had LISTENED to her counsel!
  - Subtle details…
    - I would cause you to drink of spiced wine - of the juice of my pomegranate!
    - Then she would make [hiphil] SOLOMON drink MIXED wine…
    - Rather than being made from GRAPES - it would be made from POMEGRANATE!
    - This subtle detail is lost on us - as we are NOT familiar with Jewish culture…
    - There are MANY restrictions in KOSHER law about drinking WINE…
    - But POMEGRANATE wine is always considered to be KOSHER [proper]
    - The idea being the SHULAMITE had learned the SUBTLE ways to act PROPERLY!
    - When we are YOUNG - we think we KNOW how life works…
    - We make the MISTAKE of assuming that KNOWLEDGE equates to WISDOM…
    - But WISDOM is far deeper - it comes through EXPERIENCE…
    - Which is why those who are OLDER - have a LOT more WISDOM than the YOUNG…
    - They pass onto us SUBTLE details that we might NOT think are important…
    - When they say do NOT be alone before we are married - and we think we are OK…
    - They LEARNED the hard way - and we would be WISE to listen their COUNSEL!
    - **I Peter 5:5** - "You who are younger - submit yourselves to your elders."
o 3rd - Do not awaken… vs. 3-4
  - Close embrace… vs. 3
    - To the Daughters of Jerusalem:
    - His left hand is under my head and his right hand embraces me!
    - THIRD the SHULAMITE wanted us to know - there is a PROGRESSION…
    - SOLOMON was holding her - his LEFT hand was supported her head…
    - His RIGHT hand was SQUEEZING [piel] her tightly…
    - And she LOVED to be in his EMBRACE - she LOVED it!
  - Timing… vs. 4
    - I charge you O daughters of Jerusalem: Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases!
    - But at the same time she understood where it would LEAD…
    - Therefore this caused [hiphil] her to WARN the other women [daughters of Jerusalem]
    - That once you begin to walk down this PATH [holding one another]
    - What [מָה] you are doing is causing [hiphil] LOVE [אַהֲבָה] to WAKE up [poel]
    - And if it is NOT the right time [after marriage] - you will be in TROUBLE…
    - This is the THIRD and FINAL time she gives this WARNING - **Song of Songs 2:7 - 3:5**

    - There is a natural progression that takes places in a relationship…
    - 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]
- We must draw a line when it comes to physical intimacy BEFORE marriage…
- The question should NOT be how CLOSE to sex - but how CLOSE we can draw to Jesus…
- The basis for a lifelong marriage does NOT come from physical attraction…
- Instead it comes from those who build their relationship on God!
- **II Timothy 2:22** – "Flee also youthful lusts - but pursue… the Lord out of a pure heart."

- **2ND - POWER OF LOVE… VS. 5-7**
  - 1st - Good Pattern… vs. 5
    - A Relative:
      - Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved?
      - We are NOT sure who is speaking here [not clearly defined in the Hebrew]
      - That we are NOT told [anonymous] emphasizes it is the PUBLICS view of their marriage…
      - They saw how SOLOMON [her beloved] supported his WIFE the SHULAMITE…
      - Something that he had done from the very BEGINNING of their relationship!
    - How it started…
      - I awakened you under the apple tree.
      - There your mother brought you forth. There she who bore you brought you forth!
      - When they had fallen in LOVE [poel] under an APPLE tree…
      - The very same tree where her MOTHER had given birth to her…
      - Thinking back fondly on bother where she was BORN - and where their love STARTED!
      - The world is WATCHING - and much of what they see is NOT from the Lord…
      - They see MOVIE stars - POLITICIANS - and the lives they live are usually a mess…
      - We need more examples of what a GODLY relationship looks like…
      - So that young people can see a PATTERN of a GOOD marriage!
      - **Philippians 3:17** - "Note those who so walk - as you have [them as] a pattern."
  - 2nd - Strong as death… vs. 6
    - The seal…
      - The Shulamite to Her Beloved: Set me as a seal upon your heart - as a seal upon your arm!
      - The SHULAMITE demanded [imperative] her husband [כִּי] SEAL their LOVE [two ways]
      - SEAL [חוֹתָם] a MARK that would identify something as belonging to a person…
      - FIRST internal - he was to put her SEAL on his HEART [לֵב]
      - SECOND external - he was to put her SEAL on his ARM [like a wedding ring]
      - Their LOVE was NOT meant to be some kind of one night stand!
    - Like death…
      - For love is as strong as death…. as cruel as the grave!
      - Because [כִּי] LOVE [אַהֲבָה] is a BOND that lasts a LIFETIME - **Matthew 19:6**
      - It is as [כַּ] powerful as DEATH - as unchanging as the GRAVE [שְׁאוֹל]!
      - When someone DIES - once they are BURIED - that is the END…
      - People do NOT get to come back to life and try it all over again [reincarnation]
      - In the same way we are meant to fall in LOVE only ONCE…
      - We SEAL our hearts and set a SEAL on our hands [ring] - for a LIFETIME!
      - The world today demands we DATE to find out if we are COMPATIBLE…
      - The problem is people give their HEART [love] TESTING if the relationship will work…
      - And when there are PROBLEMS [and there always will be] they walk away…
      - But each time they get a little more BITTER - hardened by the PAIN of broken LOVE…
      - We NEVER see DATING in the Bible - God does NOT give any conditions on WHO to marry…
      - Because it does NOT matter who we MARRY [be sure they are a believer]

- What makes a MARRIAGE great - is who is the foundation [Jesus]!

- Our jealousy…
  - [Jealousies] flames are flames of fire - a most vehement flame!
  - There are TWO possibilities as to what this might be referring to…
  - FIRST - this could be speaking of us being JEALOUS…
  - It is important to have only one LOVE - is because of what can happens when we TEST…
  - JEALOUSY [קִנְאָה] - from the root verb [קָנָא] which can be translated as ENVY!
  - The classic example is of showing off a NEW boyfriend to an EX…
  - Wanting to PROVE that we are OK - we have MOVED on…
  - PROVOKING [fanning the flames] one another to JEALOUSLY [envy]
- Gods jealousy…
  - SECOND - this could be speaking of GOD being jealous of us…
  - The final phrase translated [vehement flame] - is literally the flame of God [יָהּ] in Hebrew…
  - God does NOT want us giving out our HEART to lots of different people…
  - And when we play the DATING game - it fans the coals of his JEALOUSLY…
  - Because His desire for MARRIAGE - is ONE man and ONE woman for a lifetime…
  - MARRIAGE is meant to point us back to our relationship with Him!
  - Sadly a lot of people treat God like they do a DATING relationship…
  - They will give God a try - testing to see if it works out…
  - Rather than realizing that it is the ONE relationship that is meant to last FOREVER!

o 3rd - Greatest Love… vs. 7

- The Love…
  - Many waters cannot quench love - nor can the floods drown it!
  - There is NO [לֹא] amount of WATER that can extinguish LOVE [אַהֲבָה]
  - And [וּ] MANY rivers [נְהָרוֹת] cannot [לֹא] wash it away…
  - There is a CHANGE here - the article [הָ] appears before the word LOVE [אַהֲבָה]
  - Meaning we are NOT just talking about generic LOVE - this is THE love of God…
  - A LOVE that NOTHING can stop - nothing will ever be able to quench it!
  - The reason why MARRIAGE is so important - LOVE is NOT to be cheapened…
  - Is because it points us back to the GREATEST of all LOVE - **I John 4:8**
  - God calls us His BRIDE - He uses marriage to show us what that looks like - **Revelation 21:9**
- The cost…
  - If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house - it would be utterly despised!
  - IF [אִם] a MAN gives [imperfect] all [כֹּל] he has for [בְּ] LOVE [אַהֲבָה]
  - All of his possessions will seem as [בּוּז] NOTHING [2x for emphasis]
  - When compared to the LOVE that he will get as a REWARD!
  - Jesus gave a PARABLE about a PEARL of great price - **Matthew 13:46**
  - Telling us that the man who found that PEARL - would sell EVERYTHING to buy it…
  - PEARLS - came from an UNCLEAN animal - **Leviticus 11:12**
  - Meaning they were something that JEWS would avoid…
  - But Jesus did NOT just come to save the CLEAN - He also came to save UNCLEAN!
  - God does NOT look at the world the way we do…
  - We see ourselves and assume how could God love us - we are UNCLEAN…
  - But God sees a PEARL of great price - He is willing to give EVERYTHING to redeem us…
  - He was willing to become a MAN - He was willing to DIE on the CROSS…
  - Because the GREATEST love of all - is the LOVE of God!
  - **I Timothy 1:15** - "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

- **3RD - WAITING FOR LOVE… VS. 8-14**

- 1st - Little sister… vs. 8-9
  - Still young… vs. 8
    - The Shulamites Brothers: We have a little sister and she has no breasts.
    - What shall we do for our sister in the day when she is spoken for?
    - Then the BROTHERS of the SHULAMITE recall her when she was a child…
    - When we was LITTLE - before she became a woman - NO [אֵין] breasts…
    - When they had talked about what to do one day when a MAN came asking [דָּבַר] about her…
    - They decided it would depend on the SHULAMITE [two possibilities]!
  - The wall… vs. 9
    - If she is a wall - we will build upon her a [palace] of silver!
    - IF [אִם] she acts like a WALL - and does NOT let men near her…
    - Then the BROTHERS would give her HONOR - they would build her a SILVER palace!
  - The door… vs. 9
    - But if she is a door - we will enclose her with boards of cedar!
    - But IF [וְאִם] she was like a DOOR - opened up to every man who walked by…
    - Then the BROTHERS would build a WALL of hard [cedar] WOOD around her!
    - I once heard a pastor jokingly say - raising kids is easy…
    - You just put them into a box and feed them through a hole…
    - When they get to be teenagers - PLUG the hole!
    - When little girls and boys become teenagers - they kind of lose the minds…
    - Their emotions [and hormones] go off the chart…
    - Which means they do NOT always make the best decisions - especially in relationships…
    - If they are WISE - and act like a WALL - then they will likely be OK…
    - But if they UNWISE - and open the DOOR - then they might need our help…
    - PROTECT them from the HURT that comes from giving away their HEART to easily!
- 2nd - Her choice… vs. 10-12
  - I am a wall… vs. 10
    - The Shulamite: I am a wall and my breasts like towers.
    - Then I became in his eyes as one who found peace!
    - The answer from the SHULAMITE to her BROTHERS - I am a WALL…
    - No man was going to get anywhere near her [or her breasts]
    - She was making sure she WAITED to give her LOVE…
    - As a RESULT [אָז] - when SOLOMON saw her she gave [hiphil] to him PEACE [שָׁלוֹם]
  - The other vineyard… vs. 11
    - Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon. He leased the vineyard to keepers.
    - Everyone was to bring for its fruit a thousand silver coins!
    - To explain why SOLOMON had PEACE when he saw the SHULAMITE…
    - She uses the example of his VINEYARD in Baal Hamon [lord of abundance]
    - VINEYARD that he RENTED [נָתַן] out to other man to HARVEST…
    - And they would pay him THOUSAND silver for its FRUIT!
  - My vineyard… vs. 12
    - To Solomon: My own vineyard is before me.
    - You O Solomon - may have a thousand and those who tend its fruit two hundred!
    - But - although SOLOMON could do whatever he wanted with his VINEYARD…
    - Though SOLOMON might have a THOUSAND vineyards…
    - This could possibly be a reference [or a foreshadowing] of his other wives - **I Kings 11:3**
    - Even having TWO hundred men who watched over his VINEYARDS [eunuchs?]
    - He could NOT touch the SHULAMITE - her VINEYARD belonged to her [שֶׁלִּי]!

- Ladies listen - those who are NOT yet married…
- You can only give yourself away for the FIRST time [virginity] - ONCE…
- It is the most precious GIFT that you can give to your HUSBAND…
- Knowing that you have NOT been with another man - will give him PEACE…
- Therefore CLOSE the DOOR - be a WALL - play very hard to get…
- Because the man who wants you - need to prove it - by winning your HEART!

▪ Second chances…
- But I think it necessary - to also address the HOPE we have!
- Maybe we made a MISTAKE - maybe we opened the door too early…
- That is where GRACE comes in - our God is a God of second chances…
- All the is needed is to choose TODAY - to put Jesus FIRST…
- Because His mercies are new EVERY morning - **Lamentations 3:23**

o 3rd - Lasting love… vs. 13-14

▪ Listening… vs. 13
- The Beloved: You who dwell in the gardens.
- The companions listen for your voice - Let me hear it!
- In response to her declaration that she was NOT cheap…
- Her love was something that had to be WON - she was the daughter of the KING [God]
- Solomon called her the ONE who dwells in the GARDENS [safety]
- Others had heard her WORDS [voice] - he must [imperative] HEAR them as well…
- I am sure as a KING - Solomon was used to getting what he wanted…
- But he did NOT have the power to demand the SHULAMITE - he had to earn her LOVE!

▪ Enjoying… vs. 14
- The Shulamite: Make haste my beloved.
- And be like a gazelle - or a young stag - on the mountains of spices!
- To which the SHULAMITE commanded [imperative] him to come QUICKLY my love [דּוֹד]
- Like a DEER come leaping over the mountains to the one he loved…
- The SONG - and BOOK - end with the affirmation of their LOVE!

▪ Picture…
- But we need to conclude by addressing the obvious question…
- The SHULAMITE was NOT the only wife of SOLOMON [1000 wives]
- Which would seem to wash away the beauty of the story…
- NOTE - this book was NOT really written by SOLOMON …
- Out of 117 verses - he only speak in 38 of them - 74 verses are from the SHULAMITE…
- It is really her SONG - her STORY about finding LOVE!
- But the power is in the PICTURE it gives us of the GREATEST love…
- It is OUR song - it is meant to be a picture of LOVE of Jesus…
- Who gave EVERYTHING - willing to do ANYTHING - to win our hearts!