

SONG OF SONGS 6

- REVIEW...

- o 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**
- o 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**
- o The speaker...
 - SHULAMITE [שׁוּלָמִית] - whose name means PEACE [שָׁלֵם]
 - BELOVED [דֹּד] - the name given to Solomon [שְׁלֹמֹה] by the Shulamite - also means PEACE [שָׁלוֹם]
 - DAUGHTERS of Jerusalem - the friends of the Shulamite woman [everyone else]
- o Marriage Problems...
 - ONE verse after the wedding night - and the MARRIAGE had PROBLEMS...
 - Solomon was OUTSIDE of the room of the SHULAMITE - perhaps because of a FIGHT...
 - Maybe he was out too late with FRIENDS - rather than spending time with his WIFE...
 - Or perhaps he got busy at WORK - leaving his wife home alone...
 - But she would NOT let him in - and he ended up LEAVING...
 - Yet once he LEFT - she ran out into the night looking for him!
- 1st - CHANGE OF HEART... vs. 1-3
 - o 1st – Helping hand... vs. 1
 - The question...
 - The DAUGHTERS of Jerusalem had asked WHY the SHULAMITE was looking for SOLOMON...
 - She was the most BEAUTIFUL of all women [הַיָּפֶה בַּנְּשִׁים] - **Song of Songs 5:9**
 - Their question has stirred the SHULAMITE to RECONSIDER...
 - Rather than FOCUS on what SOLOMON had done to UPSET her...
 - It changed her perspective to instead think about WHY she LOVED him...
 - And give a STIRRING description of to the DAUGHTERS of what made him SPECIAL...
 - He was BETTER than TEN thousand men - he was her BELOVED - and FRIEND!
 - Not alone...
 - The Daughters of Jerusalem: Where has your beloved gone O fairest among women?
 - Where has your beloved turned aside that we may seek him with you?
 - MOVED by the description the SHULAMITE gave of SOLOMON...
 - The DAUGHTERS of Jerusalem were quick to ask how they could HELP...
 - Did the SHULAMITE know WHERE [אָנָּה] her BELOVED [דֹּדֶךָ] had gone....
 - Or WHERE [אָנָּה] her BELOVED [דֹּדֶךָ] had turned [repeated twice for emphasis]
 - Because [וְ] they wanted to help her LOOK [piel] for him!
 - We tend to look at marriage as something that is PRIVATE...
 - When [not if] we get into TROUBLE - we think we have to solve them on our own...
 - The LIE that the enemy puts into our heads is that ONLY we have these PROBLEMS...
 - Everyone else has a GREAT marriage - therefore NO one can relate to us...
 - But the truth is we ALL have STRUGGLES - and we are here to HELP!
 - o 2nd - Not hidden... vs. 2
 - The Shulamite: My beloved has gone to his garden - to the beds of spices.
 - To feed his flock in the gardens and to gather lilies!
 - There was NO hesitation in the answer from the SHULAMITE...

- SOLOMON was NOT lost - she knew EXACTLY where had had gone...
- He was back at WORK - tending his GARDEN - and feeding [רָעָה] his SHEEP...
- And she hoped he might even be picking some LILIES [flowers] to give to her!
- I KNOW when Jen is NOT happy - when I have UPSET her...
- She stops talking - and finds some kind of WORK that needs to be done...
- The house is NEVER cleaner then after I have done something dumb...
- But I also KNOW how to solve the problem - she just needs a HUG!
- Married couples know how to push one another's BUTTONS...
- We KNOW what to SAY and DO that will get the other person UPSET...
- After living together for MANY years - we KNOW each other REALLY well...
- Yet we pretend to be IGNORANT - act like we do NOT know how to restore the relationship...
- But the truth is we also KNOW our spouse well enough to KNOW what to SAY and DO to FIX it...
- The reason we do NOT is our PRIDE - we want them to go FIRST...
- Yet until one of us is willing to be HUMBLE - there can be no HEALING!
- o 3rd - My beloved... vs. 3
 - I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine.
 - He feeds his flock among the lilies!
 - The SHULAMITE chose HUMILITY...
 - She made a similar statement before - my beloved is MINE and I am HIS - **Song of songs 2:16**
 - But here she REVERSES the order - FIRST she belonged [לָ] to her BELOVED [דָּוִד]
 - She understood that it was NOT his responsibility to reach out to her...
 - She was to reach out to him - go to where he was working [רָעָה] among the LILIES!
 - There are TWO commands given in MARRIAGE...
 - WIVES are commanded to SUBMIT [υποτάσσω] to their HUSBANDS - **Ephesians 5:22**
 - HUSBANDS are commanded to LOVE [ἀγαπάω] their WIVES - **Ephesians 5:25**
 - We tend to DEMAND the other person do their PART...
 - And overlook the COMMAND [imperative] that God has given to us!
 - It is easy to see the FAULT in others [she is NOT submitting - he is NOT loving]
 - But the problem is we CANNOT change them - we can ONLY choose for ourselves...
 - When [not if] we have a FIGHT - the right answer is to be HUMBLE...
 - Admit we were WRONG - and chose to OBEY what God had called us to do!
- 2ND - REKINDLED LOVE... vs. 4-10
 - o 1st - My Love... vs. 4
 - Beautiful...
 - The Beloved: O my love!
 - When the SHULAMITE came to find SOLOMON...
 - CRITICALLY - she did NOT come to continue the FIGHT...
 - She came in HUMILITY - SUBMITTED [υποτάσσω] with a heart that said I belong to him...
 - The response of SOLOMON was to reply with the same HUMILITY...
 - He poured out LOVE [ἀγαπάω] upon her the moment she arrived!
 - Three ways...
 - You are as beautiful as Tirzah. Lovely as Jerusalem. Awesome as an army with banners!
 - She was BEAUTIFUL [יָפָה] - and he went on to describe her BEAUTY in THREE ways...
 - FIRST - like [כְּ] the city of TIRZAH - city in northern Israel - name means to be pleasing [רָצָה]
 - SECOND - like [כְּ] the city of Jerusalem - the name means to have PEACE [שָׁלֵם]
 - THIRD - like [כְּ] a terrifying [יָמֵץ] army that carries banners of WAR - but chose PEACE!
 - The picture of the THREE put together is POWERFUL...
 - Solomon expected the SHULAMITE to come looking for a terrible [יָמֵץ] FIGHT...

- But was PLEASANTLY [Tirzah] surprised when she came to bring PEACE [Jerusalem]
 - There are TWO options we have when it comes to MARRIAGE...
 - We can come in PRIDE ready for a FIGHT - and watch and our relationship crumbles...
 - Or we can come in HUMILITY ready for PEACE - and watch as it soars...
 - A GOOD marriage does NOT happen by accident - it is a CHOICE!
- o 2nd - Overcome... vs. 5
- Your eyes...
 - Turn your eyes away from me for they have overcome me!
 - Seeing the HUMILITY of the SHULAMITE - broke SOLOMON...
 - He demanded [imperative] that she turn her eyes away from him...
 - Not that her look was CONDEMNING - that would have just continued the FIGHT...
 - It was because her look was NOT condemning - it was filled with GRACE...
 - Therefore - they were causing SOLOMON to feel deeply GUILTILY [overcome]
 - OVERCOME [גָּבַח] - because he had also behaved ARROGANTLY or PROUDLY!
 - Disobedient...
 - I Peter 3:1-2 - "[Since] some [husbands] do not obey [indicative] the word. They without a word may be won by the conduct of their wives - when [their husbands see their] chaste conduct accompanied by fear!"
 - It makes me laugh - the Bible assumes husbands do NOT obey the Word...
 - And since HUSBAND are not willing to LISTEN to - or OBEY the Word...
 - When a wife SUBMITS to her PRIDEFUL husband - she becomes an EXAMPLE...
 - So the husband may be won [subjunctive] - without the Word - by her CONDUCT...
 - CONDUCT speaks of her ACTIONS - she lives out the WORD for her HUSBAND!
 - If a wife models her ACTIONS after the pattern of the world - expect worldly results...
 - Instead wives are called to pattern their ACTIONS according to the WORD!
 - Holy...
 - As the husband OBSERVES [ἐποπτεύω] - to LOOK intently - examine thoroughly...
 - Her CHASTE [ἀγνός] - from the root word for HOLY...
 - Because she is FEARFUL of what will happen to her marriage - if they follow the WORLD...
 - Knowing she CANNOT change him - she can ONLY be an example of obedience to him!
 - Ladies - I am sure you all want to have GODLY - LOVING husbands...
 - And there is NOTHING you would NOT do - or have not tried to mold us into GODLY men...
 - But ONLY Jesus can change your MAN into the kind of HUSBAND you desire...
 - The most powerful impact you can have on his life - is to be an EXAMPLE for Him!
- o 3rd - Beautiful... vs. 5-7
- Hair... vs. 5
 - Your hair is like a flock of goats going down from Gilead!
 - As much as SOLOMON was having a hard time looking at the SHULAMITE [guilty]
 - He also could NOT take his eyes off of her - because of her BEAUTY...
 - Going back to the DESCRIPTIONS he gave on their WEDDING night - Song of songs 4:1-3
 - Solomon again likened her HAIR to a flock of GOATS...
 - The reference could be to the GOATS themselves - that can have long thick hair...
 - Or it could also be a reference to the FLOCK of goats flowing down a mountain [Gilead]!
 - Teeth... vs. 6
 - Your teeth are like a flock of sheep which have come up from the washing.
 - Every one bears twins and none is barren among them!
 - Solomon went on to describe her TEETH...
 - They were like a flock of washed [clean] - meaning they were all WHITE...

- And she also was NOT missing any of her TEETH...
- Each one had a TWIN on the other side of her mouth - NONE [אין] were missing!
- Face... vs. 7
 - Like a piece of pomegranate are your temples behind your veil!
 - Solomon described her FACE [temples]
 - Her cheeks looked as RED as the inside of a POMEGRANATE...
 - No doubt because she was BLUSHING once more at his description of her...
 - But note - SOLOMON did NOT go any farther down [like he did on the wedding night]
 - Because this was NOT about being SENSUAL - he was seeing true BEAUTY!
 - Every HUSBAND thinks his WIFE is beautiful on the wedding day...
 - But too often - somewhere along the way - they seem to FORGET...
 - The problem is NOT that the wife has changed - the problem is the MARRIAGE...
 - PRIDE will cause anyone to see the UGLY rather than the BEAUTIFUL!
 - Men we should be looking at our wives like it was the WEDDING day...
 - They should appear MORE beautiful to us TODAY than ever...
 - If they do NOT - then it should be a CHECK in our HEART...
 - That we need to be HUMBLE - invest more TIME in our WIVES...
 - So we can see them again as the most BEAUTIFUL woman in the world!
 - **Matthew 6:21** - "For where your treasure is there your heart will be also."
- o 4th - Only one... vs. 8-10
 - Many women... vs. 8
 - There are sixty queens - and eighty concubines - and virgins without number!
 - SOLOMON went on to assure the SHULAMITE she had NO comparison...
 - Although there are SIXTY queens [מלכה] - and EIGHTY concubines [פילגש]
 - And COUNTLESS other women [עלמה] that had NOT [אין] yet married!
 - This verse has caused questions about the timing of this book...
 - If the SHULAMITE was the FIRST wife of Solomon - then this statement is rhetorical...
 - But it could also mean Solomon already had forty wives [queens] and eighty concubines...
 - Along with many other women [1000 total] he would eventually marry - **I Kings 11:4**
 - If it is the SECOND - we need to recall this LOVE story is NOT a PATTERN...
 - It does NOT condone having more than one wife...
 - A practice that was actually FORBIDDEN by God for Kings - **Deuteronomy 17:17**
 - Rather God used the LOVE story of Solomon and the Shulamite as a PICTURE...
 - Both of what a marriage relationship between ONE man and ONE woman looks like...
 - Which was the PLAN of God from the beginning - **Genesis 2:18**
 - As well as illustrate the deeper truth of the LOVE of God for the church - **Ephesians 5:32**
 - Perfect... vs. 9
 - My dove - my perfect one - is the only one!
 - Regardless if SOLOMON was being rhetorical or literal about the other women...
 - His point was she was the ONLY one [אחת] that mattered to him...
 - His DOVE [pet name] was PERFECT [תם] - there was NO one else like her!
 - Men we live in a world where WOMEN do NOT dress modestly...
 - And we have access to pictures that we should NEVER see...
 - And as much as we might think our wives do NOT notice - they do!
 - Our eyes should ONLY be for them - they need to know NO one else compares...
 - Any other woman who walks by [no matter what she is wearing] is NOT worth our time...
 - There is no PICTURE or VIDEO that can match the reality of our BRIDE...

- Because our WIVES need to have the ASSURANCE they are the ONLY one for us...
- They are PERFECT - and we ONLY have eyes for them!

▪ Competing... vs. 9

- The only one of her mother. The favorite of the one who bore her.
- The daughters saw her and called her blessed.
- The queens and the concubines and they praised her!
- SOLOMON was NOT alone in his opinion of the SHULAMITE...
- Her MOTHER who gave birth to her - called her PURE [פַּר]
- Other DAUGHTERS [possibly siblings] - also BLESSED [piel] her...
- The other QUEENS and CONCUBINES [piel] PRAISED [הֵלֵל] her!
- Women always feel like they are COMPETING...
- They FIRST compete with their MOTHER - show they are NOT a child...
- Then they compete with other WOMEN - show they are pretty...
- Burdened to follow the latest fashions - clothing - styles and trends...
- Only to compete with other wives - show they are worthy [good wife and mother]
- But do NOT miss what gave the SHULAMITE - acceptance - blessings - and praise...
- Was that she was willing to HUMBLE herself and OBEY God!
- Being the BEST is not about how PRETTY the world says we look...
- We will NEVER be able to COMPETE by trying to keep in STYLE...
- And we will NEVER be PRAISED by trying to be the best WIFE or MOM...
- The ONLY thing that works is choosing HUMILITY - and OBEDIENCE to Christ...
- Because when we do - that is when God changes us from the inside out!
- **Proverbs 31:30** - "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing - but a woman who fears the LORD she shall be praised."

▪ Forgiven... vs. 10

- Who is she who looks forth as the morning fair as the moon - clear as the sun.
- Awesome as an army with banners?
- As SOLOMON now looked at his WIFE...
- She was like [כַּ] the coming of a NEW day [dawn]
- She looked as [כַּ] BEAUTIFUL [יָפֵה] as the full moon - as [כַּ] PURE [פַּר] as the sun...
- The WAR - the terrifying [אֶיִם] banners - SOLOMON had anticipated was gone...
- The SHULAMITE had made mistakes - she had LOCKED the door on SOLOMON...
- Not to say he was PERFECT - it takes TWO to fight...
- But those MISTAKES were now FORGIVEN - it was a NEW beginning!
- Having disagreements [fights] in marriage is unavoidable [two sinners living as one]
- But when we come in HUMILITY - rather than to make WAR...
- When we come in OBEDIENCE to the command God gave to us [in spite of the other person]
- Rather than coming with our own AGENDA - wanting to be RIGHT...
- We will find our marriage sees a NEW day - a BEAUTIFUL day!
- **I Corinthians 13:4-5** - "Love is not... proud. It does not demand its own way... it keeps no record of being wronged." [NLT]

● 3RD - RESTORATION... vs. 11-13

o 1st - New beginning... vs. 11

- The Shulamite: I went down to the garden of nuts to see the verdure of the valley.
- To see whether the vine had budded and the pomegranates had bloomed!
- The SHULAMITE closed by giving her MOTIVE...
- She went [perfect] down to the GARDEN [גִּנָּה] of NUTS [only here OT]
- To see [רָאָה] if there was FRUIT - to see [רָאָה] if the vine and pomegranates had blossomed...

- Speaking of her MARRIAGE - was it DEAD or coming back to LIFE [budding]
 - Was there still hope for her and SOLOMON after their FIGHT!
 - Perhaps we are here today - and we feel like our SPOUSE is driving us NUTS...
 - And we are wondering - is there any HOPE for our MARRIAGE...
 - We are coming to church to ask is the marriage DEAD - or can it come back to LIFE...
 - The answer is YES - the FIGHT is not the end...
 - It is when we learn to END the FIGHT - surrender to the Lord - we find NEW life [blossom]!
- o 2nd - Coming home... vs. 12-13
- Swept up... vs. 12
 - Before I was even aware my soul had made me as the chariots of my noble people!
 - The SHULAMITE had come to see if there was still HOPE...
 - And before [לֹא] she knew [יָדַע] what was going on...
 - He SOUL mate [נָפֶשׁ] - SOLOMON - had put her in his princely CHARIOT!
 - The command... vs. 13
 - The Beloved and His Friends: Return - return O Shulamite.
 - Return - return that we may look upon you!
 - As he swept her up - SOLOMON commanded [imperative] her...
 - COME back [שׁוּב] - two times for emphasis...
 - SHULAMITE [2x] - This is the ONLY place in the Bible where we are given her name...
 - SHULAMITE - from the root word [שָׁלַם] - meaning to be at PEACE...
 - COME back [שׁוּב] - two times for emphasis...
 - That WE [Solomon and all of Israel] might BEHOLD [הִנֵּה] her!
 - When God HEALS a broken marriage - they are NOT the only ones who notice...
 - Their CHILDREN are watching - learning what HUMILITY - OBEDIENCE - LOVE look like...
 - Their NEIGHBORS are watching - to see if CHRISTIANS are really any different...
 - The WORLD takes note - because through us - even our FAILURES - they see Jesus!
 - The question... vs. 13
 - The Shulamite: What would you see in the Shulamite.
 - As it were the dance of the two camps?
 - She asked them - what [מָה] did they think they would see in the [בַּ] SHULAMITE...
 - To which she answered her own question...
 - They would see TWO camps that had been at WAR [husband and wife]
 - That had HUMBLed themselves and found PEACE [שָׁלַם]!
 - The greatest mistake we will ever make in MARRIAGE - is to act like we are PERFECT...
 - We are NOT - we are going to make MISTAKES...
 - If people watch our lives - what are they going to see...
 - Two CAMPS who at times go to WAR [husband against wife]
 - But who by the GRACE of God - given through HUMILITY - **James 4:6**
 - Get to see the Lord do what they world says is IMPOSSIBLE...
 - HEAL the marriage - RESTORE the love - and make all things NEW!