

## ***Overview of the Song of Solomon***

### **I. IHOP'S CALL TO EMPHASIZE THE SONG OF SOLOMON**

In July 1988, the Lord promised us audibly that He would release a supernatural anointing to love.

***<sup>6</sup> Set Me (Jesus) as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for (God's) love is as strong as death, (God's) jealousy as cruel (demanding) as the grave; its flames are flames of fire...<sup>7</sup> Many waters (persecution, sin, pressures, etc.) cannot quench love... (Song 8:6-7)***

### **II. SONG OF SOLOMON: THE DIVINE KISS & THE BRIDE'S LIFE VISION (SONG 1:2-4)**

A. The theme of the Song of Solomon is the Bride's spiritual journey to be drawn near to Jesus in intimacy and then to run in deep partnership with Him in ministry. She matures in these two realities as she experiences the kisses of God's word touching her heart.

***<sup>2</sup> Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth (Word). For Your love is better than wine...<sup>4</sup> Draw me away (intimacy)! We will run after you (ministry). (Song 1:2-4)***

B. Song of Solomon has two main sections. First, Song 1-4 are focused on receiving our inheritance in God. Second, Song 5-8 are focused on God receiving His inheritance in us.

### **III. HER JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE PARADOX OF GRACE (SONG 1:5-11)**

***<sup>5</sup> I am dark (in heart), but lovely (to God)...<sup>6</sup> my own vineyard (heart) I have not kept. (Song 1:5-6)***

A. She is dark in her heart but lovely before God even in her weakness for four reasons.

1. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. God's personality is the first cause of our beauty.

2. We received the beauty of the gift of righteousness.

***All things have become new...<sup>21</sup> we become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17, 21)***

3. The Spirit has imparted to us a willing spirit or a sincere cry for Him (Rom. 8:15).

4. Our eternal destiny as Jesus' Bride. God sees the end from the beginning. He sees us in light of the billions of years in which we will be perfect in obedience.

B. She has a desperate cry to have more of Jesus.

***<sup>7</sup> Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock... For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions? (Song 1:7)***

C. Jesus tenderly reveals His heart for her. Then He reaffirms her sincerity (1:8-11).

***<sup>8</sup> ...O fairest (most beautiful) among women... (Song 1:8)***

#### IV. UNDERSTANDING HER IDENTITY IN GOD’S BEAUTY (SONG 1:12-2:7)

- A. She has an initial revelation of the beauty of Jesus and the pleasure of knowing Him.

*<sup>16</sup> Behold, You are handsome, my Beloved! Yes, pleasant! (Song 1:16)*

- B. She receives revelation of her identity in Christ as a beautiful rose in God’s sight.

*<sup>1</sup> I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. (Song 2:1)*

- C. Jesus is sweet to her taste as she rests under the shade of the finished work of the cross. She experiences the superior pleasures of knowing God as she eats at His table and lives under the banner of His excellent leadership. In this she becomes lovesick. The goal of her life is her own happiness. This happens best when she experiences God's Presence. In the future, her goal will be to walk as His inheritance regardless the cost.

*<sup>3</sup> I sat down in His shade (resting in the finished work of the cross) with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. <sup>4</sup> He brought me to the banqueting House, and His banner (leadership) over me was love. <sup>5</sup> Sustain me...refresh me...for I am lovesick. (Song 2:3-5)*

#### V. CHALLENGING THE COMFORT ZONE (SONG 2:8-17)

*<sup>8</sup> The voice of my Beloved! He comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. <sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle...<sup>10</sup> My Beloved spoke, "Rise up, My love...and come away. <sup>14</sup> Let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely." <sup>17</sup> Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, Turn, my Beloved... (Song 2:8-17)*

- A. Jesus is pictured as effortlessly skipping and leaping over the mountains fulfilling the Great Commission. The mountains speak of obstacles (human, demonic); He has power over all. She is accustomed to being fed with apples and raisins at His table, under the shade tree (2:3-5).

- B. She refuses Him by telling Him to turn and go to the mountain without her (2:17). Her painful compromise is due to her immaturity and fear not rebellion. She feels that 100% obedience will cause her to miss out. She loves Him, but does not think she has the strength to fully obey.

#### VI. SHE EXPERIENCES GOD’S LOVING DISCIPLINE (SONG 3:1-5)

*<sup>1</sup> By night on my bed I sought the One I love...but I did not find Him. <sup>2</sup> I will rise now...I will seek the one I love. <sup>4</sup>...When I found the One I love. I held Him and would not let Him go... (Song 3:1-4)*

- A. She experiences the discipline of God as He hides His face from her. The sweetness of Song 2 is gone. He disciplines us out of His affection (Heb. 12:5-12). God’s correction is not the same thing as His rejection. The Father promises to pry our fingers off what holds us in bondage. The Father loves us too much to allow us to come up short of partnering with Jesus as His Bride.

- B. She soon “arises” to obey the call to leave her comfort (3:2). Jesus’ manifest Presence returns in response to her obedience (3:4).

## VII. A FRESH REVELATION OF JESUS AS A “SAFE SAVIOR” (SONG 3:6-11)

Jesus reveals Himself as one who is safe to obey 100%. She believes that “100% obedience is the only safe place in life. Being with Jesus on the water is far safer than being in the boat without Him.

## VIII. PROPHETIC HEART OF THE HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM (SONG 4:1-8)

<sup>1</sup> *Behold, you are fair (beautiful), My love! Behold, you are fair (Song 4:1)*

- A. He reveals to her how beautiful she is to Him. He describes 8 distinct virtues of her beauty that He sees emerging in her life. (4:1-5). Jesus prophetically proclaims her “budding virtues”. He calls things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17). He sees the cry in her spirit, not just her failures. He defines her by the cries in her spirit not by her struggles. God names us according to the cry of our heart (not our failures).
- B. The life of total commitment is foundational for all mature ministry (4:6). Initially, she refused His call to come to the mountain (2:9-10). However, in this season she commits to go to the mountain. She is only in the initial stages of her obedience. Later she becomes mature.

<sup>6</sup> *I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh... (Song 4:6)*

## IX. RAVISHED HEART OF THE HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM (SONG 4:9-5:1)

<sup>9</sup> *You have ravished My heart...My spouse; you have ravished My heart with one look of your eyes...<sup>10</sup> How fair (beautiful) is your love...How much better than wine is your love... (Song 4:9-10)*

- A. Jesus is revealed as a heavenly Bridegroom. His heart is ravished with desire for her. Jesus has passionate affection for His Bride. She has been equipped, by the revelation of His ravished heart, to fully embrace the cross. Jesus describes His pleasure over her character (4:10d-11) giving a 7-fold description of the Bride (4:12-15).
- B. Her garden speaks of her heart before God. She wants the fragrance of God’s spices to increase in her life. The north wind speaks of the cold bitter winds of winter. The south wind speaks of the warm refreshing winds of the summer. She is no longer afraid of the testings of God.
- C. She desires that Jesus receive His inheritance in her and cries, “Let my Beloved come to His garden.” In the first 4 chapters she was concerned with her inheritance (her garden). However, in the last 4 chapters, Jesus’ inheritance in her is her focus. From now, my heart is Your garden not hers. She now defines her life radically different. Nine times He uses the ownership word “MY”.

<sup>16</sup> *Awake, O north wind, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out. Let my Beloved come to His garden and eat its pleasant fruits. (Song 4:16)*

<sup>1</sup> *I have come to My garden, My sister, My spouse; I have gathered My myrrh with My spice; I have eaten My honeycomb with My honey; I have drunk My wine with My milk. (Song 5:1)*

**X. THE ULTIMATE 2-FOLD TEST OF MATURITY (SONG 5:2-8)**

<sup>2</sup> *...it is the voice of my Beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for Me... My love...My perfect one; for My head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night." (Song 5:2)*

- A. Jesus embraced the cross in the long and lonely night in Gethsemane. Jesus comes to her as the man of sorrows in Gethsemane (5:2) and invites her to share His sufferings (Phil. 3:10).
- B. Jesus asks her to “Open up that He may come to her as the Man of Gethsemane.” Jesus wants to be the goal of her life, and not just the stepping stone to her agenda of success and happiness.
- C. She responds in obedience saying she took off her dirty robes and washed her feet (5:3). She is not afraid of obeying Jesus and thus, asked for the bitter north winds of pressure. She rises immediately with a heart yearning in love for Him. The locks of her heart have myrrh on them, which speak of her heart commitment to embrace death in her pursuit of Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> *My heart yearned for Him. <sup>5</sup> I arose to open for my Beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh...on the handles of the lock. (Song 5:4-5)*

- D. She experiences her first test of suffering: withdrawing His presence in intimacy (5:6). God's presence leaves her for the second time in the Song (3:1). However, this time it is not related to disobedience (as in 3:1-2), but rather to her mature obedience. Some medieval teachers called this “the dark night of the soul.”

<sup>6</sup> *I opened for my Beloved, but my Beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when He spoke. I sought Him, but I could not find Him; I called Him, but He gave me no answer. (Song 5:6)*

- E. She experiences her second test of suffering: persecution and rejection in ministry (5:7). The watchmen strike and wound her taking her veil (spiritual covering) so she can no longer function in ministry in the Body. Her ministry is gone. How will she respond to Him now?

<sup>7</sup> *The watchman...struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me. (Song 5:7)*

- F. Summary: the Lord called her to join Him in Gethsemane. She responded in instant obedience. Then He gave her a 2-fold test related to her life vision prayer in Song 1:4.
- G. The Lord asks her, “Will you be Mine even if I withhold the things you deeply desire? Are you still Mine when you cannot feel My Presence? Will you still love and trust Me when you are disappointed by negative circumstances?”
- H. She responds, "I am Yours, at the deepest level of love. She responds in deep humility by asking for help from the daughters of Jerusalem (who are less spiritual than her).

<sup>8</sup> *O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my Beloved...tell Him I am lovesick! (Song 5:8)*

## XI. THE BRIDE’S RESPONSE TO THE 2-FOLD TEST (SONG 5:9-6:5)

- A. The daughters of Jerusalem ask the Bride a question. In essence, they ask, “Why do you love Him so much that you charge us to go find Him? He has abandoned you. He took His presence away from you (v. 6) and lets the elders wound you as they took their ministry from you (v. 7).

<sup>9</sup> ***What is your Beloved more than another Beloved, O fairest among women? (Song 5:9)***

- B. Her answer reveals her source of love for Jesus. She gives 10 descriptions of Jesus’ majestic beauty (5:10-16). This is one of the greatest proclamations on Jesus’ beauty in the Scripture.

<sup>10</sup> ***My beloved is white (dazzling, NAS)...and chief among ten thousand. <sup>11</sup> His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy...and black as a raven. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters...<sup>13</sup> His cheeks are like a bed of spices...His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. <sup>14</sup> His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory inlaid with sapphires. <sup>15</sup> His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. <sup>16</sup> His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend... (Song 5:10-16)***

## XII. JESUS PRAISES HER AFTER THE SEASON OF TESTING (SONG 6:4-10)

- A. Her test is now over. Jesus breaks the silence, lavishes affection on her and describes her beauty. He declared that she was as beautiful as Tirzah (which became the capital city of the northern kingdom) and as lovely as Jerusalem which was the spiritual and governmental capital city of the nation. He proclaimed that she was as awesome as a victorious army with banners. When an army in the ancient world returned victorious from battle, they displayed their banners in a military procession. She defeated her greatest enemies, those found in her heart.

<sup>4</sup> ***O My love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners! (Song 6:4)***

- B. Jesus is conquered only by His Bride’s extravagant love (6:5a, b). Her eyes of devotion have overwhelmed and conquered the heart of God. All the armies in hell cannot conquer Jesus, but the eyes of the redeemed conquer Him when they are true to Him in times of testing. Jesus describes the Bride’s maturity (6:5c-7).

<sup>5</sup> ***Turn your eyes away from Me, for they have overcome Me. (Song 6:5)***

- C. Jesus describes the Bride’s pre-eminence in the King’s court. The King’s attendants are seraphim, cherubim, archangels and angels without number.

<sup>8</sup> ***There are 60 queens and 80 concubines, and virgins without number. <sup>9</sup> My dove, my perfect one, is the...only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her... (Song 6:8-9)***

- D. The Holy Spirit describes the Bride’s crown of glory (6:10).

<sup>10</sup> ***Who is she who looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, awesome as an army with banners? (Song 6:10)***

**XIII. THE VINDICATION OF THE PERSECUTED BRIDE (SONG 6:11-7:9A).**

- A. As the Bride walks in this revelation of who she is before the Lord, she is persecuted.
- B. Mature love and commitment to serve the whole church (6:11) overcomes her (6:12).
- C. She receives a sincere response from some within the church (6:13a,b) yet a hostile response from others (6:13c,d). The Bride is vindicated by discerning saints (7:1-5). The Bride is vindicated by Jesus Himself (7:6-9a).

**XIV. THE BRIDE'S MATURE PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUS (SONG 7:9B-8:4).**

She walks out mature partnership in her every day life. Bridal partnership is expressed in mature obedience to Jesus (7:9b-10). She expresses Bridal partnership in her intercession for more power (7:11-13). She expresses Bridal partnership in her boldness in public ministry (8:1-2). She expresses Bridal partnership in their full union (8:3-4).

**XV. THE BRIDAL SEAL OF MATURE LOVE (SONG 8:5-7)**

Jesus invites her to receive the seal of fire upon her heart. God is a consuming fire and desires to impart His fire into our hearts. This is His supernatural love that seals our heart. It empowers us to live without the fire of our love being quenched.

**XVI. THE BRIDE'S FINAL INTERCESSION AND REVELATION (SONG 8:8-14)**

- A. The Bride intercedes for the church (8:8–9) and for Jesus' return (8:14). In Song 8:8–9, her apostolic passion for the church is seen.
- B. In Song 8:10, her 3-fold confidence is as a wall (selfless motives), as a tower (her supernatural abilities to nurture) and as one with peace (emotional hindrances are removed).
- C. In Song 8:11-12, she experiences the power and enjoyment of living before His eyes instead of before the eyes of men. Her sense of importance is rooted in eternity as she has revelation of giving account before God (8:11). The Bride has a revelation of her own spiritual maturity before God (8:12).
- D. Jesus' final commission to the Bride (8:13-14). The Bride's urgency is expressed in intercession.

*<sup>13</sup> You who dwell in the gardens, the companions listen for your voice-- Let me hear it!*

*<sup>14</sup> Make haste, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag On the mountains of spices.  
(Song 8:13-14)*