

## Song of Solomon 1-2

Well good evening and thank you for joining us tonight. We're kicking off our study in SOS, so would you please turn there to chapter 1?

I mentioned Sunday how there's often a hesitancy with not only reading, but certainly teaching this book. But did you know SOS was Spurgeon's favorite book? It was DL Moody's favorite book. It was John Gill's favorite book.

This book is special because there isn't anything like this in all of the Scripture. It's a fascinating book because there's no mention of God in it. There's no mention of salvation. There's no mention of theology. SOS is never quoted in the New Testament, and it's never quoted in the Old Testament.

And yet every ancient Hebrew scholar placed it in the Canon, right between Ecclesiastes and Isaiah. The ancient rabbis held it in extremely high regard.

Luke 24, when Jesus is talking to the two men on the road to Emmaus. It says he opened to them the scripture, they took them through all the scripture and showed him the things concerning himself. That would have to include SOS also.

As we go through this study we'll see that there's more to this book than just a love story of a husband and wife. We'll see many times where SOS also paints a picture of the believer and our Lord. Because He's the king, and the NT reminds us repeatedly we're the bride of Christ.

There's 8 chapters, only 117 verses. There are 47 words not found anywhere else in the Old Testament in here. There are 97 words that are used less than 10 times in the rest of the Old Testament, and there's over 460 adjectives that describe some facet of intimacy or relationship.

Of course we know that intimacy, relationship with God is crucial in our lives, don't we?

We're gonna study chapters 1-2 tonight, and we're calling this series The Song of Love

LET'S PRAY

Right off the bat we'll see there are things for us to learn in this book. As we go through, you notice the king always encourages his bride. He speaks gracious words. Men, that's a lesson for us with our wives.

Now we can learn from this book, but we can't borrow from it because things were different then. You probably wouldn't say to your wife 'how your hair is like a flock of goats.'

We can learn, but probably not borrow some of these sayings.

And one of the pictures we'll see here is the heart of our Savior. Sometimes we struggle with the love He shows us, the grace He gives us, because of the wonder and the beauty that He finds in us.

Chapter 5 of Ephesians tells us that the picture of the husband and the wife is a picture of Christ and the church.

Revelation, chapter 2 Jesus says to the Church of Ephesus that they'd left their first love.

Speaking of the love of spouses, Jesus challenges Pergamos because they've committed spiritual harlotry and adultery.

We find as we go through the New Testament, Paul wants to present the Corinthian church as a chaste virgin to Christ on the wedding day.

Now we know the book of Ecclesiastes is all of the frustration under the sun. In SOS, it's much earlier in King Solomons life, and we're way up above the sun in this book. It's a song of a king-Solomon taking a bride, the Shulamite to himself, which of course is the story of redemption.

There's plenty of ways to study this book. 20 diff commentaries give you 20 different suggestions for interpretation. I encourage you to read others as well.

1-2

1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—

For your<sup>[fn]</sup> love is better than wine. It's interesting as we go through the scripture there are many different types of kisses. You see the kiss of reconciliation between brothers Jacob and Esau.

There is a kiss of betrayal from Judas.

There's a kiss of worship in the House of Simon the Pharisee when the woman falls at Jesus' feet and weeps and wipes his hair, then wipes the tears off of his feet and kisses Jesus' feet as a kiss of worship.

There is the kiss of forgiveness as the prodigal returns home and the father runs and embraces him.

But this kiss in v2 is different from all the other places you find in the scripture. This is the kiss of intimacy

3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,  
Your name is ointment poured forth;  
Therefore the virgins love you. This fragrance she describes is really his character. Yes she's physically attracted to him, but it's more than that. He's described like pouring cologne out-he's special.

Did you know that you are special to God? 2 Cor 2:15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

4 Draw me away!  
The Daughters of Jerusalem  
We will run after you.[fn] pause here. Now in your Bible it says the daughters of Jerusalem-these particular lines were added later to describe who's speaking.

That phrase 'we will run after you' is the idea that the Daughters of Jerusalem, this group of supporters who celebrate the love between the maiden and the young man, want to see what will happen as this wonderful love builds and takes its course. It's a good thing, and from their respectful distance they want to be part of it.

### The Shulamite

...4 The king has brought me into his chambers. Now some think they are already married, some think they are not. I lean towards they are not.

So because their love is yet consummated, this reference to his chambers may be speaking of the king's heart.

### ...4 The Daughters of Jerusalem

We will be glad and rejoice in you.[fn]

We will remember your[fn] love more than wine. The daughters saw this passionate love as something to celebrate.

### ...4 The Shulamite

Rightly do they love you.[fn]

V 5-6 as the shulamite continues to speak.

5 I am dark, but lovely,  
O daughters of Jerusalem,  
Like the tents of Kedar,  
Like the curtains of Solomon.

6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark,

Because the sun has tanned me.  
My mother's sons were angry with me;  
They made me the keeper of the vineyards,  
But my own vineyard I have not kept. The Shulamite bemoans the fact that her skin is tough and tanned. She feels inferior. The palace princesses were always indoors.

But the Shulamite had been out in the fields, under the hot sun - caring more about her brother's sheep than about her own appearance.

Husbands, to strengthen your marriage, you need to show a sensitivity toward your wife's insecurity.

Because most of the time your wife won't give herself freely and uninhibitedly unless she's certain you're satisfied with what you're getting.

The more assurance a husband brings, the more affirmation you send, the more trust she'll have in your acceptance and appreciation.

(To Her Beloved)

7 Tell me, O you whom I love,  
Where you feed your flock,  
Where you make it rest at noon.  
For why should I be as one who veils herself<sup>[fn]</sup>  
By the flocks of your companions? In that culture a veiled woman was a woman of low sexual morals. In Genesis 38 when Tamar, posed as a prostitute, she covered herself with a veil and

wrapped herself, and sat in an open place. This was making herself available as a prostitute.

Here in v7 the Shulamite didn't want to make herself look like a some girl out on the prowl, desperate for a man to love. She didn't want any man; she wanted her man, her beloved.

The Beloved's response

8-10

8 If you do not know, O fairest among women,  
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,  
And feed your little goats  
Beside the shepherds' tents.

9 I have compared you, my love,  
To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots.

10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,  
Your neck with chains of gold. Solomon is praising the Shulamite's beauty. He's assuring her, as far as he's concerned she has no competition.

Now husbands you shouldn't try and compliment your wife by telling her she looks like a horse.

Some think the mention of "pharaoh's filly" was probably a reference to the daughter of Pharaoh who was given to Solomon in a diplomatic maneuver to ratify the peace treaty Solomon signed with Egypt. The presence of this princess had added to the Shulamites insecurities. Solomon let's his wife know that she is the only girl for him!

## The Daughters of Jerusalem

11 We will make you<sup>[fn]</sup> ornaments of gold

With studs of silver. When the on-looking daughters of Jerusalem saw how the king cared for her, they wanted to be kind and good to her also.

12-14

## The Shulamite

12 While the king is at his table,

My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.

13 A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me,

That lies all night between my breasts.

14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms

In the vineyards of En Gedi. That evening the Shulamite went to dinner wearing a new perfume. It could've been Hallel #5. In the midst of the meal it caught the king's attention. The aroma waft across the room, and it was recognized by the king. The couple exchanged knowing glances.

7 times we'll see fragrance mentioned in this book.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

## The Beloved

15 Behold, you are fair, my love!

Behold, you are fair!

You have dove's eyes." The dramatic image is that of the couple staring deeply and lovingly into one another's eyes.



16-17

The Shulamite

16 Behold, you are handsome, my beloved!

Yes, pleasant!

Also our bed is green.

17 The beams of our houses are cedar,

And our rafters of fir. "Handsome" refer to Solomon's physical attractiveness, and "pleasant" to his charming personality.

The references to "bed," "beams," "house," and "rafters" probably describe a place in the countryside where the 2 liked to meet and spend time together. You can picture how they loved to go there to spend time together!

And it should be the same way with us in prayer. **Matthew 6:6**

**"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."**<sup>[fn]</sup> We get to talk and meet with our savior!!

## Chapter 2

A Country Girl in a Palace

1 I am the rose of Sharon,

And the lily of the valleys. **SHOW PIC** In ancient Israel roses and lilies were common flowers. They were pretty, but very common, like a dandelion. This again is a sign of her insecurities. **CLOSE**

**PIC**

But look at how he answers her - verse 2

The Beloved

2 Like a lily among thorns,

So is my love among the daughters. What a fantastic line! She calls herself a lily, but Solomon counters by saying, "a lily among thorns." Solomon was sensitive to his wife's reservations and insecurities, and was quick to lay them to rest.

And I see a picture for us here. This is a struggle that every Christian deals with at times. In Christ, we're viewed by God with the righteous robes of Jesus. God's love for us knows no bounds!

But how often do we believe the lies that we're not good enough to be used by God, or we don't have the skills or ability to obey what He's called us to do, or the fact that we don't have to try and earn more of His love?

We need to see ourselves in Christ, the way that He sees us!

**SHOW SLIDE** God sees us as His handiwork (Psalm 139:13–16; Ephesians 2:10); as His friend (James 2:23); and as a chosen one, "holy and beloved" (Colossians 3:12).

He sees us as "dead to sin" (Romans 6:11) but "raised with Christ" (Colossians 3:1); as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16);

as a living stone placed by a Master Builder, a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:5) **CLOSE SLIDE**

The Shulamite

3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods,

So is my beloved among the sons.  
I sat down in his shade with great delight,  
And his fruit was sweet to my taste. She returns Solomon's compliments by complimenting him!

And wives, never underestimate the power your words have on your husband. Whether you know it or not, your husband is longing for your words of affirmation and confirmation to him.

Now the tree she describes here is important. She also found a great sense of security and peace under the protective covering of her beloved. She felt sheltered and shaded because she was under her king's care.

Hey and this is how we should feel as God's kids. We should take great delight under the shadow of His wings

Psalm 91:4 He shall cover you with His feathers,  
And under His wings you shall take refuge;  
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Now in v 4-17, many commentators and I agree that this is basically a daydream, it hasn't happened yet.

The Shulamite to the Daughters of Jerusalem  
4 He brought me to the banqueting house,  
And his banner over me was love. The maiden rejoices that her beloved has publicly and openly proclaimed his love for her, as if he had set up a banner or flag to say it.

And this is what Christ has done for us! He's sealed us with His HS, given us His covenant of His unending love for us. God is not ashamed of us! This is why Paul said in **Romans 1:16** **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,[fn] for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

**5 Sustain me with cakes of raisins,  
Refresh me with apples,  
For I am lovesick.** Some commentators associate these foods with pagan fertility rites or aphrodisiac qualities, but this seems unnecessary.

6-7

**6 His left hand is under my head,  
And his right hand embraces me.  
7 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.** This exhortation to the daughters of Jerusalem is what points this section of v 4-17 as a daydream of the maiden. She was not with Solomon in the intimacy described in the previous lines with the daughters of Jerusalem standing around and taking note.

The Beloved's Request

The Shulamite

**8 The voice of my beloved!  
Behold, he comes  
Leaping upon the mountains,**

**Skipping upon the hills.** Here the maiden moved to another scene in her dream or daydream. Before she imagined herself and her beloved at an outdoor rendezvous (4-7). Now she imagines a visit from her beloved, beginning with the idea that she is awakened or alerted by the sound of his voice.

**9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.**  
**Behold, he stands behind our wall;**  
**He is looking through the windows,**  
**Gazing through the lattice.** You can picture the scene right? The king comes bounding like a gazelle full of energy and excitement.

Hey and this reminds us of Jesus! Remember the father of the prodigal son, running to meet his wayward child! He ran toward him, with full of joy and love  
10-13 the Shulamite continues

**10 My beloved spoke, and said to me:** (she's imagining or perhaps solomon did say this)

**"Rise up, my love, my fair one,**  
**And come away.**

**11 For lo, the winter is past,**  
**The rain is over and gone.**

**12 The flowers appear on the earth;**  
**The time of singing has come,**  
**And the voice of the turtledove**  
**Is heard in our land.**

**13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs,**  
**And the vines with the tender grapes**  
**Give a good smell.**

Rise up, my love, my fair one,

And come away! Notice Solomon doesn't say 'aight, c'mon if you really wanna go spend time together, we will. No, he really wanted to be with her.

Husbands, explaining from your heart that not only you love your wife, but you want to be with your wife and spend time with her will strengthen your marriage.

14-15

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."

Her Brothers

15 Catch us the foxes,

The little foxes that spoil the vines,

For our vines have tender grapes. This is the verse Kim and I use in all pre and marriage counseling. Little foxes are descriptive of little sneaky things that can infiltrate and damage the love relationship. Hey the little foxes are everywhere. They can be mistrust, jealousy, selfishness and pride, unforgiveness, the list goes on and on.

If your married, I'd encourage you to talk about the little foxes in your marriage and what you're going to do to remove them.

Hudson Taylor thought of the "little foxes" that may ruin our relationship with Jesus Christ. "The enemies may be small, but

the mischief done great... And how numerous the little foxes are! Little compromises with the world; disobedience to the still small voice in little things; little indulgences of the flesh to the neglect of duty; little strokes of policy; doing evil in little things that good may come; and the beauty, and the fruitfulness of the vine are sacrificed!"

Now v 16-17, Charles Spurgeon preached eight sermons on these two verses.

The Shulamite

**16 My beloved is mine, and I am his.**

**He feeds his flock among the lilies.** This is a wonderful statement of exclusivity and preference. She's not saying "My beloved is mine, and I belong to him and a few other guys,"

Hey and we belong to Jesus. We're His purchase, which He made on the cross.

(To Her Beloved)

**17 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.**<sup>[fn]</sup> And this should be our response to the coming of the Lord! We should be ready to meet Him!