



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Song of Songs, Part 8: Love as Strong as Death - Song of Songs 8:5-14 - June 14, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - “*If We Were Vampires*” by Jason Isbell, and the reality that if we lived forever, displaying our love to our beloved would be less pressing.

As the Song ends, **love** & **death** meet in the climax of the poem, as Solomon finally probes the deeper nature of love itself.

A. Love Stronger Than Death (v. 5-7)

- The couple emerges from the “wilderness”, returning home (apple tree).
- The bride is “leaning” on her beloved, symbolizing a non-sexual closeness, dependence, and security. Hymn: “*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*”
- In the latter years of our marriages, these types of affections are subtly important. “Our love involved mere ease and ordinariness... no need to talk. No need to make love. No needs at all except perhaps to stir the fire.” - CS Lewis
- Setting a *Seal* — ownership/belonging. **Heart** (internal) & **Arm** (External) **Think: Wedding Ring**
- **Love/Jealousy** as **Strong/Fierce** as **Death/Sheol** — nothing in life is more certain and powerful than death itself. Is there a love that can compare?
- This love is a “God-like” flame - “**yah**” suffix in Hebrew is the strongest possible superlative
- Also, no amount of money can be valued as high as pure & committed love
- “Til Death Do Us Part”, we need a priceless love and a friendship on fire - FOREVER
- **Isaiah 43:1-3** -> **1 Cor. 15:55** -> **Romans 8:35, 39**

B. Walls & Doors (v. 8-10)

- Interpretive Conundrum: Who is speaking in this section? If a **chastic** structure is employed, it could very well be the bride’s brothers we met in **1:6** (six verses from the start/end)
- They demand her **purity (a wall)**, and will remedy the problem is she is **promiscuous (a door)**.
- She shuts them down, declaring that she is pure, and will bring **peace** where she goes.
- **Shalom** is a major theme of the OT, and it’s the first time we see it here in Song of Songs.

C. Solomon Breaks the 4th Wall (v. 11-12)

- Examples: Ferris Bueller and Zach Morris (timeout) - when a character on film or stage departs from the drama and addresses the audience directly
- Solomon’s vineyard is “Baal-hamon” - “**the lord of a crowd**” - hinting towards his harem of upwards of 1000 women (see **1 Kings 11** and **Ecclesiastes 2**)
- He lacks the shalom/peace of the lady with her very own vineyard.
- This entire Song seems like the wish-dream of Solomon, who would do it all over if he could.
- Where Solomon failed, Jesus Christ is the “**greater Solomon**” (**Matt. 12:42**) - and in him is supreme peace/shalom.

D. Longing Once Again (v. 13-14)

- The song seems to **end the way it began**. The bride and groom are not together, but speaking of their longing to be united.
- We are left wanting a bit more, there is no real closure to the poem or the narrative.
- The Song ends with two lovers reaching out their hands towards one another, not quite coming into contact.
- The Scriptures themselves end this way (**Rev. 22:20**) -
 - Jesus the Bridegroom says “**Behold, I am coming soon.**”
 - The Church/Bride says, “**Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**”



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How often do you consider the vow: "Til death do us part"? If you are married, how does that promise sound to you? What if you are single?
2. What does the picture of the bride "leaning" on her husband help us to visualize?
3. Revisit verses 6-7. This seems comparable to even 1 Corinthians 13 - what imagery here strikes you most powerfully?
4. What is shalom? How can our marriages be a great source of Shalom? How can they be the opposite?
5. What has Solomon sought and bought that has crushed his hopes of shalom? How can a similar thing happen today?
6. Why does the Song end like this?
7. What are your biggest take-aways from our 8 weeks studying the Song of Songs?