



THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Chapter 2

“His Banner Over Me Is LOVE!”

Go for God!

(v1-7) LOVE LOOKS, SMELLS, TASTES & FEELS GOOD!

(v1) The Shulamite woman speaks, “I AM the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys.”

> Flowers reflect beauty and exquisite fragrance; these flowers:

(1) The “ROSE OF SHARON” is discovered in the *Sharon plain* off the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in Israel. According to the Harper’s Bible Dictionary this flower is officially called the *tulipa montana*, a bright red tulip like flower ... today prolific in the hills of Sharon. This flower is noted for its fragrance.



(2) The “LILY OF THE VALLEYS” - A flower with white or rosy-purple blooms measuring up to 30 centimeters (12 inches) across. Many scholars think the lily is sometimes a term applied to flowers in general. The lily was used as an ornament for the Temple (1 Kings 7:22). The Beloved and the Shulamite used lilies to describe their beautiful and fragrant love in Song of Solomon 2:1, 16; 4:5; 5:13; 6:3.



(v2) Solomon declares that she is a “*lily among thorns*”, only she is beautiful to him. Solomon is saying, “I only have eyes for you.” Solomon recognizes that she is beautiful inside and out. May I encourage ladies to be a lily in a world of thorns; don’t let this hardened world rob you of your femininity, stay beautiful and sweet, fragrant of heart, mind and soul.

(v3-7) Shulamite responds:

(v3) F.Y.I. for men – Women respond to our loving invitation, simply put, make her feel like she’s the most important person in the world to you. Make her feel appreciated, desired, and loved.

- Shulamite says that Solomon is an “*apple tree among the woods*”, in other words, she sees him as one who is fruitful in heart and spirit, a standout amongst all others. (Galatians 5:22 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*)

- Shulamite "sat down in his shade with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste." "*Shade*" creates comfort, bless your wife with the comforts of life and she will be filled with "GREAT DELIGHT!" Solomon's love is TASTY!

(v4) Shulamite proclaims that Solomon brought her to the "banqueting house", just as one day Jesus will invite His bride, that is, the church to the "marriage supper of the lamb" (Rev 19:9 - *Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*) This Shulamite bride to be boasts of Solomon's love by saying "His banner over me is LOVE!" Gentlemen - What banner is over your wife today? Let's make sure it's LOVE!

- Let us understand God's AGAPE LOVE? Nelson's Bible Dictionary brings to light this LOVE by stating, "This AGAPE is the high esteem which God has for His human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people. Because of the hundreds of references to love in the Bible, it is certainly the most remarkable book of love in the world. It records the greatest love story ever written-God's unconditional love for us that sent His Son to die on the cross (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10). Love is not only one of God's attributes; it is also an essential part of His nature. "God is love," the Bible declares (1 John 4:8,16) - the personification of perfect love. Such love surpasses our powers of understanding (Eph 3:19). Love like this is everlasting (Jer 31:3), free (Hos 14:4), sacrificial (John 3:16), and enduring to the end (John 13:1). Two distinct Greek words for love appear in the Bible. The word *phileo* means "to have ardent affection and feeling"-a type of impulsive love. The other word *agapao* means "to have esteem" or "high regard." The warm word *agape* is the characteristic term of Christianity. This word for *love* is used several different ways in the Bible.

1. *Agape love* indicates the nature of the love of God toward His beloved Son (John 17:26), toward the human race generally (John 3:16; Rom 5:8), and toward those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:21).

2. *Agape love* conveys God's will to His children about their attitude toward one another. Love for one another was a proof to the world of true discipleship (John 13:34-35).

3. *Agape love* also expresses the essential nature of God (1 John 4:8). Love can be known only from the actions it prompts, as seen in God's love in the gift of His Son (1 John 4:9-10). Love found its perfect expression in the Lord Jesus. Christian love is the fruit of the Spirit of Jesus in the believer (Galatians 5:22).

Love is like oil to the wheels of obedience. It enables us to run the way of God's commandments (Ps 119:32). Without such love, we are as nothing (1 Cor 13:3). Such Spirit-inspired *love never fails* (1 Cor 13:8) but always flourishes.

(v5) Shulamite continues, “Sustain me with cakes of raisins and refresh me with apples for I am lovesick” – Some people are so in love they stop eating, yet she knows she needs to be sustained and refreshed with these delicious fruits, or metaphorically with his provisions of love.

- Here’s some fascinating trivia on raisin cakes in the Bible: King David gave raisin cakes to every Israelite as part of the celebration feast when the Ark was returned according to 1 Chronicles 16:2-3 - *“When David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. Then he distributed to every man and woman of Israel a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. David appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to celebrate, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel.”* (Also found in 2 Samuel 6)

- What are the health benefits of raisins:

1. Aid in digestion
2. Prevent anemia
3. Prevent too much acidity
4. Lower risk of heart disease risk factors
5. Fight against cancer cells
6. Protect eye health
7. Improve skin health
8. Lower blood sugar

- What are the health benefits of eating apples?

Apple’s health benefits include promoting oral health, maintaining cardiovascular health, a healthy snack for diabetics, improving respiratory health, fighting cancerous cells, preventing osteoporosis, helps keep gut healthy, maintaining neurological health, boosting energy level, enhancing skin conditions, and preventing premature aging.

(v6-7) In verse 6 Shulamite talks about the comfort and security of his left hand and the loving embrace of his right hand.

-- In verse 7 she advises the young maidens to keep themselves pure from sexual passion until it is fulfilled at the commitment of the marriage union. (Marriage - Genesis 2:4-25)

> Insight on how to find a spouse - Jesus said in Matthew 7:7-12 – *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*

(v8-14) LOVE'S VOICE, EYES, SINGING & TENDERNESS!

(v8-14) The Shulamite is excited for her beloved is coming to visit. Her mental picture of him is overflowing with positive and complimentary speech. She also reports of his speech, he communicates with the freshness of springtime, love is in the air, and the wedding is drawing near!

(v8-9) The Shulamite is excited for her bridegroom to be, he has come to visit, her heart is overflowing with love and excitement, her praises of him are described with a dreamlike sequence, he is one *“leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.”* (Remember this is poetry.) Her beloved is like a gazelle, young, handsome, energetic, and strong! She knows his eyes are only for her, as he is *“gazing”* upon her.

- Jesus said in Matthew 6:22-23 - *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”*

(v10-14) Listen to his communication and her perception. (Insight: We all go through winters in life, in our relationships and marriage, but if we seek our Lord Jesus Christ, His love, grace, goodness, forgiveness, humility; then the fragrant flowers of spring will come, and we will fill our souls and hearts with rejoicing and singing!)

(v15-17) LOVE PROTECTS & PROVIDES!

(v15) Beware of the FOXES! – *“catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines”* – FOXES eat away at our relationships and marriages, recognize your foxes and protect your vineyard!

➤ Foxes of destruction are found in this acrostic:

- F – Too much outside family, friends, or financial stress.
- O – Outburst of anger, a lack self-control and love.
- X – Pornography will destroy the heart, mind and soul of the relationship.
- E – Envy of others, their lifestyle, possessions, successes, don't compare.
- S – Selfishness, self-centeredness, sin of all kinds.

➤ *How to remove the foxes from the vineyard?* – Paul exhorts all believers in Romans 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- Paul teaches us to behave like a Christian in Romans 12:9-18 - *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one*

another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

(v16-17) Feed upon Christ, let His love and words satisfy your soul and relationships; Paul understood this when he prayed for believers in Ephesians 3:14-21 - *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

- PRAY THIS PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER EVERYDAY THIS WEEK.

(F.Y.I. - “Bether” - a small range of hills between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.)