

- I. S.o.S. 1:1-4 Weak but real declaration of the bride's love for the King and her desire to follow Him wherever He leads (that desire will be tested in 2:8-17).
 - A. Season # 1: Journey begins in spiritual crisis of shame and self-disqualification (1:5-17)
 - B. Season # 2: The bride finds rest under His shade - under what He has provided- (2:1-7).
 - C. Season # 3: Challenging the comfort zone- the king calls her to come with Him over the mountains but her fears are too big. (S.o.S. 2:8-17)
- II. **S.o.S. 3:1-2 By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him. 3 "I will rise now," I said, "And go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love." I sought him, but I did not find him.**
 - A. "Did not find him" - This next season of the bride's journey is encountering the Lord's divine discipline. This is where He "pulls away" a measure of His tangible presence that she enjoyed before under the shade. This divine discipline is in response her refusing to come over the mountains with Him. Here, He is not punishing her for not being good enough, rather; His gentle discipline is about bringing her forth in mature love.
 - B. "I will rise now" - This weak turn of repentance is still not fully mature, she's ready to rise now because she would rather be with Him than be comfortable: unchallenged by her fears. However, when she rises, she doesn't go straight to the mountains; she goes to the streets and the city squares.
- III. **S.o.S. 3:3-5 The watchmen who go about the city found me; I said, "Have you seen the one I love?" 4 Scarcely had I passed by them, When I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go, Until I had brought him to the house of my mother, And into the chamber of her who conceived me. 5 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.**

- A. Though the turn of her heart was weak, it moved the King's heart- He allows Himself to be found by her again. Here it is the "watchmen" that He uses to help her find her way back to Him.
- B. "Do not stir up... until it pleases" This echoes back to 2:7 - the point is stay in this season, stay here and heal until I call you forward.

IV. **S.o.S. 3:6-11** it envisions the King's procession in His splendor, His might, and His passion.

V. **S.o.S. 4:1-15** The King extolls the bride's beauty and continues to call out her budding virtues.

- A. **Verse 12 A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed.**
 - 1. The King pictures her heart like a locked garden that only He knows how to access.

VI. The bride's prayer of abandonment and desperation: **S.o.S. 4:16 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.**

- A. The north wind here speaks of bitter, cold, stormy winds; and the south winds speak of the gentle, warm winds. The prayer is "do whatever it takes to have my whole heart, unreserved by fears, ready to go wherever You ask- holding nothing back. Blow upon the garden of my heart! Send blessing or send testing; send whatever it takes for my garden and everything in it to be Yours.
- B. **S.o.S. 5:1 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. Eat, O friends! Drink, yes, drink deeply, O beloved ones!**

VII. **S.o.S. 5:2-5 I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night."** ³**I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them?** ⁴**My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him.** ⁵**I arose to open for my**

**beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh,
On the handles of the lock.**

A. He knocks at the door and causes her to desire Him. He initiates here.

VIII. **S.o.S. 5:6-8 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. 7The
watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they
wounded me; The keepers of the walls Took my veil away from me. 8I
charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you
tell him I am lovesick!**

- A. “Could not find Him” - this echoes back to chapter 3, but this time the absence of His tangible presence is not about His discipline. Rather it is to “woo” her to cause her to long for Him even more.
- B. The watchmen, who were a help before, now are the ones who hurt her.
- C. But now, she is in a place where nothing is more prominent to her than “I am lovesick.”

IX. S.o.S. 5:9-16 The bride’s testimony about why the King is worth pursuing this way, though it is hard and though it costs.