

Lesson Ten — A King Woos His Bride

Day One — The Song of Solomon

Day Two — An Outline of the Song of Solomon

Day Three — The Bride

Days Four — The Bridegroom

Day Five — Another Look at the Song of Solomon

Last week we reviewed all that we have learned in the past nine weeks concerning the anti-type of Christ and His Bride. You've been diligent and have done a great job of studying! Praise the Lord for His seeing fit to teach us such wonderful things from His Word.

This week we want to glimpse the heart of Our Bridegroom and the maturing process of the Bride through the Biblical book entitled THE SONG OF SOLOMON.

The Song of Solomon is a fascinating book, often being looked upon as a mystery. A cursory reading of the may raise the question: Is it a book about God and Israel, or is it about Christ and His Bride? Or, is it a book simply about courtship, ultimately ending in a marital relationship between a man and a woman?

Most people might see this book being about the courtship between a man and a woman leading up to and including the marriage relationship. But given the type/anti-type structure of Scripture, there would necessarily be a deeper, more profound reason for God to have inspired The Song of Solomon. And since it is true that "all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (II Tim. 3: 16, 17), God has seen fit to include this book in His Word.

Due to several indicators from the Scriptures, it seems obvious that the book would not be about God and Israel. First, the Old Testament refers to Israel as *the wife* of God. However, once established as His wife, through consistent disobedience and idolatry, Israel became His *adulterous wife*. Due to this adultery (spiritual adultery), we have already seen that God has set Israel aside for a period of time (a dispensation) with the full intention of bringing her to repentance through the 7-year Tribulation, and reestablishing her as His wife upon her repentance. There doesn't seem to be a period of time when He woos her to be His wife — He simply establishes her as such.

Second, the woman in the Song of Solomon is referred to as a maiden, looked upon as pure, even a virgin (Song 6:8, 10), who in the end looks forward to the return of the king (8:14).

Third, a wedding day is in view, when the King will be crowned (3:6-11). Jesus is the Coming One Who will be crowned King of kings and Lord of lords.

All of these indicators point to Christ and His Bride rather than God and His wife, Israel. Based upon these things, the better way to view this book would be to see that the book is revealing how Jesus Christ woos His Bride.

This week's study should prove to be very enlightening. Study well!

Day One — The Song of Solomon

When was the last time you read through the Song of Solomon? For me, prior to my writing this study, it had been many years! By the end of this week, it is my hope for you that you will have become very familiar with the Song of Solomon, seeing it as Christ wooing His Bride into a deeper, more intimate relationship.

The format of this lesson is different than the usual format. There is so very much to learn from this book that it would be utterly impossible to grasp it all in one week's time! Therefore, grasping all the details of this book *is not* our purpose this week. Our purpose this week is for each of us to glimpse *the heart of pursuit* on the part of the king toward one unworthy of his pursuit. In seeing this pursuit on the part of the king, we will then witness the maturing process on the part of the one he is pursuing. There is a definite growth, which takes place along the way and a definite growing intimacy between the two of them. The king is very patient, loving and tender toward the one he is pursuing, as he responds to her stated and/or active desire for more intimacy.

Will you stop right now and ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the truths He wants you to see through this week's study? Ask Him to give you insight as to the way Jesus has been, and continues to pursue you! Perhaps in the next few days of study you may identify the steps, and come to a better understanding of where you are in the maturing process.

Today we will be reading through the complete book of the Song of Solomon at least one time through. (Successive readings would be all the better. The minimum number of times we will read through the book this week is five — at least one complete reading every day.) There are only eight chapters in the book, which read fairly fast. As I have studied to write this lesson, I am amazed at how much I have gotten out of every read-through. Every time I read through this Biblical book, new thoughts and discoveries jump out at me. I think the same will be true for you.

The complete book is printed in the Appendix. It is printed in a single-column format so that you have wide margins to make notes. While reading, keep in mind that this book is dialogue between two people with a chorus of statements from a unified group of people. This book consists of statement made by *the king*, *the bride whom he is pursuing*, and *the Daughters of Jerusalem* — the general populace of God's people.

As we read through this book today you do not have to make any notes in the margins. That will come later. I just want you to read it to see the overall picture. Try seeing the story more from a spiritual pursuit rather than physical. Oft times God relates the physical to spiritual truths. Are you ready? Read through the complete book, printed in the Appendix. Then, if you so desire, write out any impressions you have.

Your impressions:

Day Two — An Outline of Song of Solomon

Striving for increasing familiarity of the Song of Solomon, let's read through the book again and outline the chapter contents. (Don't become frustrated with this exercise, nor get too bogged down. Just briefly describe what is in each chapter. Again, the purpose of this is to allow you to become more and more familiar with this book.)

Write down the highlights of each chapter.

Chapter One:

Chapter Two:

Chapter Three:

Chapter Four:

Chapter Five:

Chapter Six:

Chapter Seven:

Chapter Eight:

Did you learn more today than you knew yesterday? I thought so! ☺ See you tomorrow.

Day Three — The Bride

Please pray again for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the things He has for you in the book we are reading — The Song of Solomon. Take a moment to pray for that now.

Again, our goal this week is not so much to study for details, but to gain an overall perspective to the pursuit of a king toward one unworthy of his pursuit.

Today I would like for you to begin making notes in the margins. As you read through the book today, begin specifically looking for *the words and actions of the bride*. Make notes in your margins as to her desire for growth — the words and the actions she uses to gain more intimacy with the one she grows to love.

First notice 1:4. She asks of the king something specific. What is it? Make a note as to what she is asking in the margin. Continue through the entire book, looking for steps in her maturing process.

Any thoughts?

Day Four — The Bridegroom

Begin with prayer.

We will basically do the same thing we did yesterday; only today we will be noticing *how the king operates in response to the bride*. Make notes in the margins how the king pursues her. How does he woo her? What happens that makes her desire him more intensely?

Any thoughts?

Day Five — Another Look at the Song of Solomon

Just spend the day today leisurely reading through the Song one more time. Make any notes as to what strikes you about the book that you may have missed in previous days. Some of the things you will want to notice are the statements and/or actions of the various people in the story to the bride and the king, i.e., the Daughters of Jerusalem and the watchmen of the city. (Keep in mind that the Daughters of Jerusalem represent the populace of God's people, those who are supposed to encourage the bride, and the watchmen of the city represent the ones who are supposed to protect the bride.) Notice the flow of relationship between the Daughters of Jerusalem and the bride. Also notice the interactions between the bride and the watchmen. Make specific notes in the margins as you come to the interaction with these people.

Understanding the Picture of Marriage — From Beginning to End

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If you have more time today, you may want to read through the book one more time. As has been stated, the more familiar you are with a book, the more you stand to learn.

The lecture will be an important part in putting this picture together and in making application to our lives. See you there.