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The Language of love

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Better than wine | 1:2&4 | Shulamite |
| 2. Singular – Oasis | 1:14 | |
| 3. Doves eyes | 1:15 | Beloved |
| 4. I am a Lilly | 2:1 | Shulamite |
| 5. Like a Lilly among thorns | 2:2 | Beloved |
| 6. Like an Apple Tree | 2:3 | Shulamite |
| I sat in His shade | | |
| His fruit was sweet | | |
| 7. No spot in you | 4:7 (Eph.5) | Beloved |
| 8. Come up | 4:8 | |
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This study is designed with a minimum of commentary and a maximum of God's word.

Charles Ellsworth Smith

The Journey of the Soul - a study of The Song of Songs

This is the Song of Songs because it is the ultimate love song. It is a clear instruction in how the heart pursues its maker. It is an exploration of the first and great commandment, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. There is nothing in this life greater to do and everything in our lives hinges on this relationship. This is a book for the seeker who can find no other object for his or her affections but Christ.

Intro - My illness and God speaking from Song– My God Hears

Many years ago God intervened in the normal flow of my life. I was taking a bath. Everything seemed normal. I could hear my wife, Mary talking with our children and I was relieved to have a moment in the tub. Suddenly and without warning I was struck with a paralysis. I could not move most of my body. I cried out for help. Mary managed to drag me out of the tub and into bed. For three days I lay on my left side unable to assume any other position. As the week continued I gradually regained use of my body. After a week I was back to normal.

During this period of time the Lord spoke to me in my heart and instructed me to read the Song of Solomon. He spoke to me about my lack of love and then showed me some of the things I am now sharing years later. At that time I felt the key scripture He was ministering to me was, “do not awaken or stir up love until love itself shall please.” He began to show me the value of waiting. I never felt the release to preach or teach from this book until now. Now unlike any other time in human history we, his people, his bride, should be crying as the Shulamite, “Come Quickly”!!!

Background – Many songs (1005) but this is the Song of Songs

1Kings 4:32-34

He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. 33 Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. 34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. NKJV

Contrast with Ecclesiastes – Vanity or Love.

In Ecclesiastes Solomon traces the natural life, the life of the flesh. He pursues every imaginable activity under the sun and concludes that all is meaningless. It has no meaning because of death. He saw death as an ending with the same fate happening to all. Death without resurrection makes this life meaningless. The Apostle Paul said it this way,

1 Cor 15:17-19

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. NIV

Ecc1 12:8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."
(Vanity appears 35 times in Ecclesiastes)

Ecc1 3:18-19

18 I also thought, "As for men, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. 19 Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. (vanity) NIV

In the Song of Songs Solomon sees from a different vantage point, that of the spiritual man. This man concludes that the transcending virtue is love. Love for the Bridegroom leads us to the Beloved and He to us. Therefore there is an answer to the riddle of life. It is love in its deepest and fullest sense. He shows us the transformation of an ordinary Shulamite girl to become the beloved of God. She becomes the Old Testament picture of the Bride of Christ revealed in the New Testament.

Song 8:7

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned. KJV

(Love appears 26 times in The Song of Songs)

The Natural or the Spiritual

1 Cor 15:46-49

46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. NIV

Solomon first wrote to us of the futility of the life without the spirit. Then God lifted him up and gave him a heavenly perspective. We all need this if we are to pursue him who rides upon the heavens.

John 6:63

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. NKJV

Themes

I. Heaven or the shadow lands – the spirit or the flesh. When we are in the spirit we can look at a situation and react completely differently than when we see with natural eyes. What we then do determines whether we inherit blessing or cursing, good or evil from that situation. If we choose heaven as our goal than our words and deeds point to heaven. If we fall in love with the shadows they eventually darken our imaginations as those in Noah's day and we perish.

Rev 4:1-3

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. NIV

Sometimes we are on the edge of understanding something but we need God's perspective. As long as our eyes are on this world's solutions we fail. When God lifts us out of the flesh and shows us how He sees things, we are able to follow. The Shulamite chooses heaven over the shadow lands. She is tired of dwelling away from the presence of the Lord. That was the fate of Cain. When she chooses the Beloved King she is choosing heaven as her goal.

Eph 2:4-7

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. NKJV

The pursuit of heaven comes by grace. We access heaven through being in Christ. Grace is given to the seeker because God loves you and I. He wants us to come to Him, after all He has given His life for us.

Col 2:16-3:1

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using-- according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
NKJV

Many regard the outward life as the most important thing in our pursuit of God. In doing so we forget the substance our Beloved friend Jesus. He is the centerpiece of our love. We do not impress him with man-made rules and regulations. The Shulamite must be willing to leave all false advice and habits behind. She must trust her love to the King and the King alone.

James 1:17

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. NIV

The Lord has no darkness in Him. He is light personified. He does not offer us shifting contradictory affection. His love is constant and true. He has our best interests in mind. How do we know this?

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. NIV

Jesus has done that for His Bride.

Heb 10:1-2

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices

repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. NIV

Human effort always leads to anxiety and anxiety leads to depression.

Prov 12:25

25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression,
But a good word makes it glad. NKJV

No amount of effort to obey God on our part can lead us out of the shadows. Christ has opened the way to heaven, the ancient path by His blood. Without His love and sacrifice our efforts and obedience would be meaningless. When the Shulamite chose her Beloved she was choosing His way not hers. His redemptive love not her wayward heart. His rest not her worry.

Years later the Apostle Paul wrote

2 Cor 1:12

12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, NKJV

Simplicity equals singleness of mind and heart

To be sincere has to do with our feelings being so true that they can be evaluated in the light literally, "judged by sunlight." As the Shulamite pursues her Beloved, her thoughts and intents are constantly refined by His love. Even so the Church, his people, go through this refining of heart and mind until we become like the one we love.

2. The reward of the seeker

Song 1:4

4 "Draw me after you {and} let us run {together!} The king has brought me into his chambers." (NAS)

To love the Bridegroom the Bride must desire Him. He knows if He is at the center of our thoughts and plans. He knows if we are seeking him with our whole heart. There is mention in the days of Asa the king that Israel, His vineyard, His people, decided to give all their desire to the pursuit of God.

2 Chron 15:12-15

12 They entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul. 13 All who would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, were to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman. 14 They took an oath to the LORD with loud acclamation, with shouting and with

trumpets and horns. 15 All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. So the LORD gave them rest on every side. NIV

Yes the soul finds rest when it pursues God. The Shulamite finally could put anxiety and stress aside as her heart confirmed she was doing the right thing.

King Asa did well until the end of his life then he left off his pursuit of the Lord and he was rebuked.

2 Chron 16:9

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. KJV

In a sense all of human history is about what has happened as a result of our seeking or not seeking the Creator God. Very few have pressed through to seek the lover of their souls and make Him the focus of their lives.

Ps 16:5,8,11

5 O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You maintain my lot.

8 I have set the LORD always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

11 You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. NKJV

David identifies the Lord as his inheritance. He looks to the Lord to be his guide who will lead him to his heavenly destination. Eventually it begins to dawn on us that to seek Christ leads to unimaginable reward. The Shulamite began to believe this. David believed. Do you?

Matt 6:32-34

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. NIV

Matt 7:7-8

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. NIV

Heb 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. NIV

Acts 15:16-18

16 "After this I will return
and rebuild David's fallen tent.
Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,
17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who bear my name,
says the Lord, who does these things'
18 that have been known for ages. NIV

3. The season (timing) of love

Song 2:3-7

3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest
is my lover among the young men.
I delight to sit in his shade,
and his fruit is sweet to my taste.
4 He has taken me to the banquet hall,
and his banner over me is love.
5 Strengthen me with raisins,
refresh me with apples,
for I am faint with love.
6 His left arm is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.
7 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you
by the gazelles and by the does of the field:
Do not arouse or awaken love
until it so desires. NIV

The creation has seasons. The animal kingdom has seasons. Solomon declares there is a time to every purpose under heaven. There is no use to picking fruit in winter because in most cases it is not on the tree. There is no point to harvest in planting season nor is their much point in planting at

harvest time. Animals are not led to mate until the season of mating, usually spring. Love has seasons. God has times and seasons He uses to accomplish His purpose.

Nebecadrezzar had to wait seven years to be restored to His kingdom after being changed into an animal like existence because of pride. Jesus in parables tells us when we see certain things that the season of His return is near. We must learn to follow His timing. For this purpose He has given us the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth.

Rom 8:14

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. NLT

The Shulamite begins to entreat her lover to come to her. Awake O north wind and come wind from the south let His fragrance blow into my garden. For the fruit to ripen correctly, she needs His presence, His love. When Daniel became aware that the time for the restoration of Israel was near he began to intercede for it to take place. At some point men and women of vision interact with the timing of God to fulfill His purpose in the earth.

We also must understand that there is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. If we force the timing of love we can easily lose the object of our affection. So many relationships break over the timing of love. So often when young people are courting, one forces his or her desire on the other. This can break the relationship or leave scars that can cause distance between them for years. There is a story in 2 Samuel 13 about one of David's sons Amnon. David had a number of wives and children by then. The children interacted with one another differently than sons and daughters by the same parents. Adonijah became infatuated with Tamar and got so he couldn't sleep for thinking about her. Finally he played a trick on his father and gained access to his sister. He forced himself on her sexually and when he had finished he loathed her. Why? He didn't pay attention to the timing of love. He yielded to his lust and craving and ruined both of their lives.

2 Sam 13:11-15

11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.

13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. KJV

The object of lust lasts for a moment but true love for a lifetime
I remember watching Kathyrn Kuhlman woo the Holy Spirit in her meetings. She understood that there is timing to the release of the power of God.

Jesus did no mighty work until he came out of the wilderness where he had overcome the devil. Satan tries to tempt us into hurry or slothfulness. God has a time for the things he has called us to do and we can't do them in the spirit until the appointed time. While we are waiting for love's time the spirit of God can change our perspective so that we are ready and prepared at the set time.

P^s 1:1-3

Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers. NIV

Prov 20:4

4 A sluggard does not plow in season;
so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.
NIV

Dan 2:20-21

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.
21 He changes times and seasons;
he sets up kings and deposes them.
NIV

Matt 21:41-42

41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." NKJV

Gal 4:4-5

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

NKJV

1 Thess.5:1-2

5:1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

NIV

4. The Bride and the Beloved

Psalms 45

45:1 For the director of music. To [the tune of] "Lilies." Of the Sons of Korah. A maskil. A wedding song.

My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.

2 You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever. 3 Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty. 4 In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness; let your right hand display awesome deeds. 5 Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet. 6 Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. 8 All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad. 9 Daughters of kings are among your honored women; at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.

10 Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. 11 The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. 12 The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift, men of wealth will seek your favor.

13 All glorious is the princess within [her chamber]; her gown is interwoven with gold. 14 In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her and are brought to you. 15 They are led in with joy and gladness; they enter the palace of the king.

16 Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land. 17 I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever. NIV

Isa 61:10-11

10 I delight greatly in the LORD;

my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up

and a garden causes seeds to grow,

so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise

spring up before all nations. NIV

John 3:29-30

29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I

must become less. NIV

Rev 19:7-9

7 Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

8 Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

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." NIV

Rev 21:1-4

21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy

City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the

throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their

God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Rev 21:9-11

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, NIV

Rev 22:17

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. NIV

Sub Themes

I. Purity of Devotion 2 Cor 11:2-3

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. NIV

From the point of view of the bridegroom, He is looking for a pure virgin set aside only for Him. This concept is almost lost in a permissive society where anything goes. But in God's heart it is the one thing He is looking for. Simplicity and purity of devotion to Him means everything. (2 Cor.11:2-3)

Draw me – Bride to Beloved –

Song 1:2-4

THE SHULAMITE

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth-
For your love is better than wine.
3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name is ointment poured forth;
Therefore the virgins love you.
4 Draw me away! NKJV

There comes a time in life and love when we must decide who we are to pursue. It is not enough to have a general non-specific love. We want to love someone not anyone. To whom shall I commit my heart? This Shulamite has decided on a specific lover. Let Him kiss me. Draw me away. Deep relationship is only found with deep commitment. His love is better than any earthly satisfaction. With singleness of mind she settles on Him. Let your eye be single Jesus says. We never see clearly until this is true

haplous (hap-looce') properly, folded together, i.e. single (figuratively, clear):
simple, single Strong's

whole; of the eye, good, fulfilling its office, sound: Matt 6:22; Luke 11:34

Thayers

"simple, single," is used in a moral sense in <Matt. 6:22> and <Luke 11:34>,
said of the eye; "singleness" of purpose keeps us from the snare of having a
double treasure and consequently a divided heart Vines

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

2. Keep my own vineyard

Song 1:6;

6 Do not stare at me because I am dark,
because I am darkened by the sun.

My mother's sons were angry with me
and made me take care of the vineyards;
my own vineyard I have neglected. NIV

The Shulamite has been taking care of everyone else's vineyard but her own. The garden of her heart, her relationship with her creator, lover, has languished. She feels the emptiness inside. She is darkened by the sun and competent in the world but is far from the Kingdom of God. However she longs to change. This is the condition that God appreciates. There is hope for the Shulamite. We can contrast this with Israel .

Isa 5:1-2

I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

NIV

What was this bad fruit?

Isa 5:7-8

7 The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are the garden of his delight.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

8 Woe to you who add house to house
and join field to field
till no space is left
and you live alone in the land.

NIV

Isa 5:11-13

Woe to those who rise early in the morning
to run after their drinks,
who stay up late at night
till they are inflamed with wine.
12 They have harps and lyres at their banquets,
tambourines and flutes and wine,
but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD,
no respect for the work of his hands.
13 Therefore my people will go into exile
for lack of understanding;

NIV

The Shulamite must separate herself from those who are going this way. Who pretend interest in God but in reality are only interested in themselves.

Luke 5:37-39

37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, "The old is better." NIV

The Shulamite like us must forget the things that are behind in order to receive the fresh harvest of His love. Like the Israelites on their way to Canaan we must be willing to leave the former things behind. New wine comes from fresh grapes. Her brothers might say to her this is the way we have always done it. They might say, "who are you to go your own way and not do what we tell you." The call to the vineyard is a call to the Lord of the vineyard.

John 2:1-11

2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. NIV

There is another way to make new wine. It is a miraculous way. It is the way of the new birth, the new life. Nothing in the old life can ever produce this wine. One substance, water is changed into another wine. Only one person can do this. This person is the one the Shulamite pursues. Once the betrothed bride realizes there is only one source of provision she is on her way to covenant love.

This story simply tells us the new wine is the best wine. The wine the master creates is the best. Not everyone realizes this. When we ask for revival we are asking for new wine. We must remember it requires not only a new wineskin but willingness to accept the fresh taste of new wine. Jesus did this at a wedding feast. As a bridegroom about to lay down his life for his Bride he understood the beauty of this celebration. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross.

The Shulamite finds herself unsatisfied with the old wine. She is searching for something better. She finds it in her Beloved.

Song 8:11-12

11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon;
he let out his vineyard to tenants.
Each was to bring for its fruit
a thousand shekels of silver.
12 But my own vineyard is mine to give;
the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon,
and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit NIV

The Shulamite sees that Solomon has a vineyard he rents out. Those who work it must render him fruit. This is the basis of Jesus teaching in Mt. 21:33 However the Shulamite has her own vineyard to offer. She is not experiencing a business relationship with the King. She has set aside her life, her heart for Him.

Matt 21:33-22:1

33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. 38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. 46 They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. NIV

There are those whose only interest in the Kingdom is what they can get out of it. When they work in the church or in the ministry their goal isn't to harvest a crop for the master. Their goal is to keep the fruit for themselves. They anticipate owning the vineyard themselves. This of course is a picture of Satan's attitude and it is a picture of the Pharisees of Jesus day. What is more important to us, our fame and fortune, or to please our lover the King of Kings? The Shulamite had only one goal, her Beloved.

When we look at the Parable of the ten virgins (Mt.25) we understand that there are those who believe they are following the Lord. They are trying to do everything they see others, whom they deem spiritual, doing. Yet they fail to develop the most important thing, their relationship with the Master. They fail to receive the supply of the Holy Spirit they desperately need.

When we put together Isaiah 5 and Mt. 21 we see that the Lord saw Israel as His vineyard but Israel forgot her relationship with the Lord of the Vineyard.

There is another word that is virtually interchangeable with vineyard in this book. The word is garden. The Shulamite likens her heart, her soul, to a garden. He is looking at the condition of her garden.

Isa 58:9-12

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
11 The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. NIV

The condition of our soul, our garden is dependent on how we treat others. Again in Mt.25 Jesus reminds us that the way we love Him is to love those in need. The Shulamite had been busy taking care of others vineyards. This is good. She must now allow the Beloved to minister to her vineyard.

We must remember that the history of mankind begins with a relationship with our Beloved Creator in a garden.

Gen 2:8-9

8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. NKJV

The woman is taken out of the side of the man in the garden even as the Church is born out of the sacrifice of the Master at Calvary. It is for the joy set before Him that He endured the cross. He was giving His life for His beloved bride.

Gen 3:22-4:1

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"-- 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. NKJV

Adam and Eve were put out of the garden because of deception and rebellion. They could never go back in their present state. That is the lot of mankind without Jesus. Christ has provided the way back. Do we like the Shulamite desire to get on the Ancient Path and return to the garden of the Lord. Do we want him to cultivate our vineyard? Let us hope the answer is yes.

We must understand that the wedding supper of the Lamb is the spiritual fulfillment of what Adam and Eve did not accomplish.

Song 4:12-16

12 A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed. 13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates With pleasant fruits, Fragrant henna with spikenard, 14 Spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, With all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, With all the chief spices-- 15 A fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And streams from Lebanon.

THE SHULAMITE

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. NKJV

Because her soul is pleasing to her Beloved the Shulamite is able to invite the winds of the spirit to blow upon her garden. She has dedicated the fruit of her soul to Him and Him only. Thus she is enclosed, covered and sealed. He is her only refuge. He is able to commune with her in her heart.

When we say I invited Jesus into my heart do we mean once a long time ago or every day?

John 15:3-6

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. NKJV

Song 5:1

THE BELOVED

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. NKJV

3. Draw near the shepherds tents – Relationship with Jesus

Song 1:7-8

- 7 "Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, where do you pasture {your flock,} where do you make {it} lie down at noon? For why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?"
- 8 "If you yourself do not know, Most beautiful among women, go forth on the trail of the flock, and pasture your young goats by the tents of the shepherds. (NAS)

He is our refuge and covering from the trials and storms of life

Song 2:3-4

3 "Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

4 "He has brought me to {his} banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. (NAS)

Gen 29:9-10

9 While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

10 And it came about, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went up, and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. (NAS)

Jesus gives us the water of life. We cannot get it anywhere else. The drink He gives us causes us to never thirst again. Rachel like the Shulamite must take her flock where the water is near the tents of the shepherds.

Ruth 2:8-12

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids.

9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Indeed, I have commanded the servants not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw."

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has been fully reported to me, and how you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people that you did not previously know.

12 "May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge." (NAS)

Ruth chooses Naomi her mother in law over her family. She chooses the Lord God of Israel over her idols. She chooses to submit to Naomi and learn from her over self-will. She chooses to submit to Boaz and his protection over going her own way. In effect she chooses the guidance of the Holy Spirit over trying to figure everything out. This quality reminds us of Esther's relationship with Mordecai who guided her to do the right thing in a time of great danger.

When Mary of Bethany washes Jesus feet with the spikenard she is choosing Him even to the death. These sisters are like the Shulamite who choose the companionship and guidance of the Beloved above all other voices.

Prov 13:20

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. (KJV)

Jer 6:16

Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls. (NAS)

There is a way, a narrow way in which to walk. The Shulamite must find it. The shepherds already know where it is. If she follows the trail of the flock she will find the shepherds. They will strengthen her for the journey. Choosing the ancient path separates her from those who are content the satisfactions of this present life. She longs for the eternal, for heaven.

Ezek 34:12-16

12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

13 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.

16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment. (KJV)

17

Ultimately Jesus is the great shepherd. It is He who rescues and protects his own. If He was not seeking us we would be without hope.

John 1:35-39

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." They came therefore and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (NAS)

40

Come and see. This is the call of the Beloved to his Bride. She feels this great longing, this curiosity within. Where is He? How do I get to where He is? He sees her begin to search and comes to her to help her on the way.

The shepherd and the sheep

John 10:1-5

10:1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." NIV

The watchmen are the shepherds. They are the elders. They are those who know the way into the sheepfold and guard it. This is the way Jesus protects His sheep. This is the idea of the church, the called out ones. They, like the Shulamite are called out of the world and into the kingdom. Once they have entered the gate they can follow the master. They hear His voice calling them to the sheepfold and once within are filled with the spirit and taught by Him.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." NIV

The beauty of entering the sheepfold is the protection and love it affords the sheep. Once wandering under the hot sun now they are protected

and are able to rest in the shade He provides, under the wings of the Lord God of Israel.

1 Pet 2:25

25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.(NAS)

“Prone to wander Lord I feel it.” These words from *Come Thou Fount* tell us the difficulty of the journey. Like the prodigal son God offers us the opportunity to return. Return to what? Return to our Beloved, the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

John 21:15

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. (KJV)

Once we know His ways the Shepherd leads us to become little shepherds. After Peter denies Jesus and repents Peter is asked to become a feeder of the sheep, a teacher, a watchman, a guide, a protector. We, like Peter can participate with him in the saving and training of souls. The Shulamite is regularly explaining to her companions who her lover is. She is revealing Him to those who are inquiring. This is the great privilege all who follow closely are given.

Rev 7:17

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (KJV)

This is the destiny of the Shulamite, the Bride of Christ. All who are blood bought followers reach this place of healing. This is a picture of the beginnings of our heavenly reward.

4. Be alert, Wait for love

Song 2:7,3:5& 8:3

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 love itself shall please. NKJV-MLB

This passage repeats itself through the book. I believe it is the key to understanding the Song of Solomon. Love has times and seasons. There is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing (Eccl.3:5). The animal kingdom demonstrates this. When spring comes many species engage in contests to procreate with their mate. The stags with their antlers interlocked, the lions etc. Flowers don't bud and bloom in the dead of winter. There is a time for the blooming of the vines. One cannot find fruit on the tree in winter. If one eats fruit too early in summer it can make one sick. There is a season of ripeness. We must wait for it.

Have you ever eaten a tomato from the supermarket that is forced to ripen in a hothouse environment? Sometimes they taste like cardboard. This is how it is when we rush love. We get the semblance of love without the sweetness and purity. The waiting part of love, the anticipation makes the reward that much more sweet. That is what courting is all about. In America most young people hurry into sexual involvement without any understanding of the rewards of waiting. The result is bad fruit. Broken relationships, shattered covenant, divorce and children aborted from their mother's wombs. Everything gets out of sequence out of the Creators times and seasons.

Song 5:2-8

2 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. 6 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. 7 The 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. 8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you tell him I am lovesick! NKJV

Have you ever noticed that when you are early to an appointment you're not worried about the red lights and are able to drive in a relaxed manner. When I am late I seem to be stopped by one red light after another

The Shulamite previously had sought her Beloved and found him because she had responded in season. In this instant she procrastinates. She wants to lie in her bed. By the time she decides to respond it is too late. He is gone. When she tries to find Him the watchmen take her for a prostitute, a lady of the night. When we fail to respond we can wind up in situations we

wouldn't have encountered if we had been on time. This is a sensitive matter. Right response connects us to our Beloved wrong response to trials and difficulties we might not otherwise have experienced.

Song 6:10-11

THE SHULAMITE

11 I went down to the garden of nuts
To see the verdure of the valley,
To see whether the vine had budded
And the pomegranates had bloomed. NKJV

Is it time for love the Shulamite wants to know? Is the fruit of love mature. Is the blessing of ripeness upon me? Is the time of courting over and the time of the wedding here? In times of old parents would be involved. Perhaps a minister would be counseling. These at their best were intended to encourage timing that would bring forth the best for the couple.

The way a young person can truly know the timing of love today is to be listening with all their heart for the voice of the Lord through scripture, through the Holy Spirit and through mature men and women of God and yes through parents. Humility is the key to hearing.

Song 7:12

12 Let us get up early to the vineyards;
Let us see if the vine has budded,
Whether the grape blossoms are open,
And the pomegranates are in bloom.
There I will give you my love. NKJV

5. Come Away – Beloved to Bride

Song 2:10-14

10 My beloved spoke, and said to me: "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!

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." NKJV

We like the Shulamite hear the Beloved calling "Come Away." Come out of the world system and sinful relationships. Come to Jesus. Come to the secret place of the most high (Ps.91). This is where love fully blooms. This involves separation. There can be no mixture of sacred and profane. This is often the place of suffering for the seeker. All earthly affections must fade. All sinful ways must be left behind in order to step into the full inheritance provided for us. It is in the purest sense the Father's love calling His children to Kingdom blessing. And in that blessing there is authority and power

2 Cor 6:17-18

"Therefore come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.
Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you."
"I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty." NIV

6. Catch the foxes

Song 2:15

15 Catch for us the foxes,
the little foxes
that ruin the vineyards,
our vineyards that are in bloom. NIV

Many great men and women of God have suffered defeat through neglect. Vigilance towards the King is always necessary. Satan is always trying to slip in through a crack in the foundation of our faith. Perhaps we lower our shield or turn our back when we need to be alert. Before we know it our supply has been eaten by foxes sent to devour. Like Nehemiah we must find our place on the wall as assigned by the Spirit of God and hold our ground. Our assignment is always next to and linked to other believers on the wall.

Neh 4:2-3

Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble-burned as they are?"
3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building-if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!" NIV

Lam 5:14-18

The elders have ceased gathering at the gate,
And the young men from their music.

15 The joy of our heart has ceased;

Our dance has turned into mourning.

16 The crown has fallen from our head.

Woe to us, for we have sinned!

17 Because of this our heart is faint;

Because of these things our eyes grow dim;

18 Because of Mount Zion which is desolate,

With foxes walking about on it. NKJV

When foxes roam freely, God has allowed judgement. When the prophetic word goes unheeded foxes are not far behind. Foxes symbolize the sly, cunning, trickery of men who lie in wait to deceive.

Eph 4:14-16

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. NIV

Luke 13:32-35

32 He replied, "Go tell that fox (Herod), 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' 33 In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day-for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" NIV

If we listen to the Lord we are protected under the shadow of His wings. If we go our own way as the people of Israel did the fox enters the hen house and destroys the children of God, perverting their way.

7. Come Quickly – Return

Song 8:14

14 Make haste, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
On the mountains of spices. NKJV

The Shulamite longs for her beloved. Nothing else will satisfy her. Like followers of the ancient way today her journey will continue until she sees Him face to face. She calls to him, urging Him on. Like the Shulamite we will not be satisfied until Jerusalem is a praise in all the earth.

Imagine the day when sin will be no more. No more death, no more longing, suffering or tears.

His return is like the breaking of the day. It is the complete absence of darkness, like a morning without clouds bathed in brilliant light.

2 Sam.23:3&4

He who rules over men must be just,
Ruling in the fear of God.
And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
Like the tender grass springing out of the earth,
By clear shining after rain.' NKJV

Watch for the King

Song 3:1-5

All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him. 2 I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him. 3 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?" 4 Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me. 5 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires. NIV

Luke 21:28-31

28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. NIV

Matt 24:42-44

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. NIV

8. Sealed, enclosed, walled

Song 4:12

12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride;
you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. NIV

A letter that is sealed can not be opened except by the person to whom it is sent. A virgin is like that for her husband.

2 Cor 11:2-3

2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. NIV

This is the nature of our spiritual battle with forces of darkness. The Lord wants a bride without spot or blemish or any such thing. When a mirror is clean it can reflect the light. The moon reflects the sun. The Church, the Shulamite reflects her Beloved's nature.

Eph 5:25-29

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. NIV

Eph 1:12-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-to the praise of his glory. NIV

The Holy Spirit has sealed His Bride. The Bride of Christ is only for Jesus and He only for her. With God faithfulness is all-important. In many countries today where people are seen only as numbers this unique lover, Christ has been forgotten and consequently Satan comes after His beloved bride to destroy her.

Rev 12:15-13:1

15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. NIV

The good news is that we receive spiritual protection from our Lord

Cor 1:21-22

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV

2 Cor 5:1-5

5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Song 8:8-10

8 We have a young sister,
and her breasts are not yet grown.
What shall we do for our sister
for the day she is spoken for?
9 If she is a wall,
we will build towers of silver on her.
If she is a door,
we will enclose her with panels of cedar.
10 I am a wall,
and my breasts are like towers.

Thus I have become in his eyes
like one bringing contentment. NIV

The Shulamite became a wall. She is protected and enclosed by the Love of Christ. Towers of silver, a picture of redemption are attributed to her. If she was a door every foul spirit would have opportunity for entrance. The only one that should be able to gain entrance to her is her Beloved. Since she is reflecting His love she is able to see herself accurately. If she was a door for darkness she would need to repent in order to become a wall.

Rev 3:17-21

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. NKJV

9. The overcoming power of love

Songs 8:6&7

THE SHULAMITE TO HER BELOVED

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy as cruel as the grave;
Its flames are flames of fire,
A most vehement flame.
7 Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised. NKJV

1 Cor 13:8-13

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. 12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. NIV

The Language of love

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1. Better than wine | 1:2&4 | Shulamite |
| 2. Singular – Oasis | 1:14 | |
| 3. Doves eyes | 1:15 | Beloved |
| 4. I am a Lilly | 2:1 | Shulamite |
| 5. Like a Lilly among thorns | 2:2 | Beloved |
| 7. Like an Apple Tree | 2.3 | Shulamite |
| I sat in His shade | | |
| His fruit was sweet | | |
| 7. No spot in you | 4:7 (Eph.5:27) | Beloved |
| 8. Come up | 4:8 | |
| 9. Living water | 4:15 | |
| 10. My flawless one | 5.2 | |
| 11. Her description of Him | 5:10-16 | |

10 My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 13 His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. 14 His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. 15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. 16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. NIV

Rev 1:12-18

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. NIV