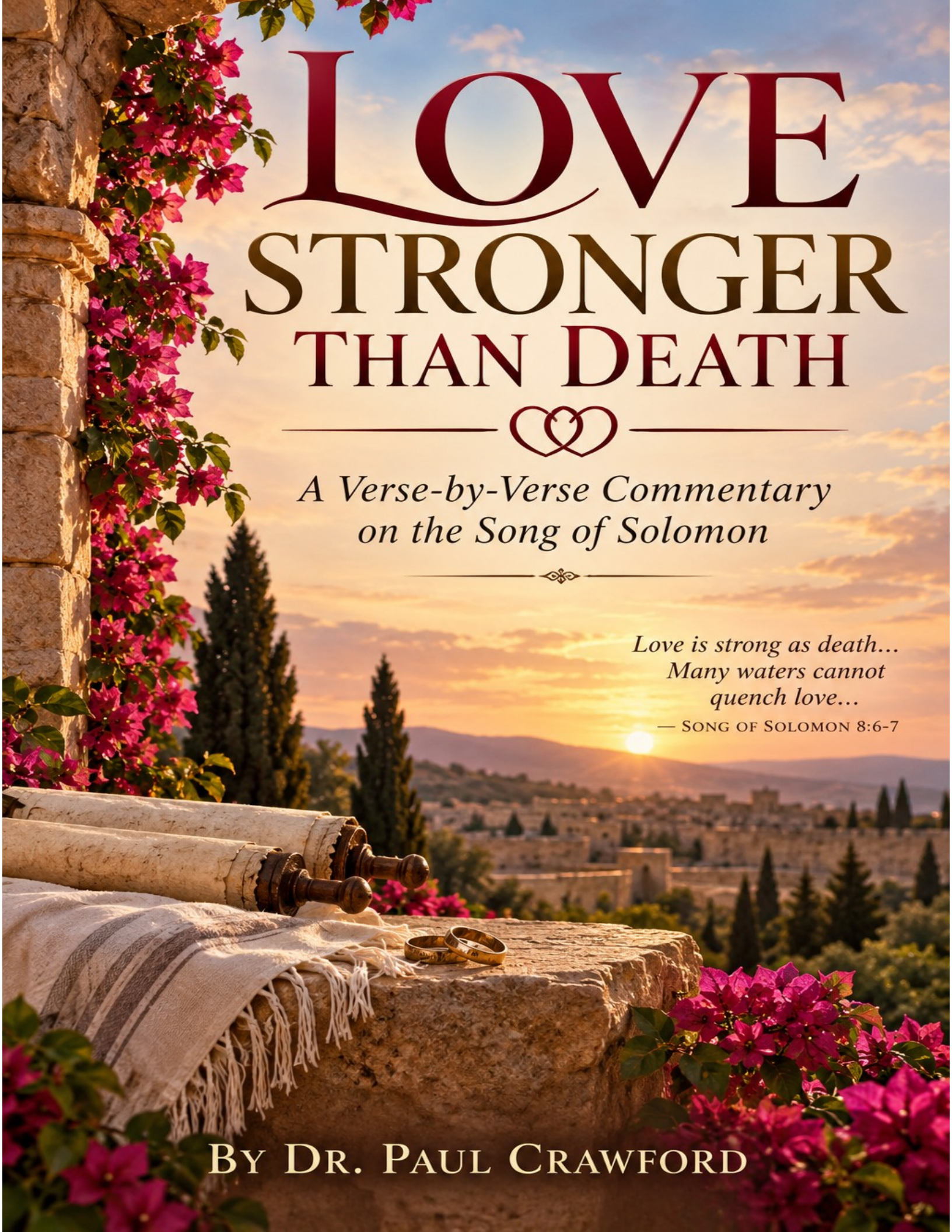




LOVE STRONGER THAN DEATH



*A Verse-by-Verse Commentary
on the Song of Solomon*

*Love is strong as death...
Many waters cannot
quench love...*

— SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6-7

BY DR. PAUL CRAWFORD

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Preface

There are books of the Bible that immediately draw readers because of their history, doctrine, prophecy, or practical instruction. The Song of Solomon is different. It is poetic, deeply personal, emotionally rich, and filled with imagery that can seem unfamiliar to the modern reader. Because of that, it has often been misunderstood, avoided, or interpreted in ways that move far beyond the natural meaning of the text.

Yet the Song of Solomon belongs in Scripture for a reason.

At its heart, this book celebrates love as God designed it. It speaks openly about attraction, longing, commitment, intimacy, faithfulness, separation, reunion, and the enduring bond between a man and a woman. Its language is passionate, but it is never careless. Its poetry is intimate, but it is never vulgar. Its message is rooted in the dignity of love within the boundaries God has established.

The title of this commentary, **Love Stronger Than Death**, comes from one of the most powerful declarations in the entire book:

“Love is strong as death.”

Those words capture the central theme of the Song. Genuine love is not shallow. It is not temporary. It is not merely an emotion that rises and falls with circumstances. True covenant love endures. It remains faithful. It survives distance, hardship, longing, misunderstanding, and testing.

The Song of Solomon also reminds us that love should not be awakened carelessly. Several times the book warns against stirring up love before the proper time. That message is especially important in a culture that often separates desire from commitment and intimacy from covenant. Scripture presents a better way. Love is powerful, and because it is powerful, it must be treated with wisdom, purity, patience, and honor.

In writing this commentary, my purpose is to walk carefully through the text verse by verse and allow the words of Scripture to speak for themselves. I have sought to explain the historical setting, poetic imagery, cultural background, important expressions, and practical lessons found throughout the book.

Some passages are straightforward. Others are highly figurative. Still others have produced centuries of debate among interpreters. Where different understandings exist, I have sought to approach them with respect while keeping the primary focus on the plain sense of the passage.

Throughout church history, many have also seen the love between the bride and bridegroom as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His people. There are certainly biblical passages elsewhere in Scripture that describe God's covenant relationship with His people, and the New Testament clearly presents Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His bride. Those connections can provide valuable spiritual reflection. However, this commentary begins with the Song of Solomon in its own literary setting—as biblical poetry celebrating human love, marriage, devotion, and covenant faithfulness.

That foundation is important.

Before we ask what a passage may illustrate spiritually, we should first ask what the passage actually says.

The Song of Solomon is not something Christians need to apologize for. It is part of the inspired Word of God. Its inclusion in Scripture reminds us that marriage, affection, attraction, and intimacy are not subjects outside God's concern. He created humanity. He created marriage. He created the capacity to love. When these gifts are received according to His design, they are good.

This book also speaks to those who have experienced the difficulties of human relationships. Love is beautiful, but relationships require patience. Longing can be painful. Separation can be difficult. Misunderstanding can occur. Commitment can be tested.

The Song does not present love as emotion alone. It presents love as something valuable enough to guard and powerful enough to endure.

My hope is that **Love Stronger Than Death** will help readers appreciate the Song of Solomon with greater clarity and confidence. I hope husbands and wives will be encouraged to value one another more deeply. I hope young people will understand the importance of patience and purity. I hope teachers and pastors will feel better equipped to explain a book that is sometimes neglected. Above all, I hope every reader will develop a greater appreciation for the wisdom and beauty of God's Word.

As you begin this journey through the Song of Solomon, do not rush through its poetry. Read slowly. Notice the images. Listen to the emotions. Observe the repeated themes. Pay attention to the movement from longing to fulfillment, from separation to reunion, and from attraction to enduring commitment.

And when you reach the final chapters, remember the great declaration that gives this commentary its name:

Love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot extinguish genuine love.

Floods cannot sweep it away.

What God designed love to be is precious, powerful, faithful, and enduring.

May this study help us understand it, honor it, and live according to the wisdom of the One who created it.

Dr. Paul Crawford

Author of Love Stronger Than Death

A Verse-by-Verse Commentary on the Song of Solomon

Prologue

There are some books of the Bible that speak primarily through history. Others speak through prophecy, doctrine, law, or wisdom. The Song of Solomon speaks through poetry.

It is the language of longing.

The language of beauty.

The language of attraction.

The language of commitment.

And ultimately, the language of a love strong enough to endure.

The Song of Solomon does not read like most other books of Scripture. It moves through scenes, voices, images, memories, desires, separations, reunions, and expressions of affection. At times, the language is direct. At other times, it is highly poetic. Vineyards, gardens, spices, fountains, mountains, lilies, doves, gazelles, towers, and flowing streams become part of a rich vocabulary of love.

Modern readers can find some of these images unfamiliar. Yet the emotions behind them are remarkably recognizable.

The bride longs for the one she loves.

The bridegroom delights in his beloved.

They speak words of admiration.

They experience separation.

They search for one another.

They rejoice in reunion.

They express desire.

They affirm commitment.

And by the end of the Song, love is described as something so powerful that neither death, water, wealth, nor opposition can extinguish it.

That is why the words of Song of Solomon 8 stand at the center of this commentary:

“Love is strong as death.”

Those words are not sentimental. They are strong.

Death is relentless. It does not easily surrender what it claims.

The Song says that genuine love possesses a corresponding strength. It holds. It clings. It endures. It refuses to be reduced to a temporary emotion or passing attraction.

Then the Song declares:

“Many waters cannot quench love.”

Water can extinguish fire.

Floodwaters can destroy homes, fields, roads, and cities.

But the kind of love celebrated in this book is compared to a flame that cannot easily be put out.

That is covenant love.

It is more than attraction, though attraction is present.

It is more than romance, though romance fills the Song.

It is more than desire, though desire is openly expressed.

True love joins affection with commitment.

It joins passion with faithfulness.

It joins longing with belonging.

This is one of the great messages of the Song of Solomon.

A Book the Church Should Not Avoid

For generations, some Christians have been uncomfortable with this book.

Its expressions of physical beauty can seem unusually intimate.

Its language of desire can seem surprisingly bold.

Some readers have wondered why such a book appears in Scripture at all.

But perhaps that discomfort says more about us than it does about the text.

The Bible does not present marriage as merely a legal arrangement or social institution. Marriage involves companionship, covenant, faithfulness, delight, affection, attraction, and intimacy.

God created human beings as embodied creatures.

He created the capacity to love.

He established marriage.

And Scripture is not ashamed to speak about the goodness of marital affection.

The Song of Solomon therefore deserves careful study, not embarrassment.

It should be handled reverently, but it should not be ignored.

The Danger of Two Extremes

When approaching the Song of Solomon, interpreters have often moved toward one of two extremes.

Some reduce the book almost entirely to physical romance and miss its deeper themes of fidelity, covenant, patience, exclusivity, and enduring love.

Others move so quickly to symbolic or allegorical interpretations that the actual bride and bridegroom nearly disappear from the book.

Both approaches can distort the text.

The safest path is to begin where Scripture begins.

We should first hear the Song as a celebration of human love as God designed it.

Then, where appropriate, we may recognize broader biblical parallels concerning God's covenant faithfulness and Christ's relationship with His people.

But application should grow out of interpretation.

We should not force the text to say what it does not say.

Love Must Not Be Awakened Carelessly

One of the repeated warnings in the Song is:

Do not stir up or awaken love until the proper time.

That repeated statement is crucial.

The Song celebrates desire, but it also teaches restraint.

Love is powerful.

Desire is powerful.

And powerful things must be handled wisely.

This book does not teach uncontrolled passion.

It teaches ordered love.

There is a time to wait.

There is a time to pursue.

There is a time to speak.

There is a time to commit.

There is a time for intimacy.

Biblical love is not merely about what we feel. It is also about when, where, why, and within what covenant those feelings are expressed.

That message is especially important in a culture that often treats desire as its own justification.

Scripture offers something better.

It presents love as beautiful enough to protect.

The Little Foxes

One of the Song's most memorable images is the warning:

“Catch the little foxes that ruin the vineyards.”

The vineyard represents something precious.

The foxes represent things that threaten it.

Many marriages and relationships are not destroyed by one dramatic event. They are slowly damaged by smaller things that are ignored.

Neglect.

Bitterness.

Pride.

Poor communication.

Unforgiveness.

Distraction.

Jealousy.

Careless words.

Emotional distance.

These may appear small at first, but small foxes can destroy a vineyard.

The Song teaches us to protect what is valuable before the damage becomes great.

Beauty, Dignity, and Honor

Throughout the Song, the bride and bridegroom speak openly about one another's beauty.

Modern readers may sometimes find the descriptions unusual.

Ancient poetic imagery does not always translate naturally into modern speech.

But the important principle is clear.

The lovers notice one another.

They value one another.

They speak words of affirmation.

They do not treat one another casually.

There is something spiritually and relationally significant about this.

People often underestimate the power of words inside marriage.

Compliments can be neglected.

Affection can become assumed.

Gratitude can go unspoken.

The Song reminds us that love should be expressed, not merely presumed.

Separation and Search

The Song is not an uninterrupted picture of romance.

There are moments of distance.

Moments of absence.

Moments of searching.

Moments of disappointment.

That matters because real relationships also experience seasons of difficulty.

Love is tested not only in joyful moments but also in difficult ones.

Can love endure misunderstanding?

Can it survive distance?

Can it remain faithful when circumstances change?

Can it seek restoration when something has been lost?

The Song repeatedly answers by showing love that searches, waits, returns, and rejoices.

“I Am My Beloved’s”

Several times the Song contains statements of belonging.

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Later:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

And finally:

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is toward me.”

These declarations reflect growing security.

Love is not only desire for another person.

It is also the assurance of mutual belonging.

Biblical marriage is covenantal.

It says, in effect:

I choose you.

I belong to you.

You belong to me.

I will remain faithful to you.

That kind of commitment gives love stability.

The Seal Upon the Heart

Near the climax of the book comes one of its most beautiful requests:

“Set me as a seal upon your heart.”

A seal represented ownership, identity, security, and authenticity.

To be placed upon the heart is to occupy a place of deep and lasting devotion.

The request is not simply:

Remember me.

It is stronger than that.

It is:

Hold me close.

Keep me as your own.

Let our love remain marked upon your heart.

That image captures the nature of covenant commitment.

Love is not disposable.

It is not temporary.

It is sealed.

A Love That Cannot Be Purchased

The Song also says that even if a man offered all the wealth of his house for love, it would be rejected.

Real love cannot be purchased.

Possessions cannot manufacture devotion.

Money cannot create covenant faithfulness.

Status cannot produce genuine affection.

Love is valuable precisely because it cannot simply be bought.

It must be given.

It must be received.

It must be nurtured.

It must be protected.

Before We Begin

As we move verse by verse through the Song of Solomon, we will encounter poetry that requires careful explanation.

We will examine historical and cultural background.

We will consider the meaning of important words and images.

We will look at cross references.

We will explore practical lessons for marriage, relationships, purity, faithfulness, communication, and Christian living.

At times, there will be interpretive questions that do not have simple answers.

When that happens, we will consider the possibilities carefully and avoid claiming certainty where Scripture does not provide it.

The goal of this commentary is not to make the Song complicated.

It is to help the reader hear it clearly.

Behind its ancient imagery is a message that remains deeply relevant.

Love should be guarded.

Love should be spoken.

Love should be patient.

Love should be faithful.

Love should be exclusive.

Love should be cherished.

And when love becomes covenant love, it possesses a strength that mere emotion cannot explain.

That is why the title of this book is:

Love Stronger Than Death

Because the Song of Solomon ultimately points us toward a love that refuses to be easily extinguished.

A love worth waiting for.

A love worth protecting.

A love worth fighting to preserve.

A love sealed upon the heart.

A love that many waters cannot quench.

Now we begin with the opening words of this remarkable book:

“The Song of Songs.”

And from those first words onward, Scripture invites us to discover the beauty, wisdom, passion, and enduring strength of love as God intended it.

Dr. Paul Crawford

Love Stronger Than Death

A Verse-by-Verse Commentary on the Song of Solomon

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 1 — The Beauty of Love

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon begins as a celebration of love.

It is poetic.

Tender.

Personal.

Emotional.

Beautiful.

The chapter introduces the voices of the bride and the groom as they express:

Desire.

Admiration.

Affection.

Humility.

Longing.

Joy.

The language is filled with images of:

Perfume.

Wine.

Jewels.

Flowers.

Vineyards.

Doves.

Cedar.

Fresh greenery.

These images communicate the beauty and delight of faithful love.

Song of Solomon does not treat love as cold or merely practical.

Love is presented as:

Personal.

Joyful.

Attractive.

Mutual.

Affectionate.

The bride desires the groom.

The groom praises the bride.

Both delight in one another.

One of the major lessons of the chapter is the importance of mutual admiration.

Healthy love does not constantly tear down.

It notices.

It appreciates.

It speaks.

It praises.

The bride also shows humility.

She is aware of her appearance and of the effects of hard labor under the sun.

Yet the groom sees beauty in her.

This teaches an important principle:

True love sees beyond superficial judgment.

Song of Solomon has also been interpreted by many Christians as containing spiritual pictures of the relationship between Christ and His people.

The primary setting of the book is the love between a man and a woman.

But its language of:

Devotion.

Longing.

Faithfulness.

Delight.

Can also remind believers of the perfect love of Christ.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 1 is:

God-given love is beautiful, joyful, affectionate, and mutual, and it flourishes when two people value, honor, desire, and encourage one another.

I. THE GREATEST OF SOLOMON'S SONGS

Song of Solomon 1:1 — The Song of Songs

“This is Solomon’s song of songs, the most beautiful of all his songs.”

The title introduces the book as something exceptional.

The phrase:

“Song of songs”

is a Hebrew way of describing the greatest or finest song.

Solomon wrote many songs.

But this one receives special distinction.

It is a poetic celebration of love.

Cross References

1 Kings 4:32

Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs and composed one thousand and five songs.

Psalm 45:1

My heart overflows with a beautiful subject as I speak about the king. My tongue is ready to express what is in my heart like the pen of a skilled writer.

Ecclesiastes 1:1

These are the words of the Preacher, the son of David and king in Jerusalem.

Spiritual Principle

God's Word is willing to speak about love with beauty, dignity, and honesty.

Key Truth

Biblical love is not something shameful.

When rightly ordered, it is something God created and something Scripture celebrates.

II. LOVE SWEETER THAN WINE

Song of Solomon 1:2 — The Bride's Desire

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth, for your love is sweeter than wine.”

The bride openly expresses affection for the man she loves.

This is romantic language.

She values his love more than something associated with festivity and pleasure.

Wine could bring temporary gladness.

His love brings deeper delight.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:10

The groom says, “How beautiful your love is, my bride. Your affection is better than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume is better than every pleasant spice.”

Proverbs 5:19

Let your wife be a loving and graceful companion. Let her affection satisfy and delight you continually, and remain deeply devoted to her love.

Psalm 133:2

Unity among God's people is like precious fragrant oil poured upon Aaron's head, flowing down over his beard and onto the collar of his garments.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful affection should be treasured rather than treated casually.

III. A GOOD NAME IS LIKE PLEASANT PERFUME

Song of Solomon 1:3 — Character and Reputation

“Your fragrance is pleasing; your name is like perfume poured out. That is why young women love you.”

The bride admires more than the groom's outward appearance.

She admires:

His fragrance.

His name.

His reputation.

In Scripture, a name often represented character.

His character is compared with costly perfume.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good reputation is more valuable than expensive perfume, and a life completed faithfully can reveal more than the day on which that life began.

John 12:3

Mary took a large amount of expensive perfume, poured it upon Jesus' feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. The fragrance of the perfume filled the entire house.

Psalms 45:8

The king's garments carry the fragrance of myrrh, aloes, and cassia, and music from beautiful palaces brings him joy.

Spiritual Principle

Attraction may notice appearance.

Lasting love must also value character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A beautiful reputation is one of the greatest fragrances a person can carry.

IV. THE BRIDE DESIRES CLOSENESS

Song of Solomon 1:4 — “Take Me with You”

“Take me with you, let us run together! The king has brought me into his rooms. We will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you!”

The bride does not want distance.

She desires:

Presence.

Closeness.

Fellowship.

Shared joy.

Love naturally desires nearness to the one loved.

Cross References

John 6:44

Jesus said that no one can truly come to Him unless the Father who sent Him draws that person, and He will raise that believer up at the last day.

Hosea 11:4

God says He drew His people with cords of human kindness and bonds of love. He gently lifted the burden from them and cared for them tenderly.

John 14:2

Jesus said, “My Father’s house has many dwelling places. If that were not true, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.”

Spiritual Principle

Love seeks fellowship rather than unnecessary distance.

V. HUMBLE YET LOVELY

Song of Solomon 1:5 — “Dark but Lovely”

“I am dark but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem—like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.”

The bride acknowledges her darkened skin.

Yet she also knows she is lovely.

She combines:

Humility.

And:

Healthy recognition of worth.

The tents of Kedar may have appeared dark from the outside.

Solomon’s curtains represented beauty and richness.

The contrast is poetic.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:14

God described Jerusalem’s beauty as becoming famous among the nations because of the splendor He had placed upon her.

Psalms 45:11

The king greatly desires your beauty, so honor him because he is your lord.

1 Samuel 16:7

The Lord told Samuel, “Do not judge merely by outward appearance or physical stature. Human beings look at what is visible, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Spiritual Principle

True worth cannot be measured by outward appearance alone.

VI. HARD LABOR HAS LEFT ITS MARK

Song of Solomon 1:6 — Her Own Vineyard Neglected

“Do not stare at me because I am dark, for the sun has tanned me. My mother’s sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept.”

The bride explains why the sun darkened her skin.

She had been forced to work in the vineyards.

Others assigned her responsibility.

But while caring for their vineyards, she was unable to care properly for her own.

The vineyard may also work as a poetic picture of herself.

She had spent so much energy fulfilling other obligations that her own needs suffered.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 8:12

The bride later declares that her own vineyard belongs to her and speaks of responsibility for what has been entrusted to her.

Luke 15:29

The older brother said to his father, “For many years I have worked for you like a servant and never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.”

Matthew 21:33

Jesus told about a landowner who planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a winepress, constructed a tower, leased it to farmers, and went away.

Spiritual Principle

Constantly caring for everyone else while completely neglecting yourself can eventually leave visible effects.

VII. THE BRIDE SEEKS THE ONE SHE LOVES

Song of Solomon 1:7 — “You Whom My Soul Loves”

“Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where do you graze your flock, and where do you rest them at noon? Why should I wander like one veiled, beside the flocks of your companions?”

She wants to know where her beloved is.

She does not want to wander aimlessly.

Love seeks:

Presence.

Direction.

Clarity.

The language of shepherding adds gentleness to the scene.

Cross References

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my Shepherd, and because He cares for me, I lack nothing that I truly need.

John 10:14

Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. I know those who belong to Me, and My people know Me.”

Ezekiel 34:14

God promises to feed His flock in good pasture and allow them to rest safely on the mountains of Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Love desires intentional fellowship.

VIII. FOLLOW THE TRACKS

Song of Solomon 1:8 — The Groom's Direction

“If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep, and feed your young goats near the shepherds' tents.”

The reply gives direction.

She is not told to wander randomly.

She is told to follow an established path.

The shepherd imagery emphasizes:

Guidance.

Care.

Order.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 5:9

The women ask the bride what makes her beloved greater than another man and why her love for him is so special.

Song of Solomon 6:1

The women ask where her beloved has gone so that they may help her search for him.

1 Peter 2:25

You were once wandering like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Spiritual Principle

When the path seems uncertain, follow what is faithful and proven rather than wandering without direction.

IX. BEAUTY LIKE A MARE AMONG PHARAOH'S CHARIOTS

Song of Solomon 1:9 — The Groom Praises His Bride

“I compare you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh’s chariots.”

This comparison sounds unusual to modern ears.

But in its ancient context it communicated:

Beauty.

Grace.

Strength.

Distinction.

A magnificent horse associated with royal chariots would immediately attract attention.

The groom is saying:

“You stand out.”

Cross References

Exodus 14:9

Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, horsemen, and army pursued the Israelites and overtook them near the sea.

1 Kings 10:28

Solomon imported horses through established trading networks and maintained access to valuable royal horses.

Isaiah 31:1

Isaiah warned those who went to Egypt for help, trusting in horses and chariots because they appeared strong, while failing to look to the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Love sees something distinctive and valuable in the beloved.

X. THE GROOM NOTICES HER BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 1:10 — Cheeks and Jewels

“Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels.”

The groom speaks words of admiration.

He notices details.

Love is strengthened when appreciation is expressed.

Cross References

Genesis 41:42

Pharaoh removed his signet ring and placed it on Joseph’s hand. He dressed Joseph in fine linen and placed a gold chain around his neck.

Proverbs 1:9

Wise instruction will be like a graceful wreath upon your head and a beautiful necklace around your neck.

Ezekiel 16:11

God describes adorning Jerusalem with beautiful jewelry, placing bracelets on her arms and a necklace around her neck.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love does not merely feel appreciation.

It expresses appreciation.

XI. BEAUTY HONORED WITH PRECIOUS ORNAMENTS

Song of Solomon 1:11 — Gold and Silver

“We will make for you ornaments of gold, studded with silver.”

The imagery communicates:

Honor.

Value.

Beauty.

The bride is treated as someone precious.

Cross References

Psalms 45:13

The royal bride is pictured in splendor, beautifully clothed and prepared for the king.

Proverbs 25:11

A word spoken at exactly the right time is like golden fruit set in a beautiful silver setting.

Ezekiel 16:13

God describes Jerusalem as being adorned with gold and silver and dressed in fine clothing until her beauty became royal.

Spiritual Principle

Love honors rather than humiliates.

XII. FRAGRANCE FILLS THE ROOM

Song of Solomon 1:12 — The Bride at the King's Table

“While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.”

The scene shifts to fellowship.

The king sits at the table.

The bride's perfume fills the surroundings.

Fragrance becomes another picture of delight and presence.

Cross References

John 12:3

Mary poured costly perfume upon Jesus' feet, and the fragrance filled the entire house.

Mark 14:3

While Jesus was eating, a woman came with a jar of extremely expensive perfume, broke the container, and poured the perfume upon His head.

Psalms 23:5

You prepare a table for me even in the presence of my enemies. You honor me with oil, and my cup overflows.

Spiritual Principle

Love creates an atmosphere others can often sense.

XIII. HER BELOVED IS PRECIOUS TO HER

Song of Solomon 1:13 — A Sachet of Myrrh

“My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh that lies between my breasts.”

Myrrh was:

Fragrant.

Precious.

Valuable.

The bride compares her beloved with something kept close.

This expresses intimacy and cherished affection.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:6

The groom speaks of going to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of fragrant spices.

Exodus 30:23

The Lord instructed Moses to use costly spices, including pure myrrh, in preparing the sacred anointing oil.

Matthew 2:11

The wise men entered the house, saw the young Jesus with Mary His mother, bowed down in worship, and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Spiritual Principle

Love treasures the beloved rather than treating that person as ordinary or disposable.

XIV. LOVE IS LIKE BLOSSOMS IN THE DESERT

Song of Solomon 1:14 — Henna Blossoms of En Gedi

“My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En Gedi.”

En Gedi was known as an oasis.

In the middle of a harsh landscape were:

Water.

Vegetation.

Beauty.

Refreshment.

The bride pictures her beloved as something refreshing and beautiful.

Cross References

1 Samuel 24:1

David went into the wilderness strongholds near En Gedi while Saul continued searching for him.

Song of Solomon 7:12

The lovers speak of going early to the vineyards to see whether the vines have budded, the blossoms have opened, and the fruit has begun to appear.

Numbers 13:23

The Israelite spies cut down a branch containing an enormous cluster of grapes and carried it between two men, along with other fruit from the land.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love should bring refreshment rather than constant exhaustion.

XV. THE GROOM DELIGHTS IN HIS BRIDE

Song of Solomon 1:15 — “You Are Beautiful”

“Behold, you are beautiful, my darling; behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.”

The groom does not leave his admiration unspoken.

He says it plainly:

“You are beautiful.”

Twice.

Love affirms.

Love communicates.

The comparison with doves suggests:

Gentleness.

Purity.

Softness.

Beauty.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:1

The groom again praises his bride’s beauty and compares her eyes with doves.

Song of Solomon 1:16

The bride responds by calling her beloved handsome and pleasing, showing that admiration is mutual.

Matthew 3:16

After Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested upon Him.

Spiritual Principle

Affection should not merely be assumed.

It should be spoken.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never make the person you love guess whether you still appreciate them.

XVI. THE BRIDE PRAISES HER BELOVED

Song of Solomon 1:16 — Mutual Admiration

“Behold, you are handsome, my beloved, yes, pleasing! Our bed is verdant and fresh.”

The bride answers the groom's praise with praise of her own.

This relationship is not one-sided.

He admires her.

She admires him.

Their love is mutual.

The fresh greenery suggests:

Life.

Comfort.

Refreshment.

Beauty.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:15

The groom declares that his bride is beautiful and praises the gentleness and attractiveness of her eyes.

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride declares, "My beloved is mine, and I am his," expressing mutual commitment and belonging.

Psalms 23:2

The Lord allows me to rest in green pastures and leads me beside quiet, refreshing waters.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love gives as well as receives affection.

XVII. A HOUSE BUILT WITH STRENGTH

Song of Solomon 1:17 — Cedar Beams and Fir Rafters

"The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters are fir."

The chapter closes with the imagery of a strong and beautiful dwelling.

Cedar was valued for:

Strength.

Beauty.

Durability.

Fragrance.

The picture suggests a relationship with a place of:

Security.

Rest.

Belonging.

Cross References

1 Kings 6:9

Solomon completed the temple structure and covered it with beams and boards made from cedar.

Psalms 104:16

The trees of the Lord are well supplied with water, especially the great cedars of Lebanon that He planted.

1 Kings 7:2

Solomon built the House of the Forest of Lebanon using great rows of cedar pillars and cedar beams.

Spiritual Principle

Love should help create a place of security rather than instability.

XVIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 1

1. Love Is Worth Celebrating

The chapter does not apologize for love.

It celebrates it.

Principle:

Faithful love is one of God's beautiful gifts.

2. Character Matters in Attraction

The bride values his:

Name.

Reputation.

Presence.

Principle:

Appearance may attract attention, but character gives love something solid to honor.

3. Humility and Worth Can Exist Together

The bride acknowledges her imperfections.

Yet she also knows:

“I am lovely.”

Principle:

Humility does not require despising yourself.

4. Love Seeks Closeness

The bride wants to be where her beloved is.

Principle:

Love naturally seeks fellowship and presence.

5. Appreciation Should Be Spoken

The groom tells the bride:

“You are beautiful.”

The bride answers:

“You are handsome.”

Principle:

Unspoken appreciation helps less than expressed appreciation.

6. Love Should Be Mutual

Both people:

Admire.

Desire.

Value.

Praise.

Principle:

Healthy love is not one person constantly giving while the other merely receives.

7. Love Should Create Refreshment and Security

The chapter ends with imagery of:

Greenery.

Cedar.

A shared dwelling.

Principle:

Healthy love should help create a safe place for the heart.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

Love is presented as:

Delightful.

Personal.

Tender.

Mutual.

Expressive.

Love is more than a legal arrangement.

It involves the heart.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Commitment gives love stability.

Affection gives commitment warmth.

Healthy marriage needs both.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT ATTRACTION

The bride and groom are attracted to each other.

Scripture does not condemn appropriate romantic attraction.

Instead, it places that attraction within a relationship of:

Honor.

Admiration.

Commitment.

Spiritual Principle

Physical attraction is a gift, but it should never become the only foundation of love.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT BEAUTY

The bride worries about her outward appearance.

Yet the groom calls her:

Beautiful.

This reveals a contrast between:

How we sometimes see ourselves.

And:

How someone who truly loves us may see us.

Key Truth

Human beings often notice their flaws more quickly than those who love them do.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT WORDS

Words matter in relationships.

The groom says:

“You are beautiful.”

The bride says:

“You are handsome.”

Those words strengthen affection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not allow criticism to become more common in your relationship than appreciation.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT MUTUALITY

The bride desires the groom.

The groom values the bride.

The relationship contains reciprocity.

Healthy love does not say:

“What can I get?”

It also says:

“What can I give?”

Spiritual Principle

Love grows strongest when honor moves in both directions.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT HUMILITY

The bride is honest about herself.

She does not pretend to be flawless.

Yet she does not say:

“I have no value.”

Healthy humility avoids two extremes.

Pride says:

“I am better than everyone.”

Self-contempt says:

“I have no worth.”

Biblical humility says:

“I know who I am, and I receive my worth without pretending to be perfect.”

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT MARRIAGE

Although the Song celebrates courtship and romantic love, its principles contribute to strong marriage.

Marriage needs more than:

Bills.

Schedules.

Responsibilities.

Children.

Work.

It also needs:

Affection.

Praise.

Time together.

Admiration.

Delight.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A marriage should never become so practical that it forgets to remain personal.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Throughout Christian history, many believers have also seen spiritual echoes in Song of Solomon.

The loving bridegroom can remind us of Christ.

The longing bride can remind us of His people.

Scripture elsewhere explicitly describes Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His bride.

We should not erase the book's natural meaning as a celebration of human love.

But its language can legitimately remind Christians of:

Christ's faithfulness.

His delight in His people.

The believer's desire for closeness with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Human love at its best can point beyond itself toward the perfect faithfulness of God.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why is the book called the "Song of Songs"?

It identifies the song as exceptional—the finest or greatest among songs.

Question 2

What does the bride mean when she says his love is better than wine?

She means his affection brings greater delight and value to her than temporary pleasures.

Question 3

Why is the groom's name compared with perfume?

His name represents his reputation and character.

His character is pleasant and desirable.

Question 4

What does "dark but lovely" teach?

The bride recognizes the effects of outdoor labor on her appearance but does not conclude that she has no beauty or value.

Question 5

What happened to the bride in verse 6?

Her brothers made her work in the vineyards, and while fulfilling those responsibilities she neglected her own vineyard.

Question 6

Why does the bride search for her beloved?

Because love desires presence and fellowship.

She wants to know where he can be found.

Question 7

What does the comparison with Pharaoh's mare mean?

In its ancient setting, it communicated beauty, distinction, strength, and attractiveness.

Question 8

Why are jewels mentioned?

They symbolize beauty, value, and honor.

Question 9

Why are fragrances used repeatedly?

Fragrance communicates:

Pleasure.

Attraction.

Presence.

Delight.

Question 10

Why does the groom tell the bride she is beautiful?

Expressed admiration strengthens love and reassures the beloved.

Question 11

Is the admiration one-sided?

No.

The bride also calls the groom handsome and pleasing.

Their admiration is mutual.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 1 teach us about relationships?

It should teach us to value:

Faithful love.

Character.

Mutual admiration.

Closeness.

Encouragement.

Expressed affection.

Security.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 1 asks several searching questions.

Do I Express Appreciation?

Do the people I love actually hear what I value about them?

Do I Value Character?

Am I looking beyond outward appearance?

Am I Neglecting My Own “Vineyard”?

Have responsibilities for everyone else caused me to ignore areas of my own life that need care?

Am I Building Closeness?

Or have busyness and distraction created unnecessary distance?

Are My Words Building the Relationship?

Is appreciation spoken more often than criticism?

Do I Make the Person I Love Feel Valued?

Or merely assume they already know?

Is My Love Mutual?

Am I receiving constantly without giving honor, affection, and encouragement in return?

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Never Let Appreciation Become Silent”

Many relationships do not lack love.

They lack:

Expressed love.

A husband may think:

“She knows I love her.”

A wife may think:

“He knows I appreciate him.”

But Song of Solomon shows something important.

The bride and groom speak.

They say:

“You are beautiful.”

“You are handsome.”

“You are pleasing.”

Principle:

Love should not merely be felt internally; it should be expressed faithfully.

XXX. THE VINEYARD YOU MUST NOT NEGLECT

The bride says:

“My own vineyard I have not kept.”

That statement deserves reflection.

People can spend their lives caring for:

Work.

Family.

Ministry.

Responsibilities.

Everyone else's problems.

And neglect:

Their own spiritual life.

Their marriage.

Their emotional health.

Their relationship with God.

Their own responsibilities.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Serving others is good.

Neglecting everything God entrusted directly to you is not.

XXXI. THE POWER OF A GOOD NAME

The bride says:

“Your name is like perfume poured out.”

A person's name eventually becomes associated with:

Character.

Integrity.

Faithfulness.

Kindness.

Or the lack of those things.

A good reputation takes time to build.

Spiritual Principle

Build the kind of name that brings a pleasant memory when people hear it.

XXXII. LOVE THAT REFRESHES

The imagery throughout the chapter is refreshing.

Perfume.

Wine.

Myrrh.

Flowers.

Green places.

Cedar.

The language communicates that healthy love should bring:

Encouragement.

Rest.

Delight.

Security.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love should not continually make the beloved feel smaller, weaker, and more afraid.

Healthy love strengthens.

XXXIII. LOVE AND THE SHEPHERD IMAGE

The bride searches for the one she loves among the flocks.

The language of shepherding naturally brings to mind biblical themes of:

Guidance.

Protection.

Care.

Faithfulness.

Jesus later declares:

“I am the Good Shepherd.”

Human love is imperfect.

Christ's shepherding love is perfect.

Spiritual Principle

The safest love is always love shaped by the character of God.

XXXIV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 1 introduces us to love that is:

Joyful.

Affectionate.

Expressive.

Mutual.

The bride desires her beloved.

The groom sees beauty in his bride.

They speak words of admiration.

They do not hide every emotion behind silence.

This chapter challenges relationships that have become:

Cold.

Mechanical.

Critical.

Distant.

Love needs more than commitment.

Commitment is essential.

But healthy commitment should produce:

Attention.

Affection.

Encouragement.

Admiration.

Do not stop noticing the person you love.

Do not allow familiarity to erase gratitude.

Do not let years together turn:

“You are beautiful”

into silence.

Do not let:

“You are handsome”

disappear beneath daily responsibilities.

Remember the bride’s words:

“My own vineyard I have not kept.”

Do not become so occupied with everyone else that you neglect what God has entrusted personally to you.

Care for:

Your spiritual life.

Your marriage.

Your family.

Your character.

Your own vineyard.

And remember:

Beauty is deeper than appearance.

The bride sees her sun-darkened skin.

The groom sees:

Beauty.

Value.

Distinction.

Love sees differently.

Therefore:

Speak appreciation.

Build character.

Create closeness.

Guard affection.

Honor commitment.

See the person, not merely the responsibilities attached to the person.

Love is a gift from God.

Treat it like one.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love.

Thank You for creating human beings with the ability to:

Love.

Cherish.

Admire.

Encourage.

Delight in one another.

Teach us to love in ways that honor You.

Help husbands and wives never become careless with their affection.

Help them speak words that strengthen rather than destroy.

Give us eyes to notice what is good in the people we love.

Give us mouths willing to express appreciation.

Keep criticism from becoming louder than encouragement.

Father, help us value character more than outward appearance.

Give us good names.

Build in us:

Integrity.

Faithfulness.

Kindness.

Purity.

Truth.

Make our character like a pleasant fragrance to the people around us.

Help those who struggle with insecurity.

Remind them that human worth is deeper than outward appearance.

Protect us from judging people only by what the eye sees.

Father, show us where we have neglected our own vineyards.

If we have become so busy serving everyone else that we have neglected:

Our walk with You.

Our marriages.

Our families.

Our character.

Our responsibilities.

Give us wisdom to restore proper care.

Teach us to seek healthy closeness.

Protect relationships from unnecessary distance.

Help us make time for those we love.

Help us listen.

Help us speak.

Help us encourage.

Help us cherish.

Father, thank You for the example of mutual admiration in this chapter.

Teach us not merely to demand love.

Teach us to give it.

Not merely to seek praise.

Teach us to praise what is good.

Not merely to desire attention.

Teach us to give attention.

And above all, remind us of the perfect love You have shown us.

May every good human relationship become a reflection, however imperfect, of Your:

Faithfulness.

Kindness.

Purity.

Commitment.

Grace.

Let our love honor You.

Let our words build.

Let our relationships refresh.

And let our homes become places of security, affection, and faithfulness.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Behold, you are beautiful, my darling; behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.” — Song of Solomon 1:15

Central Truth

God-given love is beautiful, affectionate, joyful, and mutual, and it grows stronger when two people value character, seek closeness, speak appreciation, honor one another, and create a relationship marked by refreshment and security.

Song of Solomon 1 in One Sentence

The opening chapter celebrates the beauty of faithful romantic love as the bride and groom express desire, humility, admiration, delight, and mutual affection, showing that healthy love values both character and beauty and strengthens intimacy through spoken appreciation.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 2 — Love's Beauty and Invitation

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 2 continues the beautiful exchange between the bride and her beloved.

The chapter is filled with:

Affection.

Admiration.

Invitation.

Security.

Desire.

Renewal.

Protection.

Mutual devotion.

The bride compares herself to:

A rose of Sharon.

A lily of the valleys.

The groom responds by describing her as:

A lily among thorns.

The bride then describes her beloved as:

An apple tree among the forest trees.

She finds:

Shade.

Rest.

Refreshment.

Sweetness.

Security.

In his presence.

One of the most beautiful pictures in the chapter is found in verse 4:

“He brought me into the banquet hall, and his banner over me was love.”

Love is pictured as something:

Visible.

Protective.

Public.

Joyful.

The chapter also contains one of the most important principles about romantic love:

“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Love should not be forced.

It should not be manipulated.

It should not be rushed.

There is a proper time for affection and commitment.

The second half of the chapter changes seasons.

Winter passes.

Rain ends.

Flowers appear.

Birds sing.

The vines become fragrant.

The beloved calls:

“Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

The imagery communicates renewal.

A new season has arrived.

But even flourishing love must be protected.

The warning about the little foxes reminds us that small problems can damage a relationship if they are ignored.

The chapter ends with the bride's confident declaration:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

The central truth of Song of Solomon 2 is:

Faithful love brings delight, security, refreshment, patience, renewal, and mutual belonging, but it must be allowed to develop in its proper season and carefully protected from small things that can damage what is growing.

I. THE BRIDE DESCRIBES HERSELF AS A FLOWER

Song of Solomon 2:1 — A Rose of Sharon

“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”

The bride describes herself with simple natural beauty.

She does not compare herself to:

A palace.

A crown.

A jewel.

She compares herself to flowers.

The language communicates:

Beauty.

Delicacy.

Natural grace.

The exact flower translated “rose” may refer to a common flowering plant of the Sharon region.

The point is not extravagance.

It is beauty in its proper place.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:1

The wilderness and dry land will rejoice, and the desert will blossom beautifully like a flowering plant.

Song of Solomon 2:2

The groom responds by saying that his beloved is like a lily growing among thorns.

Hosea 14:5

God promises to refresh His people like dew, and they will blossom beautifully like a lily and become firmly rooted.

Spiritual Principle

True beauty does not need constant display in order to be beautiful.

Key Truth

God often places beauty in ordinary places.

II. THE GROOM SEES HIS BRIDE AS DISTINCT

Song of Solomon 2:2 — A Lily Among Thorns

“Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the young women.”

The groom takes the bride’s picture of herself and strengthens it.

She said:

“I am a lily.”

He says:

“You are a lily among thorns.”

To him, she stands apart.

The contrast communicates:

Distinctiveness.

Purity.

Beauty.

Value.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:1

The bride describes herself as a rose of Sharon and a lily growing in the valleys.

Matthew 13:22

Jesus explained that seed falling among thorns represents someone who hears the Word, but the worries of life and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word and keep it from becoming fruitful.

Song of Solomon 6:9

The groom declares that his beloved is unique and precious to him, standing apart from all others.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not merely say:

“You are attractive.”

Love says:

“You are uniquely precious to me.”

III. THE BRIDE FINDS SHADE AND SWEETNESS IN HER BELOVED

Song of Solomon 2:3 — The Apple Tree Among the Forest

“Like an apple tree among the forest trees, so is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.”

The bride responds with her own comparison.

Ordinary forest trees may provide wood.

But a fruit tree gives:

Shade.

Refreshment.

Food.

Sweetness.

She finds her beloved different from other men.

In his presence, she finds:

Rest.

Safety.

Pleasure.

Cross References

Psalms 91:1

The person who lives close to the Most High finds shelter and rests safely under the protection of the Almighty.

Hosea 14:8

God says that He is like a flourishing tree under whose care His people find protection, and all their true fruitfulness comes from Him.

Psalms 36:7

How precious is Your faithful love, God. People find refuge under the shadow of Your protecting wings.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love should provide both delight and a sense of safety.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A relationship should not merely be exciting.

It should also be a place where the heart can rest.

IV. HIS BANNER OVER HER IS LOVE

Song of Solomon 2:4 — Love Publicly Displayed

“He brought me into the banquet hall, and his banner over me was love.”

A banner identified:

Belonging.

Identity.

Allegiance.

Protection.

The bride describes love as something displayed over her.

She is not hidden away in shame.

She is openly cherished.

Cross References

Psalm 20:5

We will rejoice in the victory God gives and raise our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord answer your faithful prayers.

Isaiah 25:6

The Lord will prepare a rich feast for the peoples, a banquet of abundant provision prepared by His hand.

Revelation 19:9

The angel told John to write that those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are truly blessed.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love should not make someone uncertain about whether they are valued.

Key Truth

Love creates security when devotion is clear.

V. THE BRIDE IS OVERWHELMED WITH LOVE

Song of Solomon 2:5 — Weak with Love

“Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am weak with love.”

The bride uses strong poetic language to describe the intensity of her affection.

Love has overwhelmed her emotionally.

She asks for:

Strength.

Refreshment.

Support.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 5:8

The bride asks the daughters of Jerusalem to tell her beloved that she is overwhelmed by love for him.

Psalm 42:1

As a deer longs intensely for flowing streams of water, so my soul longs deeply for You, God.

Psalm 63:1

God, You are my God, and I seek You earnestly. My soul thirsts for You and my whole being longs for You like dry land longing for water.

Spiritual Principle

Love engages the emotions deeply.

VI. LOVE PROVIDES TENDER SECURITY

Song of Solomon 2:6 — His Arms Around Her

“His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me.”

The picture is gentle.

The bride is:

Supported.

Held.

Embraced.

It is a picture of tenderness and security.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 8:3

The bride repeats the picture of her beloved supporting her head with one hand while embracing her with the other.

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge, and beneath you are His everlasting arms. He drives away the enemy and gives His people security.

Psalm 139:5

You surround me from behind and before, and Your hand rests upon me.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy affection should communicate safety rather than fear.

VII. DO NOT AWAKEN LOVE BEFORE ITS TIME

Song of Solomon 2:7 — Love Has a Proper Season

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and the does of the field: Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

This principle appears repeatedly in Song of Solomon.

Love must not be forced.

Romantic desire is powerful.

Therefore, timing matters.

The verse warns against:

Manipulating affection.

Creating intimacy prematurely.

Rushing emotional commitment.

Forcing a relationship.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:5

The bride again warns the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir up or awaken romantic love before its proper time.

Song of Solomon 8:4

Later in the Song, the same warning appears again: do not awaken love before its proper season arrives.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is an appointed season for everything and a proper time for every purpose under heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Something good can still become harmful when forced outside its proper time.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love needs more than passion.

Love also needs patience.

VIII. THE BRIDE RECOGNIZES HER BELOVED'S VOICE

Song of Solomon 2:8 — “The Voice of My Beloved”

“The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping over the mountains, skipping over the hills.”

The bride immediately recognizes his voice.

His arrival creates excitement.

The language portrays:

Energy.

Eagerness.

Joy.

He is not reluctantly coming to her.

He is pictured as moving eagerly across the landscape.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace and salvation and declaring that God reigns.

Habakkuk 3:19

The Lord God is my strength. He makes my feet steady like those of a deer and enables me to move securely across difficult heights.

John 10:27

Jesus said, “My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Love learns to recognize the voice of the beloved.

IX. THE BELOVED APPEARS AT THE WINDOW

Song of Solomon 2:9 — Like a Gazelle or Young Stag

“My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, showing himself through the lattice.”

The groom is compared to an animal known for:

Grace.

Speed.

Energy.

He has arrived.

He stands near.

He looks through the opening.

The scene creates anticipation.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:17

The bride later asks her beloved to move with the speed and grace of a gazelle or young stag across the rugged mountains.

Psalms 42:1

As a deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs deeply for You, God.

Malachi 4:2

For those who fear God’s name, righteousness will rise like the healing warmth of the sun, and they will go out with renewed joy and strength.

Spiritual Principle

Love delights in presence and eagerly anticipates fellowship.

X. THE GROOM CALLS HIS BRIDE TO COME AWAY

Song of Solomon 2:10 — “Rise Up, My Love”

“My beloved spoke and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.’”

The groom invites her.

His words are:

Tender.

Personal.

Affectionate.

He calls her:

“My love.”

“My beautiful one.”

He invites rather than commands harshly.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:13

The groom repeats his invitation: “Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God, and those who died belonging to Christ will rise.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let everyone who hears also say, “Come.” Whoever is thirsty may come and freely receive the water of life.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love invites closeness without destroying freedom.

XI. WINTER HAS PASSED

Song of Solomon 2:11 — A New Season Begins

“For the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.”

Winter represents a season when:

Growth slows.

Cold dominates.

Movement becomes difficult.

But winter does not last forever.

The groom announces:

The season has changed.

Cross References

Isaiah 60:1

Rise and shine, because your light has come and the glory of the Lord is appearing over you.

Psalms 30:5

God’s anger lasts only for a moment, but His favor brings life. Weeping may remain through the night, but joy arrives with the morning.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who belongs to Christ is made new. The old life has passed away, and a new life has begun.

Spiritual Principle

Difficult seasons are real.

But they are not always permanent.

Key Truth

Winter has a season.

So does spring.

XII. THE FLOWERS AND SONGS OF SPRING RETURN

Song of Solomon 2:12 — The Time of Singing

“Flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the dove is heard in our land.”

The landscape changes.

Where winter brought silence and barrenness, spring brings:

Flowers.

Music.

Birdsong.

Life.

The imagery describes renewal.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:2

The wilderness will blossom abundantly and rejoice with singing and joy as God displays His glory and beauty.

Jeremiah 8:7

Even the birds understand their appointed seasons—the stork, dove, swift, and other birds recognize the times God has built into creation.

Psalms 96:11

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; let the sea and everything within it celebrate before the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

God built seasons of renewal into His creation.

XIII. THE FRUIT IS APPEARING

Song of Solomon 2:13 — “Come Away”

“The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines give off their fragrance. Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

Spring is not merely producing flowers.

Fruit is beginning to appear.

The vines are becoming fragrant.

The relationship is moving into another season.

The invitation is repeated.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:10

The groom first calls, “Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

Matthew 24:32

Jesus said to learn from the fig tree: when its branches become tender and leaves appear, you know that summer is near.

Habakkuk 3:17

Even if the fig tree does not blossom, fruit does not appear on the vines, crops fail, and flocks disappear, faith can still remain anchored in God.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love recognizes when a relationship is ready to move forward in its proper season.

XIV. THE GROOM WANTS TO SEE AND HEAR HIS BRIDE

Song of Solomon 2:14 — “Let Me See Your Face”

“O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the hidden places of the cliffs, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”

The groom desires:

Her presence.

Her face.

Her voice.

She is pictured as somewhat hidden.

He invites her out.

This communicates the importance of openness in love.

Cross References

Exodus 33:22

God told Moses that He would place him in a safe opening in the rock and cover him with His hand while His glory passed by.

Psalms 27:8

My heart hears You saying, “Seek My face,” and my response is, “Lord, I will seek Your face.”

Song of Solomon 5:2

The bride later hears her beloved knocking and calling to her with affectionate words, asking her to open to him.

Spiritual Principle

Love desires communication, not continual hiding.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Closeness requires both presence and honest communication.

XV. CATCH THE LITTLE FOXES

Song of Solomon 2:15 — Protect the Vineyard

“Catch the foxes for us—the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, for our vineyards are in bloom.”

This is one of the most practical relationship pictures in the Song.

The vineyard is flourishing.

That makes protection important.

The danger is not described as:

A great army.

A devastating storm.

A huge animal.

It is:

Little foxes.

Small problems can cause significant damage.

In relationships, “little foxes” may include:

Unresolved resentment.

Neglect.

Dishonesty.

Careless words.

Jealousy.

Pride.

Unforgiveness.

Lack of communication.

Small compromises.

Cross References

Judges 15:4

Samson captured foxes, tied them together with torches, and used them to destroy the Philistines’ crops and vineyards.

Ezekiel 13:4

God compared Israel’s false prophets to destructive animals moving through ruined places rather than repairing what had been broken.

Song of Solomon 7:12

The lovers later speak about going to the vineyards to see whether the vines have budded, blossoms have opened, and fruit has begun forming.

Spiritual Principle

Small problems become large problems when they are allowed to remain.

Key Truth

Protect love before damage becomes obvious.

XVI. “MY BELOVED IS MINE, AND I AM HIS”

Song of Solomon 2:16 — Mutual Belonging

“My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.”

This is one of the great declarations of mutual devotion in Song of Solomon.

The bride does not say only:

“He is mine.”

She also says:

“I am his.”

Healthy love is mutual.

It involves:

Belonging.

Commitment.

Security.

Faithfulness.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 6:3

The bride later declares again, “I belong to my beloved, and my beloved belongs to me.”

Song of Solomon 7:10

The bride says, “I belong to my beloved, and his desire is directed toward me.”

Jeremiah 31:33

God says that He will place His law within His people and write it upon their hearts. He will be their God, and they will belong to Him as His people.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love produces security rather than constant uncertainty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mutual commitment says:

“I choose you, and I give myself faithfully to you.”

XVII. UNTIL THE SHADOWS FLEE

Song of Solomon 2:17 — Longing for Continued Fellowship

“Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the rugged mountains.”

The bride ends the chapter with longing.

She desires continued fellowship with her beloved.

The language of:

Daybreak.

Shadows fleeing.

Mountains.

Gazelles.

Creates movement and anticipation.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:6

The groom speaks of waiting until the day begins to brighten and the shadows disappear.

Song of Solomon 2:9

The bride compares her beloved to a gazelle or a young stag, full of energy and grace.

2 Peter 1:19

God’s prophetic Word is like a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Spiritual Principle

Love longs for darkness and separation to give way to light and presence.

XVIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 2

1. Love Recognizes Unique Value

The groom sees the bride as:

A lily among thorns.

Principle:

Faithful love makes the beloved feel uniquely valued, not easily replaceable.

2. Love Provides Shelter and Refreshment

The bride rests beneath the shade of her beloved.

Principle:

Healthy love should be a place of refreshment rather than constant anxiety.

3. Love Must Not Be Forced

The bride warns:

Do not awaken love prematurely.

Principle:

Right feelings still require right timing.

4. Love Has Seasons

Winter passes.

Spring arrives.

Flowers appear.

Principle:

Relationships move through seasons, and wisdom recognizes them.

5. Love Requires Communication

The groom says:

“Let me see your face.”

“Let me hear your voice.”

Principle:

Intimacy cannot grow where communication disappears.

6. Love Must Be Protected

The little foxes can ruin the vineyard.

Principle:

Small unresolved problems can destroy something beautiful if neglected.

7. Love Produces Mutual Security

The bride says:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Principle:

Faithful commitment creates security through mutual devotion.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

Love is:

Beautiful.

Protective.

Patient.

Expressive.

Refreshing.

Love does not merely seek emotion.

It builds relationship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Strong love combines affection with wisdom.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT TIMING

One of the chapter's clearest teachings is:

“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Timing matters.

A relationship can be harmed when emotional or physical intimacy is pushed faster than:

Character.

Commitment.

Trust.

Wisdom.

Are ready to support.

Spiritual Principle

Never force tomorrow's intimacy into today's relationship.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT SECURITY

The bride sits in his shade.

He embraces her.

His banner over her is love.

She says:

“My beloved is mine.”

All these pictures communicate:

Security.

Key Truth

Healthy love should decrease unnecessary insecurity rather than continually create it.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT RENEWAL

Winter is real.

But winter ends.

Relationships may experience:

Stress.

Weariness.

Distance.

Difficulty.

But renewal is possible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not assume one difficult season defines the whole relationship.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

The groom wants:

Her face.

Her voice.

Healthy love requires more than physical presence.

People can live in the same house and stop truly communicating.

Spiritual Principle

A relationship becomes stronger when two people can safely be:

Seen.

Heard.

Known.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT SMALL PROBLEMS

The most famous warning in the chapter is about:

Little foxes.

The vineyard is already blooming.

That means there is something valuable to protect.

Small issues may include:

Sarcasm.

Neglect.

Secrets.

Resentment.

Distraction.

Lack of affection.

Poor communication.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Deal with small cracks before they become large breaks.

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT MUTUAL DEVOTION

The bride declares:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Love is not possession in the selfish sense.

It is covenant-like mutual devotion.

It says:

“I belong faithfully with you.”

“You are not alone.”

“I am committed.”

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love creates belonging without destroying individuality.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Many Christians have historically seen spiritual echoes in this chapter.

The bridegroom’s invitation:

“Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

Can remind believers of Christ’s gracious call.

His people recognize His voice.

He invites fellowship.

He gives shelter.

He brings His people under the banner of love.

But the primary setting remains the celebration of faithful human love.

Spiritual Principle

The best human love reflects qualities that are perfectly present in Christ:

Faithfulness.

Tenderness.

Invitation.

Security.

Care.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does the rose of Sharon represent?

It is poetic language describing the bride's natural beauty.

Question 2

Why does the groom call her a lily among thorns?

He sees her as uniquely beautiful and distinct among others.

Question 3

What does the apple tree picture teach?

The bride finds:

Shelter.

Refreshment.

Pleasure.

In the presence of her beloved.

Question 4

What does "his banner over me was love" communicate?

It communicates clear, visible, protective devotion.

Question 5

Why does the bride say she is weak with love?

She is expressing the intense emotional effect of her affection.

Question 6

What is the meaning of the warning not to awaken love?

Romantic affection should not be forced, manipulated, or rushed before the proper time.

Question 7

What does the arrival of spring represent?

It pictures:

Renewal.

Opportunity.

A changing season.

The beginning of fresh growth.

Question 8

Why does the groom want to see her face and hear her voice?

Because love desires:

Presence.

Communication.

Openness.

Closeness.

Question 9

What do the little foxes represent?

They picture small threats that can damage something valuable if ignored.

Question 10

How should “little foxes” be dealt with?

Early.

Honestly.

Carefully.

Before the damage becomes greater.

Question 11

What does “my beloved is mine, and I am his” teach?

It expresses mutual devotion, commitment, security, and belonging.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 2 change about relationships?

It should teach us to:

Value the beloved.

Provide safety.

Respect timing.

Communicate openly.

Protect the relationship.

Welcome renewal.

Build mutual security.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 2 asks several searching questions.

Does My Love Provide Shade?

Do the people closest to me feel safe resting around me?

Is My Banner Clearly Love?

Do people I love know that I love them?

Or do I keep them guessing?

Am I Rushing Something God Has Not Yet Brought to Its Proper Season?

Can I wait?

Am I Recognizing the Season I Am In?

Is it:

Winter?

Spring?

Growth?

Waiting?

Healing?

Am I Communicating?

Can the person I love truly hear my heart?

What Little Foxes Need to Be Caught?

Is there:

Resentment?

Neglect?

Dishonesty?

Pride?

Jealousy?

Poor communication?

That needs attention?

Am I Building Security?

Does my commitment communicate:

“You are valued.”

“You are loved.”

“You are not disposable.”

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Catch the Little Foxes Before They Become Big Problems”

Most relationships are not destroyed in one moment.

Often damage begins through:

Small neglect.

Small compromises.

Small resentments.

Small lies.

Small distances.

Small wounds.

Ignored long enough, they grow.

Principle:

Problems are easiest to repair while they are still small.

XXX. DO NOT AWAKEN LOVE BEFORE ITS TIME

Song of Solomon repeats this warning because it matters.

Romantic love is powerful.

Therefore it should be handled with:

Wisdom.

Purity.

Patience.

Discernment.

Love cannot be manufactured.

True intimacy cannot be rushed safely.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's timing protects what impatience can damage.

XXXI. LOVE THROUGH THE SEASONS

Every lasting relationship experiences seasons.

There are seasons of:

Excitement.

Growth.

Waiting.

Work.

Stress.

Renewal.

Song of Solomon 2 says:

Winter passes.

Flowers return.

Spiritual Principle

Never assume a difficult season means love has reached its final season.

XXXII. THE BANNER OF LOVE

The bride says:

“His banner over me was love.”

This communicates something powerful.

She knows where she stands.

She is not wondering:

“Does he care?”

“Am I valued?”

“Am I wanted?”

His love is clear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Healthy love should not use uncertainty as a tool of control.

XXXIII. LET ME SEE YOUR FACE AND HEAR YOUR VOICE

These words emphasize communication.

Strong relationships require more than:

Living together.

Working together.

Paying bills together.

They require:

Conversation.

Attention.

Listening.

Presence.

Spiritual Principle

Never become so familiar with someone that you stop being curious about their heart.

XXXIV. MY BELOVED IS MINE, AND I AM HIS

This is the heart of mutual commitment.

Love is not merely:

“I want you.”

It is also:

“I give myself faithfully to you.”

Healthy love contains:

Desire.

Devotion.

Responsibility.

Faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest relationships are not built only on attraction but on mutual belonging and faithful commitment.

XXXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 2 is a chapter about love in bloom.

It gives us pictures of:

Flowers.

Fruit.

Shade.

Banquets.

Banners.

Spring.

Birdsong.

Vineyards.

The imagery is beautiful because faithful love should contain beauty.

But the chapter also teaches wisdom.

Love needs:

Timing.

Protection.

Communication.

Commitment.

The bride is delighted by her beloved.

He provides shade.

She feels safe.

His banner is love.

That should challenge any relationship built primarily on:

Fear.

Manipulation.

Confusion.

Control.

Healthy love should communicate:

“You are safe with me.”

“You are valued by me.”

“I want to hear your voice.”

“I want to see your face.”

But love cannot be rushed.

The bride gives the warning:

“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Wait for the right season.

Winter has its time.

Spring has its time.

Love has its time.

And once the vineyard begins blooming:

Protect it.

Catch the little foxes.

Do not ignore:

Small resentments.

Small hurts.

Small secrets.

Small compromises.

Small distances.

Deal with them while they are small.

Finally, build the kind of relationship that can say:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Not with selfish possession.

But with:

Faithful devotion.

Security.

Commitment.

Mutual love.

Therefore:

Love patiently.

Speak clearly.

Listen carefully.

Protect diligently.

Forgive quickly.

Respect timing.

Welcome renewal.

And never allow small problems to destroy something God intended to become beautiful.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faithful love.

Thank You for creating relationships that can bring:

Joy.

Comfort.

Refreshment.

Companionship.

Security.

Teach us to love wisely.

Help us make the people we love feel valued and secure.

May our love provide shade rather than fear.

May our words provide encouragement rather than continual criticism.

May our presence bring peace rather than anxiety.

Father, teach us patience.

Protect us from trying to force relationships ahead of their proper season.

Give us wisdom to understand timing.

Give us patience to wait.

Give us purity in our desires.

Give us self-control.

Help us trust Your timing.

Thank You that winters do not last forever.

When relationships pass through difficult seasons, give us hope.

Bring renewal where renewal is needed.

Bring healing where wounds remain.

Bring communication where silence has grown.

Bring tenderness where hearts have hardened.

Father, help us catch the little foxes.

Show us the small issues we have ignored.

Reveal:

Resentment.

Bitterness.

Pride.

Jealousy.

Dishonesty.

Neglect.

Careless speech.

Unforgiveness.

Help us deal with them before they cause greater damage.

Teach us to communicate openly.

Help us see the faces of those we love.

Help us listen to their voices.

Do not allow busyness to replace intimacy.

Do not allow familiarity to produce neglect.

Father, build relationships marked by mutual devotion.

Help husbands and wives be able to say with confidence:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Protect commitments.

Strengthen marriages.

Restore affection.

Renew friendship.

And above all, help every form of faithful human love reflect Your own:

Faithfulness.

Purity.

Kindness.

Patience.

Grace.

May our love honor You.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

Key Verse

**“My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.” — Song of Solomon
2:16**

Central Truth

Faithful love brings shelter, delight, renewal, communication, and security, but it must be allowed to grow in its proper season and carefully protected from the small problems that can damage a flourishing relationship.

Song of Solomon 2 in One Sentence

The bride and groom celebrate a love that provides beauty, shelter, invitation, renewal, and mutual belonging while teaching that love must not be rushed, must be carefully protected, and must grow through communication, patience, and faithful devotion.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 3 — The Bride Finds Her Beloved

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 3 moves from longing to finding, and from private affection to public celebration.

The chapter begins at night.

The bride is alone.

She longs for the one her soul loves.

She searches.

At first:

She does not find him.

But she does not give up.

She rises.

She goes through the city.

She asks the watchmen.

She continues searching.

Then:

She finds him.

And once she does, she says:

“I held him and would not let him go.”

This opening section teaches an important truth about love:

What we truly value, we seek.

The bride does not remain passive.

She acts.

She searches.

She perseveres.

The chapter then repeats the warning heard earlier:

“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Love is powerful, but timing matters.

The second half of the chapter shifts dramatically.

A royal procession appears.

Solomon comes in splendor.

There is:

Perfume.

Smoke.

Warriors.

Swords.

Cedar.

Silver.

Gold.

Purple.

A royal carriage.

And finally:

A wedding crown.

The chapter ends not with searching, but with rejoicing.

The one who was sought is now seen in royal glory.

The private longing of love becomes the public joy of marriage.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 3 is:

Faithful love seeks, perseveres, values presence, respects proper timing, and ultimately rejoices in the beauty, security, and public celebration of committed love.

I. THE BRIDE SEARCHES IN THE NIGHT

Song of Solomon 3:1 — Looking for the One Her Soul Loves

“At night on my bed I looked for the one my soul loves; I looked for him, but I did not find him.”

The chapter begins with longing.

Night can intensify loneliness.

The bride is lying on her bed, yet her heart is restless.

She wants the presence of the one she loves.

She searches mentally and emotionally before she ever rises physically.

The phrase:

“the one my soul loves”

shows that this is deeper than passing attraction.

This is affectionate devotion.

Cross References

Psalm 63:1

God, You are my God, and I seek You earnestly. My soul thirsts for You and my whole being longs for You like dry, weary land where there is no water.

Isaiah 26:9

My soul longs for You during the night, and my spirit within me seeks You early and earnestly.

Song of Solomon 5:6

Later, the bride opens to her beloved, but he has gone. Her heart sinks, and she searches for him but does not find him.

Spiritual Principle

Love feels the absence of the beloved because presence matters.

Key Truth

What the heart deeply loves, the heart deeply misses.

II. THE BRIDE GETS UP AND SEARCHES

Song of Solomon 3:2 — Love Refuses to Remain Passive

“So I will get up now and go about the city, through the streets and the squares; I will look for the one my soul loves. I looked for him, but I did not find him.”

The bride moves from:

Longing.

To:

Action.

She gets up.

She searches the streets.

She checks the squares.

She does not find him immediately.

But she keeps looking.

Cross References

Proverbs 8:17

Wisdom says, “I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.”

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Song of Solomon 3:4

After continuing past the watchmen, the bride finally finds the one her soul loves and refuses to let him go.

Spiritual Principle

Value is often revealed by effort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

We make time and effort for what we truly believe matters.

III. THE WATCHMEN FIND HER

Song of Solomon 3:3 — Asking for Help

“The watchmen found me as they patrolled the city. I asked them, ‘Have you seen the one my soul loves?’”

The bride encounters the city watchmen.

They were responsible for guarding and observing the city.

She asks them directly.

She is not embarrassed by her search.

Her question is simple:

Have you seen him?

Cross References

Song of Solomon 5:7

Later, the watchmen find the bride while she searches again, though that encounter becomes painful rather than helpful.

Isaiah 62:6

God says He has stationed watchmen upon Jerusalem’s walls who will continually call attention to the city and refuse to remain silent.

Ezekiel 3:17

God tells Ezekiel that He has appointed him as a watchman for Israel, responsible to hear God’s warning and faithfully deliver it.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes the search for what matters requires asking others for help.

IV. SHE FINDS THE ONE SHE LOVES

Song of Solomon 3:4 — “I Would Not Let Him Go”

“Hardly had I passed by them, when I found the one my soul loves. I held him and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother’s house, into the room of her who conceived me.”

The search finally ends.

She finds him.

And her response is immediate:

She holds him.

She does not want separation again.

The language communicates:

Relief.

Affection.

Security.

Attachment.

Bringing him to her mother's house suggests seriousness and belonging rather than casual secrecy.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 8:2

The bride later says she would lead her beloved and bring him into her mother's house, where she could share love and hospitality with him.

Ruth 1:16

Ruth told Naomi, "Do not urge me to leave you. Where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."

John 20:16

Jesus called Mary by name, and she immediately recognized Him and responded personally to Him.

Spiritual Principle

Finding what is truly precious produces a desire to hold it carefully.

Key Truth

Faithful love does not treat the beloved as disposable.

V. DO NOT AWAKEN LOVE BEFORE ITS TIME

Song of Solomon 3:5 — The Repeated Charge

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

This warning appears again because it is important.

Romantic love is powerful.

It should not be:

Forced.

Manipulated.

Rushed.

Awakened carelessly.

The bride has just described intense longing and reunion.

Yet immediately afterward she gives a warning about timing.

That balance matters.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:7

The bride previously gave the same warning: do not stir up or awaken love before its proper time.

Song of Solomon 8:4

Near the end of the Song, the warning appears again, showing that patience in love is a repeated theme.

Habakkuk 2:20

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth become quiet and reverent before Him.

Spiritual Principle

Powerful emotion still needs wise restraint.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Intensity is not the same as maturity.

VI. A ROYAL PROCESSION APPEARS

Song of Solomon 3:6 — Coming from the Wilderness

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of the merchant?”

The scene changes dramatically.

A royal procession appears from the wilderness.

The imagery includes:

Smoke.

Perfume.

Myrrh.

Frankincense.

Expensive spices.

The procession is impressive enough that people ask:

Who is this?

Cross References

Song of Solomon 8:5

Later, another figure is described as coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon the beloved.

Exodus 13:21

The Lord went before Israel by day in a pillar of cloud to guide them and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.

Revelation 19:7

Heaven rejoices because the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has prepared herself.

Spiritual Principle

Committed love eventually moves from private affection toward public recognition.

VII. SOLOMON'S CARRIAGE IS GUARDED

Song of Solomon 3:7 — Sixty Mighty Men

“Look! It is Solomon’s carriage, escorted by sixty mighty men, the best warriors of Israel.”

The procession is not only beautiful.

It is protected.

Sixty skilled warriors surround Solomon’s carriage.

The image communicates:

Honor.

Strength.

Security.

Importance.

Cross References

1 Kings 4:26

Solomon maintained a large number of stalls for his chariot horses and a substantial force associated with his royal transportation.

2 Samuel 23:8

David’s mighty men were known for exceptional courage, strength, and skill in battle.

Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Spiritual Principle

What is valuable deserves protection.

VIII. THE WARRIORS ARE PREPARED

Song of Solomon 3:8 — Ready for the Night

“All of them carry swords, skilled in battle, each with his sword at his side, ready for the terrors of the night.”

These guards are not decorative.

They are prepared.

They have:

Weapons.

Training.

Experience.

Readiness.

Their purpose is protection.

Cross References

Nehemiah 4:18

Those rebuilding Jerusalem worked while carrying their weapons, and the man sounding the trumpet remained near Nehemiah.

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Psalms 91:5

You do not need to live in terror of dangers that come during the night or of attacks that arise during the day.

Spiritual Principle

Protection requires preparation before danger appears.

IX. THE KING BUILDS A ROYAL CARRIAGE

Song of Solomon 3:9 — Cedar from Lebanon

“King Solomon made a carriage for himself from the wood of Lebanon.”

Lebanon was famous for its cedar.

Cedar represented:

Strength.

Beauty.

Durability.

Royal quality.

The carriage matches the significance of the occasion.

Cross References

1 Kings 10:18

Solomon made a magnificent throne and covered it with valuable materials suitable for royal use.

1 Kings 7:2

Solomon built the House of the Forest of Lebanon using rows of cedar pillars and beams.

Isaiah 60:13

The glory of Lebanon—its cypress, pine, and other beautiful trees—would come to beautify the place associated with God’s glory.

Spiritual Principle

Preparation for an important commitment should reflect the value placed upon it.

X. THE CARRIAGE IS BEAUTIFULLY PREPARED

Song of Solomon 3:10 — Silver, Gold, and Purple

“He made its posts of silver, its base of gold, its seat upholstered with purple. Its interior was lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem.”

The royal carriage is carefully decorated.

Silver.

Gold.

Purple.

Love.

Every detail communicates honor.

The phrase about loving inlay shows that the preparation is not merely expensive.

It is personal.

Cross References

Esther 1:6

The royal setting in Persia was decorated with fine fabrics and expensive materials, including silver, marble, and rich colors suitable for a king's court.

Psalms 45:13

The royal bride is pictured with glorious beauty and richly prepared garments.

Revelation 21:21

The gates of the heavenly city are described as pearls, and the street of the city as pure gold, shining with extraordinary splendor.

Spiritual Principle

Love pays attention to details because details often communicate value.

XI. THE DAY OF THE KING'S WEDDING

Song of Solomon 3:11 — The Day His Heart Rejoiced

“Come out, daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon, wearing the crown his mother gave him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.”

The chapter reaches its climax.

This is:

A wedding day.

A day of covenant.

A day of public celebration.

A day of joy.

Solomon wears a special crown associated with the wedding.

The emphasis is not merely royal splendor.

It is:

“the day his heart rejoiced.”

Marriage is presented as a joyful covenant event.

Cross References

Isaiah 62:5

As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so God describes rejoicing over His people.

Revelation 19:7

Heaven rejoices because the marriage of the Lamb has arrived and His bride has made herself ready.

Psalms 45:11

The king delights in the bride's beauty, and she is called to honor him within the covenant relationship.

Spiritual Principle

Marriage should be entered as a joyful, serious, public commitment.

Key Truth

Biblical marriage joins love with covenant.

XII. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 3

1. Love Longs for Presence

The bride searches because separation matters to her.

Principle:

Love does not become indifferent to the beloved's presence.

2. What Is Valuable Is Worth Seeking

The bride does not stop after one failed attempt.

Principle:

Perseverance reveals value.

3. Love Needs Proper Timing

The warning about awakening love appears again.

Principle:

Strong feelings still need patient wisdom.

4. Love Deserves Protection

Solomon's procession is surrounded by prepared warriors.

Principle:

Important relationships should be guarded from avoidable threats.

5. Marriage Is Public Commitment

The procession and wedding crown make the union visible.

Principle:

Covenant love is more than private emotion.

6. Marriage Should Contain Joy

The wedding day is described as:

“the day his heart rejoiced.”

Principle:

Marriage joins seriousness with celebration.

XIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT SEEKING

The bride searches.

She does not say:

“If he really cares, he will do everything.”

She takes action.

Healthy relationships require effort from both people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love that refuses every effort often expects from others what it is unwilling to give.

XIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT PERSEVERANCE

The bride looks once.

No result.

She searches again.

Still no result.

She continues.

Then:

She finds him.

Spiritual Principle

Not finding an immediate answer does not always mean the search should end.

XV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT PRESENCE

The repeated phrase is:

“the one my soul loves.”

Her longing is not mainly for:

Gifts.

Status.

Possessions.

She wants:

Him.

Key Truth

Love values the person more than the benefits attached to the person.

XVI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT TIMING

Immediately after the joyful reunion comes the warning:

Do not awaken love prematurely.

Why?

Because desire can outrun wisdom.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The stronger the emotion, the more important self-control becomes.

XVII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT PROTECTION

Sixty warriors surround the carriage.

Every man is trained.

Every man is prepared.

Every sword is ready.

The image teaches us to guard what matters.

Relationships may need protection from:

Temptation.

Infidelity.

Neglect.

Outside interference.

Dishonesty.

Bitterness.

Carelessness.

Spiritual Principle

Do not wait until damage occurs before deciding your relationship is worth protecting.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT MARRIAGE

The chapter moves toward the wedding.

Marriage is not treated as:

A casual arrangement.

A temporary experiment.

A secret relationship.

It is celebrated publicly.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love becomes stronger when affection is joined with commitment.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 3 TEACHES ABOUT JOY

The final description is:

“the day his heart rejoiced.”

Marriage should involve responsibility.

But responsibility should not remove:

Delight.

Celebration.

Gladness.

Spiritual Principle

Commitment does not kill joy.

Proper commitment gives love a secure place in which joy can grow.

XX. THE BRIDE, THE KING, AND CHRIST-LIKE IMAGERY

The primary meaning of this chapter concerns the love story and wedding celebration within the Song.

Yet Christian readers have often seen echoes of greater biblical themes.

A royal bridegroom appears in splendor.

He comes with majesty.

A wedding is celebrated.

Scripture later presents Christ as:

King.

Bridegroom.

The Church as His bride.

The New Testament describes a future marriage supper of the Lamb.

These later biblical images can deepen Christian reflection on the Song without replacing its natural meaning.

Spiritual Principle

Earthly covenant love can remind us of the greater faithfulness of Christ toward His people.

XXI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does the bride search for her beloved at night?

Because she deeply longs for his presence and feels his absence.

Question 2

What does “the one my soul loves” mean?

It describes deep personal affection rather than temporary attraction.

Question 3

Why does she get up and go through the city?

Because what she values is worth effort.

She refuses to remain passive.

Question 4

What role do the watchmen play?

They represent people responsible for watching over the city, and the bride asks whether they have seen her beloved.

Question 5

What happens when she finally finds him?

She holds him and does not want to let him go.

Her response shows relief, devotion, and attachment.

Question 6

Why is the warning about awakening love repeated?

Because romantic love is powerful and should not be rushed or manipulated.

Question 7

What does the smoke and perfume of the procession communicate?

It communicates:

Splendor.

Royalty.

Beauty.

Celebration.

The importance of the occasion.

Question 8

Why are sixty warriors mentioned?

They communicate security and the importance of protecting the royal procession.

Question 9

What does the carriage symbolize?

It represents royal dignity, preparation, beauty, and the significance of the wedding event.

Question 10

Why are silver, gold, and purple used?

They are valuable royal materials that communicate honor and magnificence.

Question 11

What is important about the crown?

It is connected with Solomon's wedding day and marks the public celebration of the marriage.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 3 teach us about love?

It should teach us to:

Value presence.

Persevere in what matters.

Respect proper timing.

Protect relationships.

Honor commitment.

Celebrate marriage.

XXII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 3 asks several searching questions.

Do I Value Presence?

Do I make time for the person I claim to love?

Am I Willing to Seek Reconnection?

When distance develops, do I ignore it?

Or do I pursue restoration?

Do I Give Up Too Quickly?

Have I stopped making effort because one attempt failed?

Am I Respecting Proper Timing?

Are emotion and desire moving faster than wisdom?

Am I Protecting My Relationship?

What dangers have I allowed too close?

Do I Value Covenant?

Do I see marriage merely as romance, or as faithful commitment?

Is Joy Still Present?

Has responsibility completely crowded celebration out of the relationship?

XXIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“What You Truly Value, You Do Not Search for Casually”

The bride did not search halfheartedly.

She got up.

She went through:
The streets.
The squares.
She asked questions.
She kept searching.
Then she found him.

Principle:

Effort reveals value.

If a relationship matters:
Give it time.
Give it attention.
Give it honest communication.
Give it faithful effort.

XXIV. WHEN LOVE FEELS DISTANT

Every relationship may experience seasons when closeness seems reduced.

The bride's experience reminds us not to respond automatically with:

Pride.
Silence.
Indifference.

Instead, healthy love may require:

Searching.
Talking.
Listening.
Reconnecting.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Distance should become a reason for healthy pursuit, not an excuse for deeper neglect.

XXV. “I HELD HIM AND WOULD NOT LET HIM GO”

This line communicates the value of reunion.

There are moments when people rediscover:

Affection.

Closeness.

Trust.

Friendship.

Connection.

When those moments come:

Protect them.

Do not return immediately to the habits that created distance.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration should be followed by renewed care.

XXVI. GUARD LOVE FROM THE TERRORS OF THE NIGHT

The royal guards are ready for nighttime dangers.

Relationships also face dangers.

Some are obvious.

Others arrive quietly.

A wise couple does not live in paranoia.

But they do live with boundaries.

They protect:

Trust.

Fidelity.

Communication.

Privacy.

Commitment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Strong boundaries are not signs of weak love.

They are often signs that love is valuable enough to protect.

XXVII. MARRIAGE AS A DAY OF JOY

The chapter does not portray marriage as a burden to be endured.

It says:

“the day his heart rejoiced.”

That does not mean marriage will never require:

Work.

Sacrifice.

Patience.

Forgiveness.

But the covenant itself is celebrated.

Spiritual Principle

Marriage should contain both solemn commitment and genuine delight.

XXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 3 begins with absence.

It ends with celebration.

The bride begins alone.

She searches for:

The one her soul loves.

At first:

She does not find him.

Then:

She gets up.

She searches.

She asks.

She keeps moving.

Finally:

She finds him.

There is a lesson here for every important relationship.

Do not let distance become permanent merely because restoration requires effort.

If something valuable has grown distant:

Seek.

Talk.

Listen.

Reach out.

Make wise effort.

But also remember the repeated warning:

Do not force love.

Do not awaken intimacy before its proper season.

Love needs both:

Pursuit.

And:

Patience.

The second half of the chapter teaches another truth:

Love should move toward security and commitment.

Solomon's procession is:

Protected.

Prepared.

Beautiful.

Public.

The wedding crown marks a day of joy.

That is the direction of faithful love.

Not endless uncertainty.

Not endless secrecy.

Not endless manipulation.

But:

Clarity.

Security.

Commitment.

Covenant.

Joy.

Protect what matters.

Guard the relationship.

Prepare before trouble comes.

Do not wait until trust is broken before deciding trust was valuable.

And when God gives the blessing of committed love:

Rejoice in it.

The chapter moves from:

Searching in the night.

To:

A wedding day of joy.

That movement teaches us that faithful love is worth:

Seeking.

Waiting for.

Protecting.

Committing to.

Celebrating.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faithful love.

Teach us to value the people You place in our lives.

Help us not to become careless with relationships that matter.

When distance develops, give us wisdom.

Help us know when to:

Seek.

Speak.

Listen.

Apologize.

Forgive.

Reconnect.

Give us perseverance.

Keep us from abandoning what is valuable simply because restoration requires effort.

Father, also give us patience.

Help us respect the proper timing of love.

Protect us from rushing emotion ahead of wisdom.

Protect us from manipulation.

Protect us from impurity.

Protect us from trying to force what should grow naturally and faithfully.

Teach us self-control.

Father, help us protect our relationships.

Give us wisdom to recognize danger before damage occurs.

Guard marriages from:

Infidelity.

Dishonesty.

Bitterness.

Neglect.

Outside interference.

Careless speech.

Give couples strong and healthy boundaries.

Help them protect trust.

Help them protect intimacy.

Help them protect commitment.

Thank You for marriage.

Thank You for the joy of covenant love.

Help husbands and wives not merely remain together, but continue finding reasons to rejoice in one another.

Restore joy where routine has taken over.

Restore affection where distance has developed.

Restore communication where silence has grown.

And above all, remind us of Your faithful love.

Thank You that Christ is the perfect Bridegroom.

Thank You that His love is:

Faithful.

Pure.

Strong.

Unchanging.

May our earthly relationships reflect something of that faithfulness.

Teach us to seek what is worth seeking.

Wait for what is worth waiting for.

Protect what is worth protecting.

And celebrate what You have graciously given.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Hardly had I passed by them, when I found the one my soul loves. I held him and would not let him go.” — Song of Solomon 3:4

Central Truth

Faithful love values presence, perseveres through distance, respects proper timing, protects what is precious, and moves toward secure, public, joyful commitment.

Song of Solomon 3 in One Sentence

The bride searches persistently until she finds the one her soul loves, then the chapter moves into Solomon's magnificent wedding procession, showing that true love seeks faithfully, waits wisely, protects carefully, and rejoices openly in committed covenant love.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 4 — The Beauty of the Bride

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 4 is one of the most detailed expressions of admiration in the entire book.

The groom looks at his bride and sees beauty everywhere.

He notices:

Her eyes.

Her hair.

Her teeth.

Her lips.

Her cheeks.

Her neck.

Her form.

Her fragrance.

Her voice.

Her love.

Her purity.

Her presence.

The chapter shows that faithful love does not merely feel affection.

It expresses affection.

The groom speaks in detail because he wants his bride to know:

She is seen.

She is valued.

She is desired.

She is cherished.

This chapter also introduces one of the most important images in the Song:

The bride as a:

Locked garden.

Sealed spring.

Hidden fountain.

These images communicate:

Purity.

Exclusivity.

Protection.

Devotion.

The love relationship is not presented as public property.

It is private, guarded, and reserved within committed love.

The chapter ends with the bride inviting her beloved into the garden.

The movement is important.

First:

The groom admires.

Then:

He invites.

Then:

He delights in her love.

Then:

The bride responds.

The chapter therefore presents intimacy not as selfish taking, but as mutual affection, trust, delight, and willing devotion.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 4 is:

Faithful love notices, praises, protects, and delights in the beloved, while godly intimacy flourishes through purity, exclusivity, trust, mutual desire, and committed love.

I. THE GROOM DECLARES HER BEAUTIFUL

Song of Solomon 4:1 — “How Beautiful You Are”

“How beautiful you are, my love! How very beautiful! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil. Your hair falls like a flock of goats streaming down Mount Gilead.”

The groom begins with direct praise.

He does not make his bride guess what he thinks.

He says:

“How beautiful you are.”

Then he repeats it.

He notices her eyes.

He notices her hair.

The comparison with doves suggests:

Gentleness.

Softness.

Beauty.

The image of goats descending Mount Gilead pictures dark, flowing movement across the hillside.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:15

The groom had already told his beloved that she was beautiful and compared her eyes to doves.

Song of Solomon 6:5

Later, the groom again describes her eyes as overwhelming him and compares her hair to a flock descending from Gilead.

Ephesians 5:27

Christ's purpose for His people is that they stand before Him in spiritual beauty, without stain, wrinkle, or anything corrupt, but holy and blameless.

Spiritual Principle

Love notices beauty and speaks about it.

Key Truth

Appreciation strengthens affection when it is expressed sincerely.

II. THE GROOM NOTICES ORDER AND BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 4:2 — Teeth Like Freshly Washed Sheep

“Your teeth are like a flock of sheep, just shorn and freshly washed; each one has a twin, not one of them is missing.”

The comparison emphasizes:

Cleanliness.

Order.

Symmetry.

Completeness.

To modern readers, the imagery sounds unusual.

But to the ancient hearer, a clean, evenly matched flock communicated beauty and harmony.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 6:6

The groom later repeats the same image, comparing her teeth to a freshly washed flock in which everything is complete and well matched.

Genesis 1:28

God blessed the first man and woman and told them to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and exercise responsible stewardship over creation.

Psalms 113:9

God gives the barren woman a home and allows her to become the joyful mother of children. Praise the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Love often notices small details that others overlook.

III. HER SPEECH AND FACE ARE LOVELY

Song of Solomon 4:3 — Scarlet Lips and Pomegranate Cheeks

“Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks behind your veil are like a slice of pomegranate.”

Scarlet communicates vivid beauty.

The pomegranate image suggests:

Color.

Freshness.

Fullness.

The groom admires both:

Her appearance.

And:

Her mouth.

The mouth can also suggest speech.

Beauty in relationships should include not only what is seen, but what is spoken.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 6:7

The groom later again compares the bride’s cheeks behind her veil to the rich color of a pomegranate.

Joshua 2:18

Rahab was instructed to tie a scarlet cord in the window as a visible sign that would mark her household for protection.

Proverbs 31:26

The godly woman opens her mouth with wisdom, and faithful kindness guides what she says.

Spiritual Principle

Beautiful speech is part of beautiful character.

IV. HER NECK IS LIKE A STRONG TOWER

Song of Solomon 4:4 — Strength and Dignity

“Your neck is like the tower of David, built with rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all belonging to mighty warriors.”

The comparison emphasizes:

Strength.

Dignity.

Poise.

Honor.

The tower of David was associated with defense.

The shields communicate military strength.

The groom sees not fragility alone.

He sees strength.

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:19

A section of Jerusalem’s wall near the armory and the rising portion of the wall was repaired as part of the city’s defenses.

Psalms 144:2

The Lord is my faithful love, my fortress, my stronghold, my deliverer, my shield, and the One in whom I find safety.

Proverbs 1:9

Wise instruction will be like a graceful wreath for your head and a beautiful chain around your neck.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love admires strength as well as beauty.

V. THE GROOM PRAISES HER FEMININE BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 4:5 — Twin Fawns Among the Lilies

“Your two breasts are like twin fawns of a gazelle, grazing among the lilies.”

The language is intentionally romantic and intimate.

The comparison emphasizes:

Gentleness.

Symmetry.

Tender beauty.

The Song does not treat marital attraction as shameful.

Within faithful love, physical admiration is presented as appropriate.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 7:3

Later, the same image is repeated as the groom again admires the beauty of his bride.

Proverbs 5:19

Let your wife be a loving and graceful companion, and let her affection bring you continuing satisfaction and delight.

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride declares, “My beloved is mine, and I am his,” while using the imagery of lilies and shepherding.

Spiritual Principle

Within faithful committed love, physical attraction can be received as a gift rather than treated with shame.

VI. THE GROOM LONGS FOR CONTINUED INTIMACY

Song of Solomon 4:6 — Myrrh and Frankincense

“Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense.”

Myrrh and frankincense were associated with:

Fragrance.

Value.

Beauty.

The language is poetic and intimate.

The groom expresses continued desire for closeness with his bride.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:17

The bride previously spoke of the day breaking, the shadows fleeing, and her beloved moving like a gazelle across the mountains.

Matthew 2:11

The wise men entered the house, worshiped Jesus, and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

2 Peter 1:19

The prophetic Word shines like a lamp in a dark place until the day begins to dawn and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love desires continued closeness, not merely momentary excitement.

VII. HE SEES HER AS COMPLETELY BEAUTIFUL

Song of Solomon 4:7 — “There Is No Flaw in You”

“You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.”

The groom views his bride through the eyes of love.

This is poetic praise.

He sees her as:

Whole.

Beautiful.

Precious.

The statement reflects delight rather than clinical perfection.

Cross References

Ephesians 5:27

Christ is preparing His people to stand before Him in spiritual beauty, free from stain and corruption, holy and blameless.

Song of Solomon 1:15

The groom had already declared, “You are beautiful, my darling; truly beautiful.”

2 Corinthians 11:2

Paul says he is jealous for the believers with a godly concern because he desires to present them to Christ with pure and faithful devotion.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not spend all its energy searching for flaws.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A relationship cannot flourish if criticism becomes the main language spoken.

VIII. THE GROOM INVITES HIS BRIDE TO COME WITH HIM

Song of Solomon 4:8 — Leaving the Dangerous Mountains

“Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Look from the peaks of Amana, from the top of Senir and Hermon, from the lions’ dens and from the mountains of leopards.”

The groom calls:

“Come with me.”

The mountains sound beautiful but dangerous.

Lions.

Leopards.

Remote places.

His invitation is away from danger and toward shared life.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 3:9

The Sidonians called Mount Hermon by one name, while the Amorites called it Senir.

Psalms 133:3

God’s blessing is compared with the dew of Hermon falling upon the mountains of Zion, where the Lord commands blessing and life.

Song of Solomon 7:4

The groom later again uses elevated geographical imagery while praising the bride’s beauty.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not merely admire.

Love also invites companionship.

IX. THE BRIDE HAS CAPTURED HIS HEART

Song of Solomon 4:9 — One Glance

“You have captured my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with a single jewel of your necklace.”

The groom expresses powerful affection.

The phrase:

“my sister, my bride”

is an ancient affectionate expression emphasizing closeness and covenant intimacy.

One glance affects him deeply.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:10

He immediately continues by describing how delightful her love is to him.

Hosea 2:19

God says He will bind His people to Himself in an enduring covenant relationship marked by righteousness, justice, love, and compassion.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands are commanded to love their wives with the self-giving love Christ demonstrated toward the Church.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful marriage joins attraction with devoted commitment.

X. HER LOVE IS BETTER THAN WINE

Song of Solomon 4:10 — Delight in Her Love

“How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! Your love is better than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume is better than any spice.”

Earlier, the bride said:

His love was better than wine.

Now he says the same of hers.

This is mutual.

Both:

Love.

Admire.

Delight.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:2

The bride says that the beloved's love is sweeter and more delightful than wine.

Song of Solomon 4:9

The groom declares that his bride has captured his heart.

Proverbs 5:19

A husband is encouraged to delight continually in the affection and love of his wife.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love is not one person constantly pursuing while the other remains emotionally absent.

XI. HER WORDS ARE SWEET

Song of Solomon 4:11 — Honey and Milk

“Your lips, my bride, drip sweetness like the honeycomb; honey and milk are under your tongue, and the scent of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.”

The imagery communicates sweetness.

Her words are pleasant.

Her presence is fragrant.

Love should affect speech.

Affectionate relationships should not be dominated by:

Insults.

Sarcasm.

Humiliation.

Contempt.

Cross References

Psalms 19:10

God's truth is more desirable than gold and sweeter to the soul than honey dripping from the honeycomb.

Exodus 3:8

God promised to bring His people into a good and spacious land, described as flowing with milk and honey.

Psalms 119:103

God's words are sweeter to the believer than honey is to the mouth.

Spiritual Principle

Sweet words can nourish a relationship.

XII. THE BRIDE IS A LOCKED GARDEN

Song of Solomon 4:12 — Purity and Exclusivity

“My sister, my bride, is a locked garden, a sealed spring, a hidden fountain.”

This is one of the central images of the chapter.

The bride is pictured as:

A garden.

But not an open garden.

A locked garden.

A sealed spring.

A hidden fountain.

The image communicates:

Purity.

Privacy.

Exclusivity.

Protection.

She is not available indiscriminately.

Her love is reserved.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:15

The groom later describes her as a garden fountain and a well of living water.

Proverbs 5:15

A husband is told to receive marital affection from his own wife, pictured as drinking water from his own private well.

Isaiah 58:11

The Lord promises to guide His people continually and satisfy them even in dry places, making them like a watered garden and a spring whose waters do not fail.

Spiritual Principle

Purity protects intimacy.

Key Truth

What is sacred should not be treated as common.

XIII. THE GARDEN PRODUCES CHOICE FRUIT

Song of Solomon 4:13 — An Orchard of Pomegranates

“Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and spikenard.”

The bride is no longer pictured merely as beautiful.

She is fruitful.

Her garden produces:

Choice fruit.

Fragrance.

Beauty.

The image communicates abundance.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:14

The bride earlier compared her beloved to fragrant henna blossoms growing in the vineyards of En Gedi.

Numbers 13:23

The spies entered a fruitful valley and cut down a branch carrying an enormous cluster of grapes, along with pomegranates and figs.

Deuteronomy 8:8

The promised land is described as producing wheat, barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, olives, and honey.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love should produce good fruit in the lives of those involved.

XIV. THE GARDEN IS FILLED WITH FRAGRANCE

Song of Solomon 4:14 — The Finest Spices

“With saffron, calamus, and cinnamon, with all kinds of incense trees, with myrrh and aloes, and all the finest spices.”

The groom continues describing the garden.

The repeated emphasis is:

Fragrance.

Value.

Variety.

The bride is not described as dull or empty.

She is pictured as rich with delightful qualities.

Cross References

Exodus 30:23

God instructed Moses to gather valuable spices, including pure myrrh and fragrant cinnamon, for the sacred anointing mixture.

John 19:39

Nicodemus came with a large amount of myrrh and aloes to help prepare Jesus' body for burial.

Psalms 45:8

The king's garments carry the fragrance of myrrh, aloes, and cassia, while music from royal surroundings brings joy.

Spiritual Principle

Love discovers many reasons to appreciate the beloved.

XV. THE BRIDE IS LIKE LIVING WATER

Song of Solomon 4:15 — A Fountain and Flowing Stream

“You are a garden fountain, a well of living water, flowing streams from Lebanon.”

The imagery shifts from:

Sealed water.

To:

Flowing water.

The bride is both:

Protected.

And:

Life-giving.

Living water suggests:

Freshness.

Purity.

Refreshment.

Life.

Cross References

John 4:14

Jesus says that whoever receives the water He gives will never remain spiritually thirsty, because His gift becomes an inner spring leading to eternal life.

John 7:38

Jesus says that the one who believes in Him will have streams of living water flowing from within.

Revelation 22:1

John sees the river of the water of life, clear and pure, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy relationships should become sources of refreshment rather than spiritual and emotional drought.

XVI. THE BRIDE INVITES HER BELOVED INTO THE GARDEN

Song of Solomon 4:16 — Mutual Love and Intimacy

“Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind. Blow upon my garden so its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my beloved come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”

The bride responds willingly.

She invites:

The winds to blow.

The fragrance to spread.

Her beloved to enter.

The imagery communicates mutual marital desire.

This is important.

The groom does not simply take.

The bride invites.

Intimacy is mutual.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 5:1

The groom responds to the invitation by entering the garden and enjoying its fruit, fragrance, and sweetness.

John 3:8

Jesus compares the mysterious movement of the Spirit to the wind, which blows where it wills and cannot be controlled by human beings.

Isaiah 27:2

God speaks of a fruitful vineyard and calls for a song celebrating the vineyard He protects and cares for.

Spiritual Principle

Godly intimacy includes mutual willingness, trust, and affection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True intimacy is not built through selfishness or coercion.

It flourishes through covenant, trust, purity, and mutual devotion.

XVII. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 4

1. Love Notices Details

The groom notices:

Eyes.

Hair.

Teeth.

Lips.

Cheeks.

The whole person.

Principle:

Attention communicates value.

2. Appreciation Should Be Spoken

The groom repeatedly says:

“You are beautiful.”

Principle:

Do not leave genuine admiration unspoken.

3. Love Sees Strength as Well as Beauty

The bride’s neck is compared with a fortified tower.

Principle:

Healthy love appreciates character, dignity, and strength.

4. Physical Attraction Has a Proper Place

The chapter openly celebrates marital attraction.

Principle:

Within faithful covenant love, physical desire is not shameful.

5. Purity Protects Intimacy

The bride is a:

Locked garden.

Sealed spring.

Principle:

Exclusivity gives intimacy safety and meaning.

6. Love Should Produce Sweet Speech

Her lips are compared to honey.

Principle:

Affection and contempt cannot flourish well in the same relationship.

7. Healthy Love Is Refreshing

She is compared to:

Living water.

A flowing stream.

Principle:

Love should nourish rather than continually drain.

8. Intimacy Should Be Mutual

The bride willingly invites her beloved.

Principle:

Godly intimacy is shared, trusted, willing, and covenantal.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT APPRECIATION

The groom does not offer one vague compliment.

He pays attention.

He speaks specifically.

He sees beauty in details.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Specific appreciation often communicates more love than general affection alone.

Instead of saying only:

“You are wonderful.”

Say why.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT PHYSICAL ATTRACTION

Scripture is not embarrassed by the physical dimension of marital love.

The groom admires his bride's body.

But the admiration is surrounded by:

Commitment.

Affection.

Honor.

Exclusivity.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical sexuality belongs within a larger framework of faithful love and covenant devotion.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT PURITY

The image of the locked garden is especially important.

A locked garden is:

Protected.

Private.

Reserved.

Purity is not presented as deprivation.

It protects something valuable.

Key Truth

Biblical boundaries do not say intimacy has no value.

They say intimacy has so much value that it should be protected.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT EXCLUSIVITY

The bride belongs within an exclusive bond of love.

The language rejects the idea that romantic intimacy should be shared indiscriminately.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faithful love says:

“My deepest covenant affection is not available to everyone.”

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT WORDS

The bride’s lips are compared to:

Sweetness.

Honey.

The groom’s words toward her are equally encouraging.

Words can make relationships:

Safer.

Warmer.

Stronger.

Or:

Colder.

Harsher.

More distant.

Spiritual Principle

Words become part of the emotional atmosphere of a home.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT TRUST

The bride eventually invites the groom into the garden.

That invitation assumes:

Trust.

Safety.

Commitment.

Mutuality.

Key Truth

Intimacy becomes most beautiful when trust has somewhere secure to rest.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT DELIGHT

The groom does not merely tolerate his bride.

He delights in her.

Her love is:

Better than wine.

Her fragrance:

Better than spices.

Her speech:

Sweet.

Her presence:

Refreshing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A relationship should contain more than endurance.

It should intentionally preserve delight.

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 4 TEACHES ABOUT MARRIAGE

This chapter presents marriage as a place where:

Affection.

Physical attraction.

Purity.

Security.

Praise.

Intimacy.

Can live together.

One does not have to destroy the others.

Spiritual Principle

Godly marriage is not loveless purity or uncontrolled passion.

It is faithful passion within protected covenant love.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have historically seen spiritual echoes in the groom's delight in his bride.

The New Testament explicitly describes:

Christ as Bridegroom.

The Church as His bride.

Ephesians 5 describes Christ preparing His people in holiness.

The groom's words:

"You are altogether beautiful."

Can remind Christians of the grace by which Christ cleanses and prepares His people.

However, the primary context remains marital love.

Spiritual Principle

Human covenant love can point beyond itself toward the faithful and purifying love of Christ.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does the groom praise the bride in such detail?

Because love pays attention.

He wants her to know she is seen and valued.

Question 2

Why are so many comparisons drawn from nature?

The Song uses familiar images of:

Animals.

Mountains.

Fruit.

Flowers.

Spices.

Water.

To communicate beauty and delight.

Question 3

What does the tower comparison communicate?

It communicates dignity, strength, and impressive beauty.

Question 4

Does Song of Solomon 4 treat physical attraction as sinful?

No.

It presents appropriate physical attraction positively within faithful romantic love.

Question 5

What does “altogether beautiful” mean?

It expresses the groom’s wholehearted delight in the bride rather than a claim that she possesses literal physical perfection.

Question 6

What does the locked garden represent?

It pictures purity, privacy, exclusivity, and protected intimacy.

Question 7

Why is the spring sealed?

The image emphasizes that intimacy is reserved rather than indiscriminately available.

Question 8

What do the many spices represent?

They communicate richness, attractiveness, delight, and variety.

Question 9

What does living water communicate?

It represents freshness, life, abundance, and refreshment.

Question 10

Why does the bride invite the winds to blow on the garden?

She wants the garden’s fragrance and fruitfulness to be fully expressed.

Question 11

Why does she invite her beloved into the garden?

It expresses willing, mutual intimacy in the relationship.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 4 teach married couples?

It should teach them to:

Express appreciation.

Protect exclusivity.

Speak sweetly.

Preserve attraction.

Build trust.

Honor mutual intimacy.

Continue delighting in one another.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 4 asks several searching questions.

Do I Notice What Is Beautiful in the Person I Love?

Or have I become overly familiar and stopped noticing?

Do I Speak Appreciation?

Does the person I love hear sincere praise from me?

Has Criticism Become Louder Than Affection?

What atmosphere do my words create?

Am I Protecting Purity?

Are the boundaries around my relationship strong enough?

Is My Love Exclusive?

Have I allowed another person, fantasy, secret, or attachment to intrude upon what should be protected?

Is My Relationship Refreshing?

Or has it become emotionally exhausting?

Is There Mutual Trust?

Can both people safely be vulnerable?

Is Intimacy Mutual?

Is affection given freely and respectfully rather than selfishly demanded?

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Protect the Garden Because the Garden Is Valuable”

The bride is:

A garden.

But she is:

Locked.

A spring.

But:

Sealed.

A fountain.

But:

Hidden.

Why?

Not because the garden has little value.

Because it has great value.

Principle:

Purity is not the denial of value; it is the protection of value.

XXX. LOVE THAT SEES IN DETAIL

The groom notices details.

He does not say merely:

“You look fine.”

He describes what he loves.

Relationships often weaken when people stop noticing one another.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Familiarity should deepen appreciation, not erase attention.

XXXI. LOVE THAT SPEAKS SWEETLY

Verse 11 compares the bride’s words to:

Honey.

Sweetness.

That principle deserves serious attention.

Some couples would never speak harshly to:

A customer.

A coworker.

A stranger.

Yet speak carelessly to each other.

Spiritual Principle

The person closest to you should not continually receive the harshest version of you.

XXXII. THE LOCKED GARDEN

This image speaks powerfully about boundaries.

Not everyone receives access to everything.

Some things are:

Private.

Sacred.

Covenantal.

Protected.

The world often says:

“Freedom means no boundaries.”

Biblical wisdom says:

Some boundaries protect freedom from destruction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A gate does not prove a garden is worthless.

A gate proves the garden contains something worth guarding.

XXXIII. THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

The bride is not only protected.

She is refreshing.

This is important.

Purity is not coldness.

Commitment is not lifelessness.

The garden is:

Alive.

Fruitful.

Fragrant.

Flowing.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful boundaries should protect love so that love can flourish, not suffocate it.

XXXIV. MUTUAL INTIMACY

The groom praises.

The bride responds.

He delights.

She invites.

The relationship moves in both directions.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Healthy intimacy is not one person's entitlement.

It is the shared expression of faithful covenant love.

XXXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 4 teaches us that love should make the beloved feel:

Seen.

Valued.

Desired.

Honored.

Safe.

The groom does not stare silently at his bride while assuming:

“She knows.”

He tells her.

He says:

“How beautiful you are.”

He notices.

He praises.

He expresses delight.

That is an important lesson for relationships.

Do not allow affection to become silent.

Speak what is good.

Notice what is beautiful.

Express gratitude.

The chapter also teaches that intimacy needs protection.

The bride is:

A locked garden.

A sealed spring.

A hidden fountain.

Those are not images of worthlessness.

They are images of value.

What is precious is guarded.

Therefore:

Protect your marriage.

Protect your heart.

Protect your eyes.

Protect your thoughts.

Protect your faithfulness.

Do not invite outsiders into places that belong to the covenant relationship.

And within that covenant:

Do not become cold.

The garden is protected, but it is also:

Fragrant.

Fruitful.

Alive.

Refreshing.

Love needs both:

Boundaries.

And:

Warmth.

Purity.

And:

Passion.

Commitment.

And:

Delight.

Finally, the bride says:

“Let my beloved come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”

The invitation is willing.

Mutual.

Trusting.

That is the picture of intimacy Scripture gives here.

Not coercion.

Not selfishness.

Not exploitation.

But:

Trust.

Mutual desire.

Faithfulness.

Exclusivity.

Delight.

Therefore:

See the person you love.

Speak appreciation.

Guard the garden.

Keep the water fresh.

Protect trust.

Preserve delight.

And let covenant love become a place where both people are:

Honored.

Safe.

Desired.

And deeply cherished.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faithful love.

Thank You for creating beauty.

Thank You for giving husbands and wives the ability to:

Admire.

Cherish.

Desire.

Encourage.

Delight in one another.

Teach us not to become careless with affection.

Help us notice the people we love.

Give us eyes that see what is good.

Give us words that express appreciation.

Keep us from assuming:

“They already know.”

Help us say:

“You are valued.”

“You are beautiful.”

“You matter to me.”

Father, guard our speech.

Let our words be sweet rather than cruel.

Protect relationships from:

Sarcasm.

Contempt.

Insults.

Humiliation.

Unnecessary criticism.

Teach us to speak with kindness.

Father, protect the gardens You have entrusted to us.

Protect marriages.

Protect purity.

Protect faithfulness.

Guard our eyes.

Guard our thoughts.

Guard our hearts.

Guard our private choices.

Keep us from giving covenant affection to people or things that do not belong inside that covenant.

Teach us to see boundaries not as punishment but as protection.

Father, make our relationships refreshing.

Let homes become places of:

Peace.

Safety.

Warmth.

Honesty.

Grace.

Affection.

Help husbands and wives continue delighting in one another.

Restore affection where it has faded.

Restore trust where it has been damaged.

Restore sweet communication where harshness has grown.

Restore closeness where distance has developed.

Give us the wisdom to honor mutuality.

Protect intimacy from selfishness.

Let affection always be marked by:

Trust.

Respect.

Willingness.

Faithfulness.

And love.

Above all, remind us of Christ's faithful love for His people.

Thank You that He loves with:

Purity.

Sacrifice.

Commitment.

Grace.

Help our human relationships reflect something of His character.

May our love honor You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

"You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you." — Song of Solomon 4:7

Central Truth

Faithful love sees and speaks beauty, protects purity, delights in mutual affection, and creates an exclusive relationship where trust, tenderness, intimacy, and refreshment can flourish safely.

Song of Solomon 4 in One Sentence

The groom celebrates the beauty and love of his bride, comparing her to a protected and fruitful garden, while the chapter teaches that covenant love flourishes through expressed admiration, purity, exclusivity, sweet communication, mutual desire, and faithful intimacy.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 5 — The Bride's Longing and Praise for Her Beloved

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 5 moves through several emotional stages of love.

The chapter begins with delight.

The groom enters the garden and enjoys the love of his bride.

Then the scene changes.

The bride hears her beloved knocking.

At first, she hesitates.

By the time she rises to open the door:

He is gone.

The moment has passed.

She searches.

She calls.

She suffers.

She longs.

Yet her love does not disappear.

When the daughters of Jerusalem ask:

“What is your beloved more than another beloved?”

The bride answers by praising him from head to foot.

She describes:

His appearance.

His strength.

His eyes.

His words.

His presence.

His beauty.

And finally:

His friendship.

The chapter therefore teaches several powerful lessons.

Love should not be treated casually.

Opportunities for closeness can be missed.

Delayed response can produce regret.

Love may endure seasons of distance and disappointment.

And true love continues to see value in the beloved even during difficult moments.

The bride ends with one of the strongest descriptions in the Song:

“He is altogether lovely.”

But she adds something equally important:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

Romantic love is strengthened when the beloved is also a friend.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 5 is:

Faithful love delights in intimacy, responds to opportunities for closeness, perseveres through distance and difficulty, and continues to see the beloved as precious, desirable, and worthy of praise.

I. THE GROOM ENTERS HIS GARDEN

Song of Solomon 5:1 — The Joy of Marital Love

“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; 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, friends; drink and be filled with love.”

Chapter 4 ended with the bride inviting her beloved into the garden.

Chapter 5 begins with his response.

He comes.

He receives.

He enjoys.

The garden imagery continues to represent intimate marital love.

There is:

Myrrh.

Spice.

Honey.

Wine.

Milk.

Everything communicates:

Delight.

Abundance.

Satisfaction.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:16

The bride invited the winds to blow through her garden so its fragrance would spread, and she willingly invited her beloved to enter and enjoy its choice fruit.

John 2:9

At the wedding in Cana, the master of the feast tasted the water Jesus had turned into wine, though he did not know where it had come from.

Revelation 3:20

Jesus says, “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and share fellowship with that person.”

Spiritual Principle

Within faithful marriage, intimacy is presented as something joyful and good.

Key Truth

Godly intimacy is not merely tolerated.

It is celebrated within committed love.

II. THE BRIDE HEARS HER BELOVED KNOCKING

Song of Solomon 5:2 — “Open to Me”

“I slept, but my heart was awake. It was the voice of my beloved—he was knocking:
‘Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one. My head is wet with dew,
my hair with the dampness of the night.’”

The bride is resting.

Yet she hears him.

Her beloved is outside.

He has come through the night.

His hair is wet with dew.

He asks her to open.

Notice the tenderness of his words.

He calls her:

My sister.

My love.

My dove.

My perfect one.

Cross References

Revelation 3:20

Jesus says that He stands at the door and knocks, calling people to hear His voice and open so that fellowship can take place.

Song of Solomon 2:14

The groom had already called his bride his dove and asked to see her face and hear her voice because both were lovely to him.

Luke 12:36

Jesus told His followers to be like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding celebration so they can open the door immediately when he arrives and knocks.

Spiritual Principle

Love creates opportunities for response.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not become so comfortable that you become insensitive to the person seeking closeness with you.

III. THE BRIDE HESITATES

Song of Solomon 5:3 — Convenience Becomes an Excuse

“But I said, ‘I have taken off my robe; how can I put it back on? I have washed my feet; must I dirty them again?’”

Her beloved is at the door.

But she hesitates.

Her reasons are small:

She is already undressed for sleep.

Her feet are clean.

Opening the door will inconvenience her.

This is a striking contrast.

He has come through the damp night.

She hesitates because getting up is inconvenient.

Cross References

John 13:10

Jesus explained that a person who has bathed needs only the feet washed, because the rest of the body is already clean.

Colossians 3:9

Do not lie to one another, because you have put away the old way of life and the practices that belonged to it.

Revelation 3:18

Jesus counsels the spiritually complacent to receive from Him what they truly need, including white garments so their shame may be covered and spiritual sight may be restored.

Spiritual Principle

Small inconveniences can create larger relational consequences.

Key Truth

Love sometimes requires getting up when staying comfortable would be easier.

IV. HER HEART RESPONDS TOO LATE

Song of Solomon 5:4 — Her Heart Leaps for Him

“My beloved reached his hand through the latch, and my heart leaped for him.”

The bride’s feelings have not disappeared.

The movement at the door awakens her affection.

Her heart responds.

She realizes:

He is still there.

She wants him.

Now she moves.

Cross References

Revelation 3:20

Jesus describes Himself standing at the door and knocking, inviting those who hear to respond and open.

Song of Solomon 5:2

The beloved had been calling tenderly from outside, asking his bride to open the door to him.

Philippians 1:8

Paul says that God knows how deeply he longs for the believers with the tender affection that comes from Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Affection must sometimes become action before the opportunity passes.

V. THE BRIDE RISES TO OPEN THE DOOR

Song of Solomon 5:5 — Myrrh on the Handle

“I rose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with sweet-smelling myrrh on the handles of the bolt.”

Now she rises.

The fragrance on the latch suggests the beloved may have left myrrh behind.

The fragrance becomes evidence of his presence.

Her hands touch what he touched.

But the scene carries tension.

She has finally responded.

Will he still be there?

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:13

The bride earlier compared her beloved to a fragrant sachet of myrrh kept close to her heart.

John 19:39

Nicodemus brought a large mixture of myrrh and aloes to help prepare Jesus’ body for burial.

Psalms 45:8

The king’s garments are described as carrying the fragrance of myrrh, aloes, and cassia.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes we recognize the value of someone’s presence most strongly after we have nearly missed it.

VI. SHE OPENS THE DOOR, BUT HE IS GONE

Song of Solomon 5:6 — The Pain of a Missed Moment

“I opened to my beloved, but he had turned and was gone. My heart sank when he left. I sought him, but did not find him; I called, but he gave no answer.”

This is one of the saddest moments in the Song.

She opens.

But he is gone.

Now she experiences regret.

She searches.

She calls.

No answer.

The opportunity she delayed has disappeared.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:2

Earlier, the bride had gone through the city searching for the one her soul loved when she could not find him.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near.

Proverbs 1:28

Wisdom warns that people who continually reject correction may eventually call for help after consequences arrive and discover that the opportunity they ignored has passed.

Spiritual Principle

Some opportunities should be received while they are available.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not assume every door of opportunity will remain open indefinitely.

VII. THE WATCHMEN WOUND HER

Song of Solomon 5:7 — Pain During the Search

“The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They struck me, they wounded me; the guards of the walls took away my veil.”

Her search becomes painful.

Unlike the earlier encounter with the watchmen in Chapter 3, this encounter brings injury.

She is:

Struck.

Wounded.

Humiliated.

Yet the pain does not end her search.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:3

Earlier, the city watchmen encountered her while she was searching and she asked whether they had seen the one her soul loved.

Isaiah 53:5

The Servant was wounded because of our rebellion and crushed because of our sin; the punishment connected with our peace fell upon Him, and through His wounds healing comes.

John 15:20

Jesus reminded His disciples that servants should not expect to be treated better than their master; if people persecuted Him, His followers could also face persecution.

Spiritual Principle

Love may continue seeking even when the search becomes painful.

VIII. THE BRIDE REMAINS LOVESICK

Song of Solomon 5:8 — “Tell Him I Am Lovesick”

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem: if you find my beloved, tell him I am lovesick.”

The bride does not become bitter.

She does not say:

“I am finished with him.”

She remains lovesick.

Her longing has intensified.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:5

Earlier, the bride asked to be strengthened and refreshed because she was overwhelmed with love.

Song of Solomon 2:7

The bride had warned the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir up or awaken love before its proper time.

Psalms 42:2

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. I long to come into His presence.

Spiritual Principle

True affection can survive disappointment.

IX. THE DAUGHTERS ASK WHAT MAKES HIM SPECIAL

Song of Solomon 5:9 — “What Is Your Beloved More Than Another?”

“What is your beloved more than another beloved, O most beautiful of women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you should charge us so strongly?”

The daughters of Jerusalem ask a reasonable question.

Why him?

What makes him different?

What makes him worth searching for?

Their question gives the bride an opportunity to explain her love.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:8

The bride had earlier been called the most beautiful among women and given direction about where to find her beloved.

Song of Solomon 6:1

The women later ask where her beloved has gone so that they can join her in searching for him.

Psalms 45:2

The royal figure is described as surpassing others in beauty, with gracious words flowing from his lips and God’s blessing resting upon him.

Spiritual Principle

Love should be able to identify what it values in the beloved.

X. HE IS DISTINGUISHED AMONG TEN THOUSAND

Song of Solomon 5:10 — Radiant and Outstanding

“My beloved is radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand.”

The bride begins her description.

He stands out.

He is not ordinary to her.

“Radiant and ruddy” communicates:

Health.

Strength.

Attractiveness.

Vitality.

Cross References

1 Samuel 16:12

When David was brought before Samuel, he was described as healthy in appearance, attractive, and pleasing to look upon.

Psalms 45:2

The king is described as exceedingly handsome, with gracious speech and God’s lasting blessing.

Revelation 1:14

John describes the glorified Christ with hair white like wool and eyes blazing with penetrating power.

Spiritual Principle

Love sees the beloved as distinct, not interchangeable.

XI. HIS HEAD IS LIKE PURE GOLD

Song of Solomon 5:11 — Strength and Dignity

“His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy, black as a raven.”

Gold communicates:

Value.

Honor.

Excellence.

His dark hair communicates youthful strength and beauty.

Cross References

Daniel 7:9

Daniel sees the Ancient of Days seated in divine majesty, clothed in white, with hair pure like wool and a throne blazing with fire.

Revelation 1:14

The glorified Christ is described with hair white like snow and eyes burning like fire.

Song of Solomon 4:1

Earlier, the groom had praised the bride’s flowing hair using imagery from a flock descending Mount Gilead.

Spiritual Principle

The bride’s praise is detailed because affection pays attention.

XII. HIS EYES ARE LIKE DOVES

Song of Solomon 5:12 — Beauty and Gentleness

“His eyes are like doves by streams of water, washed with milk, set like jewels.”

The bride uses the same dove imagery the groom used of her.

His eyes communicate:

Gentleness.

Clarity.

Beauty.

Depth.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:15

The groom had praised the bride's eyes by comparing them to doves.

Matthew 3:16

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested upon Him.

Psalms 19:8

The Lord's commands are right and bring joy to the heart; His instruction is pure and gives light to the eyes.

Spiritual Principle

Mutual love notices and praises similar qualities in one another.

XIII. HIS FACE AND LIPS ARE FRAGRANT

Song of Solomon 5:13 — Sweetness and Fragrance

“His cheeks are like a garden of spices, like beds of fragrant herbs. His lips are like lilies, dripping with sweet myrrh.”

The bride describes him with the same fragrance imagery used throughout the Song.

He is:

Pleasant.

Attractive.

Refreshing.

His lips are associated with sweetness.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride had already declared that her beloved belonged to her and that she belonged to him, using imagery of lilies.

Psalms 45:2

The king is described as beautiful and gracious in speech.

Hosea 14:6

God describes restored Israel as spreading branches, possessing beauty like an olive tree, and giving off fragrance like Lebanon.

Spiritual Principle

Words are part of attraction.

A beautiful appearance cannot compensate forever for destructive speech.

XIV. HIS HANDS AND BODY ARE PRECIOUS

Song of Solomon 5:14 — Gold, Beryl, Ivory, and Sapphire

“His hands are like gold rings set with gems of beryl. His body is like polished ivory, decorated with sapphires.”

The language is rich.

Gold.

Beryl.

Ivory.

Sapphire.

These materials communicate:

Value.

Beauty.

Strength.

Craftsmanship.

The bride sees excellence throughout him.

Cross References

Exodus 28:20

Precious stones, including beryl, were set into the high priest's breastpiece as part of its beautiful sacred design.

Ezekiel 1:26

Above the heavenly expanse Ezekiel saw something like a throne of sapphire, and above it a figure with the appearance of a man.

Revelation 21:19

The foundations of the New Jerusalem are described as being decorated with many kinds of precious stones.

Spiritual Principle

Love looks carefully for what is precious rather than continually searching for defects.

XV. HIS LEGS ARE LIKE MARBLE PILLARS

Song of Solomon 5:15 — Strength and Majesty

“His legs are like marble pillars set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, majestic as the cedars.”

The bride now emphasizes:

Strength.

Stability.

Majesty.

Cedars of Lebanon were famous for:

Height.

Strength.

Beauty.

Durability.

Cross References

Revelation 1:15

The glorified Christ is described with feet like refined metal glowing from intense heat and with a voice like powerful rushing waters.

Psalms 92:12

The righteous person will flourish like a palm tree and grow strong and tall like a cedar of Lebanon.

1 Kings 7:2

Solomon built the House of the Forest of Lebanon with great cedar pillars and beams.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love values stability and strength of character.

XVI. HE IS ALTOGETHER LOVELY AND HER FRIEND

Song of Solomon 5:16 — Beloved and Friend

“His mouth is sweetness itself; yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”

The bride concludes.

He is:

Altogether lovely.

But then comes something especially important.

She does not say only:

“This is my beloved.”

She says:

“This is my friend.”

Friendship strengthens romantic love.

A strong relationship needs more than:

Physical attraction.

Passion.

Romantic feeling.

It also needs:

Conversation.

Trust.

Companionship.

Respect.

Shared life.

Cross References

Psalm 45:2

The king is praised for beauty and gracious speech, with God's blessing upon him.

John 15:14

Jesus tells His disciples that they are His friends when they live in obedient relationship with Him.

Song of Solomon 5:10

The bride began her description by saying her beloved stands out among ten thousand.

Spiritual Principle

One of the greatest blessings in marriage is when your beloved is also your friend.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Romance may begin attraction.

Friendship helps sustain relationship.

XVII. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 5

1. Love Delights in Intimacy

The chapter begins with the groom enjoying the garden.

Principle:

Marital intimacy is presented as something to be enjoyed within faithful love.

2. Delayed Response Can Produce Regret

The bride hesitates.

When she finally opens:

He is gone.

Principle:

Do not repeatedly postpone opportunities for closeness.

3. Convenience Can Compete with Love

Her reasons for hesitation are small.

Principle:

Comfort should not always take priority over relationship.

4. True Love Perseveres

The bride searches even after pain and disappointment.

Principle:

Difficulty does not automatically erase genuine affection.

5. Love Sees the Beloved as Unique

When asked:

“Why him?”

She can answer.

Principle:

Healthy love remembers what makes the beloved precious.

6. Friendship Strengthens Romance

The bride says:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

Principle:

Strong romantic love should include genuine friendship.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT INTIMACY

The groom enters the garden because the bride invited him in the previous chapter.

This demonstrates:

Invitation.

Mutuality.

Trust.

Commitment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Godly intimacy is not taken.

It is shared.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The bride hears the knock.

She hesitates.

Then the moment passes.

Relationships contain opportunities that should not be taken for granted.

A person may be asking for:

Conversation.

Time.

Affection.

Reconciliation.

Attention.

Spiritual Principle

Do not postpone relational needs indefinitely simply because responding is inconvenient.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT REGRET

Once the beloved is gone, the bride's attitude changes completely.

Earlier:

"How can I get up?"

Now:

"I must find him."

Regret often changes perspective.

Key Truth

Wisdom responds before regret becomes the teacher.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT SEARCHING

The bride goes looking.

Again.

Her love moves her toward pursuit rather than indifference.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When healthy connection is lost, do not always wait for the other person to make the first move.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT WORDS

The bride's final description is filled with praise.

She speaks positively about:

His appearance.

His strength.

His speech.

His character.

Healthy couples should be able to explain what they value in each other.

Spiritual Principle

Repeated appreciation strengthens the memory of why love began.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

The final phrase may be one of the most important in the chapter:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

Romantic relationships need:

Friendship.

Laughter.

Conversation.

Shared interests.

Trust.

Respect.

Companionship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If romance is the fire, friendship is part of the structure that helps the fire endure.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT PERSEVERANCE

The bride is:

Rejected by circumstance.

Unable to find him.

Struck.

Wounded.

Yet still:

She loves.

She searches.

She praises.

Spiritual Principle

Real love is deeper than one difficult night.

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT APPRECIATION

The daughters ask:

Why is your beloved special?

She does not say:

“I do not know.”

She gives a detailed answer.

Key Truth

A healthy relationship should have a remembered vocabulary of gratitude.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have often seen spiritual parallels in this chapter, especially in the picture of the beloved knocking.

Revelation 3:20 uses the image of Christ standing at the door and knocking.

This can remind believers of the importance of:

Responding to Christ.

Seeking His fellowship.

Not becoming spiritually complacent.

However, the primary context of Song of Solomon 5 remains the relationship between bride and groom.

Spiritual Principle

The longing of human love can remind believers of the deeper longing for fellowship with Christ.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happens in verse 1?

The groom responds to the bride's invitation and delights in the garden, continuing the imagery of marital intimacy.

Question 2

Why is the beloved outside in verse 2?

The scene presents him arriving at night and asking the bride to open the door.

Question 3

Why does the bride hesitate?

She has already settled in for the night and does not want to inconvenience herself.

Question 4

What lesson comes from her hesitation?

Small inconveniences can sometimes cause missed opportunities for closeness.

Question 5

What happens when she finally opens?

Her beloved has already gone.

She immediately regrets the delay.

Question 6

Why does she search for him?

Because her love remains strong and his absence now deeply troubles her.

Question 7

What happens with the watchmen?

They strike, wound, and humiliate her while she searches.

Question 8

Does this stop her love?

No.

She still asks the daughters of Jerusalem to tell him she is lovesick.

Question 9

What do the daughters ask?

They ask what makes her beloved better or more desirable than another man.

Question 10

How does the bride answer?

She gives a detailed description of his beauty, strength, dignity, and attractiveness.

Question 11

What is especially important about verse 16?

She identifies him both as:

Her beloved.

And:

Her friend.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 5 teach relationships today?

It should teach us to:

Respond to opportunities for closeness.

Avoid complacency.

Seek restoration when distance develops.

Speak appreciation.

Persevere through difficult seasons.

Build friendship alongside romance.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 5 asks several searching questions.

Am I Ignoring Someone Who Is Reaching Toward Me?

Has convenience become more important than connection?

Do I Assume Another Opportunity Will Always Come?

What important conversation have I postponed?

Do I Wait Until Someone Withdraws Before I Show Interest?

Am I reactive rather than attentive?

If Distance Has Developed, Am I Willing to Seek Restoration?

Or am I waiting out of pride?

Can I Explain Why the Person I Love Is Special?

Have I forgotten what first drew my heart?

Do I Speak Appreciation?

Or have complaints become easier to express than admiration?

Is My Beloved Also My Friend?

Do we still:

Talk?

Laugh?

Share?

Listen?

Enjoy each other?

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Do Not Wait for Absence to Teach You the Value of Presence”

The bride had the beloved at the door.

She hesitated.

Then:

He was gone.

Suddenly, everything changed.

Principle:

Appreciate presence before absence makes you understand its value.

XXX. WHEN COMFORT BECOMES THE ENEMY OF CLOSENESS

The bride's hesitation is based on convenience.

She has:

Changed clothes.

Washed her feet.

Settled down.

Getting up would be inconvenient.

Relationships sometimes weaken for similarly small reasons.

We are:

Too tired.

Too distracted.

Too busy.

Too comfortable.

Too occupied with a screen.

Too unwilling to interrupt our routine.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Many relationships do not lose affection first.

They lose attention first.

XXXI. OPEN THE DOOR WHILE THE KNOCK IS THERE

There are relational moments that matter.

A spouse says:

“Can we talk?”

A child says:

“Do you have a minute?”

A friend reaches out.

Someone seeks reconciliation.

The knock may not continue forever.

Spiritual Principle

Wise love recognizes important moments and responds while they are present.

XXXII. LOVE THAT KEEPS SEARCHING

The bride does not let difficulty erase devotion.

She continues looking.

That does not mean every unhealthy or harmful relationship must always be pursued.

But within faithful covenant relationships, perseverance matters.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not confuse one difficult season with the end of every possibility for restoration.

XXXIII. REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE THEM

The daughters ask:

“What is your beloved more than another beloved?”

That question forces the bride to remember.

She answers in detail.

Couples sometimes need to remember:

What first attracted them.

What character they admired.

What kindness they experienced.

What qualities made the other person unique.

Spiritual Principle

Gratitude can restore perspective when frustration has become too loud.

XXXIV. “THIS IS MY BELOVED, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND”

Romance is powerful.

But romance alone cannot carry every season of marriage.

There will be seasons when:

Health changes.

Appearance changes.

Schedules become demanding.

Responsibilities increase.

Stress arrives.

Friendship helps carry love through those seasons.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Marry someone you can love passionately, but also someone with whom you can walk faithfully.

XXXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 5 begins with joy.

Then comes hesitation.

Then loss.

Then searching.

Then pain.

Then praise.

That movement is realistic.

Love does not always move in a straight line.

Relationships may experience:

Closeness.

Distance.

Misunderstanding.

Regret.

Renewed pursuit.

Fresh appreciation.

The bride teaches us not to treat opportunities for closeness casually.

Her beloved knocks.

She hesitates.

By the time she responds:

He is gone.

That moment asks every relationship a serious question:

What are you postponing?

A conversation?

An apology?

Affection?

Time together?

Reconciliation?

Listening?

Do not continually assume:

“Later.”

Later is not always guaranteed.

The chapter also teaches that love can survive a difficult night.

The bride experiences pain.

Yet when asked:

“What makes him special?”

She remembers.

She praises him.

That is valuable.

Difficult moments can make flaws appear enormous.

Wisdom also remembers what is good.

And finally:

Build friendship.

The bride ends:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

That is a powerful picture of lasting relationship.

Be lovers.

But also:

Be companions.

Be listeners.

Be encouragers.

Be friends.

Therefore:

Answer the knock.

Value presence.

Do not let comfort create distance.

Seek healthy restoration.

Remember what you cherish.

Speak praise.

Build friendship.

And never allow familiarity to make something precious seem ordinary.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love.

Thank You for the people You place close to our hearts.

Help us never become careless with their presence.

Give us wisdom to recognize opportunities for connection.

When someone we love reaches toward us, help us respond with:

Attention.

Patience.

Kindness.

Interest.

Affection.

Protect us from allowing small inconveniences to become great distance.

Forgive us when we have been:

Too busy.

Too tired.

Too distracted.

Too proud.

Too comfortable.

To respond well.

Father, when distance develops, give us humility to seek restoration.

Keep us from waiting endlessly for someone else to make the first move.

Teach us to:

Speak.

Listen.

Apologize.

Forgive.

Reconnect.

Help us endure difficult seasons without forgetting everything good about the person we love.

When frustration becomes loud, remind us of gratitude.

Help us remember:

Kindness.

Faithfulness.

Strength.

Beauty.

Character.

Friendship.

Father, strengthen marriages.

Help husbands and wives remain:

Beloveds.

And:

Friends.

Give them conversation.

Give them laughter.

Give them companionship.

Give them trust.

Give them tenderness.

Give them renewed appreciation.

Protect intimacy.

Protect faithfulness.

Protect affection.

Protect friendship.

And above all, draw us closer to Christ.

Keep us from spiritual complacency.

When He calls us toward deeper fellowship, give us hearts ready to respond.

May our relationships reflect:

Faithfulness.

Patience.

Grace.

Devotion.

And enduring love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“His mouth is sweetness itself; yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.” — Song of Solomon 5:16

Central Truth

Faithful love treasures intimacy, responds to opportunities for closeness, perseveres through seasons of distance and pain, remembers what is precious in the beloved, and grows stronger when romance is joined with genuine friendship.

Song of Solomon 5 in One Sentence

The bride learns the pain of delayed response and searches for her absent beloved, yet her devotion remains strong as she praises him in detail and declares that the one she loves is not only her beloved but also her friend.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 6 — The Beauty and Uniqueness of Love

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 6 continues the theme of love after the bride's painful search in Chapter 5.

The chapter begins with the daughters of Jerusalem asking:

“Where has your beloved gone?”

Something has changed.

Earlier, they questioned what made him so special.

Now, after hearing the bride describe him, they are willing to search with her.

Her testimony about her beloved has created interest.

The bride then speaks with renewed confidence.

She knows where her beloved is.

And most importantly, she says:

“I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.”

This is one of the strongest declarations of security in the entire Song.

The relationship has endured:

Distance.

Longing.

Searching.

Misunderstanding.

Yet the bride remains confident in their mutual devotion.

The groom then begins praising her again.

He compares her to:

Tirzah.

Jerusalem.

An army with banners.

The dawn.

The moon.

The sun.

His language communicates more than simple physical attractiveness.

He sees:

Beauty.

Dignity.

Strength.

Radiance.

Uniqueness.

One of the great statements of the chapter is found in verse 9:

“My dove, my perfect one, is unique.”

There may be:

Queens.

Concubines.

Women without number.

But to him:

She is the one.

That is one of the great principles of faithful covenant love.

True devotion does not continually search the world for alternatives.

It sees the beloved as:

Chosen.

Distinct.

Precious.

The chapter closes with the Shulamite becoming the center of attention.

Others call:

“Return, return.”

They want to look at her.

Yet the final question reminds us that she is not simply an object for public inspection.

Her dignity remains important.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 6 is:

Faithful love produces security, sees the beloved as uniquely precious, restores affection after seasons of distance, and recognizes a beauty marked not only by attractiveness but also by dignity, strength, radiance, and mutual devotion.

I. THE DAUGHTERS WANT TO JOIN THE SEARCH

Song of Solomon 6:1 — “Where Has Your Beloved Gone?”

“Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, that we may seek him with you?”

In the previous chapter, the daughters asked:

“What makes your beloved so special?”

After hearing the bride’s answer, their attitude changes.

Now they say:

“We will seek him with you.”

Her praise has awakened their interest.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 5:9

The daughters had previously asked what made her beloved better or more desirable than another man.

Matthew 7:7

Jesus said, “Keep asking, and you will receive. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened.”

Song of Solomon 1:8

Earlier, the bride was called the most beautiful among women and was directed toward the places where the shepherds cared for their flocks.

Spiritual Principle

Sincere testimony can make others interested in what you value.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When you speak with genuine gratitude about someone, others begin to understand why that person matters to you.

II. THE BRIDE KNOWS WHERE HER BELOVED IS

Song of Solomon 6:2 — In His Garden

“My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies.”

The bride is no longer frantic.

She now speaks with confidence.

She knows where he is.

The garden imagery continues from previous chapters.

It communicates:

Beauty.

Fragrance.

Life.

Intimacy.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:16

The bride had invited her beloved to come into the garden and enjoy its choice fruit.

Song of Solomon 5:1

The groom responded that he had come into the garden and enjoyed its myrrh, spices, honey, wine, and milk.

John 20:15

Mary saw Jesus after His resurrection but initially thought He was the gardener until He revealed Himself to her.

Spiritual Principle

After uncertainty, love may regain clarity.

III. THE BRIDE RESTS IN MUTUAL DEVOTION

Song of Solomon 6:3 — “I Am My Beloved’s”

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.”

This statement is slightly different from Song of Solomon 2:16.

Earlier:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Now:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

The emphasis begins with:

Belonging.

Devotion.

Commitment.

The bride knows where she stands.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride had already declared, “My beloved is mine, and I am his,” expressing mutual belonging and commitment.

Song of Solomon 7:10

Later she says, “I belong to my beloved, and his desire is toward me.”

Jeremiah 31:33

God promises to establish His covenant within His people, writing His instruction upon their hearts, becoming their God, and claiming them as His people.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love creates security through mutual commitment.

Key Truth

Healthy love does not keep the beloved in endless uncertainty about where the relationship stands.

IV. THE GROOM COMPARES HER TO BEAUTIFUL CITIES

Song of Solomon 6:4 — Beautiful and Majestic

“You are beautiful, my love, as lovely as Tirzah, as splendid as Jerusalem, majestic as an army with banners.”

Tirzah was known for beauty.

Jerusalem carried:

Honor.

History.

Majesty.

The groom sees the bride as both:

Beautiful.

And:

Impressive.

The military image may seem unexpected, but an army with banners communicates:

Order.

Strength.

Dignity.

Majesty.

Cross References

1 Kings 14:17

Jeroboam's wife returned to Tirzah, a city that later became an important royal center in the northern kingdom.

Psalm 48:2

Mount Zion is described as beautiful in elevation and as a source of joy, the city associated with the great King.

Song of Solomon 6:10

The bride is later compared with the dawn, moon, sun, and a majestic army carrying banners.

Spiritual Principle

Beauty and strength can exist together.

V. HER EYES OVERWHELM HIM

Song of Solomon 6:5 — The Power of Her Gaze

“Turn your eyes away from me, for they overwhelm me. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead.”

The groom uses strong romantic language.

Her eyes affect him deeply.

He does not literally want her never to look at him.

He is saying:

“Your gaze is powerful.”

He then repeats the comparison of her hair from Chapter 4.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:1

Earlier, the groom compared her hair to a flock of goats flowing down Mount Gilead.

Psalm 119:37

Turn my eyes away from worthless things and give me life according to Your ways.

Genesis 31:21

Jacob fled with everything he had and crossed the river, setting his direction toward the hill country of Gilead.

Spiritual Principle

Love can remain powerful even after difficulty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Conflict does not have to erase attraction when love is restored with grace.

VI. HE AGAIN PRAISES HER BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 6:6 — Teeth Like a Washed Flock

“Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing, each has its twin, and not one of them is missing.”

The groom repeats language from Chapter 4.

Why repeat it?

Because love does not stop appreciating what it valued before.

The imagery communicates:

Cleanliness.

Order.

Completeness.

Harmony.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:2

The groom had previously used the same image to describe her teeth as a clean, complete, and evenly matched flock.

Psalms 128:3

A faithful household is pictured as a fruitful vine and children gathered around the family table like flourishing plants.

Genesis 1:22

God blessed the living creatures He created and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply.

Spiritual Principle

Restored love does not need entirely new reasons for appreciation.

Sometimes it rediscovers what was already beautiful.

VII. HER FACE RETAINS ITS BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 6:7 — Pomegranate Behind the Veil

“Your temples behind your veil are like a slice of pomegranate.”

Again, the groom repeats an earlier compliment.

The pomegranate imagery emphasizes:

Rich color.

Freshness.

Beauty.

The veil suggests modesty and mystery.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:3

The groom had previously compared her cheeks behind the veil to the color and beauty of a pomegranate.

Exodus 28:33

The priestly garment was decorated around its hem with representations of pomegranates made from richly colored thread.

Numbers 20:5

The Israelites complained that the wilderness had no grain, figs, vines, or pomegranates and no water to drink.

Spiritual Principle

Love continues to see beauty through seasons of change.

VIII. MANY WOMEN MAY EXIST, BUT SHE IS UNIQUE

Song of Solomon 6:8 — Queens, Concubines, and Maidens

“Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and young women without number.”

The verse establishes contrast.

There are many women.

Many may possess:

Beauty.

Status.

Position.

Recognition.

But numbers do not determine devotion.

The next verse makes the point clear.

Cross References

1 Kings 11:3

Solomon eventually accumulated many wives and concubines, and these relationships turned his heart away from undivided devotion to God.

Song of Solomon 6:9

In contrast with all the others, the groom declares that his bride is unique to him.

Matthew 6:29

Jesus said that even Solomon in all his royal splendor was not dressed with beauty equal to the simple beauty God gives the flowers of the field.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love is not built by constantly comparing the beloved with alternatives.

IX. HIS BRIDE IS THE ONE

Song of Solomon 6:9 — Unique and Precious

“But my dove, my perfect one, is unique. She is her mother’s only daughter, the favorite of the one who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.”

Here is the heart of the chapter.

“She is unique.”

The groom sees her as:

One.

Distinct.

Irreplaceable.

Precious.

He calls her:

My dove.

My perfect one.

Others also recognize something admirable in her.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:14

The groom earlier called the bride his dove and asked to see her face and hear her voice because both delighted him.

Ephesians 5:27

Christ is preparing His people to stand before Him in holiness and spiritual beauty, without stain or corruption.

Luke 1:48

Mary said future generations would call her blessed because God had shown grace and favor toward her in a unique way.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love communicates:

“You are not merely one option among many.”

Key Truth

Covenant love chooses rather than continually compares.

X. THE BRIDE SHINES LIKE THE DAWN

Song of Solomon 6:10 — Moon, Sun, and Banners

“Who is this who looks like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as an army with banners?”

The bride’s beauty is now described with cosmic imagery.

Dawn.

Moon.

Sun.

The picture moves from:

Gentle light.

To:

Radiant brightness.

She is also again described as majestic.

This is beauty with dignity and strength.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 6:4

The groom had already compared the bride to Jerusalem and to a majestic army carrying banners.

Revelation 12:1

John sees a great sign in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of stars upon her head.

Judges 5:31

Deborah’s song prays that those who love the Lord will be like the sun rising in its strength.

Spiritual Principle

True beauty can radiate beyond mere outward appearance.

XI. THE BRIDE LOOKS FOR SIGNS OF GROWTH

Song of Solomon 6:11 — New Growth in the Valley

“I went down to the grove of nut trees to see the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom.”

The bride looks for:

Growth.

Budding vines.

Blooming pomegranates.

The garden imagery returns.

This is a picture of expectation.

She wants to see whether fruitfulness is beginning.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 7:12

Later, the lovers again go to the vineyards early to see whether the vines have budded and whether the pomegranates have bloomed.

Numbers 17:8

Aaron’s staff miraculously produced buds, blossoms, and ripe almonds, demonstrating God’s chosen authority.

Habakkuk 3:17

Even if the fig tree does not blossom, the vines produce no fruit, and the fields fail, faith can still rejoice in God.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love pays attention to whether the relationship is growing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely ask whether love still exists.

Ask whether love is still bearing fruit.

XII. DESIRE CARRIES HER FORWARD

Song of Solomon 6:12 — Among the Royal Chariots

“Before I realized it, my desire had set me among the royal chariots of my people.”

This verse is one of the more difficult lines in the chapter.

The precise Hebrew expression has been interpreted in different ways.

In the Crawford Standard Bible wording, the bride describes herself as suddenly carried by desire into an elevated, royal scene.

The emphasis is on the surprising power of affection.

Cross References

1 Chronicles 6:22

The genealogical records preserve the family lines of the Levites and the people appointed to sacred service.

Acts 8:39

After Philip baptized the Ethiopian official, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly carried Philip away, and the man continued on his way rejoicing.

Philippians 3:12

Paul says he has not already reached perfection but continues pressing forward to take hold of the purpose for which Christ took hold of him.

Spiritual Principle

Love can move the heart unexpectedly and powerfully.

XIII. THE DAUGHTERS CALL THE SHULAMITE BACK

Song of Solomon 6:13 — “Return, Return”

“Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look at you!”

The bride now draws the attention of others.

They want her to return.

The repetition:

“Return, return.”

Shows eagerness.

She has become admired.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:8

The bride had earlier been called the most beautiful among women and directed toward the shepherds' tents.

Ruth 1:16

Ruth told Naomi that she would not leave her but would go wherever Naomi went and remain wherever she remained.

Genesis 32:2

Jacob encountered God's angels and recognized the place as a camp associated with God's presence and protection.

Spiritual Principle

A life marked by faithful love may become visible to others.

XIV. THE SHULAMITE RETAINS HER DIGNITY

Song of Solomon 6:13 — The Dance of Two Armies

“Why should you gaze at the Shulamite, as at the dance of two armies?”

The response introduces dignity.

People want to stare.

But the question asks:

Why?

She is admired.

Yet she is not merely an object for spectators.

The expression “dance of two armies” may refer to ordered movement, beauty, or a place called Mahanaim.

The precise expression is difficult, but the emphasis is one of striking dignity.

Spiritual Principle

Admiration should never become objectification.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

To value someone is not the same as treating that person as something to be displayed for others.

XV. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 6

1. Love Can Recover After Difficulty

Chapter 5 contained distance.

Chapter 6 contains renewed confidence.

Principle:

A difficult season does not have to become the final chapter of a faithful relationship.

2. Love Produces Security

The bride says:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

Principle:

Mutual commitment creates emotional security.

3. Love Sees the Beloved as Unique

The groom says:

“My dove, my perfect one, is unique.”

Principle:

Faithful love chooses rather than endlessly compares.

4. Beauty Includes Strength

The bride is:

Beautiful.

Radiant.

Majestic.

Principle:

True beauty can include dignity, courage, and strength.

5. Love Continues to Speak Appreciation

The groom repeats compliments from earlier chapters.

Principle:

Never assume appreciation should be spoken only once.

6. Healthy Love Looks for Growth

The bride checks the vines and pomegranates.

Principle:

Relationships should be cultivated toward continuing fruitfulness.

7. Dignity Must Be Protected

The Shulamite may be admired, but she is not merely an object for public consumption.

Principle:

Love honors the whole person.

XVI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT SECURITY

The bride has experienced:

Separation.

Searching.

Pain.

Yet she says:

“I am my beloved’s.”

That is security.

Healthy relationships communicate commitment clearly enough that one difficult moment does not automatically destroy all confidence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Security grows when love is repeatedly demonstrated through faithfulness.

XVII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT UNIQUENESS

The chapter intentionally contrasts:

Many women.

With:

One beloved.

The groom does not say:

“She is one among many.”

He says:

“She is unique.”

Spiritual Principle

Faithful covenant love narrows its devotion.

It does not continually scan the horizon for someone better.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT COMPARISON

Comparison is dangerous in relationships.

There will always be someone:

Younger.

Older.

Richer.

More accomplished.

More outwardly attractive in someone's opinion.

If love depends upon winning every comparison, security becomes impossible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Commitment says:

"I am not conducting an endless competition between you and everyone else."

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT PRAISE

The groom praises his bride again.

He has already said similar things.

That repetition is important.

People need more than one lifetime compliment.

Spiritual Principle

Repeated affection is not unnecessary repetition.

It is relational maintenance.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT RESTORATION

The previous chapter contained:

Hesitation.

Absence.

Searching.

Wounding.

This chapter returns to:

Confidence.

Praise.

Belonging.

That means relational difficulty does not always require permanent distance.

Key Truth

Restoration is possible where love, repentance, communication, and commitment remain.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT BEAUTY

The bride is compared with:

Tirzah.

Jerusalem.

The dawn.

The moon.

The sun.

An army with banners.

Beauty here is not weak.

It is:

Radiant.

Strong.

Majestic.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical beauty can include both gentleness and strength.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT GROWTH

The bride goes looking for:

Buds.

Blooms.

New growth.

Relationships need cultivation.

Growth does not happen automatically.

It requires:

Attention.

Communication.

Forgiveness.

Time.

Affection.

Trust.

Spiritual Principle

Love that is never cultivated eventually becomes vulnerable to neglect.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 6 TEACHES ABOUT DIGNITY

The bride attracts attention.

But she still possesses personal dignity.

Biblical love does not reduce a person to:

Appearance.

Body.

Status.

Desirability.

Key Truth

Love should make a person feel more fully human, not less.

XXIV. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have often seen spiritual echoes in the declaration:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

The New Testament teaches that believers:

Belong to Christ.

Are loved by Christ.

Are His people.

The groom’s description of the bride as uniquely precious can remind believers of Christ’s covenant love for His Church.

Yet the primary context remains the celebration of committed human love.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful human love can reflect, in an imperfect way, the security and devotion found perfectly in Christ.

XXV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why do the daughters now want to seek the beloved?

Because the bride’s passionate description in Chapter 5 has shown them why he is precious to her.

Question 2

What does the garden imagery communicate?

It communicates beauty, intimacy, fruitfulness, and delight.

Question 3

What does “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine” mean?

It expresses mutual belonging, commitment, and security.

Question 4

Why is the bride compared to Tirzah and Jerusalem?

Both cities were associated with beauty, importance, and dignity.

Question 5

Why is she compared to an army with banners?

The picture communicates impressive strength, order, dignity, and majesty.

Question 6

Why does the groom repeat earlier compliments?

Because genuine appreciation should continue to be expressed rather than assumed.

Question 7

What is the point of mentioning queens, concubines, and maidens?

The contrast emphasizes that despite the presence of many women, the bride is unique to him.

Question 8

What does verse 9 teach about faithful love?

Faithful love sees the beloved as chosen and uniquely precious rather than merely one option among many.

Question 9

Why is the bride compared to the dawn, moon, and sun?

These images communicate growing radiance, beauty, brightness, and dignity.

Question 10

Why does the bride inspect the vineyards?

She is looking for signs of growth and fruitfulness.

Question 11

What can relationships learn from the image of new growth?

Healthy relationships require continuing cultivation and attention.

Question 12

What does the final verse teach about dignity?

Admiration should never reduce a person to an object for others to stare at or use.

XXVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 6 asks several searching questions.

Is My Relationship Secure?

Does the person I love know where they stand with me?

Do I Treat My Beloved as Unique?

Or do I continually compare them with others?

Do I Speak Appreciation Repeatedly?

Or did compliments disappear after the early years?

Can Love Recover After Conflict?

Am I willing to rebuild closeness rather than preserve distance?

Is Our Relationship Growing?

Where are the:

Buds?

Flowers?

Fruit?

Do I Honor Dignity?

Do my words and actions treat the person I love as a whole person?

Does My Love Build Confidence?

Or does it continually create unnecessary insecurity?

XXVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Faithful Love Chooses Rather Than Continually Compares”

There will always be other people in the world.

Some may possess:

Beauty.

Talent.

Wealth.

Influence.

Charm.

But covenant love is not a permanent competition.

The groom says:

“My dove, my perfect one, is unique.”

Principle:

Commitment becomes secure when comparison gives way to chosen devotion.

XXVIII. “I AM MY BELOVED’S”

This declaration begins with surrender.

Not:

“He is mine.”

But:

“I am his.”

That is a significant change in emphasis.

Love is not merely:

Receiving.

Possessing.

Getting.

It is also:

Giving yourself faithfully.

Spiritual Principle

Mature love increasingly asks:

“How can I give?”

Not merely:

“What am I getting?”

XXIX. LOVE AFTER CONFLICT

Chapter 5 contained emotional tension.

Chapter 6 opens with restored confidence.

That teaches something valuable.

Relationships do not have to pretend conflict never happened.

But they also do not have to allow conflict to become permanent identity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The goal of conflict should not be victory over the other person.

The goal should be restoration of truth, trust, and love.

XXX. LOVE THAT DOES NOT KEEP SHOPPING

Verse 9 stands in sharp contrast with verse 8.

Many women exist.

But:

One bride is unique.

Modern culture often encourages endless comparison.

Another person may seem:

More exciting.

More attractive.

More successful.

But constant comparison can destroy gratitude.

Spiritual Principle

You cannot deeply cherish what you continually measure against every alternative.

XXXI. LOOK FOR NEW GROWTH

The bride visits the grove.

She asks:

Are the vines budding?

Are the pomegranates blooming?

Relationships need similar questions.

Are we:

Communicating better?

Growing in trust?

Praying together?

Forgiving more quickly?

Showing more affection?

Serving each other?

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not measure a relationship only by whether it survives.

Ask whether it grows.

XXXII. LOVE THAT OTHERS CAN SEE

The young women:

See her.

Call her blessed.

Praise her.

Healthy love can produce visible effects.

It may create:

Confidence.

Joy.

Peace.

Stability.

Spiritual Principle

Good relationships often leave good fruit visible beyond the relationship itself.

XXXIII. BEAUTY WITH STRENGTH

The bride is not pictured merely as delicate.

She is:

Majestic.

Like an army with banners.

This is important.

The groom is not threatened by her strength.

He admires it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Strong love does not require one person to become small so the other can feel large.

XXXIV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 6 teaches us about love that has survived difficulty and regained security.

The bride says:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

That declaration matters because it comes after:

Distance.

Searching.

Pain.

The relationship has been tested.

Yet devotion remains.

This chapter teaches couples not to assume that one difficult season means everything is over.

Restoration is possible.

Affection can return.

Confidence can be rebuilt.

Praise can be spoken again.

The groom also teaches us the importance of uniqueness.

There may be many people in the world.

But he says:

“My dove, my perfect one, is unique.”

That is covenant language.

Do not make the person you love feel as though they are competing daily with:

Other people.

Past relationships.

Imagined alternatives.

Unrealistic standards.

Faithful love chooses.

Then:

Keep looking for growth.

The bride inspects the vines.

She wants to know whether they are:

Budding.

Blooming.

Growing.

Ask the same about your relationship.

Do not merely ask:

“Are we still together?”

Ask:

“Are we becoming better?”

“Are we growing closer?”

“Are we communicating?”

“Are we producing good fruit?”

And protect dignity.

Admire without objectifying.

Praise without controlling.

Cherish without possessing selfishly.

Let love say:

“You are unique.”

“You are valued.”

“You are safe.”

“You belong.”

“I choose you.”

That is the beauty of faithful love.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faithful love.

Thank You that relationships can be restored after difficult seasons.

Where distance has developed, bring healing.

Where misunderstandings have occurred, bring clarity.

Where hurt remains, bring forgiveness.

Where confidence has weakened, rebuild trust.

Father, help husbands and wives give one another security.

Keep them from creating unnecessary jealousy.

Keep them from constant comparison.

Teach them to see one another as:

Chosen.

Valued.

Precious.

Unique.

Help them say with confidence:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

Give us hearts that know how to commit.

Teach us not merely to ask what another person can give us.

Teach us how to give ourselves faithfully.

Father, restore appreciation.

Where compliments have disappeared, bring them back.

Where criticism has become constant, soften speech.

Give husbands and wives eyes that still notice what is:

Beautiful.

Strong.

Faithful.

Kind.

Good.

Teach us to look for growth.

Show us the buds.

Show us the blossoms.

Show us where fruit is forming.

And where growth has stopped, give us wisdom to cultivate again.

Protect relationships from comparison.

Protect marriages from outside attachments.

Protect covenant devotion.

Help us honor dignity.

May our love never make another person feel:

Small.

Disposable.

Replaceable.

Used.

Instead, let our relationships communicate:

Honor.

Security.

Respect.

Faithfulness.

And joy.

Above all, remind us that we belong to Christ.

Thank You for His faithful love.

Thank You that His devotion does not fail.

May our human relationships increasingly reflect His:

Grace.

Commitment.

Faithfulness.

Purity.

Love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies." — Song of Solomon 6:3

Central Truth

Faithful love produces security through mutual devotion, sees the beloved as uniquely precious rather than constantly comparing, restores affection after difficulty, and continues cultivating a relationship marked by beauty, dignity, strength, growth, and commitment.

Song of Solomon 6 in One Sentence

The bride confidently declares her mutual belonging with her beloved, while the groom praises her as uniquely beautiful and majestic above all others, showing that secure love restores, chooses, cherishes, honors, and continually looks for new growth.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 7 — Delight in Each Other's Love

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 7 is one of the clearest celebrations of mutual delight in the entire book.

The groom praises the bride in detail.

He notices:

Her feet.

Her form.

Her eyes.

Her hair.

Her stature.

Her beauty.

Her fragrance.

Her presence.

He does not simply say:

“You are beautiful.”

He explains what he sees and why he delights in her.

The bride then answers with confidence:

“I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.”

That declaration shows security.

She knows:

She belongs to him.

He desires her.

She is loved.

She is wanted.

The second half of the chapter moves from admiration into shared experience.

The bride says:

“Come, my beloved.”

She invites him to:

Go into the fields.

Stay in the villages.

Rise early.

Visit the vineyards.

Look for new growth.

Share love.

The chapter therefore shows that romance does not consist only of words.

Love also grows through:

Time.

Shared experiences.

Intentional attention.

New memories.

Old memories.

Continued affection.

The chapter closes with the bride speaking of:

“choice fruits, both new and old.”

This is a beautiful picture of lasting love.

A strong relationship treasures:

Old memories.

And:

New experiences.

It appreciates what has already been built while continuing to cultivate fresh expressions of affection.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 7 is:

Faithful love openly expresses admiration, creates security through mutual desire and commitment, enjoys shared experiences, and remains vibrant by cherishing both old memories and fresh expressions of devotion.

I. THE GROOM ADMIRES THE BRIDE FROM HER FEET UPWARD

Song of Solomon 7:1 — Beautiful Feet and Noble Grace

“How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O noble daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, the work of a master craftsman.”

The groom begins with the bride’s feet and moves upward.

He calls her:

“noble daughter.”

His admiration contains both:

Physical attraction.

And:

Honor.

Her beauty is compared to the work of a skilled craftsman.

This communicates:

Care.

Design.

Beauty.

Value.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one who brings good news, announces peace, proclaims salvation, and declares that God reigns.

Romans 10:15

How beautiful are the feet of those who carry the good news and proclaim peace and salvation to others.

Ephesians 6:15

Stand ready with your feet prepared by the good news of peace, so that you remain steady and ready for faithful service.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love combines attraction with honor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never let desire remove dignity from the person you love.

II. THE GROOM CONTINUES HIS PRAISE

Song of Solomon 7:2 — Beauty, Abundance, and Fruitfulness

“Your navel is like a rounded bowl that never lacks wine. Your belly is like a heap of wheat, surrounded with lilies.”

The imagery communicates:

Abundance.

Fullness.

Beauty.

Fruitfulness.

The language is poetic and intentionally romantic.

Wheat represented nourishment and harvest.

Wine represented gladness and celebration.

Lilies represented beauty.

Cross References

John 12:24

Jesus said that unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but when it dies it produces much fruit.

Psalms 65:13

The fields and pastures are covered with abundance, and the valleys are filled with grain so that creation seems to shout and sing for joy.

Matthew 13:30

Jesus said to allow the wheat and weeds to grow together until harvest, when the wheat would be gathered into the proper place.

Spiritual Principle

The Song uses the abundance of creation to describe the delight of marital love.

III. THE GROOM DELIGHTS IN HER FEMININE BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 7:3 — Twin Fawns

“Your two breasts are like twin fawns, the young of a gazelle.”

This repeats imagery from Chapter 4.

The comparison emphasizes:

Gentleness.

Symmetry.

Tenderness.

Physical beauty.

The repetition also shows that his attraction has not faded.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:5

The groom previously compared the bride’s breasts to twin fawns of a gazelle grazing among lilies.

Proverbs 5:19

Let your wife be a loving and graceful companion, and remain continually delighted and satisfied in her faithful affection.

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn babies longing for pure milk, believers should deeply desire the nourishment that helps them grow spiritually.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful marriage should preserve appropriate attraction rather than treating affection as something only for the beginning of a relationship.

IV. HER BEAUTY COMMUNICATES DIGNITY AND DEPTH

Song of Solomon 7:4 — Ivory, Pools, and Towers

“Your neck is like a tower of ivory. Your eyes are like the pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus.”

The groom sees:

Dignity in her neck.

Depth in her eyes.

Strength in her profile.

Ivory communicates:

Beauty.

Value.

Smoothness.

The pools of Heshbon communicate:

Clarity.

Depth.

Stillness.

The tower imagery again communicates:

Strength.

Dignity.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:4

The groom previously compared the bride’s neck to the tower of David, strong and impressive.

1 Kings 22:39

The record of Ahab's reign included the ivory house he built and the cities he constructed.

Amos 3:15

God warned that houses decorated for luxury, including houses of ivory, would eventually fall under judgment.

Spiritual Principle

True admiration sees both gentleness and strength in the beloved.

V. THE KING IS CAPTIVATED BY HER BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 7:5 — Carmel and Royal Purple

“Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal purple; the king is captivated by its waves.”

Mount Carmel was associated with:

Beauty.

Height.

Richness.

The bride's hair is compared with royal purple.

Purple communicated:

Royalty.

Value.

Splendor.

Most importantly:

The king is captivated.

His bride still has his attention.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:2

The restored land will blossom abundantly and display the beauty of Carmel and Sharon as God's glory is revealed.

Esther 1:6

The Persian palace was decorated with rich materials, including royal colors, fine fabrics, marble, silver, and precious furnishings.

Song of Solomon 4:9

The groom had already declared that his bride captured his heart with a single glance and even one ornament from her necklace.

Spiritual Principle

Long-term love should continue paying attention.

Key Truth

Familiarity should deepen appreciation, not erase fascination.

VI. LOVE IS BEAUTIFUL AND DELIGHTFUL

Song of Solomon 7:6 — “Full of Delights”

“How beautiful and pleasant you are, O love, full of delights!”

The groom does not merely admire individual features.

He steps back and speaks of the whole person.

She is:

Beautiful.

Pleasant.

Delightful.

Love contains more than attraction.

It contains joy in the beloved’s presence.

Cross References**Song of Solomon 1:16**

The bride had called her beloved handsome, pleasant, and delightful.

Psalms 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.

Psalm 16:11

God reveals the path of life; fullness of joy is found in His presence, and lasting pleasures are found at His right hand.

Spiritual Principle

A strong relationship should contain enjoyment of one another, not merely obligation.

VII. HER STATURE IS LIKE A PALM TREE

Song of Solomon 7:7 — Beauty and Fruitfulness

“Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts like clusters of fruit.”

The palm tree communicates:

Height.

Grace.

Strength.

Fruitfulness.

The groom again connects the bride’s physical beauty with imagery from flourishing creation.

Cross References

Psalm 92:12

The righteous person will flourish like a palm tree and grow strong like a cedar of Lebanon.

Numbers 13:23

The spies cut down an enormous cluster of grapes in the valley and carried it between two men, together with pomegranates and figs.

Song of Solomon 1:14

The bride had compared her beloved to a fragrant cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En Gedi.

Spiritual Principle

Love celebrates the life and fruitfulness found in the beloved.

VIII. THE GROOM DESIRES CLOSENESS WITH HIS BRIDE

Song of Solomon 7:8 — The Palm Tree and Its Fruit

“I said, ‘I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its branches. May your breasts be like grape clusters, and the fragrance of your breath like apples.’”

The imagery becomes openly intimate.

The groom expresses desire for his bride.

The Song does not treat marital desire as:

Dirty.

Embarrassing.

Sinful.

Within faithful covenant love, desire has a proper place.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:3

The bride compared her beloved to a fruitful tree whose shade gave her rest and whose fruit was sweet to her.

John 15:4

Jesus tells His followers to remain in Him, because a branch cannot produce fruit by itself unless it remains connected to the vine.

Psalms 92:13

Those planted in the Lord’s house will flourish and remain fruitful in the place where God has established them.

Spiritual Principle

Godly marriage joins desire with commitment, honor, and exclusivity.

IX. THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE IS SWEET

Song of Solomon 7:9 — Wine Flowing Smoothly

“May your mouth be like the best wine—flowing smoothly for my beloved, gliding gently over lips and teeth.”

The bride’s response enters the verse.

The picture of wine communicates:

Pleasure.

Delight.

Sweetness.

Love is not harsh.

Its speech should flow gently.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:2

The bride said that the beloved’s love was sweeter and more delightful than wine.

John 2:10

At the wedding feast, the master remarked that the best wine had unexpectedly been kept until later.

Psalms 104:15

God provides wine that can gladden the human heart, oil that brightens the face, and bread that gives strength.

Spiritual Principle

Words and affection should bring sweetness into the relationship.

X. THE BRIDE IS SECURE IN HIS LOVE

Song of Solomon 7:10 — “His Desire Is for Me”

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.”

This is one of the strongest declarations of security in the Song.

Earlier she said:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Then:

“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

Now:

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.”

Her confidence has deepened.

She knows:

She belongs.

She is desired.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride first declared mutual belonging by saying her beloved was hers and she belonged to him.

Song of Solomon 6:3

Later she placed the emphasis upon herself belonging to him while affirming that he also belonged to her.

Genesis 3:16

After humanity’s fall, God described how sin would affect the marriage relationship, including distorted desire and struggles involving rule and authority.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love communicates desire clearly enough to create security.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

One of the greatest gifts spouses can give each other is confidence that they are still wanted.

XI. THE BRIDE INVITES HER BELOVED INTO SHARED LIFE

Song of Solomon 7:11 — “Come, My Beloved”

“Come, my beloved, let us go out to the fields, let us spend the night in the villages.”

The bride initiates.

She does not wait passively for all romance to come from him.

She says:

“Come.”

“Let us go.”

Love is mutual initiative.

She wants shared experience away from ordinary routine.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:10

Earlier, the groom had invited the bride to rise and come away with him.

Song of Solomon 1:16

The bride had described her beloved as handsome and pleasant and pictured their resting place as green and refreshing.

Luke 9:12

As the day came to an end, the disciples suggested that people should go into surrounding villages and countryside to find food and lodging.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy romance requires intentional time together.

Key Truth

Relationships rarely stay fresh accidentally.

XII. THE BRIDE WANTS TO SEE WHAT IS GROWING

Song of Solomon 7:12 — The Vineyards at Dawn

“Let us rise early and go to the vineyards, to see if the vines have budded, if the blossoms have opened, and the pomegranates are in bloom—there I will give you my love.”

The bride invites her beloved to inspect the vineyard.

This imagery has appeared before.

They want to see:

Buds.

Blossoms.

Growth.

Fruit.

The scene is also romantic.

She intentionally creates a setting where she can express love.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 6:11

The bride previously went to the grove to look for new growth, budding vines, and blooming pomegranates.

Song of Solomon 2:15

The lovers were warned to catch the little foxes that could destroy the vineyards while they were blooming.

Proverbs 5:19

A husband is encouraged to rejoice in his wife and remain continually satisfied in her loving affection.

Spiritual Principle

Love should be cultivated intentionally.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely wait for romance to happen.

Create room for it.

XIII. LOVE TREASURES THE NEW AND THE OLD

Song of Solomon 7:13 — Choice Fruits Stored for the Beloved

“The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door are all kinds of choice fruits, both new and old, which I have stored up for you, my beloved.”

The chapter closes beautifully.

The bride has:

New fruit.

Old fruit.

Both are valuable.

This becomes a wonderful picture of lasting love.

Old fruit can represent:

History.

Memories.

Shared experiences.

Years together.

New fruit can represent:

Fresh affection.

New experiences.

Continued growth.

New memories.

Mature love needs both.

Cross References

Genesis 30:14

During the wheat harvest, Reuben found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah.

Matthew 13:52

Jesus said a teacher instructed in God's kingdom is like a householder who brings out treasures both new and old.

Song of Solomon 4:16

The bride had invited her beloved into the garden to enjoy its choice fruits.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love remembers the past while continuing to create something new.

Key Truth

A lasting relationship should contain both treasured memories and fresh expressions of devotion.

XIV. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 7

1. Love Praises Freely

The groom does not hide admiration.

Principle:

Speak what you appreciate before silence makes affection seem absent.

2. Love Honors the Whole Person

His admiration includes attraction but also dignity.

Principle:

Desire should never remove respect.

3. Love Remains Interested

The king is still captivated.

Principle:

Long-term love should continue noticing.

4. Love Creates Security

The bride knows:

“His desire is for me.”

Principle:

Faithful affection reassures the beloved that commitment remains alive.

5. Love Requires Mutual Initiative

The bride says:

“Come, my beloved.”

Principle:

One person should not carry all responsibility for maintaining closeness.

6. Love Needs Shared Experiences

The bride invites him:

Into the fields.

Into the villages.

Into the vineyards.

Principle:

Shared experiences create opportunities for connection.

7. Love Needs the Old and the New

The bride has fruit:

Old.

And:

New.

Principle:

Remember what built the relationship while continuing to build what comes next.

XV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT ADMIRATION

The groom's praise is detailed.

Why?

Because love pays attention.

He notices more than the general picture.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Specific compliments often communicate more deeply than vague praise.

XVI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT DESIRE

The chapter is openly romantic.

Physical desire is not detached from:

Commitment.

Belonging.

Mutuality.

Love.

That framework matters.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical intimacy is neither ashamed of desire nor careless with it.

XVII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT SECURITY

The bride says:

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.”

She is not wondering whether she is still wanted.

That security strengthens love.

Key Truth

Unnecessary uncertainty can drain affection from a relationship.

Faithful reassurance strengthens it.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT MUTUAL INITIATIVE

Earlier chapters often show the groom inviting the bride.

Now the bride invites him.

This demonstrates reciprocity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Healthy love says:

“I want to spend time with you.”

Not merely:

“You should want to spend time with me.”

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT SHARED TIME

The bride wants them to leave routine behind for a while.

They will:

Go out.

Stay away.

Rise early.

Walk through vineyards.

Shared time matters.

Spiritual Principle

Presence requires more than occupying the same building.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT ROMANCE

Romance requires attention.

It can be expressed through:

Words.

Touch.

Time.

Thoughtful invitations.

Shared experiences.

Private affection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Romance usually fades fastest where intentionality disappears.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT GROWTH

The bride again examines:

Vines.

Buds.

Blossoms.

Pomegranates.

Relationships also need regular attention.

Ask:

Are we growing?

Are we communicating?

Are we still enjoying one another?

Are new fruits appearing?

Spiritual Principle

A relationship can survive without growing for a time, but flourishing requires cultivation.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT MEMORY

The bride has stored:

Old fruit.

Old love matters.

Shared history matters.

Remembering:

First conversations.

Early prayers.

Hard seasons survived.

Joyful moments.

Years of faithfulness.

Can strengthen present gratitude.

Key Truth

Do not let today's irritation erase yesterday's faithfulness.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT NEWNESS

But the bride does not possess only old fruit.

She has:

New fruit.

A relationship cannot live only on memories.

New affection matters.

New conversations matter.

New experiences matter.

New acts of kindness matter.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely celebrate what your relationship used to be.

Keep creating something worth celebrating now.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 7 TEACHES ABOUT MARRIAGE

The chapter presents marriage as a relationship of:

Praise.

Desire.

Security.

Invitation.

Shared experience.

Intentional intimacy.

Memory.

Fresh devotion.

Spiritual Principle

Strong marriages require both covenant stability and continuing cultivation.

XXV. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have often seen echoes of spiritual devotion in the bride's words:

"I am my beloved's."

The New Testament teaches that believers belong to Christ.

He purchased them.

Loves them.

Calls them His people.

Yet the primary meaning of the Song remains the celebration of human romantic and marital love.

Spiritual Principle

The security of faithful human love can remind believers of the greater security of belonging to Christ.

XXVI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does the groom praise the bride so specifically?

Because detailed appreciation communicates careful attention and genuine delight.

Question 2

What do the jewels and royal imagery communicate?

They communicate beauty, value, dignity, and honor.

Question 3

Why does the groom repeat earlier romantic imagery?

Because continuing attraction should continue to be expressed.

Question 4

What does it mean that the king is captivated?

It means the bride still deeply holds his attention and affection.

Question 5

What does verse 10 teach about security?

The bride knows both that she belongs to her beloved and that he desires her.

Question 6

Who initiates shared time in verse 11?

The bride.

This shows that romantic initiative should be mutual.

Question 7

Why do they go to the vineyards?

The setting provides:

Privacy.

Beauty.

Shared experience.

An opportunity to observe growth and express love.

Question 8

Why do buds and blossoms keep appearing in the Song?

They symbolize:

Growth.

Fruitfulness.

Renewal.

The development of love.

Question 9

What do the “new and old” fruits represent?

They can illustrate both treasured history and fresh expressions of love.

Question 10

Does a strong relationship live only on old memories?

No.

Past memories should be treasured, but new experiences and fresh affection are also needed.

Question 11

What does this chapter teach about marital desire?

It presents desire positively when joined with faithful, honoring, mutual love.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 7 teach couples today?

It should teach them to:

Praise freely.

Honor deeply.

Express desire.

Give reassurance.

Initiate shared time.

Cultivate romance.

Remember old blessings.

Create new memories.

XXVII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 7 asks several searching questions.

Do I Speak Appreciation?

Does the person I love regularly hear what I admire?

Has Familiarity Made Me Stop Noticing?

Do I still pay attention?

Does My Desire Communicate Honor?

Or have affection and respect become separated?

Does My Spouse Know They Are Wanted?

Do I give reassurance?

Who Usually Initiates Time Together?

Is one person doing all the relational work?

Are We Making Shared Memories?

When was the last time we intentionally did something together?

Is Our Vineyard Growing?

What new fruit is developing?

Have We Forgotten the Old Fruit?

What past blessings should we remember with gratitude?

Are We Producing New Fruit?

What fresh act of love can I give now?

XXVIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Keep the Old Fruit, but Keep Growing New Fruit”

Long-term love needs memory.

Remember:

How you met.

Why you fell in love.

What you survived together.

What God brought you through.

But memory alone is not enough.

Love also needs:

New conversations.

New laughter.

New experiences.

New prayers.

New affection.

New kindness.

Principle:

Treasure yesterday without living only in yesterday.

XXIX. “HIS DESIRE IS FOR ME”

These words communicate something powerful.

The bride feels:

Wanted.

Desired.

Chosen.

Secure.

Many relationships suffer not because love has completely disappeared, but because love is no longer communicated clearly.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never make someone you love depend entirely on guesswork to know whether they are still wanted.

XXX. THE KING IS STILL CAPTIVATED

This matters.

The relationship has already experienced:

Longing.

Distance.

Misunderstanding.

Reunion.

Yet he remains captivated.

Difficult seasons did not erase attraction.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love can pass through difficulty without becoming permanently cold.

XXXI. “COME, MY BELOVED”

The bride takes initiative.

That should challenge the idea that one person is responsible for all romance.

Healthy love moves both directions.

Both people can:

Plan.

Invite.

Encourage.

Express affection.

Create time.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely wait to be loved well.

Learn to love well.

XXXII. GO TO THE VINEYARDS

The invitation to the vineyards symbolizes intentional attention to growth.

Every relationship needs times when ordinary pressures are set aside long enough to ask:

How are we?

What is growing?

What needs care?

What should we celebrate?

Spiritual Principle

Relationships need inspection as well as affection.

XXXIII. BOTH NEW AND OLD

Few phrases describe lasting marriage better than:

“both new and old.”

Old:

Commitment.

History.

Memories.

Trust.

Shared experience.

New:

Fresh affection.

Fresh kindness.

Fresh conversations.

Fresh joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mature love is old enough to have roots and fresh enough to keep producing fruit.

XXXIV. DELIGHT RATHER THAN MERE DUTY

Marriage contains duties.

There are:

Bills.

Responsibilities.

Work.

Schedules.

Decisions.

But Song of Solomon reminds us that marriage should also contain:

Delight.

Spiritual Principle

Do not allow responsibility to consume every space where affection once lived.

XXXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 7 is a celebration of love that remains alive.

The groom is still captivated.

The bride is still secure.

They still desire each other.

They still seek time together.

They still look for new growth.

This is important.

Relationships do not remain vibrant merely because two people once loved each other.

Love must continue to be:

Expressed.

Cultivated.

Protected.

Renewed.

Speak appreciation.

Do not assume:

“They know.”

The groom does not remain silent.

He praises.

The bride does not remain passive.

She invites:

“Come, my beloved.”

Healthy love moves in both directions.

Make time together.

Create experiences together.

Walk through the vineyard.

Look for growth.

Ask:

What is budding?

What is blooming?

What needs care?

And remember:

The bride has fruit both:

New.

And:

Old.

Treasure your history.

Remember the moments that shaped you.

Remember the prayers God answered.

Remember the difficulties you survived.

Remember the joys you shared.

But do not stop there.

Create something new.

Say something loving today.

Plan something thoughtful.

Have a new conversation.

Pray a new prayer.

Make a new memory.

Show fresh affection.

Let the relationship keep growing.

And above all:

Give security.

Let the person you love know:

“I choose you.”

“I desire you.”

“I value you.”

“I still notice you.”

“I still want to spend time with you.”

That is love which does more than survive.

It flourishes.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faithful love.

Thank You for creating marriage as a relationship where:

Commitment.

Affection.

Friendship.

Desire.

Security.

Can grow together.

Teach us to speak appreciation freely.

Give us eyes that continue noticing what is good and beautiful in the person we love.

Do not let familiarity become carelessness.

Help us continue to say:

“You matter.”

“You are valued.”

“You are wanted.”

Father, strengthen security in marriage.

Where uncertainty has developed, restore reassurance.

Where affection has become silent, help it speak again.

Where attraction has been neglected, renew tenderness.

Teach husbands and wives to honor each other deeply.

Let desire always remain joined to:

Respect.

Faithfulness.

Purity.

Commitment.

Father, teach us mutual initiative.

Keep one person from carrying all the responsibility for connection.

Help both people learn to:

Invite.

Plan.

Listen.

Encourage.

Serve.

Give affection.

Make time.

Help couples create shared experiences.

Give them times away from distraction.

Help them walk through the vineyards of their relationships and notice what is:

Growing.

Blooming.

Bearing fruit.

Show them areas that need attention.

Thank You for old fruit.

Thank You for:

Memories.

Years together.

Trials survived.
Prayers answered.
Lessons learned.
Love proven.
But Father, give us new fruit too.
Fresh joy.
Fresh kindness.
Fresh conversations.
Fresh affection.
Fresh experiences.
Fresh spiritual growth.
Keep love from becoming stale.
May mature love have:
Deep roots.
Strong commitment.
And new fruit.
Above all, remind us that we belong to Christ.
Thank You for His faithful and unchanging love.
May our relationships increasingly reflect His:
Commitment.
Grace.
Faithfulness.
Purity.
Tenderness.
And joy.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Key Verse

"I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me." — Song of Solomon 7:10

Central Truth

Faithful love continues to express admiration, communicates security and desire, values mutual initiative, creates shared experiences, and remains vibrant by treasuring the old fruit of shared history while continually cultivating new expressions of devotion.

Song of Solomon 7 in One Sentence

The groom delights openly in the beauty of his bride, while she rests securely in his desire and invites him into renewed shared experiences, showing that lasting love grows through praise, mutual affection, intentional time, treasured memories, and continually renewed devotion.

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 8 — The Power of Love

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 8 brings the book to its powerful conclusion.

The chapter gathers together the major themes of the entire Song:

Love.

Desire.

Commitment.

Purity.

Belonging.

Protection.

Intimacy.

Longing.

Faithfulness.

The bride begins by expressing a desire for freedom to show affection openly.

She longs for closeness without embarrassment or public suspicion.

Then the chapter repeats the warning heard earlier:

“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Even at the end of the book, love is still connected with:

Timing.

Wisdom.

Restraint.

Purity.

The central section of the chapter contains perhaps the most famous statement in the entire Song:

“For love is as strong as death.”

Love is described as:

Powerful.

Unyielding.

Burning.

Unquenchable.

Priceless.

Many waters cannot extinguish it.

Floods cannot drown it.

Money cannot purchase it.

The chapter then turns to the protection of purity.

The “little sister” must be guarded until the proper time.

The imagery of:

A wall.

A door.

Silver.

Cedar.

Shows that purity requires both:

Protection.

Wisdom.

The bride then says:

“I am a wall.”

She has matured.

She is no longer merely someone others must protect.

She has learned to possess boundaries and dignity herself.

The chapter closes with the bride calling to her beloved.

The book does not end with love fading.

It ends with longing.

“Make haste, my beloved.”

The central truth of Song of Solomon 8 is:

True love is intimate, strong, unquenchable, priceless, faithful, and exclusive; it protects purity, gives itself freely rather than being bought, and remains alive through longing, commitment, and enduring devotion.

I. THE BRIDE DESIRES UNHINDERED AFFECTION

Song of Solomon 8:1 — Love Without Shame

“Oh, that you were like my brother, nursed at my mother’s breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me.”

The bride is not literally wishing that her beloved were her biological brother in a romantic sense.

She is expressing frustration with the social limitations placed upon public affection.

A sister could greet a brother publicly with affection without being misunderstood.

The bride longs for the freedom to express love openly without:

Criticism.

Suspicion.

Shame.

Cross References

Hebrews 2:11

Jesus, who makes people holy, and those He makes holy belong to one family, so He is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters.

Matthew 12:50

Jesus said that whoever does the will of His Father in heaven is His brother, sister, and mother in the spiritual family of God.

Song of Solomon 1:2

The bride had already expressed her desire for the affectionate kisses of her beloved because his love was more delightful than wine.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love should not be treated as something shameful.

Key Truth

Godly affection is honorable when expressed within proper boundaries.

II. THE BRIDE WANTS TO BRING HIM HOME

Song of Solomon 8:2 — Intimacy, Hospitality, and Belonging

“I would lead you and bring you into my mother’s house—she who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranates.”

The bride again uses the imagery of her mother’s house.

This suggests:

Family.

Belonging.

Safety.

Intimacy.

She desires to give her beloved:

Hospitality.

Refreshment.

Affection.

The spiced wine and pomegranate juice communicate richness and delight.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:4

When the bride found the one her soul loved, she held onto him and brought him into her mother's house.

Song of Solomon 4:13

The groom had compared the bride's garden to an orchard filled with pomegranates and other choice fruits.

Isaiah 25:6

The Lord is pictured preparing a rich banquet for the peoples, filled with abundant and carefully prepared food and drink.

Spiritual Principle

Love seeks both closeness and shared belonging.

III. THE BRIDE RESTS IN HIS EMBRACE

Song of Solomon 8:3 — Tender Security

“His left hand would be under my head, and his right hand would embrace me.”

This image has appeared before.

The bride longs for the security of her beloved's embrace.

The picture communicates:

Support.

Tenderness.

Protection.

Closeness.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:6

Earlier, the bride described her beloved's left hand supporting her head while his right hand embraced her.

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge, and beneath you are His everlasting arms. He drives away danger and provides security.

Psalm 63:8

My soul clings closely to You, and Your powerful right hand supports and holds me.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love makes closeness feel safe.

IV. LOVE MUST STILL NOT BE FORCED

Song of Solomon 8:4 — The Final Warning About Timing

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem: do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

This warning appears for the final time.

Its repetition shows its importance.

Love is powerful.

Therefore:

Do not manipulate it.

Do not rush it.

Do not manufacture it.

Do not force intimacy before its proper season.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:7

The bride first warned the daughters of Jerusalem not to awaken love before its proper time.

Song of Solomon 3:5

The same charge was repeated again, emphasizing patience and wise timing in matters of romantic affection.

Ecclesiastes 3:5

There is a time for embracing and a time for refraining from embracing, because life contains proper seasons for different actions.

Spiritual Principle

Love needs freedom to mature in the proper season.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If affection must be forced, manipulated, or pressured, it is already being handled unwisely.

V. THE BRIDE LEANS ON HER BELOVED

Song of Solomon 8:5 — Coming Up from the Wilderness

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you; there your mother conceived you; there she who gave you birth brought you forth.”

The bride is pictured coming from the wilderness:

Leaning on her beloved.

That image communicates:

Trust.

Dependence.

Closeness.

Companionship.

The wilderness often represents difficulty or testing.

Yet she does not emerge alone.

She is leaning upon the one she loves.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:6

Earlier, a magnificent procession was seen coming up from the wilderness surrounded by fragrance and splendor.

Deuteronomy 32:10

God found His people in a barren wilderness, cared for them, guarded them, and treated them as something precious.

Isaiah 63:1

Isaiah describes a majestic figure coming in strength and splendor, moving with the power to save.

Spiritual Principle

Love is strengthened when two people learn to walk through difficult places together.

Key Truth

The wilderness becomes easier to cross when you do not walk through it alone.

VI. LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH

Song of Solomon 8:6 — The Seal of Love

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, and jealousy is as unyielding as the grave. Its flames are flames of fire, a most intense flame.”

This is one of the greatest statements about love in Scripture.

A seal represented:

Ownership.

Identity.

Authenticity.

Commitment.

The bride wants to be:

On his heart.

And:

On his arm.

The heart represents inward devotion.

The arm represents outward action.

Love should be:

Felt inwardly.

Demonstrated outwardly.

Cross References

Ephesians 1:13

Believers who hear and trust the gospel are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, marking them as belonging to God.

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride had declared, “My beloved is mine, and I am his,” expressing mutual belonging.

Romans 8:38

Paul says he is convinced that neither death nor life, angels nor rulers, present circumstances nor future events, nor spiritual powers can separate believers from God’s love.

Spiritual Principle

True love involves total devotion.

Key Truth

Love belongs both on the heart and on the arm.

It should exist in feeling and in action.

VII. TRUE LOVE CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR DROWNED

Song of Solomon 8:7 — Love Is Unquenchable and Priceless

“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man were to give all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly despised.”

The Preacher-like wisdom of this verse is powerful.

Love cannot simply be:

Purchased.

Manufactured.

Traded.

Bought.

It cannot be reduced to money.

True love survives:

Pressure.

Difficulty.

Floods.

Trials.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 13:8

Love does not ultimately fail, even though other gifts and abilities may come to an end.

Psalms 93:4

The Lord is mightier than the roar of many waters and stronger than the crashing waves of the sea.

Proverbs 6:35

When marital betrayal occurs, material payment cannot simply erase the damage or purchase away the offense.

Spiritual Principle

Love has a value money cannot measure.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Anything money can buy is not the same thing as genuine love.

VIII. THE FAMILY THINKS ABOUT THE LITTLE SISTER

Song of Solomon 8:8 — Protecting the Immature

“We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?”

The little sister represents someone not yet mature.

The question is:

How should she be protected until the proper time?

The family recognizes responsibility.

Maturity should not be rushed.

Purity should be guarded.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:7

God describes Jerusalem growing from childhood toward maturity, using the imagery of physical development.

2 Corinthians 11:2

Paul says he desires to present believers to Christ with pure and undivided devotion, like a bride faithfully prepared for her husband.

Genesis 24:58

Rebekah was asked directly whether she was willing to go and enter the marriage being arranged, and she answered that she was willing.

Spiritual Principle

Young people need wise protection before they possess full maturity.

IX. PURITY NEEDS BOUNDARIES

Song of Solomon 8:9 — A Wall or a Door

“If she is a wall, we will build on her a tower of silver. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.”

Two pictures are given:

A wall.

A door.

A wall represents:

Strength.

Boundaries.

Resistance.

A door suggests:

Access.

Openness.

The point is wise protection.

If she demonstrates strong boundaries:

Honor them.

If she is vulnerable to unwise access:

Protect her.

Cross References

Nehemiah 6:15

Jerusalem's wall was completed after determined labor despite repeated opposition.

Ephesians 2:21

God's people are pictured as a structure being joined together and growing into a holy dwelling devoted to the Lord.

1 Kings 6:15

Solomon covered the inner walls of the temple with cedar, using strong and beautiful materials in the sacred structure.

Spiritual Principle

Purity requires boundaries before temptation appears.

Key Truth

It is easier to guard a door beforehand than repair the damage after everything valuable has been taken.

X. THE BRIDE DECLARES HER MATURITY

Song of Solomon 8:10 — “I Am a Wall”

“I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. So I became in his eyes as one who brings peace.”

The bride now speaks for herself.

She says:

“I am a wall.”

She has boundaries.

She possesses dignity.

She is mature.

Her purity is not merely something other people imposed upon her.

She has embraced it herself.

The result is:

Peace.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:4

The groom earlier compared the bride's neck to a strong tower decorated with the shields of mighty warriors.

Luke 1:30

The angel told Mary not to fear because she had found favor with God.

Esther 2:17

The king loved Esther above the other women, and she found special favor in his sight.

Spiritual Principle

The highest maturity occurs when wise boundaries become personal convictions.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Parents may build the first fence.

Eventually character must choose to maintain it.

XI. SOLOMON'S VINEYARD PRODUCES GREAT VALUE

Song of Solomon 8:11 — The Vineyard at Baal-hamon

“Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he rented out the vineyard to keepers. Each was to bring a thousand pieces of silver for its fruit.”

Solomon owns a valuable vineyard.

Its produce generates substantial income.

The vineyard is commercial.

It is managed.

Its fruit has a price.

This sets up the contrast in the next verse.

Cross References

Matthew 21:33

Jesus told about a landowner who planted a vineyard, protected it, prepared it for fruit, leased it to tenants, and went away.

Isaiah 5:1

Isaiah begins a song about a beloved who planted a carefully prepared vineyard on fertile ground.

Matthew 20:1

Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a landowner who went out early to hire workers for his vineyard.

Spiritual Principle

Some vineyards can be measured economically.

Love cannot.

XII. THE BRIDE'S VINEYARD IS HERS TO GIVE

Song of Solomon 8:12 — Love Cannot Be Rented

“But my vineyard, which is mine to give, is before me. You, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the keepers of the fruit two hundred.”

This verse is deeply important.

The bride distinguishes:

Solomon's commercial vineyard.

From:

Her vineyard.

Her love cannot be treated as property rented out for profit.

She says:

It is mine.

It is hers to give.

This emphasizes:

Personal dignity.

Willing devotion.

Ownership of one's own affection.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:6

Earlier, the bride said others made her keep their vineyards while her own vineyard had been neglected.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Paul says believers are God's fellow workers and are also compared to God's cultivated field and building.

Isaiah 5:7

Isaiah explains that God's vineyard represented His people, from whom He expected justice and righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

Love must be freely given.

It cannot be legitimately purchased, forced, or rented.

Key Truth

A relationship is strongest when devotion is willingly offered rather than coerced.

XIII. THE BELOVED LONGS TO HEAR HER VOICE

Song of Solomon 8:13 — “Let Me Hear It”

“You who dwell in the gardens, friends are listening for your voice—let me hear it!”

The beloved wants to hear her voice.

The Song has repeatedly connected love with:

Seeing.

Hearing.

Speaking.

Communication matters.

Even at the end of the book:

He still wants to hear her.

Cross References

John 10:3

The shepherd calls his own sheep by name, and they recognize and respond to his voice.

Song of Solomon 2:14

The groom had asked the bride to let him see her face and hear her voice because her voice was sweet and her face lovely.

Revelation 3:20

Jesus says that those who hear His voice and open the door may enjoy fellowship with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not grow tired of hearing the beloved.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When conversation disappears, intimacy usually weakens with it.

XIV. THE SONG ENDS WITH LONGING

Song of Solomon 8:14 — “Make Haste, My Beloved”

“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”

The final words are a call.

Come quickly.

The bride still desires her beloved.

The Song ends with:

Expectation.

Longing.

Affection.

Love remains alive.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:17

Earlier, the bride asked her beloved to move quickly like a gazelle or young stag across the mountains.

Revelation 22:20

Jesus declares that He is coming quickly, and the response of faith is, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

Habakkuk 3:19

The Lord God is my strength. He makes my feet steady like those of a deer and enables me to move securely across difficult heights.

Spiritual Principle

Mature love does not necessarily lose longing.

Key Truth

The Song ends the way strong love should continue:

Still wanting the beloved near.

XV. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 8

1. Love Desires Closeness

The bride wants freedom to express affection openly.

Principle:

Love naturally seeks nearness.

2. Love Must Still Respect Timing

The warning against awakening love appears again.

Principle:

The strength of love makes patience more important, not less.

3. Love Is Strong

It is compared with:

Death.

The grave.

Fire.

Principle:

True love possesses remarkable endurance and intensity.

4. Love Cannot Be Bought

All the wealth of a house cannot purchase genuine love.

Principle:

Love has no legitimate price tag.

5. Purity Must Be Protected

The little sister must be guarded.

Principle:

Wise boundaries protect future intimacy.

6. Mature Purity Becomes Personal Conviction

The bride says:

“I am a wall.”

Principle:

The goal of instruction is mature character, not permanent external control.

7. Love Continues to Long

The book ends:

“Make haste, my beloved.”

Principle:

Mature love can remain alive, eager, and affectionate.

XVI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

Love is described as:

Strong.

Burning.

Faithful.

Unquenchable.

Priceless.

This is not shallow attraction.

It is enduring devotion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Real love is not measured only by how strongly it begins but by how faithfully it endures.

XVII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT COMMITMENT

The bride asks to be:

A seal upon the heart.

A seal upon the arm.

That means love must exist:

Internally.

Externally.

Privately.

Publicly.

Emotionally.

Practically.

Spiritual Principle

Commitment is inward devotion made visible through outward faithfulness.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT JEALOUSY

The jealousy described in verse 6 is connected with exclusive covenant love.

This is not permission for:

Control.

Possessiveness.

Abuse.

Suspicion.

Rather, faithful love rightly resists betrayal because covenant devotion is exclusive.

Key Truth

Healthy exclusivity protects covenant faithfulness without becoming controlling or destructive.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT MONEY

Verse 7 declares that love cannot be purchased.

A person may buy:

Gifts.

Houses.

Trips.

Jewelry.

Comfort.

But not genuine devotion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Money can create opportunities for love to be expressed.

It cannot manufacture love itself.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT PURITY

The chapter presents purity as something worth:

Protecting.

Developing.

Owning personally.

The little sister needs protection.

The mature bride says:

“I am a wall.”

This shows progression.

Spiritual Principle

Purity becomes strongest when external boundaries become internal convictions.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT MATURITY

Immaturity says:

“Someone must always stop me.”

Maturity says:

“I know what I value, and I will protect it.”

The bride has reached that point.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Maturity is not merely knowing the rules.

It is possessing the character to choose wisely when nobody is forcing you.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT DIGNITY

The bride says:

“My vineyard ... is mine to give.”

That is a statement of dignity.

Her love belongs to her.

It is not for:

Purchase.

Rental.

Pressure.

Manipulation.

Spiritual Principle

Genuine intimacy must involve willing devotion.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

The beloved says:

“Let me hear your voice.”

After eight chapters:

Conversation still matters.

Love must continue speaking.

Key Truth

A relationship that stops communicating eventually begins losing intimacy.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT LONGING

The final words are not:

“Everything is finished.”

They are:

“Come.”

“Make haste.”

Love still wants:

Presence.

Closeness.

Fellowship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The goal of mature love is not indifference.

It is deep security without loss of affection.

XXV. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have historically found powerful spiritual echoes in this final chapter.

The bride:

Leans on her beloved.

Longs for his presence.

Wants to hear his voice.

Calls for him to come quickly.

These themes naturally remind Christians of:

Dependence upon Christ.

Belonging to Christ.

Longing for fellowship with Christ.

Awaiting Christ's return.

Revelation ends with a similar prayer:

“Come, Lord Jesus.”

Yet the primary setting of Song of Solomon remains the celebration of faithful human love.

Spiritual Principle

The longing of covenant love can remind believers of the deeper longing to be fully present with Christ.

XXVI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does the bride wish her beloved were “like her brother”?

She wants the freedom to show affection publicly without being shamed or misunderstood.

Question 2

Why does she bring him into her mother’s house?

The image communicates belonging, intimacy, family connection, and security.

Question 3

Why is the warning about awakening love repeated again?

Because love is powerful and must be handled with patience, timing, and wisdom.

Question 4

What does it mean that the bride leans on her beloved?

It pictures trust, dependence, companionship, and support.

Question 5

What does the seal represent?

It represents belonging, commitment, identity, and devotion.

Question 6

What does “love is as strong as death” mean?

It means true love possesses enormous strength, seriousness, endurance, and intensity.

Question 7

What do the many waters represent?

They picture overwhelming pressures and trials that still cannot extinguish genuine love.

Question 8

Can genuine love be purchased?

No.

Money can purchase objects and experiences, but it cannot buy faithful devotion.

Question 9

What does the little sister represent?

She represents someone still immature who needs wise protection until the proper time for mature love.

Question 10

What does “I am a wall” mean?

The bride now possesses strong personal boundaries and mature conviction.

Question 11

What is the meaning of “my vineyard is mine to give”?

It emphasizes that love and intimacy must be freely offered rather than forced or bought.

Question 12

How does Song of Solomon end?

It ends with the bride longing for her beloved to come quickly, showing that love remains alive and eager.

XXVII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 8 asks several searching questions.

Is My Love Both Inward and Outward?

Is it:

On my heart?

And:

On my arm?

Is My Love Strong Under Pressure?

What happens when difficulties come?

Am I Trying to Buy What Must Be Freely Given?

Do I confuse gifts with genuine devotion?

Are My Boundaries Strong?

Am I:

A wall?

Or:

An open door to every temptation?

Have My Boundaries Become Personal Convictions?

Or do I only behave wisely when someone is watching?

Do I Respect the Dignity of the Person I Love?

Do I understand that love must be freely given?

Are We Still Communicating?

Do I still want to hear the voice of the person I love?

Is There Still Longing?

Has security become indifference?

XXVIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Love Is Too Valuable to Be Bought, Too Powerful to Be Trifled With, and Too Precious to Be Left Unguarded”

Song of Solomon 8 brings together three great truths.

Love is:

Powerful.

Priceless.

Protected.

Because love is powerful:

Handle it wisely.

Because love is priceless:

Do not try to buy it.

Because love is precious:

Guard it faithfully.

Principle:

What is powerful enough to shape a life is valuable enough to protect carefully.

XXIX. SET ME AS A SEAL UPON YOUR HEART

The heart represents:

Inner affection.

Thought.

Desire.

Commitment.

The bride wants to be held there.

Not forgotten.

Not replaced.

Not treated casually.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love says:

“Keep me close within your heart.”

XXX. SET ME AS A SEAL UPON YOUR ARM

The arm represents:

Action.

Strength.

Visible conduct.

Love should not remain merely:

A feeling.

A private claim.

A spoken promise.

It should become visible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love that lives only in words but never reaches actions remains incomplete.

XXXI. MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE

Life brings floods.

Marriage may encounter:

Financial trouble.

Illness.

Grief.

Stress.

Disappointment.

Aging.

Conflict.

Unexpected change.

The verse does not say these waters are unreal.

It says genuine love can endure them.

Spiritual Principle

Strong love is not love without storms.

It is love that refuses to drown in them.

XXXII. LOVE CANNOT BE PURCHASED

Suppose someone offered:

Every possession.

Every account.

Every property.

Every valuable thing.

The text says genuine love would still not become a commercial transaction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse being provided for materially with being loved relationally.

Both may matter.

They are not the same thing.

XXXIII. “I AM A WALL”

This may be one of the strongest personal statements in the chapter.

The bride has maturity.

Boundaries are no longer merely being built around her.

She has become a boundary keeper herself.

Spiritual Principle

The goal of godly instruction is not to produce people who need constant surveillance.

It is to produce people of conviction.

XXXIV. MY VINEYARD IS MINE TO GIVE

This statement protects personal dignity.

Love cannot be:

Demanded.

Bought.

Forced.

Manipulated.

True devotion must be given.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Covenant love becomes beautiful when commitment is both serious and willing.

XXXV. LEANING ON HER BELOVED

The wilderness appears again.

But now the bride is coming out of it:

Leaning.

That is a fitting picture of enduring love.

Sometimes strength means standing alone.

Sometimes wisdom means accepting support.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love allows two people to support one another without making either person worthless or powerless.

XXXVI. THE FINAL CRY OF THE SONG

The book ends:

“Make haste, my beloved.”

After:

Eight chapters.

Longing.

Searching.

Finding.

Marriage.

Praise.

Difficulty.

Restoration.

Desire.

The bride still says:

Come.

That is beautiful.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mature love should become more secure without becoming less alive.

XXXVII. EIGHT GREAT TRUTHS FROM THE SONG OF SOLOMON

1. Love Is Worth Celebrating

God created faithful human love as something good.

2. Love Requires Timing

Do not awaken love prematurely.

3. Love Requires Purity

The garden must be protected.

4. Love Requires Communication

The beloved wants to see the face and hear the voice.

5. Love Requires Protection

Catch the little foxes.

6. Love Requires Mutual Commitment

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

7. Love Requires Continuing Cultivation

Keep producing fruit, both old and new.

8. Love Requires Endurance

Many waters cannot quench it.

XXXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 8 brings the entire book to its conclusion.

And the conclusion is powerful.

Love matters.

But love must be handled wisely.

Do not rush it.

Do not cheapen it.

Do not sell it.

Do not manipulate it.

Do not leave it unprotected.

The bride says:

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.”

That is total devotion.

Heart:

Love inwardly.

Arm:

Love outwardly.

Then comes the declaration:

“Love is as strong as death.”

True love has power.

That is why it can:

Build.

Heal.

Strengthen.

Comfort.

But powerful things also require wisdom.

Then:

“Many waters cannot quench love.”

Storms may come.

But faithful love can endure.

The chapter also reminds us:

Love cannot be bought.

A person may possess great wealth and still lack genuine devotion.

Never substitute:

Money for affection.

Gifts for presence.

Possessions for faithfulness.

Then the chapter teaches purity.

The little sister needs protection.

But eventually the bride says:

“I am a wall.”

That is maturity.

The goal is not simply to have someone else create boundaries around you forever.

The goal is to become a person who values purity enough to maintain boundaries yourself.

Finally:

The book ends with longing.

“Make haste, my beloved.”

After everything:

She still wants him near.

That may be one of the finest pictures of mature love in the whole Song.

Secure.

But still longing.

Committed.

But still affectionate.

Established.

But still alive.

Therefore:

Love faithfully.

Wait wisely.

Protect purity.

Build strong boundaries.

Give yourself willingly.

Speak affection.

Value dignity.

Keep communicating.

Hold firmly through the floods.

Treasure what money can never buy.

And after years of love:

Still be able to say:

“Come, my beloved.”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love.

Thank You for teaching us through Song of Solomon that faithful love is:

Beautiful.

Powerful.

Precious.

Pure.

Strong.

Teach us to handle love wisely.

Give us patience.

Keep us from awakening affection before the proper time.

Protect young people from being rushed into relationships and intimacy before they are ready.

Give them:

Wisdom.

Boundaries.

Conviction.

Purity.

Help them become walls rather than open doors to every temptation.

Father, strengthen marriages.

Set husbands and wives upon one another's hearts.

Set them upon one another's arms.

Let their love be:

Inwardly sincere.

Outwardly faithful.

When many waters come, help them endure.

When trials rise, keep them from drowning in:

Bitterness.

Resentment.

Fear.

Distance.

Remind them why they chose one another.

Father, teach us that love cannot be purchased.

Keep us from replacing:

Presence with money.

Affection with possessions.

Communication with gifts.

Teach us to give what money cannot buy:

Time.

Faithfulness.

Attention.

Tenderness.

Loyalty.

Forgiveness.

Father, protect dignity.

Help us understand that genuine love must be freely given.

Protect relationships from:

Manipulation.

Control.

Coercion.

Unfaithfulness.

Teach us to love with respect.

Help us keep communicating.
May we still want to hear the voice of the person we love.
May security never become indifference.
May maturity never become coldness.
May commitment never become mere routine.
Keep love alive.
And above all, thank You for the love of Christ.
Thank You that His love cannot be separated from His people.
Thank You that His faithfulness survives every storm.
Teach us to lean on Him in every wilderness.
And give us hearts that long for His presence.
May we be able to pray with joy:
Come, Lord Jesus.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Key Verse

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, and jealousy is as unyielding as the grave. Its flames are flames of fire, a most intense flame.” — Song of Solomon 8:6

Central Truth

True love is intimate, strong, unquenchable, priceless, faithful, and exclusive; it must be protected by purity and mature boundaries, expressed through inward devotion and outward faithfulness, and freely given rather than bought or forced.

Song of Solomon 8 in One Sentence

The final chapter celebrates love as powerful enough to endure floods, precious enough that no wealth can purchase it, sacred enough to require purity and boundaries, and alive enough to end with the bride still longing for the presence of her beloved.

Epilogue

The Song of Solomon begins with longing and ends with enduring love.

Across its chapters, we have listened to the voices of a bride and bridegroom who desire one another, admire one another, search for one another, rejoice in one another, and ultimately affirm a love that cannot easily be extinguished.

The poetry is ancient, but the truths are timeless.

Love still requires patience.

Love still requires faithfulness.

Love still requires words.

Love still requires commitment.

Love still needs protection from the “little foxes” that can quietly damage what is precious.

And love is still strongest when it is rooted in covenant rather than convenience.

The Song of Solomon does not present love as a passing feeling. It presents love as something powerful, valuable, and worthy of honor.

At the center of the book stands the declaration that gives this commentary its title:

“Love is strong as death.”

That statement captures the force of the entire Song.

Death is relentless.

True love, the kind of love the Song celebrates, is also tenacious.

It holds on.

It remains.

It endures.

It refuses to be treated cheaply.

And then comes the equally powerful declaration:

“Many waters cannot quench love.”

The image is unmistakable.

Love is like a flame.

Water should extinguish a flame.

Floodwaters should overwhelm it.

But this love is described as something stronger than the forces trying to put it out.

That does not mean every relationship survives every circumstance. Human beings are imperfect, relationships can be damaged, and sin can bring deep consequences.

But the biblical ideal remains clear.

Love is meant to be faithful.

Love is meant to endure.

Love is meant to be guarded.

Love is meant to be given within the security of commitment.

Love Must Be Protected

One of the great lessons of the Song of Solomon is that love should never be taken for granted.

The vineyard must be protected.

The foxes must be caught.

The beloved must be valued.

Words of affection must be spoken.

Time must be given.

Faithfulness must be maintained.

It is possible for people to become careless with what they once considered precious.

The Song does not encourage carelessness.

It encourages attentiveness.

It reminds husbands and wives that love should continue to be expressed after commitment has been made.

Marriage is not the end of courtship.

It is the beginning of a lifelong covenant in which affection, communication, admiration, patience, forgiveness, and intimacy continue to matter.

Love Must Be Patient

The repeated warning not to awaken love before its proper time carries an important message.

Love cannot be forced.

Desire should not be allowed to outrun wisdom.

There is a proper time for intimacy.

There is a proper setting for covenant love.

The Song celebrates passion, but it never separates passion from responsibility.

That is one of its strongest messages to every generation.

A culture may say that desire alone determines what is right.

Scripture says desire must be governed by wisdom, faithfulness, and holiness.

Biblical love is not less passionate because it has boundaries.

It is more secure because it has them.

Love Must Be Spoken

Throughout the Song, the bride and bridegroom repeatedly express admiration for one another.

They do not assume the other person already knows.

They speak.

They praise.

They affirm.

They describe what they cherish.

There is a lesson here that should not be missed.

Love that is never expressed can feel invisible.

Gratitude that is never spoken can go unheard.

Admiration that remains silent cannot encourage.

The Song teaches us that words matter.

A husband should know that his wife values him.

A wife should know that her husband cherishes her.

Affection should not disappear beneath routine.

Marriage should contain words of encouragement, appreciation, respect, and love.

Love Must Be Faithful

The Song repeatedly emphasizes exclusivity.

The bride belongs to her beloved.

The bridegroom belongs to his beloved.

Their language is not casual.

It is covenantal.

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Those words describe more than romance.

They describe belonging.

Faithfulness says:

I will not treat our covenant as temporary.

I will not give to another what I have promised to you.

I will guard our relationship.

I will honor the vows that bind us together.

In a world where relationships are often treated as disposable, Scripture presents covenant faithfulness as something beautiful.

Love Must Survive the Seasons

The Song contains more than joyful scenes.

There are moments of absence.

There is searching.

There is longing.

There is disappointment.

There are nights when the beloved feels distant.

That makes the Song realistic.

Every lasting relationship goes through seasons.

Some seasons are joyful.

Some are difficult.

Some are exciting.

Some are quiet.

Some require patience.

Some require forgiveness.

Some require rebuilding.

Enduring love understands that a difficult season is not necessarily the end of the story.

The beloved may be searched for again.

Communication may be restored.

Closeness may return.

The vineyard may bloom again.

Love Cannot Be Bought

Near the end of the Song comes another profound statement.

If a person offered all the wealth of his house for love, it would be rejected.

That tells us something essential about the nature of love.

Love is not a commodity.

It cannot be purchased.

It cannot be demanded.

It cannot be manufactured by wealth, possessions, status, or power.

Real love must be freely given.

That makes it more valuable than material things.

A person may possess houses, land, money, influence, and possessions and still be poor in the things that matter most.

Love, faithfulness, companionship, trust, and devotion cannot be priced.

They are treasures of another kind.

Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart

Perhaps no image in the Song is more fitting for a final reflection than the seal upon the heart.

A seal identified ownership.

It represented authenticity.

It marked something as belonging to someone.

The request to be set as a seal upon the heart is therefore a request for permanent remembrance and devotion.

It is as though the bride says:

Do not let me become ordinary to you.

Do not let our love become forgotten.

Keep me close.

Carry me upon your heart.

That is a fitting picture of covenant love.

It does not say, “Love me only when it is easy.”

It says, “Let this love remain written upon your heart.”

A Greater Biblical Picture

The primary setting of the Song of Solomon is the love between a man and a woman.

That should not be lost.

But the rest of Scripture also gives us a larger biblical picture of covenant love.

God repeatedly describes His commitment to His people in the language of covenant faithfulness.

The New Testament presents Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His bride.

Those passages remind us that the deepest pattern of faithful love begins with God Himself.

Human love can fail.

God’s faithfulness does not.

Human promises can be broken.

God remains true to His Word.

Human affection may change.

God’s covenant purposes remain steadfast.

So while we should not force every line of the Song into an allegory, we can still allow its language of devotion, belonging, and covenant to remind us of the greater biblical truth that faithful love reflects something of the character of God.

What Should We Carry With Us?

After studying the Song of Solomon verse by verse, several truths should remain with us.

Love is a gift.

Love is powerful.

Love should not be awakened carelessly.

Love requires patience.

Love needs protection.

Love should be expressed.

Love should be faithful.

Love belongs within covenant commitment.

Love cannot be purchased.

Love is worth guarding.

And true love is not easily extinguished.

The Song began as a celebration of love.

It ends as a testimony to love's strength.

The final chapter leaves us with no shallow view of romance.

Instead, it points us toward love that has endured attraction, longing, separation, reunion, commitment, and testing.

That is the kind of love worth pursuing.

That is the kind of love worth protecting.

That is the kind of love worth giving.

Love Stronger Than Death

When all the poetry has been read, all the images examined, all the cultural background considered, and all the verses studied, the heart of the book can still be expressed in a few unforgettable words:

Love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love.

That is the final message of the Song.

Love may be tested.

Love may pass through difficult seasons.

Love may encounter distance.

Love may require patience.

Love may demand sacrifice.

But covenant love does not surrender easily.

It remains sealed upon the heart.

It protects the vineyard.

It catches the little foxes.

It waits for the proper time.

It speaks words of affection.

It remains faithful.

And when the floods rise, genuine love continues to burn.

May every reader of the Song of Solomon come away with a renewed respect for marriage, a deeper understanding of covenant, a stronger commitment to faithfulness, and a greater appreciation for the wisdom of God in designing human love.

And may these words remain with us long after the final page is turned:

Many waters cannot quench love.

Love is stronger than death.

Dr. Paul Crawford

Love Stronger Than Death

A Verse-by-Verse Commentary on the Song of Solomon

Note From the Author

When I began working on **Love Stronger Than Death**, I wanted to approach the Song of Solomon with both reverence and clarity.

This is a beautiful book of Scripture, but it is also one that many readers find difficult. Its poetic language, ancient imagery, expressions of affection, and descriptions of love can seem unusual to modern ears. Because of that, some believers avoid it altogether.

I believe that is a mistake.

The Song of Solomon deserves to be read, studied, taught, and appreciated as part of the inspired Word of God.

My purpose in writing this commentary was not to make the Song more complicated, but to make it more understandable. I wanted to walk through the text verse by verse, explain the imagery, explore the historical and cultural background, and draw out practical truths that can still speak to us today.

Throughout this book, I have tried to let the text speak for itself.

The Song of Solomon celebrates love, attraction, commitment, faithfulness, longing, intimacy, and the covenant bond between a man and a woman. It reminds us that love is powerful and therefore must be treated with wisdom. It teaches us that love should not be awakened carelessly, that relationships must be protected from the “little foxes,” and that true love cannot simply be bought or manufactured.

One of the truths that impressed me most while studying this book is how often love is connected with commitment.

Modern culture often speaks of love primarily as a feeling.

Scripture presents something stronger.

Feelings matter, but covenant matters too.

Affection matters, but faithfulness matters too.

Desire matters, but wisdom matters too.

Romance matters, but commitment gives romance a place to endure.

That is why the words near the end of the Song are so powerful:

“Love is strong as death.”

Those words became the title of this commentary because they capture the strength of genuine love.

Real love is not cheap.

It is not disposable.

It is not something to be awakened carelessly and abandoned easily.

It is something worth protecting.

Something worth nurturing.

Something worth remaining faithful to.

The Song also declares that **many waters cannot quench love**. That image has stayed with me throughout the writing of this book.

Life brings many waters.

Disappointment.

Change.

Pressure.

Distance.

Misunderstanding.

Loss.

Temptation.

Hard seasons.

Yet covenant love is called to remain.

That does not mean relationships are always easy. It means that biblical love is built for more than easy circumstances.

I also recognize that Christians have interpreted the Song of Solomon in different ways through the centuries. Some have emphasized the love between a husband and wife. Others have seen in the book a spiritual picture of God’s love for His people or Christ’s love for His Church.

In this commentary, I have sought first to respect the natural setting of the Song as a celebration of human love and marriage. At the same time, I have also pointed to broader biblical themes where appropriate, especially the Bible’s rich teaching about covenant, faithfulness, the Bridegroom, and the people of God.

My desire has been to handle the text honestly and carefully.

I have not tried to force a hidden meaning into every flower, vineyard, mountain, spice, or garden. At the same time, I have not ignored the spiritual lessons that naturally arise from the themes of devotion, belonging, faithfulness, and covenant.

Above all, I hope this book helps you appreciate the wisdom of God.

God understands love because He created us with the capacity to love.

God understands marriage because He established it.

God understands desire because He created human beings as both spiritual and physical creatures.

God understands commitment because covenant faithfulness is woven throughout Scripture.

The Song of Solomon therefore does not sit outside the message of the Bible. It belongs within it.

My prayer is that this commentary will help husbands and wives treasure one another more deeply.

I pray that it will help younger readers understand that love is worth waiting for.

I pray that pastors and teachers will feel more confident teaching from a book that is too often neglected.

I pray that anyone who has ever wondered why the Song of Solomon is in the Bible will come away with a clearer answer.

It is there because love matters to God.

Marriage matters to God.

Faithfulness matters to God.

Purity matters to God.

Commitment matters to God.

And the way we treat those we love matters to God.

If **Love Stronger Than Death** helps you understand even one verse more clearly, strengthen one relationship, recognize one danger before it damages the vineyard, or appreciate one more dimension of God's wisdom, then the work of writing it will have been worthwhile.

Thank you for taking this journey through the Song of Solomon with me.

Read it slowly.

Study it carefully.

Receive its warnings.

Celebrate its beauty.

Honor its wisdom.

And never forget the truth that stands near the climax of this remarkable book:

Love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love.

May we learn not merely to admire that kind of love, but to live it.

Dr. Paul Crawford

Author of Love Stronger Than Death

A Verse-by-Verse Commentary on the Song of Solomon

A Closing Prayer

“Father, I thank You for every reader who has walked through these pages. For the one who does not yet know You, I pray they would hear Your voice and receive Your Son, Jesus, as Lord and Savior. For the one who already believes, I pray You would set their heart ablaze with urgency—to speak, to share, to love, and to never be silent. May we all live as faithful watchmen, sounding the trumpet until the day You call us home. In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen.”

THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

1. Admit you are a sinner.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

No one is good enough to go to Heaven on his own merit.

No matter how much good we do, we still come short.

2. Realize the penalty for sin.

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a)

Just as there are wages for good, there is punishment for wrong.

The penalty for our sin is eternal death in a place called Hell.

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose again for you.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

4. Trust Christ alone as your Saviour.

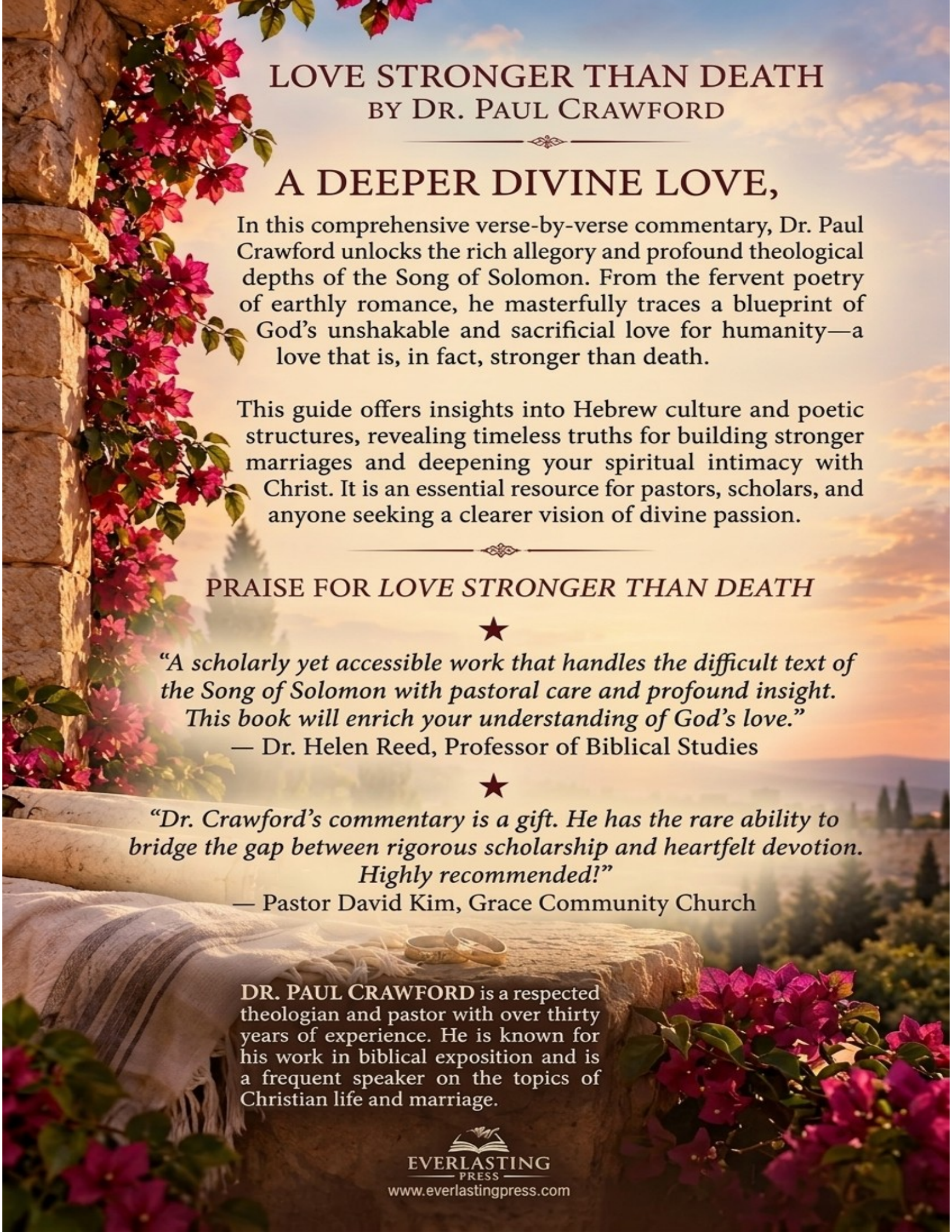
"...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23b)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Eternal life is a gift purchased by the blood of Jesus and offered freely to those who call upon Him by faith.

Anyone who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved forever. Being saved is a one-time event.

Dr. Paul Crawford is more than just a Christian Author; His books are a source of inspiration and guidance on your spiritual journey. His books are created with a deep sense of faith and a desire to uplift and inspire all who read.



LOVE STRONGER THAN DEATH

BY DR. PAUL CRAWFORD

A DEEPER DIVINE LOVE,

In this comprehensive verse-by-verse commentary, Dr. Paul Crawford unlocks the rich allegory and profound theological depths of the Song of Solomon. From the fervent poetry of earthly romance, he masterfully traces a blueprint of God's unshakable and sacrificial love for humanity—a love that is, in fact, stronger than death.

This guide offers insights into Hebrew culture and poetic structures, revealing timeless truths for building stronger marriages and deepening your spiritual intimacy with Christ. It is an essential resource for pastors, scholars, and anyone seeking a clearer vision of divine passion.

PRAISE FOR *LOVE STRONGER THAN DEATH*



"A scholarly yet accessible work that handles the difficult text of the Song of Solomon with pastoral care and profound insight. This book will enrich your understanding of God's love."

— Dr. Helen Reed, Professor of Biblical Studies



"Dr. Crawford's commentary is a gift. He has the rare ability to bridge the gap between rigorous scholarship and heartfelt devotion. Highly recommended!"

— Pastor David Kim, Grace Community Church

DR. PAUL CRAWFORD is a respected theologian and pastor with over thirty years of experience. He is known for his work in biblical exposition and is a frequent speaker on the topics of Christian life and marriage.



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