

Song of Solomon chapter 2 is essentially a woman’s response to a man who PROTECTS, her PROVIDES for her, PURSUES her, and WOOS her (Jim Hamilton).

## **REVIEW: Overview of the Book**

*Introductory Points Regarding this “Supreme Song”...*

### **1) Some Features to Understand:**

1. It’s a **SONG** - a poem, figure of speech, erotic, full of language, pictures, --- it’s not a sort of anthology of brief poems of love but a unified piece of Spirit-given poetry.
2. It’s in the **BIBLE** -- this isn’t scribbled on a wall of a NYC subway as dirty & filthy; it’s inspired, authoritative, binding, relevant, needed, sufficient, for **ALL** of us, and it’s part of the unfolding of God’s plan of REDEMPTION.
3. It’s about **LOVE** -- it’s about human, marital love & its satisfying physical delights. It’s relished *only* in the context of a heterosexual marriage, the Bible’s ONLY authorized context for expressions of physical intimacy between a man and a woman.
4. It’s to give **WISDOM** -- it’s the *wisdom genre* of Scripture (capping off the poetic writings: Job, Pss, Prov, Eccl & Song of Songs). The refrain gives wisdom: Don’t arouse/awaken love till it pleases (2:7; 3:5; 8:4)
5. It’s about the **SON OF DAVID** -- it’s about Solomon -- David’s Son and yet there is another Son of David who came & who is the ultimate BRIDEGROOM (John 3:29; 2 Cor 11.2; Rev 19.6-9; 22:17)

### **2) A word on the genre of literature:**

It’s wisdom. A unified love-song penned by Solomon. *[to teach!]*

### **3) Some interpretive frameworks [*hermeneutic*]!**

**\*HISTORICAL\*** -- the Song of Songs is a poetic record of Solomon’s actual romance with a woman. This view exalts the joys of love and marriage and teaches that physical beauty and sexuality in marriage should NOT be despised as BASE or UNSPIRITUAL. This is the \*best view that takes the text at face value. (The Song also is pointing by way of *illustration/analogy* to the love of God for His chosen people; indeed, the love of Christ & the Church).

**Note this very helpful (and accurate) way of interpreting the song:** “I cannot now endorse the allegorical interpretation of the Song of Solomon. I think the varieties of interpretation given in terms of the allegorical principle indicate that there are no well-defined hermeneutical canons to guide us in determining the precise meaning and application if we adopt the allegorical view. However, I also think that in terms of the biblical analogy the Song could be used to *illustrate* the relation of Christ to His Church. The marriage bond is used in Scripture as a pattern of Christ and the church. If the Song portrays marital love and relationship on the highest levels of exercise and devotion, then surely it may be used to exemplify what is transcendently true in the bond that exists between Christ and the Church” (John Murray).

### **4) The Key Verse**

7:10 - I am my beloved’s and his desire is toward me (**cf. 2:16!**)

**5) Significant Pointers of the Song**

The SONG illustrates the reality that...

- ▶1) A husband & wife are to passionately love each other - Prov 5, Heb 13, 1 Cor 7 [primary point]
- ▶2) Illustrates love for Israel as the Bride of Yhwh - Isa 54.5-6; Jer 2.2; Ezek 16.8-14; Hosea 2.16-20
- ▶3) Illustrates love for the Church as the Bride of Christ - 2 Cor 11.2; Eph 5.23-25; Rev 19.7-9; 21.9

**Big Picture — An OUTLINE of Song of Solomon**

*INTRO (1:1)*

**1. COURTSHIP [*leaving*] (1:2-3:5)**

beginning of love (1:2-11)

growth of love (1:12-3:5)

**2. WEDDING [*cleaving*] (3:6-5:1)**

procession (3:6-11)

consummation (4:1-5:1)

**3. MATURITY [*weaving*] (5:2-8:4)**

fighting apathy (5:2-6:13)

communicating affection (7:1-10)

initiating love (7:11-13)

intoxicating intimacy (8:1-4)

*CONCL (8:5-7)*

*EPILOGUE (8:8-14)*

**THESIS — From Song of Songs 2, we’ll glean some helpful lessons from this chapter.**

**I.LESSON #1 — AFFIRM ONE ANOTHER (1-2)**

V.1 - the **WOMAN** speaks

V.2 - the **MAN** responds

**II.LESSON #2 — LONG FOR ONE ANOTHER! (3-6)**

In these verses, the **woman** speaks:

➔v.3 - she **LIKES** to be with Him

➔v.4 - she is **LOVED** by him

➔v.5-6 - she is **LONGING** for him

**III.LESSON #3 — WAIT FOR ONE ANOTHER! (7)**

This is the **CHORUS/refrain** (probably spoken by woman)

> 3x in the book = Song 2:7; 3:5; 8:4

## **IV. LESSON #4 — ROMANCE ONE ANOTHER! (8-14)**

2:8-17 and 3:1-5 are 2 poems of the woman **for** her man!

A *\*brief outline\** for this **Poem #1 — Song of Songs 2:8-17**

1. *express your desire for love (8-14)*
2. *expect some dangers to love (15)*
3. *enjoy the delights of love (16-17)*

## **V. LESSON #5 — PROTECT ONE ANOTHER! (15)**

It's a difficult verse but it seems to be using metaphors for those who would/or circumstances that would **\*THREATEN\*** the couple and their intimate love.

### **Guard against “little foxes” [*small ‘issues’*] that can creep in & bring problems.**

7 little ‘foxes’ that we must diligently & proactively guard against in our marriages...

1. beware of the fox of **ROLE REVERSAL** or **ABUSE**
2. beware of the fox of **INTIMACY STAGNATION**
3. beware of the fox of **POOR COMMUNICATION**
  - a. Prov 15.1-2, 4 = guard from: criticism, defensiveness, contempt (mocking, sneering), and stonewalling (just withdrawal/indifference/apathy)
4. beware of the fox of **TIME POORLY SPENT TOGETHER**
  - a. guard from hobbies that become gods. guard from internet, social media, email, TV, sports, children & video games that **TAKE AWAY TIME FROM MATE.**
5. beware of the fox of **OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE**
  - a. guard from the sensual lust of adultery (Prov 5.1-14)
6. beware of the fox of **FATIGUE THAT SEPARATES YOU**
  - a. God hates divorce; just say it: "divorce will never be an option"
7. beware of the fox of **MISUNDERSTANDING**

Daniel Akin says: “A Christ centered, God focused marriage will **AGGRESSIVELY** be on guard against what Solomon calls the ‘little foxes.’”

— Adapted from Daniel Akin, *Song of Songs.*

These may be little foxes that prowl at night when it's hard to notice, see it, or catch it **UNTIL** afterwards when the damage is done. If we're not **PROACTIVE** in preventing these 'little foxes' -- the damage can be great and the repair and restoration can be hard, and difficult. (**SO** - Be proactive instead of reactive)! Protect one another!

**Song of Solomon 2 — “Longing, Affirming, Romancing, & Protecting! The Wondrous Joys of God-Glorifying Love”**

Indeed, let us guard from little foxes in the spiritual marriage -- little sins (respectable sins, accepted sins, not-talked-about sins).

NEVER is our carefulness in guarding against sin [even the small sins] so great, as when most deeply filled with the love of Jesus (GeorgeBurrows).

## **VI. LESSON #6 — BE EXCLUSIVE TO ONE ANOTHER! (16-17)**

vv. 16-17 - the woman speaking

>> It's glorious & mutual affirmation of **exclusive** love.

If there is exclusivity between a man & his wife, how much more between the ultimate union, the perfect marriage.

This union that believers have with Christ is so excellent...

- ✓It is a **NEAR** union (one flesh)
- ✓It is a **REAL** union (not imaginary)
- ✓It is **MUTUAL** (Christ is wholly hers; and she is wholly dedicated to him)
- ✓It is a **KIND** union (full of relation, sweetness, tenderness, and kindness)
- ✓It is a **FULL** union (Christ is wholly hers and she is wholly his)
- ✓It is an **UNBREAKABLE** union (there is no breaking/dissolving of it)  
(George Burrows)

**vv 14-17 give 4 tests for lovers** [every married couple should go thru this together.]

1. The **DELIGHT** test = do you delight in each other (v.14)
2. The **DETERMINATION** test = do you persevere & deal with anything that comes (v.15)
3. The **DUALITY** test = are there absolutely exclusive & mutual feelings for love (v.16)
4. The **DEVELOPMENT** test = love yearns for more & deeper intimacy & love (v.17)

**APPLICATION POINTS FOR US** (from Song of Solomon 2):

**1.** Let us see the God-designed, God-given, God-ordained heterosexual relationship. Marriage, marital love, and sensual passions are *only* to be heterosexual & monogamous -- between **ONE** man and **ONE** woman alone (within the covenant bond of marriage) [Song of Solomon 2:1-2]

**2.** There is **NO** doubt that the man is exclusively devoted to **ONE** woman and her alone. She alone has captured his heart, his eyes, his mind, and his body. He speaks exclusive love to her. He shows exclusive love to her. He publicly speaks of exclusive love to her. [Song of Solomon 2:2]

**3.** The woman rests confidently, comfortably, and securely in the shade of her man. She trusts him. He respects him. She loves him. She loves his presence and love. [Song of Solomon 2:3]

**Song of Solomon 2 — “Longing, Affirming, Romancing, & Protecting! The Wondrous Joys of God-Glorifying Love”**

- 4.** The woman longs for intimacy with the man. She ponders and muses on the intoxicating joys and wonderful delights of love that God has given for enjoyment at the proper time and in the proper place. [Song of Solomon 2:4-6]
- 5.** Men and women must not indulge in sexual love and sensual passions before the proper time. Though hard and difficult, sexual purity must be maintained at all costs. God’s wonderful gift of sexual intercourse and all sexual pleasures are to only be wonderfully and regularly enjoyed only at the right time (marriage) with one person (your spouse). [Song of Solomon 2:7]
- 6.** A healthy relationship is one where each the man and the woman longs for each other and takes periodic getaways to be alone, enjoy each other, and delight in each other’s love. [Song of Solomon 2:10-13]
- 7.** There must be frequent, specific, heartfelt, and exclusive words of affirmation that both the man speaks to his wife and that the wife speaks to her husband. Tender words, affirming words, encouraging words are to be lavishly verbalized one to another. [Song of Solomon 2:13-14]
- 8.** A godly and growing relationship must proactively guard from and zealously protect from little “issues” that can creep into the relationship and, if not attended to, will grow and cause great damage. [Song of Solomon 2:15]
- 9.** There must be an overwhelming sense of exclusivity in the relationship. No intruders allowed. No other lovers permitted. The woman must know that she (and she alone!) is her husband’s first love. [Song of Solomon 2:16a]
- 10.** There should be regular and sweet occasions of sexual intimacy between every husband and wife. There should be full openness, unhindered communication, selfless love, and passionate pursuing between one another in the context of marital lovemaking. [Song of Solomon 2:16-17]
- 11.** The man is called to lead, initiate, protect, and be the head [leader] of the relationship. This is not a dominating, self-serving, authoritarian notion. Rather, it is a passionately pursuing, happily initiating, selflessly serving, and tenderly leading his wife throughout the relationship. [Song of Solomon 2:8-13]

**God has given some guidelines regarding the good gift of sex.**

*How do we respond the right way in this tender and sacred area of life to our mate?*

- 1.** Sexual relations within marriage are right, holy, and good. God encourages intimate union and even warns against its cessation (1 Cor 7.5)
- 2.** Pleasure in sexual relations is both healthy and expected as we share our bodies with one another (Prov 5.15-19; 1 Cor 7.5)
- 3.** The pursuit of sexual pleasure is to be guided by the principle that "I will esteem the needs of my mate as more important than my own" (Phil 2.3-4)
- 4.** Sexual relations are to be regular and normal. NO exact number of times is right or correct each week, but the biblical principle is that BOTH parties are to provide adequate sexual satisfaction to their mate so that both 'burning' (sexual desire) and temptation to find satisfaction elsewhere are avoided (1 Cor 7.9)
- 5.** The principle of satisfaction means that each party is to provide sexual enjoyment as frequently as the other party requires/wishes. Other biblical principles (moderation, seeking to please another rather than oneself, etc.) also come into play. Consideration of one's mate always is to guide one's desires for sexual relations.
- 6.** There is to be no sexual bargaining between married persons ("I'll not have relations with you unless you..."). Neither party has the right to make such bargains. That's pride and manipulation. This is a form of "marital prostitution" and must always be avoided.
- 7.** Sexual relations are equal and reciprocal. The Bible does NOT give the man superior rights over the woman or the woman superior rights over the man. Mutual stimulation and mutual initiation of relations are encouraged in Scripture.
- 8.** Whatever is safe, pleasing, enjoyable, and satisfying to both is acceptable. The body of each belongs to the others (1 Cor 7.4). Neither should ever demand from the other what is painful, harmful, degrading, or distasteful to him or her.

## SONGS

### O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go!

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

### Jesus, I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.  
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of my sickness into Thy health,  
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into Thyself,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,  
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,  
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into Thy blessed will to abide,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
Out of despair into raptures above,  
Upward forever on wings like a dove,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.  
Into the joy and light of Thy home,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.  
Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

#### PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for healthy, holy, communicating, pure marriages at CFBC
- Pray for the young people to be sexually pure & not to awaken/arouse love until the God-ordained & proper time
- Pray for us to have our minds filled with divine truth so that we know God's Word regarding marriage & uphold it.
- Pray that we, as Christ's Bride, would increase in our love for, commitment to, longing for & delights in Christ Jesus!

*“From our belonging to Christ, it means that we are NOT OUR OWN – our persons, our time, and talents, our gifts and graces, are not our own, but his. And therefore we should give up all unto him and glorify him with all: nor are we any other person's possession. We are NOT Satan's, for Christ has delivered us as lawful captives out of his hands. We are NOT Sin's, for Christ redeemed us from it; We are NOT the world's, for Christ has both chosen and called us out of it. And therefore we should serve NONE but Him, who has an incontestible right to us, and a sovereign power over us!” —John Gill*