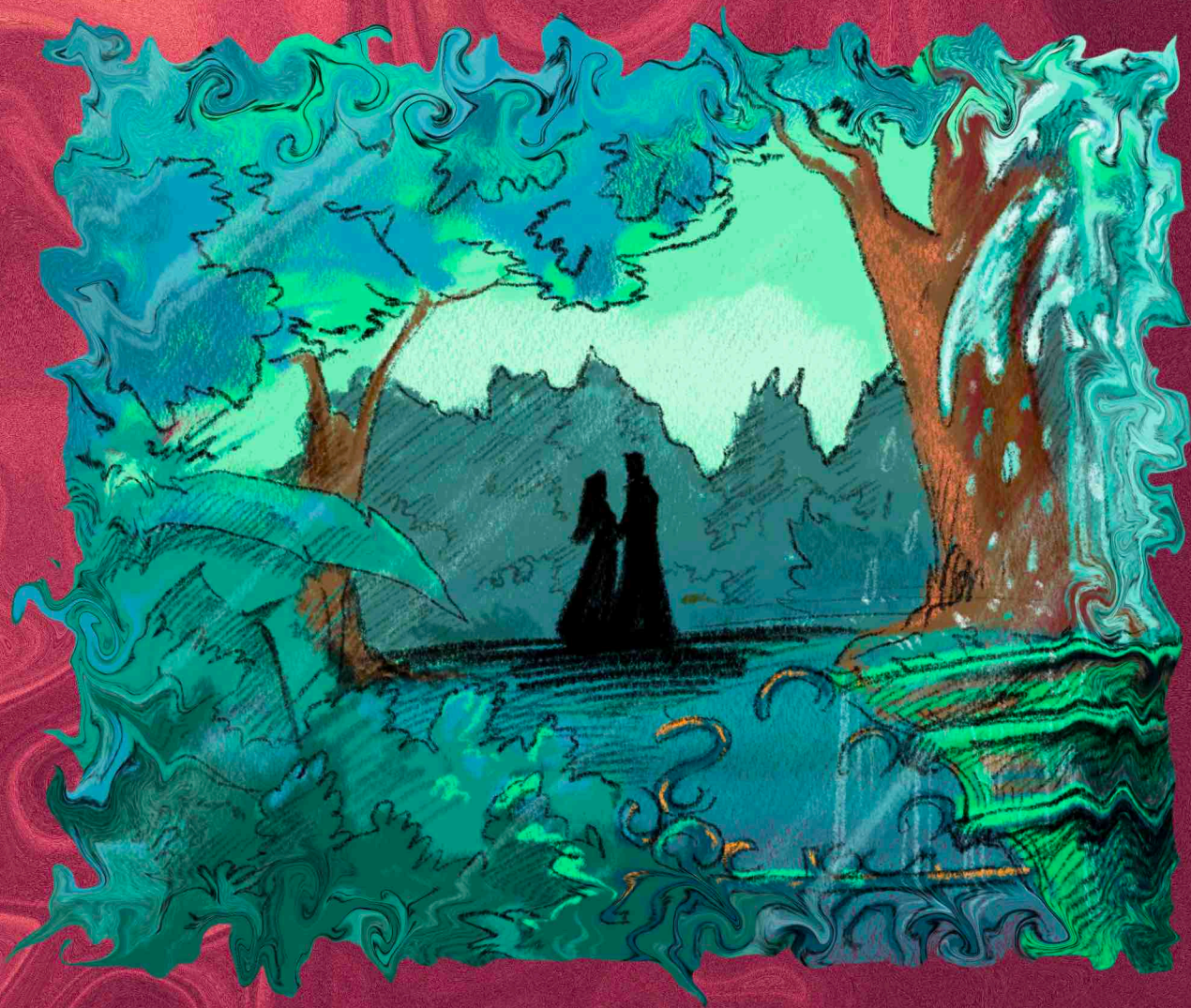


Through the Bible  
*SONG OF SOLOMON*

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville



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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

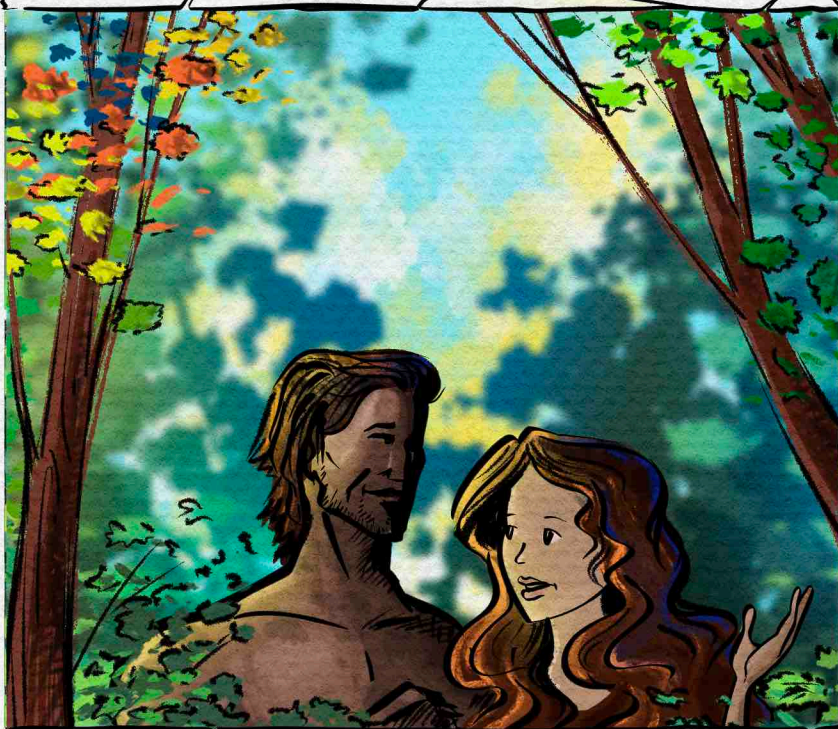
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# SONG OF SOLOMON

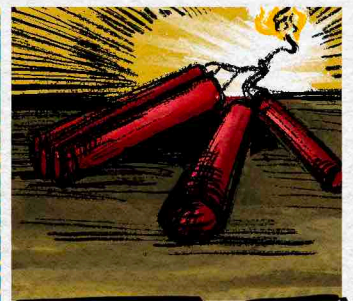
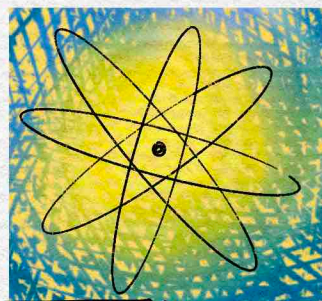
SOME CHRISTIANS ARE **EMBARRASSED** TO READ THIS BOOK, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A **WRONG** UNDERSTANDING OF THE SEXUAL PART OF MARRIED LIFE. THIS IS BECAUSE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF SEX HAS COME FROM THE **CINEMA** AND THE **WORLD'S MEDIA**. THERE ARE TWO LESSONS THAT GOD CLEARLY WANTS US TO LEARN FROM THIS BOOK.

1. THAT THE SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP IN MARRIAGE IS VERY **GOOD** AND VERY **ESSENTIAL**.
2. THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST MUST BE AS **INTIMATE** AND WARM AS THAT OF A LOVING **BRIDE** WITH HER **BRIDEGROOM**.



WAS GOD WHO CREATED THE **SEXUAL** FUNCTION IN ADAM AND EVE. AFTER CREATING THEIR SEXUAL ORGANS, HE TOLD ADAM AND EVE TO MULTIPLY -- OBVIOUSLY THROUGH THEIR SEXUAL **UNION** (GENESIS 1:28). GOD THEN LOOKED AT ALL THAT HE HAD CREATED (INCLUDING THE SEXUAL FUNCTION) AND PRONOUNCED EVERYTHING AS "**VERY GOOD**" (GENESIS 1:31).

BUT WHAT WE LEARN IN SONG OF SOLOMON IS THAT AN **UNSELFISH** LOVE FOR EACH OTHER IS WHAT MAKES THE SEXUAL ACT PURE AND HOLY IN MARRIAGE. SEXUAL UNION **WITHOUT** LOVE IS **FLESHLY**.

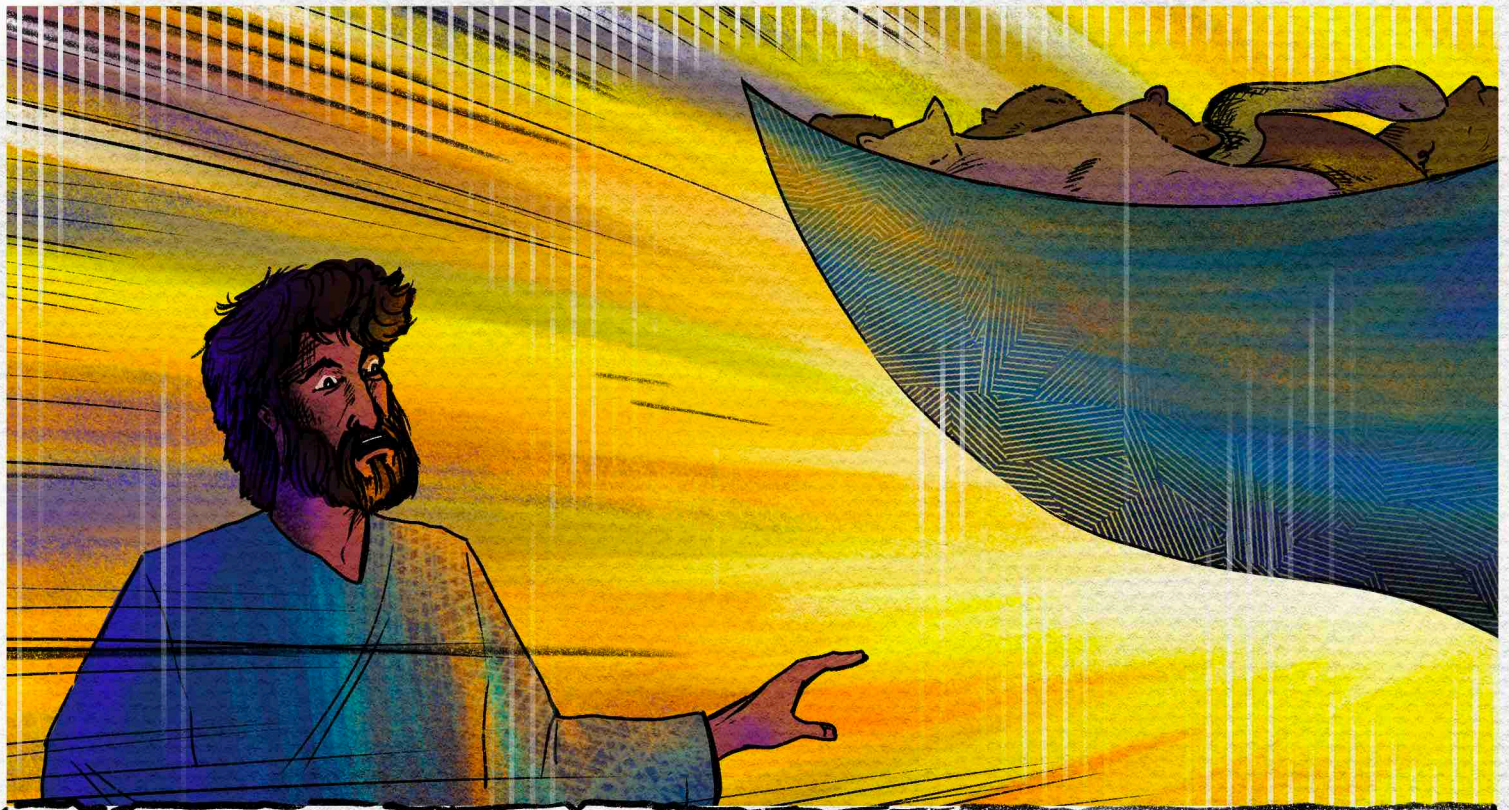


IT WAS **GOD** WHO CREATED THE SEXUAL FUNCTION. BUT LIKE MANY OTHER THINGS, **SATAN** HAS **PERVERTED** IT BY GETTING PEOPLE TO INDULGE IN SEX **OUTSIDE** OF MARRIAGE.

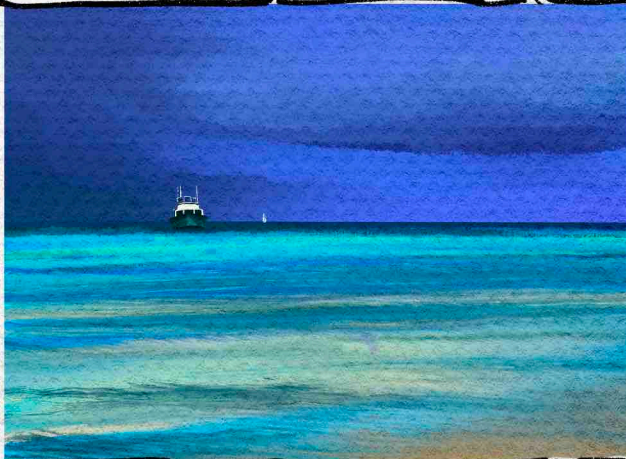
CONSIDER THE **ATOM**. LIKE SEX, THAT TOO WAS CREATED BY GOD. BUT MAN HAS USED IT FOR **GOOD** AND FOR **EVIL** PURPOSES. WHEN AN **ATOM** IS **SPLIT**, THE ENERGY PRODUCED THEREBY CAN BE USED TO PROVIDE **ELECTRICITY** FOR A WHOLE CITY. OR IT CAN BE USED TO MAKE A **BOMB** THAT **DESTROYS** THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE!

OR CONSIDER **DYNAMITE**. THAT CAN BE USED TO BLAST A ROCK TO BUILD A **FOUNDATION** FOR A HOUSE, OR IT CAN BE USED TO MAKE A BOMB THAT KILLS PEOPLE. "SEX" TOO CAN BE USED IN A **GOOD** OR AN **EVIL** WAY.





GOD GAVE **PETER** A VISION ONCE OF A SHEET COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN WITH CLEAN AND UNCLEAR ANIMALS IN IT AND HE ASKED PETER TO KILL AND EAT. WHEN PETER REFUSED TO EAT, BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE VIOLATED THE JEWISH CEREMONIAL LAWS, GOD TOLD HIM, "WHAT **GOD** HAS CLEANSSED, DON'T CONSIDER AS UNHOLY" (ACTS 10:15). WE COULD USE THE SAME WORDS ABOUT "SEX" AS WELL: WHAT GOD CALLS "HOLY", **DON'T** CALL **UNCLEAN**. WHEN THE WORLD USES "SEX" **WRONGLY**, THEN, OF COURSE, IT IS BOTH UNCLEAR AND EVIL. BUT WITHIN THE BONDS OF **MARRIAGE**, IT IS BOTH HOLY AND PURE. IT HELPS TO **BIND** HUSBAND AND WIFE TOGETHER IN A **HOLY** BOND.

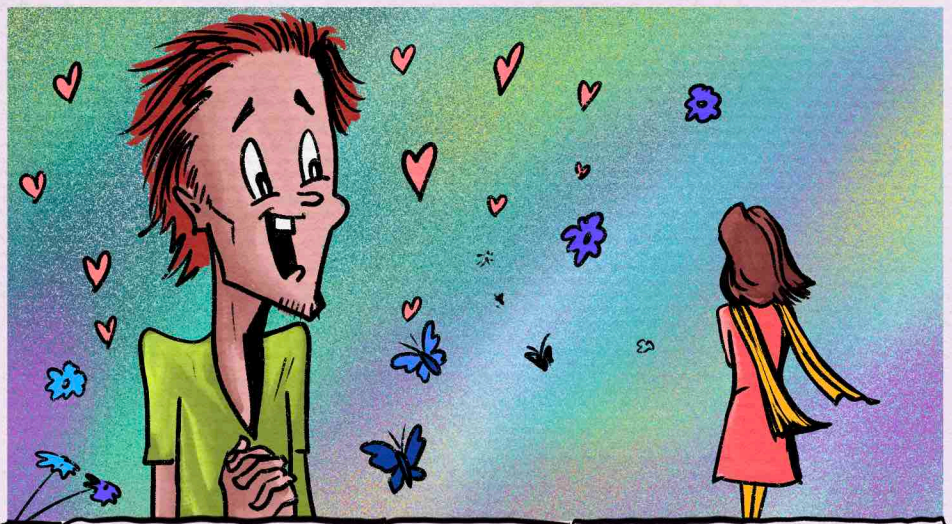


SONG OF SOLOMON WAS THE **FIRST** BOOK OF THE BIBLE THAT I STUDIED IN **DETAIL**, IMMEDIATELY AFTER I WAS BAPTISED -- IN 1961. I WAS WORKING ON A SHIP THAT WAS OUT AT **SEA** FREQUENTLY AND IN **REMOTE** UNINHABITED AREAS OF THE INDIAN COASTLINE. AS A RESULT, I HAD **NO** CONTACT WITH **BELIEVERS** FOR WEEKS ON END AT TIMES. THE STUDY OF THIS BOOK AT THAT TIME **DEEPE**NED MY **DEVOTION** TO THE LORD **JESUS** AS THE **BRIDE**GROOM OF MY **SOUL**. I DISCOVERED THAT I WAS VERY **PRECIOUS** TO HIM. AND HE BECAME VERY **PRECIOUS** TO ME. THIS IS WHAT HAS **PRESERVED** ME FROM **COOLING** OFF AND FALLING AWAY. THEREFORE I VALUE THIS BOOK GREATLY.



IN REVELATION 14:3 WE READ THAT THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THE LAMB SANG A **NEW** SONG THAT **NO ONE** ELSE COULD **LEARN**. THE **SMALL** GROUP OF 144,000 PEOPLE THERE SYMBOLISES THE **BRIDE** OF **CHRIST** WHO FOLLOWED IN HER BRIDE GROOM'S FOOTSTEPS DURING HER **EARTHLY** LIFE. THE BRIDE ALONE COULD LEARN THIS SONG, FOR IT IS A SONG ABOUT HER BELOVED. SONG OF SOLOMON PICTURES THIS SONG OF THE BRIDE. YOU **CANNOT** LEARN THAT SONG BY **STUDYING** THE BIBLE, BUT ONLY BY **FOLLOWING** **JESUS**. THE BRIDE LEARNT THIS SONG WHEN SHE WAS ON EARTH. THE LORD TAKES US THROUGH **MANY** TRIALS IN OUR EARTHLY LIFE AND IT IS IN THOSE **TRIALS** THAT WE LEARN THIS SONG.





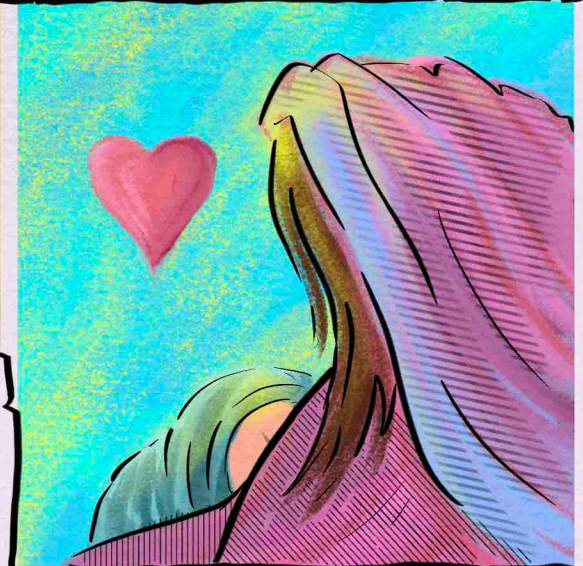
MINISTRY SHOULD NEVER BE THE **PRIMARY** FOCUS OF OUR LIVES. **LOVE** FOR THE LORD MUST ALWAYS BE **PRIMARY**. AFTER SERVING THE LORD FULL TIME FOR 50 YEARS, I WANT TO SAY THIS, THAT MY **DEVOTION** TO MY LORD IS THE BASIS OF ALL MY MINISTRY. OUR MINISTRY WILL HAVE NO **VALUE** AT ALL IN GOD'S EYES, IF OUR DEVOTION TO CHRIST WERE TO DECREASE. WE SEE THIS FROM THE LORD'S REBUKE TO THE MESSENGER IN THE CHURCH AT **EPHESUS**, WHEN HE TOLD HIM, "I KNOW YOUR WORKS AND YOUR TOIL AND YOUR PERSEVERANCE. BUT I STILL HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST YOU: YOU DON'T LOVE ME AS YOU DID AT FIRST" (REVELATION 2:2--4 - LIVING). THIS WAS SUCH A SERIOUS FAILURE THAT THE LORD THREATENED TO TAKE AWAY HIS **RECOGNITION** OF THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS ALTOGETHER (REVELATION 2:5).

IN THE FIRST CHAPTER WE SEE THE BEGINNINGS OF LOVE. BUT THIS IS MORE AKIN TO **INFATUATION**. WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY ARE "IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER", THEY ARE ACTUALLY ONLY "INFATUATED" WITH EACH OTHER.

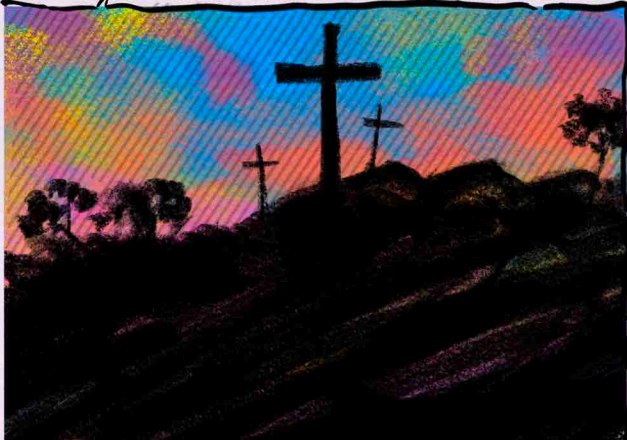
THE PUREST EXPRESSION OF LOVE THAT WE SEE IN THIS WORLD, IS **NOT** THAT BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN -- AS PORTRAYED ON THE CINEMA SCREEN, OR DESCRIBED IN ROMANTIC NOVELS.



IN THE EARLY STAGES OF A MARRIAGE, THERE IS MUCH **SELFISHNESS** IN HUSBAND- WIFE RELATIONSHIPS. THE HUSBAND **WANTS** SOMETHING FROM HIS WIFE THAT WILL SATISFY HIM, AND THE WIFE WANTS SOMETHING FROM HER HUSBAND THAT WILL SATISFY HER. THE MAN USUALLY WANTS SEXUAL GRATIFICATION AND SOMEONE TO SERVE HIM, WHILE THE WOMAN USUALLY WANTS SECURITY AND A COMFORTABLE LIFE. BOTH ARE **SELFISH**. BUT SUCH INFATUATION CAN GROW INTO LOVE, WHERE THERE IS A **SELFLESS COMMITMENT** TO EACH OTHER. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD MAY ALSO BEGIN IN THE SAME SELFISH WAY. WE MAY COME TO GOD INITIALLY BECAUSE WE WANT SOMETHING FOR **OURSELVES** -- PERHAPS SALVATION FROM HELL, OR HEALING, OR MONEY, OR THE SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM, OR AN ANOINTED MINISTRY. ALL SUCH DESIRES ARE **SELF-CENTRED**.

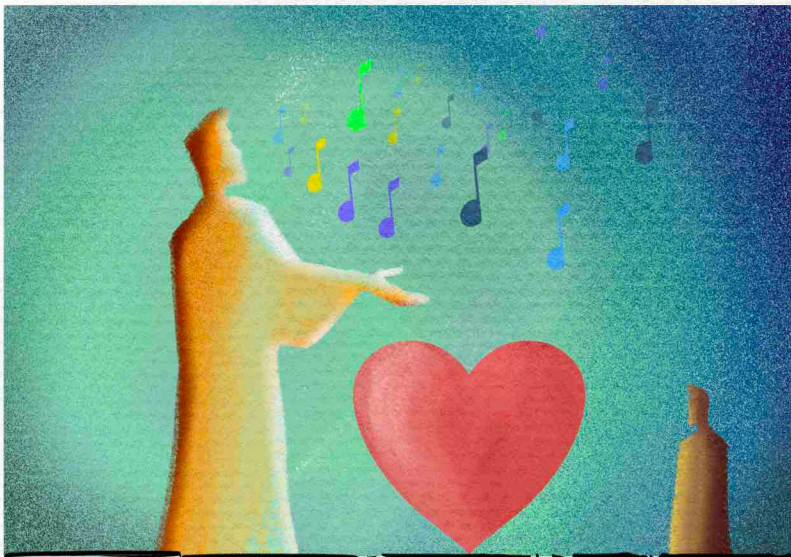


THE PUREST EXPRESSION OF LOVE IN THE WORLD IS SEEN IN THE LOVE OF A **MOTHER** FOR HER HELPLESS **CHILD**. A MOTHER WILL **SACRIFICE** EVERYTHING FOR THAT CHILD OF HERS. WE CAN SEE HER LOVE FOR HER CHILD ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS SICK.

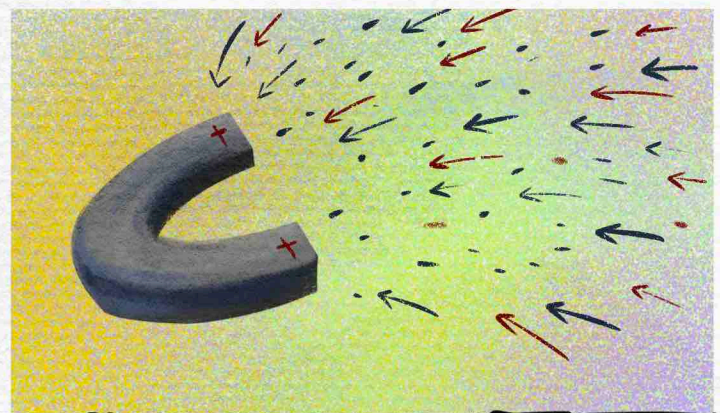


BUT WHEN LOVE **MATURES**, WE SAY, "LORD, I AM NOT SEEKING FOR **HEALTH, WEALTH** OR EVEN FOR A **MINISTRY**. I HAVE YOU, AND THAT'S ALL I WANT. I WANT YOU TO GET THE MOST OUT OF MY ONE EARTHLY LIFE." THEN WE WON'T BE THINKING OF WHAT WE CAN GET OUT OF THE LORD, BUT OF WHAT THE **LORD** CAN **GET** OUT OF **US**. THAT IS MATURE LOVE. .. JESUS' LOVE FOR US WAS LIKE THAT. WHEN HE CAME TO EARTH HE WAS **NOT** THINKING, "WHAT CAN I **GET** FROM MAN FOR MYSELF?" NO. HIS THOUGHT WAS, "WHAT CAN I **GIVE** TO MAN?" THAT IS HOW **DIVINE** LOVE ALWAYS THINKS. AND THAT IS THE **MATURE** LOVE THAT WE FINALLY COME TO IN THE **LAST** CHAPTER -- CHAPTER 8 -- OF THIS BOOK. UNTESTED LOVE MATURES FINALLY INTO TRUE **DIVINE** LOVE.





CHAPTER 1:1: THE FIRST THING WE NOTICE HERE IS THAT THIS IS SOLOMON'S SONG ..THE **BRIDEGROOM'S** SONG, PRIMARILY, AND **NOT** THE BRIDE'S. THAT MEANS IT IS OUR LORD'S SONG TO US PRIMARILY, AND NOT OUR SONG TO HIM. "WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE **FIRST** LOVED US" (1 JOHN 4:19). IT IS ONLY BECAUSE **HE SANG** THIS SONG TO US **FIRST**, THAT WE CAN SING A SONG TO HIM NOW. OUR STARTING POINT MUST ALWAYS BE **HIS LOVE** FOR US. THEN WE WON'T GO WRONG. AND WE WON'T EVER GET **DISCOURAGED** OR **CONDEMN** OURSELVES!



THE BRIDE SAYS "DRAW ME AND WE WILL RUN AFTER YOU" (VERSE 4). NOTE THAT CAREFULLY. LOVE DOES NOT **PUSH**, IT **DRAW**S. THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PUSHING AND DRAWING. **SATAN PUSHES** US, BUT GOD **DRAW**S US TO HIMSELF. JESUS SAID, "IF I BE LIFTED UP I WILL **DRAW** ALL MEN TO MYSELF" (JOHN 12:32). HE SEEKS TO **DRAW** US JUST LIKE A **MAGNET** **DRAW**S IRON FILINGS TO ITSELF.



THIS IS ALSO HOW WE CAN **DISTINGUISH** A **GODLY** LEADER FROM A **CULT-LEADER**. **GODLY** MEN GO AHEAD OF US AND **INVITE** US TO **FOLLOW** THEM -- AS PAUL DID (1 CORINTHIANS 11:1). **CULT-LEADERS**, HOWEVER, ARE LIKE **DICTATORS** AND **FORCE** PEOPLE TO GO ALONG THE PATH THEY **DICTATE** THROUGH THEIR **PREACHING** AND THEIR **ADVICE**.



THE BRIDE CALLS HER BELOVED, "MY **KING**" (1:4). WE HAVE TO KNOW JESUS AS OUR **KING** **BEFORE** WE CAN KNOW HIM AS OUR **BRIDEGROOM**. MANY CHRISTIANS NEVER ENTER INTO THIS **LOVE-RELATIONSHIP** WITH THE LORD, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW HIM AS LORD AND **KING** OVER ALL THEIR LIVES. SOME AREA IN THEIR LIVES STILL REMAINS **UNYIELDED**.



THE BRIDE TOLD THESE WOMEN, "I AM **BLACK** BUT **LOVELY**". WHAT SHE MEANT WAS THAT ALTHOUGH SHE WAS **UNATTRACTIVE**, YET HER **BRIDEGROOM** HAD CHOSEN **HER**. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN THE **POOR** AND THE **FOOLISH** OF THE WORLD PRIMARILY, AND NOT THE **MIGHTY** AND THE **NOBLE** AND THE **CLEVER** (1 CORINTHIANS 1:26--29). SOME OF US MAY PERHAPS FEEL LIKE THAT, "I AM NOT **CAPABLE** LIKE OTHER PEOPLE. I AM NOT **INTELLIGENT**. I CAN'T **SPEAK** LIKE OTHERS. I AM SO **LIMITED** IN MY **ABILITIES**." YET THE LORD HAS CHOSEN US! IT IS A **HEART OF DEVOTION** THAT HE LOOKS FOR. THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SEEKS WHEN HE LOOKS FOR SOMEONE TO BE HIS **SERVANT**.

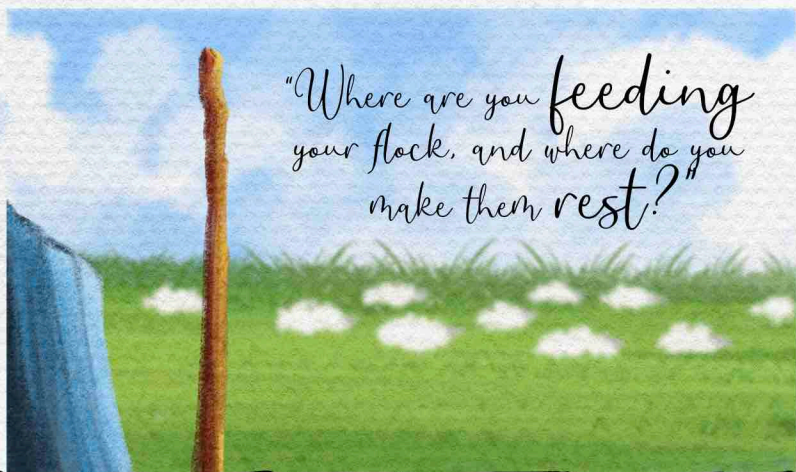
THE BRIDE KNEW THAT EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS **DARK**, SHE WAS **BEAUTIFUL** IN HER **BRIDEGROOM'S** EYES. IT IS **VEY** IMPORTANT THAT **HUSBANDS** **REJOICE** IN THEIR WIVES AS WELL.



"They made me the keeper of the vineyards,  
but my **own** vineyard I have not kept"

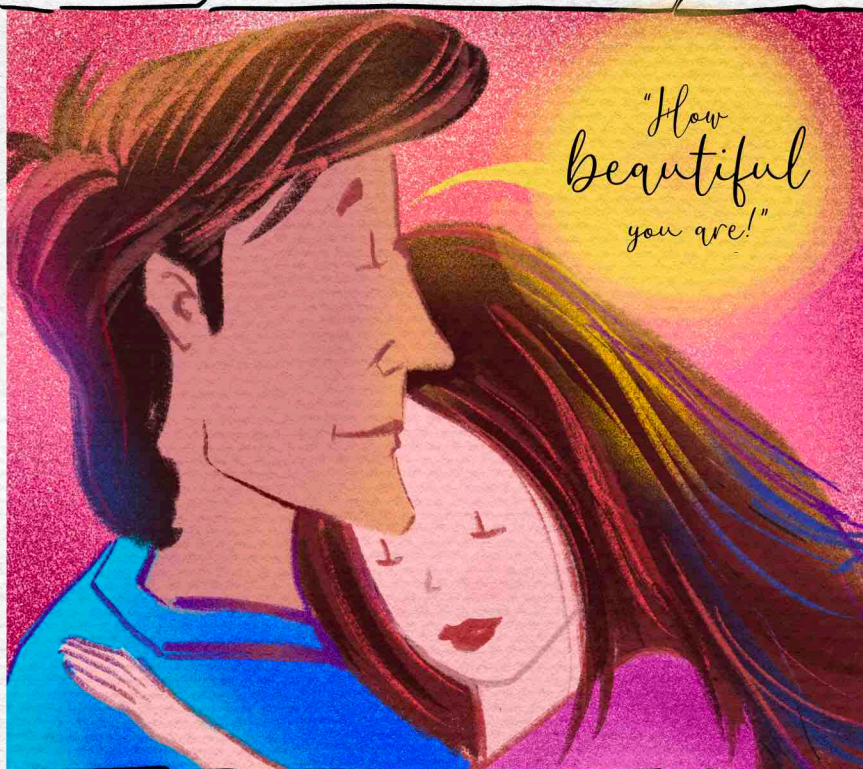


"Where are you feeding  
your flock, and where do you  
make them rest?"



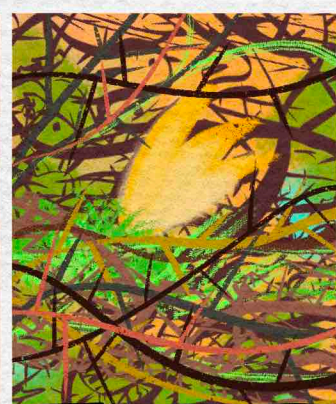
THE OTHER VINEYARDS REFER TO OUR MINISTRY. MY VINEYARD IS MY **LIFE** AND MY **WALK** WITH GOD. THIS IS A COMMON **MISTAKE** THAT MANY PREACHERS HAVE MADE. THEY ARE **BUSY** IN THE LORD'S WORK, BUT HAVE NOT KEPT THEIR OWN VINEYARD. PAUL TOLD TIMOTHY "TAKE HEED TO YOUR- SELF AND TO YOUR TEACHING. THUS YOU WILL SAVE YOURSELF AND THOSE WHO HEAR YOU" (1 TIMOTHY 4:16).

WE NOTICE THAT THERE WERE TWO THINGS THAT THE BRIDE LOOKED FOR: "WHERE ARE YOU FEEDING YOUR FLOCK, AND WHERE DO YOU MAKE THEM REST?" (1:7). THESE ARE THE TWO THINGS WE NEED FROM THE LORD TOO: **FOOD AND REST.**



"How  
beautiful  
you are!"

"I am just a rose in Sharon. I am  
just a lily in the valley."



WE NEED TO HEAR SUCH WORDS FROM THE LORD -- THAT ASSURE US THAT THE LORD REALLY **DELIGHTS** IN US. WIVES ALSO NEED TO HEAR SUCH EXPRESSIONS OF **APPRECIATION** FROM THEIR HUSBANDS. A WIFE LOOKS FOR ASSURANCES OF LOVE THAT GIVE HER **SECURITY** IN A MARRIAGE JUST AS MUCH AS A HUSBAND LOOKS FOR SEX. BOTH OF THESE ARE OF **PRIME** IMPORTANCE TO HAVE A **HAPPY MARRIAGE.**

THOSE EXPRESSIONS (BY THE WAY), DO **NOT** REFER TO THE BRIDEGROOM, BUT TO THE BRIDE. MANY SONGS REFER TO JESUS AS THE "ROSE OF SHARON" AND THE "LILY OF THE VALLEY". BUT THOSE ARE **UN-SCRIPTURAL** EXPRESSIONS. IT IS THE BRIDE SAYING TO THE BRIDEGROOM, "I AM JUST AN **ORDINARY** ROSE IN SHARON. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF ROSES IN SHARON AND I AM JUST ONE OF THEM. I AM JUST AN **ORDINARY** LILY IN THE VALLEY." BUT THE BRIDEGROOM SAYS, "YES, THAT MAY BE TRUE. BUT YOU'RE A LILY IN THE MIDST OF THORNS" (2:2). THOSE FAIR, ATTRACTIVE WOMEN IN JERUSALEM WERE GOOD LOOKING ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THEY WERE LIKE "PIGS WITH GOLDEN RINGS IN THEIR NOSES" (PROVERBS 11:22) -- ATTRACTIVE, BUT WITHOUT DEVOTION TO THE LORD. SO THE BRIDEGROOM LIKENS THEM TO THORNS. IN THE MIDST OF THOSE THORNS, HIS BRIDE WAS LIKE A LILY.





"HE HAS BROUGHT ME TO HIS BANQUETING HALL SO THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE HOW MUCH HE LOVES ME"



THE FATHER OF THE **PRODIGAL SON** BROUGHT HIS SON TO THE TABLE. JESUS SAT WITH HIS **DISCIPLES** AROUND A **TABLE**. THE TABLE SPEAKS OF **FELLOWSHIP**. AT A TABLE, WE ARE **NOT** ENGAGED IN MINISTRY FOR OUR LORD, BUT IN **FELLOWSHIP** WITH OUR LORD. WE **DINE** WITH HIM (SEE REVELATION 3:20). IT IS ONLY **LATER** THAT WE SEE THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE BRIDE GOING TO THE **FIELDS**. DON'T EVER ATTEMPT GOING TO THE FIELDS FOR MINISTRY BEFORE SITTING AT THE TABLE AND FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE LORD FIRST.

"Feed me  
with your  
love. I am  
lovesick."

"Promise  
me, O  
women of  
Jerusalem,  
not to  
awaken  
love until  
the time is  
right"

THIS MEANS - "LORD JESUS, YOU ARE **EVERYTHING** TO ME. LET ME **REJOICE** AND BE **SECURE** IN YOUR LOVE. THE **WORLD** IS NO LONGER ATTRACTIVE TO ME." THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSIONS OF **DEVOTION** IN THIS SONG WHICH CAN **DEEPEN** OUR **RELATIONSHIP** WITH THE LORD AND **DETACH** US FROM THE **WORLD**.

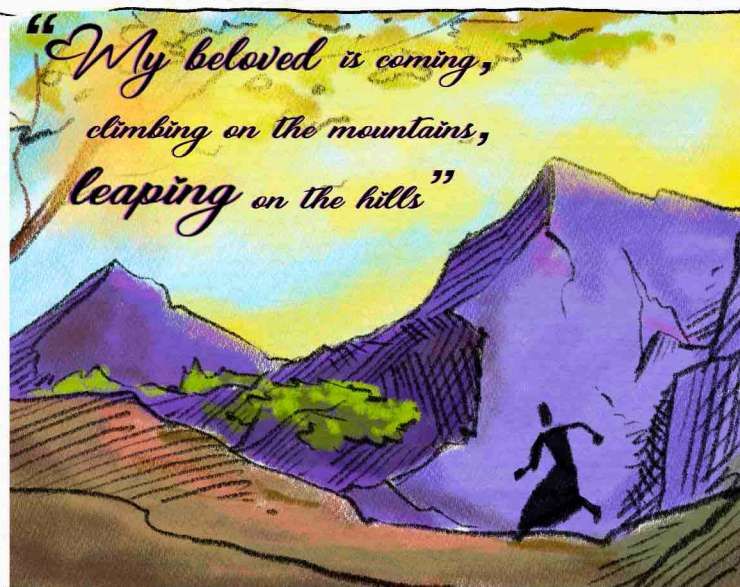
THIS IS A VERSE THAT ALL **YOUNG MEN** AND **WOMEN** SHOULD KEEP IN MIND IN THEIR **RELATIONSHIPS**. DON'T STIR UP (AWAKEN) LOVE UNTIL THE **RIGHT TIME**. DON'T LET YOUR EMOTIONS BE AWAKENED IN LOVING SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX UNTIL **GOD'S TIME**.





WHENEVER THE **DEVIL** SEES SOME YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN BECOMING **ZEALOUS** FOR GOD, HE KEEPS HIS EYE ON HIM/HER, FOR HE SENSES THAT SUCH A PERSON CAN GROW UP TO BE A **THREAT** TO HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH. AND HE WILL SEEK TO **DESTROY** HIM/HER, OFTEN BY GETTING THEM MARRIED TO A **CARNAL**, WORLDLY PERSON. INDIA HAS LOST MANY **GODLY HOMES** BECAUSE GODLY YOUNG MEN DID **NOT** GET MARRIED TO GODLY WOMEN.

INFATUATION CANNOT **WAIT**. INFATUATED YOUNG MEN ARE USUALLY **CRAZY** AFTER SEX. THEIR ATTITUDE IS, "I MUST HAVE SEX NOW. I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I GET MARRIED." BUT A GODLY MAN CAN WAIT, FOR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS **SELF-CONTROL**. BE CAREFUL WHENEVER YOU FIND YOUR FEELINGS AROUSED TOWARDS SOMEONE. DON'T AWAKEN LOVE UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT -- AND THE RIGHT TIME IS **AFTER** YOU ARE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. THE REASON WHY MANY YOUNG MEN CANNOT STUDY THE **SCRIPTURES SERIOUSLY** IS THAT THEY ARE **DAYDREAMING** ABOUT SOME GIRL OR THE OTHER AS A POSSIBLE **LIFE-PARTNER**, MOST OF THE TIME. THEY MAY NOT BE THINKING DIRTY, SEXUAL THOUGHTS, BUT THEY CANNOT **CONCENTRATE** ON HEARING THE LORD'S VOICE.



CHAPTER (2:8). THIS REFERS TO THE **EAGERNESS** WITH WHICH OUR LORD COMES TO US AND ALSO TO THE **RETURN** OF OUR LORD TO EARTH.

THE APPROACH OF **SUMMER** IS LIKENED TO THE NEARNESS OF THE LORD'S **RETURN** TO EARTH (MATTHEW 24:32, 33). WE ARE NOW LIVING IN THAT TIME WHEN SUMMER IS NEAR.



THE BRIDEGROOM THEN SAYS ENDEARINGLY, "O MY DOVE IN THE **CLEFTS** OF THE **ROCK**, LET ME SEE YOUR FORM, LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE, FOR YOUR VOICE IS SWEET AND YOUR FORM IS LOVELY" (2:14). THE ROCK HERE IS **CHRIST** IN WHOSE SIDE WE ARE HIDDEN. THESE WORDS SHOW THE **INTENSITY** OF THE LORD'S **LOVE, AFFECTION** AND CARE FOR US. IF WE BELIEVED THIS, IT WOULD **REMOVE** ALL **INSECURITY** AND **FEAR** FROM US TOTALLY.





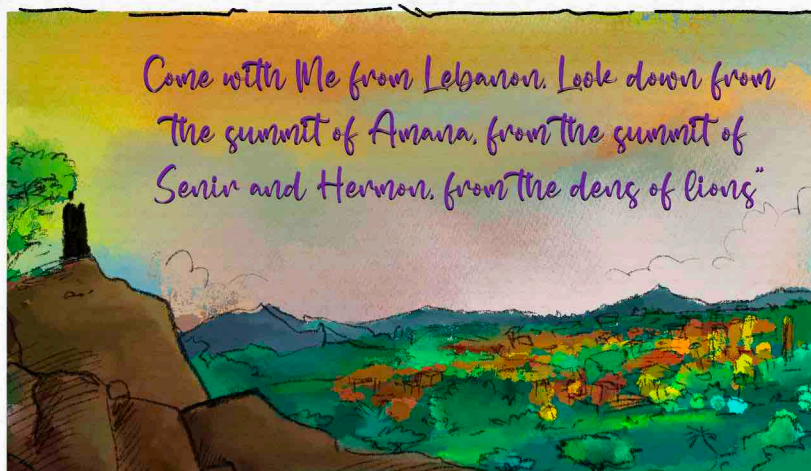
THEN THE BRIDEGROOM SAYS, "CATCH THE **LITTLE FOXES** QUICKLY BEFORE THEY RUIN THE VINEYARD OF YOUR LOVE WHILE THE **GREAT VINES** ARE IN BLOSSOM" (2:15). IT IS EASY TO SEE THE **BIG FOXES** (OBVIOUS SINS) THAT RUIN OUR VINEYARD. BUT THERE ARE **BABY FOXES** THAT CREEP INTO OUR VINEYARD AND EAT UP THE GRAPES -- AND THESE ARE MORE DANGEROUS, BECAUSE THEY ARE LESS **NOTICEABLE...** IN MARRIED LIFE TOO, IT'S NOT THE **BIG DANGERS** THAT WE NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR, LIKE THE HUSBAND HITTING HIS WIFE. THE **LITTLE FOXES** THAT DESTROY A MARRIAGE ARE USUALLY THE **LITTLE IRRITATIONS**, AND THE **RAISED VOICE**. CATCH THOSE **LITTLE FOXES** AND KILL THEM BEFORE THEY RUIN YOUR MARRIAGE. YOUR MARRIAGE IS LIKE A **VINEYARD**.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE **LORD** IS ALSO LIKE A VINEYARD. IT'S NOT THE **BIG SINS** LIKE ADULTERY AND MURDER THAT DRIVE MOST BELIEVERS AWAY FROM THE LORD. IT'S THE **LITTLE THINGS** IMPURE **THOUGHTS**, LOVE OF **MONEY**, AN **UNFORGIVING** ATTITUDE, ETC. -- THAT COME BETWEEN US AND THE LORD AND RUIN OUR WALK WITH HIM. SO LET US BE DILIGENT TO CATCH THE **LITTLE FOXES**.



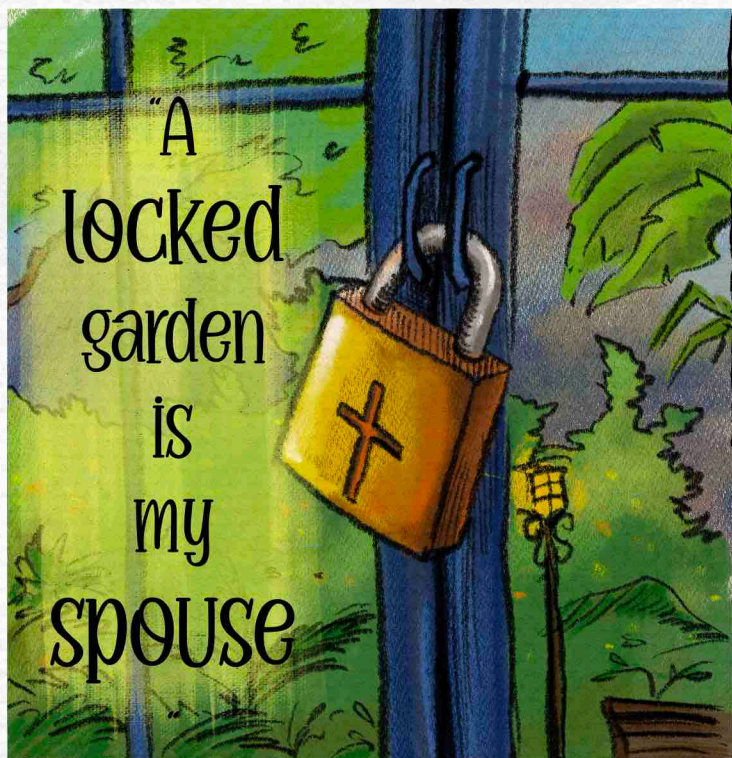
IN 3:1, THE BRIDE SPEAKS ABOUT A TIME WHEN SHE LOST THE SENSE OF HER BRIDEGROOM'S **PRESENCE**. ONE NIGHT AS SHE LAY ON HER BED, SHE **YEARNED** DEEPLY FOR HER LORD. BUT HE DIDN'T COME. SO SHE DECIDED TO GET UP AND GO INTO THE CITY AND SEARCH FOR HIM (3:1, 2). HERE WE SEE THE BRIDE SEEKING FOR FEELINGS OF THE PRESENCE OF HER BRIDEGROOM. HER SEARCH WAS IN VAIN. THE WATCHMEN IN 3:3 REFER TO **ELDERS** OF CHURCHES AND **PREACHERS** WHO MAY HAVE THE **RIGHT** DOCTRINES BUT WHO DON'T KNOW GOD -- LIKE THE PREACHERS IN THE BOOK OF JOB. THEY DON'T HAVE THE **DEVOTION** TO **CHRIST** THAT THIS YOUNG **BRIDE** WHO LOVES THE LORD HAS. SHE WENT TO THESE WATCHMEN AND ASKED THEM, "HAVE YOU SEEN HIM WHOM I LOVE SO MUCH?"

BUT THEY **COULDN'T** GUIDE HER. HOW CAN AN ELDER WHO IS NOT DEVOTED TO THE LORD HIMSELF, GUIDE ONE WHO IS **YEARNING** FOR THE LORD, LIKE THE BRIDE HERE? FINALLY, THE BRIDE FOUND HER BELOVED HERSELF (3:4). SOME OF US ALSO MAY BE LIVING IN PLACES WHERE WE DON'T HAVE GODLY ELDER BROTHERS TO GUIDE US. **SEEK THE LORD WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND THE SPIRIT WILL BE YOUR GUIDE INTO SUCH A LIFE.**



THEN THE BRIDEGROOM **INVITES** HER SAYING, "COME WITH ME FROM LEBANON. LOOK DOWN FROM THE SUMMIT OF AMANA, FROM THE SUMMIT OF SENIR AND HERMON, FROM THE DENS OF LIONS" THIS IS AN **INVITATION** TO LIVE IN THE HEAVENLIES. THE LORD SAYS, "DON'T LOOK AT THINGS FROM A LOW, **EARTHLY** STANDPOINT. COME WITH ME TO THE **HEAVENLIES** AND LOOK AT EVERYTHING FROM THAT STANDPOINT. THE THINGS OF EARTH WILL THEN BECOME **SMALL, DIM AND WORTHLESS**, AS YOU LOOK AT THEM FROM THERE." THE LORD WANTS TO LIFT US TO A **HIGHER** PLANE. TRUE, THERE ARE **LIONS** THERE -- DEMONS, EVIL PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS. BUT WE WILL BE WITH THE LORD THERE AND **TOGETHER** WITH HIM WE WILL **OVERCOME** ALL THOSE EVIL POWERS.





THE BRIDEGROOM CALLS THE BRIDE "A **LOCKED GARDEN**" (4:12) -- AN **EXCLUSIVE GARDEN**, EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BRIDEGROOM. SHE DOESN'T BELONG TO ANYONE ELSE. SHE BELONGS **EXCLUSIVELY** TO HER LORD. IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD LIKE THAT? CAN THE LORD SAY TO YOU, "YOU ARE MY PRIVATE GARDEN, EXCLUSIVELY MINE"? THERE ARE MANY THINGS OUT IN THE WORLD THAT CAN ATTRACT US LIKE **OPPORTUNITIES** TO MAKE **MORE MONEY** THAN WE **NEED**, TO GET **EARTHLY POWER** AND **FAME** AND TO EARN A **NAME** FOR OURSELVES, ETC. SUCH TEMPTATIONS CAN BE COMPARED TO OTHER **MEN** TRYING TO SEDUCE THE BRIDE. BUT THE BRIDE HERE IS **NOT** ATTRACTED. SHE IS TAKEN UP WITH HER **BELoved** ALONE.



VERY **FEW** BELIEVERS LIVE IN SUCH A **RELATIONSHIP** WITH **CHRIST** AND THAT IS WHY THEY DON'T KNOW HIM **INTIMATELY** AND DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS WORD. THE SECRET OF UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE IS TO HAVE AN **INTIMATE** RELATIONSHIP WITH THE **LORD** FIRST OF ALL -- WHO BETTER THAN HE CAN EXPLAIN TO US WHAT **HIS** WORD MEANS. WALK WITH HIM LIKE THE **EARLY DISCIPLES** DID AND **LONG** TO HEAR HIM SPEAK TO YOU. THEN YOUR **EYES** WILL BE **OPENED** LIKE THEIRS AND YOUR **HEARTS** WILL BE SET **AFLAME** LIKE THEIRS. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE DISCOVERED IN THE MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY THAT I HAVE WALKED WITH MY LORD.

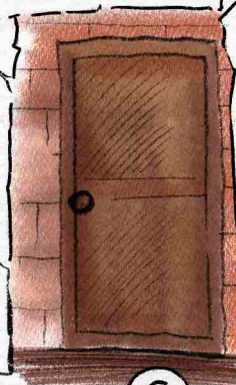


THE BRIDE THEN INVITES THE NORTH WIND AND THE SOUTH WIND TO COME AND BLOW OVER HER GARDEN (4:16). THE NORTH WIND IS THE COLD WIND OF **SUFFERING, ADVERSITY** AND TRIALS, AND THE SOUTH WIND IS THE WIND OF **BLESSING, ENCOURAGEMENT, PROSPERITY** AND HAPPINESS. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH OF THESE WINDS BLOW. THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME -- A **FRAGRANCE** WAFTED ABROAD. WHETHER WE HAVE A **COMFORTABLE** EASY LIFE OR HAVE A LIFE FULL OF **DIFFICULTIES** AND TRIALS, THE GRACE OF GOD CAN MAKE THE AROMA OF CHRIST TO COME FORTH FROM US. **THANKSGIVING, PRAISE** AND **WORSHIP** TO GOD WILL COME FORTH FROM OUR LIFE, **IRRESPECTIVE** OF OUR **CIRCUMSTANCES**.



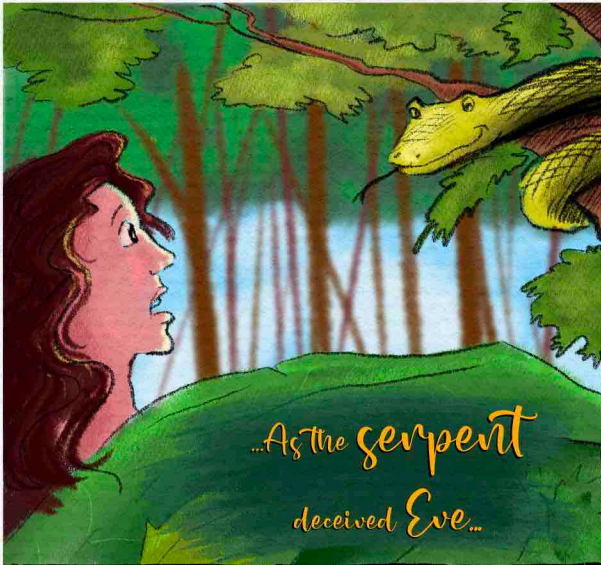
MAY MY BELOVED COME INTO HIS GARDEN AND EAT ITS CHOICE **FRUITS**" (4:16). EVERYTHING THAT IS PRODUCED IN OUR LIFE (OUR GARDEN) IS FOR THE LORD -- **NOT** TO **IMPRESS** OTHER PEOPLE WITH HOW SPIRITUAL WE ARE. WHEN WE GIVE A **TESTIMONY** ABOUT OUR LIVES, WE SHOULDN'T TRY TO SHOW OTHERS WHAT WONDERFUL PEOPLE **WE** ARE.

THERE ARE SO MANY **LOVING** SECRETS BETWEEN A WIFE AND A HUSBAND. THERE SHOULD BE **LOVING SECRETS** BETWEEN **US** AND THE **LORD** TOO. YOU MAY BE SPENDING TIME ALONE WITH THE LORD. **GOOD**. BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT THAT? A WIFE WHO IS IN **LOVE** WITH HER HUSBAND WILL NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR TIMES **TOGETHER**. THAT WAS WHY JESUS TOLD US TO **SHUT** THE **DOOR** WHEN WE **PRAY**.



INSTEAD, LET THEM SEE WHAT A **WONDERFUL** SAVIOUR YOU HAVE! OTHERWISE YOUR FRUIT WILL BE FOR **MEN** AND NOT FOR THE LORD. HERE THE BRIDE SAYS, "EVERYTHING IN MY GARDEN IS FOR MY BELOVED ALONE."



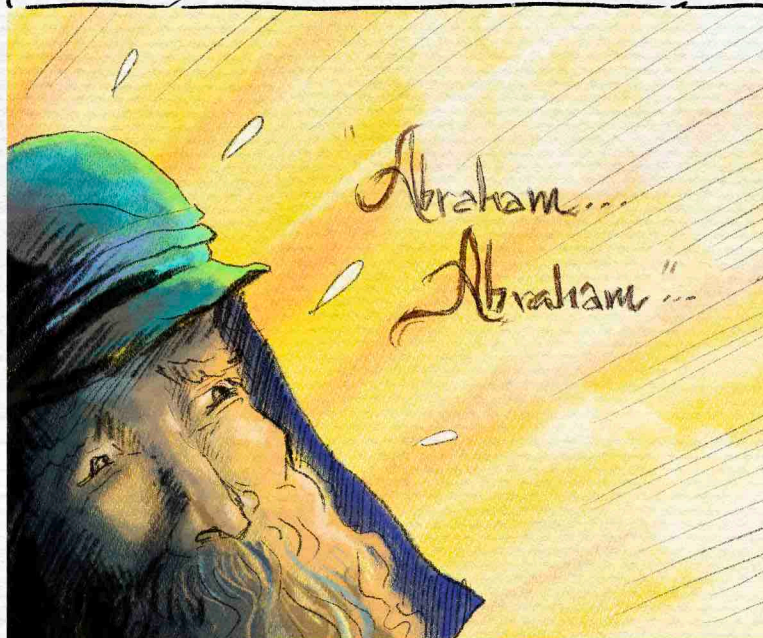


...As the serpent  
deceived Eve...



THE BRIDEGROOM **ACCEPTS** THE INVITATION OF HIS BRIDE TO COME INTO HER GARDEN AND EAT, AND SAYS, "I HAVE COME INTO MY GARDEN" (5:1). HE CALLS IT **HIS** GARDEN NOW. HE CAME TO COLLECT THE FRUIT. AND AFTER TAKING IT HIMSELF, HE INVITES **OTHERS** ALSO TO COME INTO THE GARDEN AND EAT WITH HIM. OUR LORD MAKES OUR LIFE A **BLESSING** TO MANY OTHERS.

PAUL SAYS IN 2 CORINTHIANS 11:3, "I AM AFRAID LEST AS THE SERPENT DECEIVED EVE BY HIS **CRAFTINESS**, YOUR MINDS SHOULD BE LED ASTRAY FROM THE **SIMPLICITY** AND **PURITY** OF DEVOTION TO CHRIST." WHEN ARE WE LED ASTRAY? WHEN WE LOSE THAT SIMPLE DEVOTION TO CHRIST. YOU DON'T HAVE TO STEAL, COMMIT ADULTERY, OR TELL LIES, IN ORDER TO BE A **BACKSLIDER**. IF YOU HAVE LOST THAT SIMPLE **DEVOTION** TO CHRIST, THE DEVIL HAS ALREADY LED YOU ASTRAY.



THE SCENE CHANGES NOW AND THE BRIDE NOW SPEAKS OF WHAT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT. "I WAS ASLEEP, BUT MY HEART WAS AWAKE" (5:2). SUDDENLY SHE HEARD THE **VOICE** OF HER BELOVED. THE LORD CALLS US SUDDENLY AT TIMES.

HE WANTS US TO BE **ALERT** AT ALL TIMES TO HEAR HIS VOICE. WE READ IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT GOD WOULD CALL **ABRAHAM** SUDDENLY AT TIMES SAYING, "ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM." AND ABRAHAM WOULD RESPOND IMMEDIATELY SAYING, "HERE I AM" -- EVEN IF IT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, WHEN HE WAS FAST ASLEEP. IN GENESIS 16:16 AND 17:1, WE READ THAT AFTER THIRTEEN YEARS OF SILENCE, GOD SUDDENLY CALLED ABRAHAM ONE DAY. AND ABRAHAM RESPONDED **AT ONCE!** IN THE MIDST OF HIS MANY OTHER **PREOCCUPATIONS**, HE WAS ALWAYS ALERT TO HEAR THE LORD'S VOICE. THE LORD CALLED SAMUEL TOO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT -- AND SAMUEL WOKE UP AND LISTENED. THAT'S HOW WE ALL MUST BE.

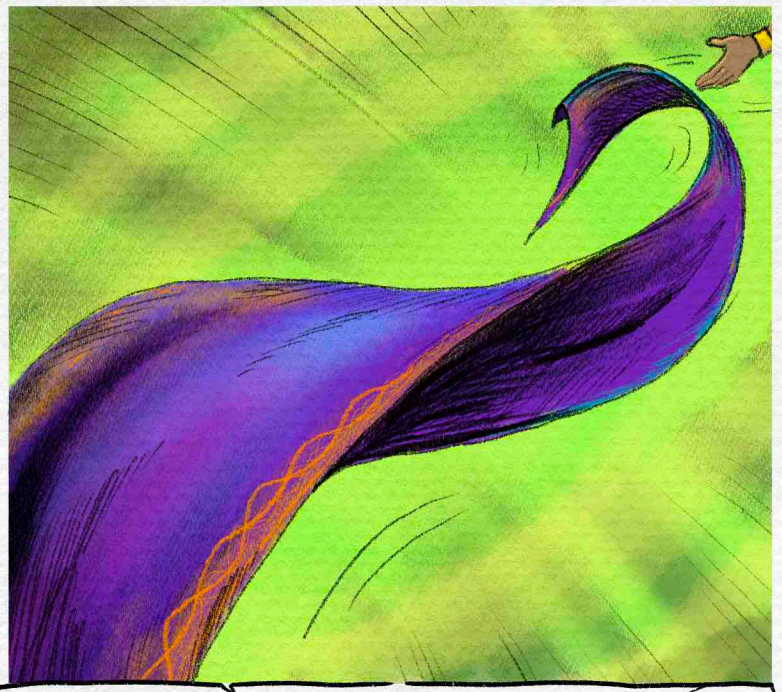


HERE WE SEE THAT WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT CALLING BUT HE WENT **AWAY** BECAUSE SHE DID **NOT** RESPOND AT ONCE, WHEN HE CALLED HER. THAT CAN HAPPEN TO US TOO. THE LORD MAY SAY TO US, "NOW **DROP** EVERYTHING THAT YOU ARE DOING. **STOP** READING THAT BOOK. **STOP** THAT CONVERSATION. GET ALONE WITH ME AND TALK TO ME. LET'S GO FOR A WALK TOGETHER." AND WE MAY RESPOND SAYING, "LORD, JUST **WAIT**. I HAVE SOMETHING **IMPORTANT** TO DO. IT WILL BE FINISHED IN 15 MINUTES. THEN I'LL COME." AND 15 MINUTES LATER, WHEN WE HAVE FINISHED THAT IMPORTANT (?) WORK, WE SAY, "LORD, I AM **READY** NOW." BUT WE FIND THAT HE IS **GONE**. WE CAN'T FIND HIM.



THE BRIDEGROOM HAD TOLD HIS BRIDE "I HAVE BEEN OUT IN THE NIGHT AND AM COVERED WITH DEW" (5:2 - LIVING). BECAUSE JESUS CAME TO EARTH TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST, HE WALKED THE WAY OF THE **CROSS** (OF SELF-DENIAL) AND SUFFERED AS HE SOUGHT AFTER **LOST** SHEEP IN THE DARK NIGHT OF THIS WORLD. HE NOW INVITES HIS **BRIDE** TO WALK THE **SAME** WAY.





WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM CALLED THE BRIDE WASN'T WILLING. BUT LATER ON, SHE CHANGED HER MIND AND GOT UP AND DECIDED TO **WALK** THAT WAY. BUT NOW SHE **COULDN'T** FIND HER BRIDEGROOM. THEN SHE WENT TO THE WATCHMEN (THE ELDERS) AGAIN. SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE LEARNT A LESSON FROM HER **PREVIOUS** CONTACTS WITH THEM, THAT THEY CANNOT HELP HER. THEY KNOW **NOTHING** ABOUT THE **WAY** OF THE **CROSS**. THIS TIME THEY BEAT HER UP AND HURT HER (5:7). THOSE ELDERS WERE **WORLDLY** AND LEGALISTIC AND WOUNDED HER WITH THEIR WORDS. THEY COULDN'T **UNDERSTAND** HER **FERVENT** DEVOTION TO HER LORD.


THEY MAY HAVE TOLD HER WORDS LIKE THIS: "YOU HAVE TO BE **REALISTIC**. WE HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD AND WE CAN'T BE TAKEN UP WITH BEING SO **FANATICALLY** DEVOTED TO THE LORD." THERE ARE MANY PREACHERS LIKE THAT WHO DO NOT KNOW THE LORD, WHO WILL **CRITICISE** YOU SAYING THAT YOUR ONLY THEME SEEMS TO BE "**LOVING** THE LORD" -- AS IF THAT WERE A **CRIME**. THE WATCHMEN THEN TORE OFF HER **VEIL** (SHAWL).. THEY DISGRACED HER **PUBLICLY**.



AFTER THAT EXPERIENCE, THE BRIDE WENT TO THE **HALFHEARTED** BELIEVERS (WOMEN OF JERUSALEM) AND TOLD THEM, "IF YOU FIND MY BELOVED, TELL HIM I AM **LOVESICK**" (5:8). THAT WAS A **WASTE** OF TIME, BECAUSE THOSE HALFHEARTED ONES COULD NEVER HELP HER FIND HER LORD. THEY HADN'T SEEN HIS **BEAUTY** AND **GLORY** LIKE SHE HAD. WHEN THEY QUESTIONED HER, SHE WENT INTO A RAPTUROUS EXPRESSION OF HER ADMIRATION FOR HIM, DESCRIBING EXACTLY WHY SHE ADMIRER HIM, AND CONCLUDING WITH THE WORDS, "HE IS **ALTOGETHER LOVELY**. HE IS MY **BELoved** AND MY **FRIEND**" (5:16 - KJV). CAN YOU SAY THAT JESUS IS NOT ONLY YOUR SAVIOUR, BUT ALSO YOUR FRIEND? JESUS IS MY **CLOSEST** AND **DEAREST** FRIEND -- CLOSER THAN EVEN MY WIFE. BUT AMONG THOSE ON EARTH, MY **WIFE** IS MY CLOSEST AND BEST FRIEND -- AND SHE WILL BE SO THROUGHOUT MY LIFE. THIS HAS MADE BOTH MY **CHRISTIAN** LIFE AND MY **MARRIED** LIFE EXTREMELY **HAPPY**.

FINALLY, THE BRIDE FINDS HER BELOVED IN HIS GARDEN AND SAYS, "I AM MY BELOVED'S AND MY BELOVED IS MINE" (6:2, 3). THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM 2:16, WHERE SHE HAD SAID, "MY BELOVED IS MINE AND I AM HIS." THERE IS PROGRESS HERE. IN THE **INITIAL** STAGES OF LOVE, HER EMPHASIS WAS ON, "MY LORD IS MINE." NOW HER EMPHASIS HAS **CHANGED** TO, "I AM MY LORD'S." WHEN WE ARE YOUNG AND **IMMATURE**, WE ARE MORE POSSESSIVE AND THINK MORE OF THE FACT THAT THE LORD BELONGS EXCLUSIVELY TO US, AND WONDER WHAT WE CAN **GET** FROM THE LORD FOR **OURSELVES**. AS WE GROW TO **MATURITY**, WE BEGIN TO THINK MORE OF BEING **SURRENDERED** TO THE LORD TOTALLY, AND OF HIS GETTING **EVERYTHING** POSSIBLE FROM US, IN OUR **ONE** EARTHLY LIFE.



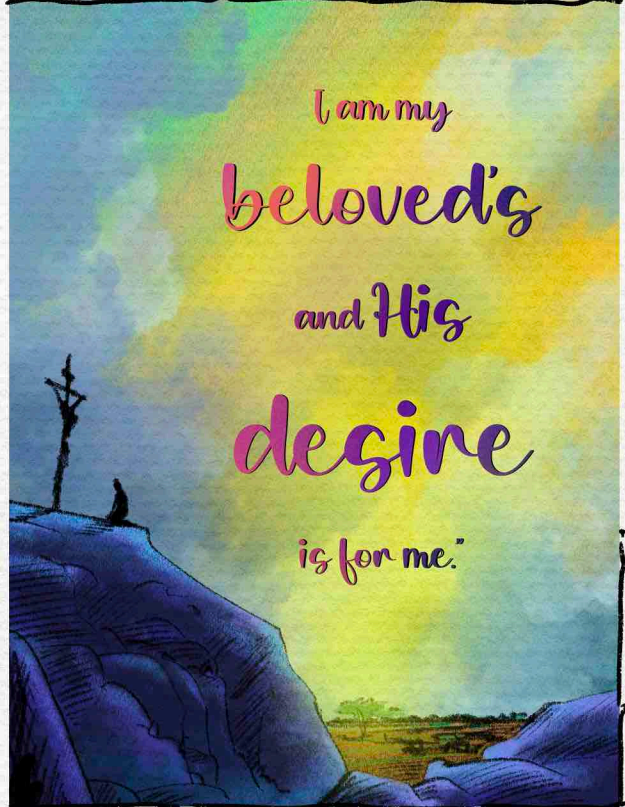


"But my dove,  
my perfect  
one, is  
unique"

THE BRIDEGROOM THEN EXPRESSES HIS **APPRECIATION** FOR HIS BRIDE (6:4--10). HE SAYS THAT AMONG ALL WOMEN, NO-ONE IS LIKE HIS BRIDE, HIS PERFECT ONE. I CHOOSE HER ABOVE **EVERYBODY** ELSE." EVERY HUSBAND SHOULD LOOK AT HIS WIFE LIKE THIS: THERE ARE MANY ATTRACTIVE WOMEN IN THE WORLD, BUT THERE IS NO-ONE LIKE MY WIFE. SHE IS NUMBER **ONE** IN MY EYES. THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS ABOUT US.




IN 6:10, HE COMPARES HIS BRIDE TO "AN **ARMY** WITH **BANNERS**." SHE WAS A STRONG **WARRIOR**, READY TO FIGHT **SATAN** AND THE HOSTS OF **HELL**. SHE ALSO HAS A **CONSCIENCE** THAT IS "AS **PURE** AS THE **SUN**". IN 6:13 SHE IS CALLED A **SHULAMITE**, A WOMAN OF SHULAM, MEANING "A PERSON OF **PEACE**". SHULAM IS FROM THE HEBREW WORD "**SHALOM**", WHICH MEANS '**PEACE**'. HERE IS A BRIDE WHO IS CONSTANTLY **BATTLING** FOR THE LORD, FIGHTING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS, AS A SOLDIER, BUT WHO IS AT THE SAME TIME, AT **PEACE** WITH ALL **HUMAN** BEINGS!



I am my  
beloved's  
and His  
desire  
is for me."

IN 7:10, THE BRIDE SAYS, "I AM MY BELOVED'S AND HIS **DESIRE** IS FOR ME." THIS IS A STILL **HIGHER** PLANE OF **LOVE** THAN EVEN 6:3. HERE THE BRIDE IS NOT JUST SAYING THAT THE LORD BELONGS TO HER, BUT THAT THE LORD IS PLEASED WITH HER AS WELL. IT IS ONE THING FOR THE LORD TO SAY, "I LOVE YOU." IT IS QUITE ANOTHER, FOR THE LORD TO SAY, "I AM **PLEASED** WITH YOU." A HUSBAND MAY **LOVE** HIS WIFE, BUT HE MAY NOT BE **HAPPY** WITH THE WAY SHE DOES THINGS. THE LORD MAY LOVE YOU, BUT HE MAY NOT BE HAPPY WITH MANY THINGS IN YOUR LIFE. **MATURE** LOVE SEEKS TO **PLEASE** THE LORD.

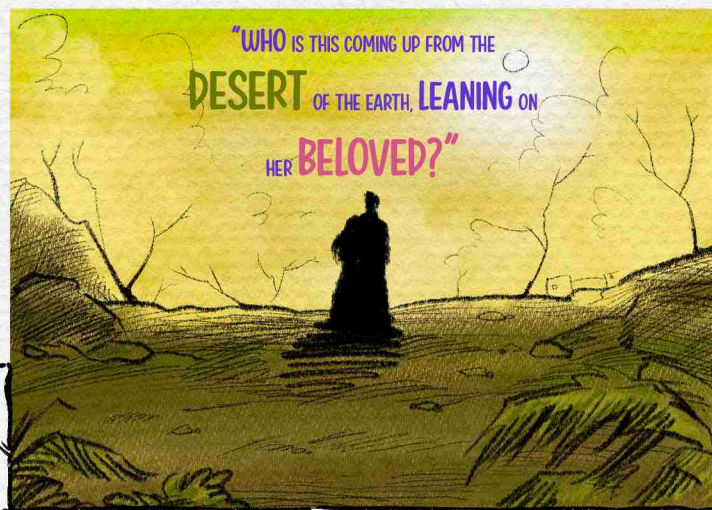



NOW THE BRIDE BECOMES A **CO-WORKER** WITH HER BRIDEGROOM AND SAYS, "COME, MY LOVE. LET US GO OUT INTO THE FIELDS" (7:11). THE BRIDE NOW SHARES THE CONCERN OF HER BRIDEGROOM FOR A **NEEDY** WORLD WHERE THE **FIELDS** ARE RIPE FOR **HARVEST**. BUT DON'T EVER GO TO THOSE FIELDS ALL BY YOURSELF. GO THERE WITH YOUR BELOVED. BUILD A **RELATIONSHIP** WITH HIM AND THEN SERVE HIM. HE IS THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE BEST PART OF THE FIELD IN WHICH YOU CAN LABOUR FOR HIM. THAT IS HOW I HAVE SOUGHT TO SERVE THE LORD IN MY MINISTRY. I HAVE NEVER WANTED TO GO **ANYWHERE** BY MYSELF. I HAVE SAID, "LORD, YOU LEAD THE WAY AND I'LL COME ALONG WITH YOU. LET US GO TO THE FIELDS **TOGETHER**. TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE GOING. AND IF YOU'RE NOT GOING SOMEWHERE, I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE EITHER." IF WE SERVE THE LORD IN **FELLOWSHIP** WITH HIM AND IN **SUBMISSION** TO HIM, THERE WON'T BE ANY **BOASTFULNESS** IN OUR LIVES, NOR ANY **COMPARISON** OF OUR **MINISTRY** WITH **ANOTHER'S**.





THE BRIDE THEN SHARES HER BRIDEGROOM'S **BURDEN** FOR HIS **VINEYARDS**. SHE WANTS TO RISE UP EARLY AND GO WITH HIM TO SEE IF THERE IS FRUIT THERE (7:12). SHE DOESN'T ONLY SIT AT THE BANQUETING TABLE **ENJOYING** HIS LOVE (AS IN 2:4). SHE DOES THAT BUT SHE DOES **MORE** NOW. SHE TAKES CARE OF HER OWN VINEYARD (UNLIKE AS IN 1:6). BUT SHE ALSO WANTS TO SEE HOW THE LORD'S WORK IN THE CHURCHES IS DEVELOPING. SHE WANTS TO SEE IF "THE BLOSSOMS HAVE OPENED" AND WHETHER "THE POMEGRANATES HAVE BLOOMED" (7:12). AND SHE TELLS HER BELOVED, "THERE I WILL GIVE YOU MY LOVE." IN THE MIDST OF ALL HER **MINISTRY** SHE WANTS TO WALK WITH HER LORD AND **EXPRESS** HER LOVE FOR HIM. AND EVERYTHING SHE HAS IS "SAVED UP FOR HER BELOVED" (7:13).



CHAPTER 8 EXPRESSES THE BRIDE'S **LONGING** FOR PERFECT **UNION** WITH HER BELOVED ONE DAY -- IN HEAVEN. "WHO IS THIS COMING UP FROM THE DESERT OF THE EARTH, LEANING ON HER BELOVED?" (8:5) -- REFERS TO THE DAY WHEN THE CHURCH WILL BE CAUGHT UP IN THE CLOUDS TO LEAN ON HER BELOVED FOREVER -- JUST LIKE JOHN LEANED ON THE BREAST OF JESUS.

8:6, 7 SPEAK OF LOVE AND **JEALOUSY** TOGETHER. TRUE LOVE IS ALWAYS JEALOUS -- A "**GODLY JEALOUSY**" THAT DOESN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO OWN THE OTHER (2 CORINTHIANS 11:2). "THE LORD JEALOUSLY DESIRES OUR SPIRIT" FOR **HIMSELF** ALONE (JAMES 4:5). HE IS VERY PARTICULAR THAT WE SHOULD NOT LOVE **MONEY** AND THE **WORLD**, BUT ONLY HIM. HE IS A **JEALOUS** HUSBAND WHO WANTS YOU FOR HIMSELF **EXCLUSIVELY**. SUCH JEALOUS LOVE IS LIKENED TO THE BRIGHTEST FLAME THERE IS -- "THE FLAME OF **YHVH**" (THE HEBREW WORD FOR 'LORD'). THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THIS BOOK WHERE THE WORD '**LORD**' OCCURS (8:6).

MANY **FLOODS** CANNOT **QUENCH** THIS LOVE AND MANY RIVERS **CANNOT DROWN** IT (8:7). THIS WAS THE LOVE THAT OUR LORD MANIFESTED ON THE **CROSS**. WHEN PEOPLE POURED THEIR FLOODS OF HATRED ON HIM, HE PRAYED THAT THE FATHER WOULD FORGIVE THEM.

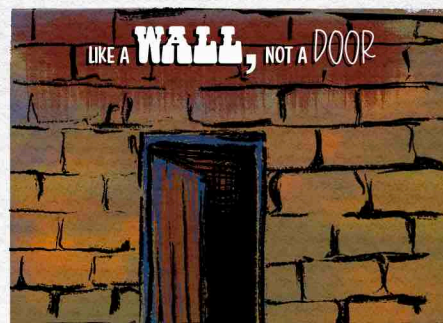
8:10 SPEAKS OF THE SPIRITUAL **MATURITY** OF THE BRIDE. IN 8:12, SHE SAYS THAT THE **PRIMARY** PART OF THE **FRUIT** OF HER VINEYARD (1000 SHEKELS WORTH) WAS RESERVED FOR HER BELOVED ALONE. ONLY 20% OF THAT AMOUNT (200 SHEKELS WORTH) WAS FOR OTHERS. HER **PRIMARY** MINISTRY WAS NOT TO PEOPLE BUT TO THE **LORD**. THIS IS HOW ALL OUR **SERVICE** SHOULD BE. THE LORD MUST BE **FIRST** AND ALL OTHERS SECOND. WE ARE TO **LOVE GOD** WITH ALL OUR HEART, SOUL AND STRENGTH **FIRST**, AND ONLY **THEN LOVE OTHERS**.

IN 8:13, 14, SHE EXPRESSES HER **LONGING** FOR HER BELOVED TO COME TO HER SOON. THIS IS HIGHER THAN WHAT SHE SAID IN 2:17. THERE SHE WAS LONGING TO BE RESTORED TO **FELLOWSHIP** WITH HIM. HERE SHE IS LONGING FOR HER FINAL **UNION** WITH HER BELOVED AT "THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB" (REVELATION 19:7). THIS IS THE ULTIMATE **HEIGHT** OF GLORY...AND SO THIS BOOK ENDS AS THE BIBLE ENDS, WITH A CRY FROM THE **BRIDE** TO HER **LORD** TO COME **QUICKLY**.

"Come quickly, Lord Jesus. I am waiting for you."



SHE **NEVER** WANTS TO BE SEPARATED FROM HER BELOVED AND WANTS A **PERMANENT** PLACE IN HIS HEART AND ON HIS ARM -- LIKE A TATTOO..



8:9 TELLS US THAT A GIRL CAN BE EITHER LIKE A WALL OR A DOOR. A WALL REFERS TO GIRLS WHO ARE **MODEST** AND **RESERVED**, LIKE GOD CREATED ALL GIRLS TO BE. A DOOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, REFERS TO GIRLS WHO ARE FREE WITH MEN. GIRLS SHOULD **NOT** BE LIKE THAT. IF A GIRL IS LIKE A WALL, THEN GOD CAN USE HER TO BUILD THE CHURCH ("A BATTLEMENT"). BUT IF A GIRL IS LIKE A DOOR, THEN HER FATHER HAS TO BUILD "A BARRICADE" AROUND HER, CUTTING OFF CONTACT WITH MEN.