



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

January/February, 2014

Fellowship Desired

In **Song of Solomon 4:1-7**, Solomon focuses on his bride. Solomon speaks throughout the chapter on this one subject. The beauty of his bride overwhelms him! Solomon and Abishag have been married. They have had their wedding day. Now in **4:8**, Solomon calls to his bride, desiring to have fellowship with her.

In **Song of Solomon 4:8**, it appears that Solomon and Abishag are apart. Solomon writes, “Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards” (**4:8**).

When Solomon speaks of “Lebanon,” he is referring to the Lebanese mountain range north of Palestine. He then mentions three peaks of the Anti-Lebanon mountain range. Amana, Senir, and Amana are the peaks of the Anti-Lebanon mountain ranges. A valley of some 18 miles separates these two mountain ranges from each other.

During Solomon’s time, lions and leopards roamed freely on these mountain

ranges. **Song of Solomon 4:8** pictures her being far away from Solomon up in the bleak, snow-capped mountains of the far north. She is in a place of potential danger and distress where wild animals roam. Solomon longs to be with Abishag. He misses her and desires to have her at his side. In this verse, Solomon calls to her, revealing his desire to have fellowship with her.

As we have worked our way through the **Song of Solomon**, we have looked at this book with a “both/and” interpretation. We have seen how the text applies to the marriage relationship. We have also highlighted how it applies to the relationship between Christ and His church. We will do the same for **Song of Solomon 4:8**. This verse emphasizes fellowship desired in both relationships.

Application To The Marriage Relationship

In this verse, we see that Solomon must have the company of Abishag. He cannot suffer there to be any distance

between the two of them. He longs for her to be with him and especially away from the dangers that lurked in the mountains.

How does this apply to the marriage relationship? *First, Solomon recognizes the precious gift that he has in Abishag.* For the first time in Song of Solomon, he refers to her as “my bride.” He understands that she is a blessing from the Lord. He confesses that he has received the precious gift of companionship with his wife. He acknowledges that he now possesses something more valuable than any possession in the world – the loving fellowship of his wife. He knows that he has experienced favor from the Lord (**Proverbs 18:22**).

This text calls on Christian husbands to acknowledge afresh God’s favor. The Christian husband has been given a precious gift – the loving companionship of his wife. It is a gift of God and the expression of God’s favor. Don’t take this rich blessing for granted!

Second, the godly husband is to initiate this fellowship. Solomon reaches out to Abishag. Solomon invites her to come and have fellowship with him. This points to the fact that the man is the spiritual head of the home. One of the responsibilities of the godly man is to initiate this fellowship.

The Christian husband is charged with cultivating the relationship with his wife. Obviously, both husband and wife are accountable to do all they can to cultivate this relationship. However, the

burden for seeking out and sustaining this fellowship rests on the man.

Finally, this text warns against the enemies of fellowship and intimacy in a marriage. This text highlights the desire for growing in love and intimacy in a marriage. There are enemies that will come against this fellowship:

The neglect of God -- Marriage is from God, about God, to God, and for God, so we neglect God at our peril.

A lack of prayer -- When prayer ceases, the couple is tacitly proclaiming that they can survive and thrive on their own, that they do not have to have God’s ongoing, moment-by-moment assistance.

A lack of communication – Just as failing to communicate with God causes problems in a marriage, the failure to communicate with each other does the same. There has to be a commitment to communicate with each other.

The neglect of sex -- God was good to provide that strange and mysterious gift of sex in order to bind a husband and wife together in a unique way. Sex is the superglue of a healthy marriage. The Bible demands that a husband and wife maintain the sexual relationship in all but the narrowest of circumstances—with mutual agreement, for a short time, in order to concentrate on prayer.

The godly husband has to labor to protect his marriage from these dangers.

Application To Christ and His Church

How does this text apply to Christ and our relationship to Him? *First, we see that Christ longs to have fellowship with us.* The greater Solomon longs to have us in His presence. He wants to spend time with us. It is an invitation to come and cling to Him in prayer, worship, and fellowship.

What an amazing truth! Christ loves you and wants to be with you. He desires you! That alone should motivate the believer to make time for Christ in prayer and through the Word. He passionately longs for you to come to Him. There is a marriage-covenant between Christ and his church, between Christ and every true believer. Christ calls his church His "bride," and He longs to spend time with His bride!

Second, Christ calls us to come to Him. This text shows the believer that Christ desires to have fellowship with Him. Yet, it is also a call, an invitation, to come to Him. His heart beats for you! Because of this, He calls you to come to Him each day for worship and fellowship.

This means that you will have to say "No" to some things. To say, "Yes" to Christ means turning away from other things. We must be willing to pull aside from the hectic pace of this world to be alone with Him. It's a matter of priorities for all of us – for every believer. We must

set aside time for getting alone and getting with Jesus Christ.

Finally, this text points us to the day when Christ calls us home. We receive a daily invitation to come into His presence. One day we will hear Him call us to our heavenly home! This is our hope and our anticipation in this life. This life is full of pain and misery. We have many struggles and battles in this life. Yet, one glorious day, Christ will call us to our heavenly home to worship and fellowship with Him forever. Our daily worship and fellowship with Christ is a preview of and preparation for our eternity in heaven!

World Prayer Plan

March

- 1-Colombia-The Lost
- 2-Comoros Islands
- 3-Congo
- 4-Cook Islands
- 5-Costa Rica
- 6-Cote d'Ivoire
- 7-Cuba-The Church
- 8-Cuba-The Lost
- 9-Cuba-Collapse of Communism
- 10-Cyprus
- 11-Czech Republic
- 12-Slovakia
- 13-Denmark
- 14-Djibouti
- 15-Dominica
- 16-Dominican Republic
- 17-Ecuador

18-Egypt-The Church
 19-Egypt-The Lost
 20-Egypt-Persecuted Believers
 21-El Salvador
 22-Equatorial Guinea
 23-Eritrea
 24-Estonia
 25-Ethiopia-The Church
 26-Ethiopia-The Lost
 27-Ethiopia-Persecuted Believers
 28-Faeroe Islands
 29-Falkland Islands
 30-Croatia-The Church
 31-Croatia-The Lost

April

1-Fiji
 2-France-The Church
 3-France-The Lost
 4-France-Hardness To The Gospel
 5-France-Missionaries
 6-French Guiana
 7-French Polynesia
 8-Gabon
 9-Gambia
 10-Gaza Strip
 11-Georgia
 12-Germany-The Church
 13-Germany-The Lost
 14-Germany-Spiritual Warfare
 15-Ghana
 16-Gibraltar
 17-Greece
 18-Greenland
 19-Grenada
 20-Guadeloupe
 21-Guam

22-Guatemala
 23-Guinea
 24-Guinea-Bissau
 25-Guyana
 26-Haiti
 27-Holy See (Vatican)
 28-Honduras
 29-Hong Kong
 30-Hungary-The Church

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