



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

September/October, 2014

The Beauty of The Bridegroom

In **Song of Solomon 5:1-8**, we are introduced to married life in the fallen world. In these verses, we see a husband's sweet-talking insensitivity (5:2) and a wife's sleepy selfishness (5:3).

Solomon was late for their "date night" and attempts to sweet-talk his wife. Abishag responds by refusing to get out of bed to open the door for him. Finally, she relents. Yet, when she opens the door, Solomon is gone!

It's an awful scene. Solomon has left. Abishag goes looking for him. She feels defenseless and unprotected. She is mistreated (5:6-7).

We now come to the next section of Song of Solomon. In this section, I would ask you to consider two truths:

The Beauty Of The Bridegroom

(5:9-16)

In the midst of this awful scene, the daughters of Jerusalem appear (5:9). These women were supposed to praise and extol their love. Yet, they seem to ridicule her. They are asking, "What makes your beloved

so special? Is it worth going after him and risking her life to find and bring him back?"

Their questions prompt Abishag to give a description of her bridegroom, Solomon in 5:10-16. Abishag paints a full-body portrait of her husband. She proceeds downward from his head to his feet. Love songs in ancient times tended to describe the female rather than the male. Here we have just the opposite. Abishag sings of how beautiful her husband is.

His Face (5:10)

She tells us that Solomon is the picture of a fresh and healthy complexion. His face has plenty of color and shines.

His Head (5:11)

She declares that Solomon has an exquisitely shaped head. His head is as valuable and precious as gold is. On this head, he has black flowing locks of hair.

His Eyes (5:12)

Abishag says that Solomon has sparkling, lively eyes. His pupils are perfectly set like a beautiful jewel in the pure white background.

His Cheeks And Lips (5:13)

Abishag now tells us that Solomon has a beautiful and fragrant beard highlighting his cheeks. His lips taste sweet to her (1:2). Not only does she like the taste of his lips, but also his words are sweet and delightful to her.

His Arms and Body (5:14)

Abishag declares that Solomon has arms of gold – strong and unyielding. She remembers his ability to protect her and to help her. His body has a perfect symmetry and is strong.

His Legs And Appearance (5:15)

Marble speaks of smoothness and strength. Gold speaks of an unshakeable foundation. Abishag indicates the strength of Solomon. He is immovable and unshakeable. His appearance was stately and commanding. Looking at Solomon was like looking at the majestic cedars of Lebanon.

His Mouth (5:16)

His words and his kisses were sweetness itself. Abishag declares that Solomon is tender, sweet and kind. The way he looks at her, the way he speaks to her, and the way he kisses her is kind, gentle, and sweet.

Abishag sums up her song about Solomon with these words, “And he is altogether lovely” (5:16). No one can match him. He is most desirable and most attractive. He is incomparable, unrivalled, and unsurpassed. He has no one that can equal him.

Abishag gives a glowing description of her husband. Yet, the primary reason that she misses him and wants him back is found in these words, “This is my beloved and this is

my friend” (5:16). Notice the words, “my friend.” This is the heart of the matter. She wanted her friend back. The loss of her friend broke her heart. She desired the restoration of the relationship.

The Reconciliation With The Bridegroom

(6:1-3)

We see in **Song of Solomon 6:1** that Abishag’s words have a powerful effect. The women who had asked about her husband are now convinced. They want to help her find her lover and her friend. They believe the words of Abishag.

In **6:2-3**, we see the results of their reconciliation. We don’t hear the, “I’m sorry; please forgive me . . . No, I’m sorry; please forgive me.” We simply hear the start of passionate kisses and the renewal of their vows.

The “garden” is actually Abishag. They have been reconciled. They have come back together. Now they are going to share a time of intimacy, “he grazes among the lilies” (6:3). She confesses that they have now recommitted themselves together after their time of separation, “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine” (6:3).

Application To Marriage

Spouses should seek to remember how they viewed each other when they first fell in love.

It’s easy over time to have your heart hardened toward your spouse. The daily struggles, the conflicts, and time can blind you to how valuable and special your

husband or wife is. It's a good practice to remind yourself of why you fell in love with them at the first and why you are still with them.

Spouses should labor to build their friendship.

Abishag paints a stunning picture of Solomon and his looks. There is no doubt that she is attracted to him. Yet, what bothered her the most? It was the fact that she was separated from her friend, "This is my beloved and this is my friend" (5:16). Physical attraction is important in a marriage. Yet, of greater importance is the friendship. Spouses must ask themselves some tough questions like, "Am I working hard on our friendship? Am I doing all I can to strengthen and protect this friendship?" This text is a reminder that marriage flows out of a growing friendship.

Application To Christ And His Church

There is no one who can compare with Jesus Christ.

Abishag's description of Solomon is a reminder of the glory of Jesus Christ. If Solomon is this majestic and beautiful, how much more is the "greater Solomon?" These words point us to the glory and majesty of Christ – He is unsurpassed, unrivalled, and incomparable!

We ought to remind ourselves and others of the beauty and glory of Christ.

When asked about why Solomon was special, Abishag gave a powerful answer. We must do the same for our Savior Jesus Christ. We need to tell others of how glorious and great

that He is. We must share with others why we believe in Him and live our lives for Him. It's also a good practice to remind ourselves of this. We need to remind ourselves and reflect on who Jesus is and what He has done. It is a powerful antidote to backsliding and hardness of heart.

We have a friendship with Christ.

What stands out in this text to me is that we have a relationship, a friendship with Christ. Yet, we must be reminded that a friendship takes commitment and work. We must labor and strive to grow in our friendship with Christ. We must abide in His Word, be faithful in prayer, and worship Him on a daily basis. This friendship has to be cultivated and protected. We must ask ourselves, "Have I taken this friendship for granted? What am I doing to cultivate and protect this friendship?"

The World Prayer Plan

November

- 1-Turks and Caicos Islands
- 2-Tuvalu
- 3-Uganda-The Church
- 4-Uganda-The Lost
- 5-Ukraine-The Church
- 6-United Arab Emirates
- 7-United Kingdom-The Church
- 8-United Kingdom-The Lost
- 9-United Kingdom-Spiritual Awakening
- 10-England
- 11-Northern Ireland
- 12-Scotland
- 13-Wales
- 14-United States-The Church
- 15-United States-The Lost
- 16-United States-Spiritual Awakening

17-United States-Missionary Fervor
 18-United States-Government
 19-United States-Spiritual Unity
 20-Uruguay
 21-Uzbekistan
 22-Vanuatu
 23-Venezuela-The Church
 24-Venezuela-The Lost
 25-Vietnam-The Church
 26-Vietnam-The Lost
 27-Vietnam-Open Doors
 28-Virgin Islands
 29-Revival In Caribbean
 30-Wallis and Futura Island

December

1-Yemen-The Church
 2-Yemen-The Lost
 3-Yugoslavia
 4-Bosnia
 5-Hercegovina
 6-Montenegro
 7-Serbia
 8-Macedonia
 9-Zaire-The Church
 10-Zaire-The Lost
 11-Zambia
 12-Zimbabwe
 13-Africa
 14-Asia
 15-Caribbean
 16-Eurasia
 17-Europe
 18-Latin America
 19-Middle East
 20-North America
 21-Pacific
 22-The Fall of Islam
 23-The Fall of Hinduism
 24-Bible Translation and Distribution Across the World
 25-That The Glory and Power of Jesus Would Be Seen Across The World

26-More Missionaries
 27-Believers With A Heart For The World
 28-Increase In Giving To Mission Efforts
 29-Destruction of Satan's Grip Over the Nations
 30-Worldwide Prayer For World Evangelization
 31-The Soon Return Of Jesus

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