

The Bible Celebrates True Love Ways

International Bible Lesson

Song of Solomon 6:4-12

Sunday, January 10, 2016

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“But my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her” (Song of Solomon 6:9).

The Song of Solomon is also called the Song of Songs, meaning the greatest of songs. Scholars do not know if it was written by King Solomon or in his honor. The Song has been interpreted in many ways. Some believe it is simply a collection of love songs and poetry. Others believe it tells a story with King Solomon, a shepherd, a shepherdess, and a chorus as characters. As a love story, it is consistent with the Bible’s teachings about the love between a man and woman. They meet, they fall in love, they have beautiful and haunting dreams, they marry and fulfill their human desires as husband and wife. The shepherd describes his “lovely darling” in ways familiar to a shepherd but strange to us. She appears as majestic as troops with banners. Her hair reminds him of a flock of goats streaming down a mountain. Her teeth remind him of white washed sheep with no sheep missing. Over the centuries, the Song has also been interpreted as an allegory, a series of songs with deep hidden meanings about God’s love for Israel and the love of Christ for His bride, the Church. Using their imagination, some have thought parts of the song describe Mary the mother of Jesus, for “young women saw her and called her blessed.” When reading this beautiful song, we can enjoy the poetry and thank God for the blessings of true love. Some verses will also remind us of how much God loves us. — L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. The Book of Proverbs celebrates and promotes wisdom and living wisely according to the will God. Why do you think the Bible includes the Song of Solomon?

2. What are some benefits that men and women might expect from one another in marriage that might be compared to great cities; such as Tirzah and Jerusalem?

3. What are some experiences of a shepherd that the shepherd used when describing his beloved?

4. Read Song of Songs 6:8-9 again. When you compare the Christian faith to all the religions of the world, how do you rank Christianity? Give a reason for your answer.

5. Read Song of Songs 6:11. How much attention do you give to Jesus each day? Give a reason for your answer.