

Awakening First Love

There's an interesting book nestled in the heart of the Bible that contains some of the most beautiful gospel imagery. This book, called by some translations the Song of Solomon, the Song of Songs or the Canticle of Canticles. Jewish scholars have held the writings of Solomon in conjunction with the temple of Solomon.

Proverbs: symbolic of the outer court, the gathering place of gentiles, which speaks of right living.

Ecclesiastes: symbolic of the inner court, and discovery that loving and fearing God is the only true wisdom, apart even from wisdom, fame, riches and foolish living.

The Song of Solomon: symbolic of the holy of holies, a place of covenant love built upon desire for God in response to his desire for us.

“4:16 Awake, north wind, And come, wind of the south; Make my garden breathe out fragrance , May its balsam oils flow. May my beloved come into his garden And eat its delicious fruits!”^[P]^[SEP]1 “I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh along with my balsam. I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, friends; Drink and drink deeply, lovers.” 2 “I was asleep but my heart was awake. A voice! My beloved was knocking: ‘Open to me, my sister, my darling, My dove, my perfect one! For my head is drenched with dew, My locks with the dew drops of the night.’ 3 I have taken off my dress, How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet, How can I dirty them again ? 4 My beloved extended his hand through the opening, And my feelings were stirred for him. 5 I arose to open to my beloved; And my hands dripped with myrrh, And my fingers with drops of myrrh, On the handles of the bolt. 6 I opened to my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and had gone! My heart went out to him as he spoke. I searched for him but I did not find him; I called him but he did not answer me. 7 The watchmen who make the rounds in the city found me, They struck me and wounded me; The guards of the walls took my shawl away from me. 8 Swear to me, you daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, As to what you will tell him: For I am lovesick.” 9 “ What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That you make us swear in this way?”

Song of Solomon 5:1-9 NASB

Here we have a Dream sequence of the bride. She has fallen asleep and in her slumber the bridegroom reaches to her, stirring her sleeping heart for him. What follows is an incredible parallel for how our hearts often are lulled to sleep by life and it's coming's and going, but also

how Jesus gently rattles our door to stir us for first love again. This is the analogy we'll be peering through for the lesson.

4:16-5:1 here we have Christ enjoying the fruits of his bride. These fruits he seeks to grow and flourish in us are his own fruit. Take a look: **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

Galatians 5:22-23 - NASB

5:2 Now we see the fruitful bride has fallen asleep. Her heart is still set on her bridegroom, but she is now comfortable. Christ meanwhile, has suffered for the church, enduring her "dark night" so she could enjoy the fruit of his sacrifice.

5:3 Here the bride complains about having to put her clothes on, and become uncomfortable.

5:4 the Bridegroom now reaches to her to join him, to open to him.

5:5 Her heart is stirred by his sacrificial love. So much so that she begins to drop with the same myrrh, his own sacrificial, resurrection love.

5:6 she finally opens to him, but now she cannot find him. She must now pursue him.

5:7 the ones who are meant to watch over and safeguard the city beat her, mistaking her for a woman of the night, and take her veil, her adornment from her.

5:8 The bride makes the daughters of Jerusalem swear to her that if they see her groom to tell her so she can find

5:9 The daughters of Jerusalem ask what kind of groom he must be to be deserving of such dedication