



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 43.1

Old Testament Survey: A Warrior God - Part 1

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
the Song of Solomon has a distinctive title in the Bible. It is labeled, "the Song of Songs." Much like the Hebrew expression "Holy of Holies" indicates the most holy place, so the title "Song of Songs" promotes the Song of Solomon as the ultimate song. It is labeled as the best song there is! As we explore this song, we will find it enshrouded in mystery, in poignant meaning, and in beautiful form.
- Prayer for Wisdom
- Video (37 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine" (Song of Songs 1:2).
Regardless of how you read the Song, it teaches the simple truth that there is a dignity, and a God-given beauty to true human love. This point from the Song is especially useful in a world of extremes on this issue. The extremes range from those who would have us understand that true physical love is somehow "base" and "lesser" than the heights of intellect. Or those that debase physical love into physical lust concerned only with self-gratification. Full human love in a marriage relationship gives both dignity and honor to the physical attraction of spouses as well as the emotional attraction. To take away physical love is to remove a special part of God's gift. To take the other extreme similarly moves away from God's divine dignity into base pornography, devoid of the spiritual loving aspect. Both extremes are rejected in the Song. Physical love takes its rightful place as an expression and part of the union of heart and mind. The Song makes it clear; the physical aspects of marriage are God's gifts to his people. Along with the emotional and intellectual, the physical aspect should be holy, pure, and fun! Once we see this principle in play, we should not be surprised to see it expressed in other situations of God's love.
- ❖ "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love." (Song of Sol. 2:4). In God's love, and in the human expression of God's love, there is great cause for rejoicing. This hearkens back to the creation story of Genesis where out of all of creation, there was not a suitable helper for man until God made woman. This binding love between a man and a woman is a cause for rejoicing. We should not be surprised that it was a wedding celebration that brought forth the Lord's first miracle at Cana. Jesus changed water into wine in the celebration spirit of that blessed event. In the book of Revelation we are privy to the heavenly scene where the bride of Christ is clothed in purity and made ready for a wedding feast with the Son of God. These are all images that flow from the understanding that God has created human love as a proper reason to celebrate and rejoice!
- ❖ "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16).
When Paul wrote these words, as a Rabbi trained by Jerusalem's best, and as a missionary of the gospel, he had lived his life studying the Scriptures. These Scriptures included the Song of Songs. As Rabbi Akiva noted just a few years later, "no man in Israel ever disputed about the Song of Songs!"

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