

Song of Solomon 8: 6, 7

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Unquenchable Love

Introduction: The biblical book of the Song of Solomon is one of the most misunderstood of all scriptural narratives.

A. **Multiple aspects of this misunderstanding**

1. **Interpretive method** is one of the primary aspects
 - a. **Is it an allegory?** Literature which incorporates obvious symbolism intended to suggest a deeper meaning? (Messiah/Israel-Christ/Church)
 - b. **Is it typology?** Historical literature that has a clear New Testament type. Unifies the Old Testament and the New Testament but no indication in the New Testament that this was intended
 - c. **Could it be literal?** A series of love poems that speak explicitly of the feelings, desires, concerns, hopes and fears, of two people in love?
2. **Who is the author?** Traditionally it is Solomon

The song of songs, which is Solomon's 1:1 NKJV

NOTE: In the original Hebrew the phrase “which is Solomon’s” could mean... which belongs to, authored by, or about Solomon.

TRUTH: Likely not written by Solomon and it is in fact, a literal collection of love poems, celebrating the love of two young lovers for one another.

NOTE: Brings us to the third misunderstanding

3. **Can a book that celebrates physically gratifying love really be considered as part of our Bible?**
 - a. **This view extols the virtue of love that a man and woman share,** that cannot be bought, replaced, substituted for, and most importantly, quenched!
 - b. **In creation, humans were made sexual beings** (male/female)
 - ✓ To support and complete one another (Helper-Genesis 2:18)
 - ✓ To pro-create (Be fruitful-Genesis 1:22)
 - ✓ To enjoy physical and spiritual intimacy (Leave father and mother)
 - ✓ God called it “very good” (Genesis 1:31)
 - ✓ Should not be considered obscene that one book of the Bible is dedicated to the celebration of this vital aspect of our creaturehood

- ✓ Secular world, godless media-have made this evil which God declared “very good.” (Cheap, dirty, selfish)
- ✓ This book comes to us in a world of sin, where lust and passion turn us aside from the God-given standard
- ✓ It reminds us of just how pure and how noble true love is!

Michael V. Fox- “*The Song takes a single romance and turns it around and around like a gem, displaying all its facets. The reader finally sees the gem as a whole, and the order in which the facets were shown does not matter much.*”

I. The Characters of the Song

(At least four if read carefully)

- A. Shulamite Maiden (only called that in 6:13)
1. From Shunem-near Mt. Tabor in Galilee, 9 miles from Megiddo-David’ last nurse/wife. By New Testament times-Shulem
 2. Physically striking/beautiful (4:1-5)
 3. Taken into Solomon’s court, likely against her will (likely at a very young age)

Before I was even aware, My soul had made me As the chariots of my noble people. Song of Solomon 6:12 NKJV

- B. Solomon (700 wives/300 concubines)
1. Pursued the Shulamite maiden throughout the story
 2. Uses all of this royal majesty and regal enticements to allure her to himself and his harem
- C. Shepherd-Lover-The maiden’s true love
1. She seeks for him early in the story

Tell me, O you whom I love, Where you feed your flock, Where you make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself By the flocks of your companions? Song of Solomon 1:7 NKJV

2. She affirms her love to him on several occasions

My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies. Song of Solomon 2:16 NKJV

3. She Muses of his love and their time together

Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, And his fruit was sweet to my taste. 4 He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love. 5 Sustain me with cakes of raisins, Refresh me with apples, For I am lovesick. 6 His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. Song of Solomon 2:3-6 NKJV

NOTE: Exchanges of both verbal and physical responses throughout the story

- D. Daughters of Jerusalem-part of Solomon's court who always seek to push the maiden toward Solomon. They speak often in the story and are impressed by Solomon and his regal offers.

II. The Story of the Song (love poetry, imagery is strong)

- A. The young maiden from Shulem and the shepherd share a growing, yet unconsummated love relationship

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth — For your love is better than wine. Song of Solomon 1:2 NKJV

My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away. 11 For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. 12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land. 13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines with the tender grapes Give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away! 14 "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely." Song of Solomon 2:10-14 NKJV

1. She dreams about him

By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him. Song of Solomon 3:1 NKJV

I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night." 3 I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them? 4 My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him. 5 I arose to open for my beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the lock. 6 I opened for my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. Song of Solomon 5:2-6 NKJV

2. Yet, they wait on the consummation of their relationship

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases. Song of Solomon 2:7 NKJV

This same statement is made in 3:5

- B. Solomon repeatedly sought to win her with his royal enticements

I have compared you, my love, To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots. 10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, Your neck with chains of gold. The Daughters of Jerusalem 11 We will make you ornaments of gold With studs of silver. Song of Solomon 1:9-11 NKJV

1. She continues to thwart his overtures

My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies. (To Her Beloved) 17 Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether. Song of Solomon 2:16-17 NKJV

Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense. Song of Solomon 4:6 NKJV

2. Solomon is finally rejected

Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon; He leased the vineyard to keepers; Everyone was to bring for its fruit A thousand silver coins. (To Solomon) 12 My own vineyard is before me. You, O Solomon, may have a thousand, And those who tend its fruit two hundred. Song of Solomon 8:12 NKJV

- C. Finally, the love relationship is consummated between the maiden and the shepherd

I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. (To His Friends) Eat, O friends! Drink, yes, drink deeply, O beloved ones! Song of Solomon 5:1 NKJV

Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved? I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; There she who bore you brought you forth. The Shulamite. 6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised. Song of Solomon 8:5-7 NKJV

III. The Lessons of the Song

A. Unquenchable Love is marked by a passionate and beautifully pure longing and desire for physical union (the world has so corrupted this reality).

- ✓ We have condoned illicit sex
- ✓ Homosexuality is now mainstream
- ✓ Hollywood has stolen this issue with the “New Normal”

Tuesday Night's on NBC

These days, families come in all forms - single dads, double moms, sperm donors, egg donors, one-night-stand donors... It's 2012 and anything goes. Bryan (Andrew Rannells, "Girls," "The Book of Mormon") and David (Justin Bartha, "The Hangover") are a Los Angeles couple, and they have it all. Well, almost. With successful careers and a committed, loving partnership, there is one thing that this couple is missing: a baby. And just when they think the stars will never align, enter Goldie (Georgia King, "One Day"), an extraordinary young woman with a checkered past. A Midwestern waitress and single mother looking to escape her dead-end life and small-minded grandmother (Emmy and Tony Award-winner Ellen Barkin), Goldie decides to change everything and move to L.A. with her precocious eight-year-old daughter. Desperate and broke - but also fertile - Goldie quickly becomes the guys' surrogate and quite possibly the girl of their dreams. Surrogate mother, surrogate family.

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth — For your love is better than wine. Song of Solomon 1:2 NKJV

He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love. Song of Solomon 2:4 NKJV

You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace. 10 How fair is your love, My sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices! 11 Your lips, O my spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk are under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments Is like the fragrance of Lebanon. Song of Solomon 4:9-11 NKJV

I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. (To His Friends) Eat, O friends! Drink, yes, drink deeply, O beloved ones! Song of Solomon 5:1 NKJV

NOTE: While this desire has been tainted by the world and made cheap and dirty by godless living, this passion is part of the masterful design of our creaturehood.

B. Unquenchable love works to build up the often fragile self-image of the other.

I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon. 6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark, Because the sun has tanned me. My

*mother's sons were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards, But my own vineyard I have not kept. **Song of Solomon 1:5-6 NKJV***

Highlights: Real Girls, Real Pressure National Study

Almost across the nation 50% of young girls are engaged in negative activities such as injuring and cutting themselves or engaging in unhealthy eating habits and disorders due to self-esteem and self-image issues.

Girls and Insecurities

7 in 10 Girls believe they are not good enough or do not measure up in some way including their looks, performance in school and relationship with friends and family members.

62% Girls are insecure about themselves

Low Self Esteem and Bad Behavior

75% of girls with low self-esteem report engaging in negative activities such as eating disorders, cutting, smoking, drinking when feeling bad about themselves.

25% of teen girls with low self-esteem purposefully injure or cut themselves

25% of teen girls with low self-esteem have eating disorders (starving, refusing to eat, overeating, throwing up, bulimia)

Parental Influence Good and Bad

Girls with low self-esteem less likely to receive praise from parents but more criticism

34% of girls with low-self esteem feel they are not good enough of a daughter.

57% of girls have mothers who criticizes her looks

57% of girls don't tell mothers things about them because of they don't want them to think bad of them

Insert Dove Video

Hip-hop culture, (by definition) encompasses rapping (and now singing), deejaying, break-dancing, and graffiti-writing, but has evolved to be much more than that. It is now a lifestyle for many young people mostly between the ages of 13 and 30. It now involves music videos, fashion, language, the club scene, and the general way in which young people interact with one another. Hip-hop culture is widely used in commercials (Coca-Cola, Burger King), fashion advertisements, video games, TV shows, and there is even a hip-hop exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The most powerful and influential part of hip-hop culture has come to be rap music, a form of poetry that is said over musical instrumentation. In recent years rap music has developed a reputation of being brutally honest, violent, and misogynistic. (Showing or having a hatred or distrust of women)

Almost every hip-hop video that is regularly run today shows many dancing women (usually surrounding one or two men) wearing not much more than bikinis, with the cameras focusing on their body parts. These images are shown to go along with a lot of the explicit lyrics that commonly contain name calling to suggest that women are not worth anything more than money, if that. Women are described as being only good for sexual relations by rappers who describe their life as being that of a pimp. In many popular rap songs men glorify the life of pimps, refer to all women as they think a pimp would to a prostitute, and promote violence against women for 'disobeying.'

NOTE: Repeated compliments of beauty in the Song!

How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights! **Song of Solomon 7:6 NKJV**

1. See her response

I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. **Song of Solomon 7:10 NKJV**

2. Her confidence later

Then I became in his eyes As one who found peace. **Song of Solomon 8:10 NKJV**

C. Unquenchable Love seeks to provide both selfless pleasure and protection

His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. **Song of Solomon 2:6 NKJV**

His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. **Song of Solomon 8:3 NKJV**

D. Unquenchable Love Commits to developing a healthy and emotionally complete intimacy

Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes. **Song of Solomon 2:15 NKJV**

NOTE: She is concerned about the influences, people, things, words said that could destroy their tender relationship

(ILL) Bricks

E. Unquenchable Love guards the godly parameters of honorable intimacy

NOTE: On three occasions-“wait-don’t awaken love until it pleases.” Until the time is right

F. Unquenchable Love respects and honors the emotional, physical, and spiritual boundaries of the other (NOTE: Never is there pushing from the shepherd).

G. Unquenchable love embraces an exclusive loyalty and devotion to the other and is built on an authentic friendship.

My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies. **Song of Solomon 2:16 NKJV**

What is your beloved More than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved More than another beloved, That you so charge us? 10 My beloved is white and ruddy, Chief among ten thousand. 11 His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy, And black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves By the rivers of waters, Washed with milk, And fitly set. 13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices, Banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, Dripping liquid myrrh. 14 His hands are rods of gold Set with beryl. His body is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires. 15 His legs are pillars of marble Set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, Excellent as the cedars. 16 His mouth is most sweet, Yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND, O daughters of Jerusalem! Song of Solomon 5:9-16 NKJV

I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies. Song of Solomon 6:3 NKJV

I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. Song of Solomon 7:10 NKJV

Conclusion: In a world where sex has become a free for all, no longer even exclusive between a man and a woman, the “Song of Songs” needs to be heard.

The song of songs, which is Solomon's. Song of Solomon 1:1 NKJV “Shir-Hasharim”