

THE SONG OF SOLOMON SESSION 5

Review: Last week we went through chapter 4 which is a conversation between the Shulamite and the Shepherd. The Shepherd describes the Shulamite in poetic symbolism, both her physical and personal features in the highest degree of affection. The Shulamite closes out the chapter with this statement: **Song of Solomon 4:16** Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, *that* the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits. *She means that all of her belongs to him.*

Chapter divisions were introduced around 1205 AD by Stephen Langton and the modern verse system was by printer Robert Estienne in the 1550's , with both systems appearing together in the Geneva Bible of 1560 making the Bible easier to navigate.

Why am I sharing that? Because there are a handful of places in the Bible where the beginning verse of a chapter really belongs to the previous chapter in subject. This is one of those places.

The Shepherd replies to the Shulamite from verse 16 of the last chapter:

Song of Solomon 5:1 I am come into 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: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. *This signifies the bridegroom's complete and lavish enjoyment of his bride after their union, representing total intimacy, mutual pleasure, and God's blessing on marital love.*

Spiritual meaning: It is a metaphor for Christ's deep love for his church

The Shulamite speaks about dream she had of her beloved:

Song of Solomon 5:2-6 I sleep, but my heart waketh: *it is* the voice of my beloved that knocketh, *saying*, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, *and* my locks with the drops of the night. I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? My beloved put in his hand by the hole *of the door*, and my bowels were moved for him. I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped *with* myrrh, and my fingers *with* sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, *and* was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

- **I sleep, but my heart waketh** – The heart is also the mind in scripture, or part of the soul. Her body was asleep, but her mind was awake leading us to believe that this is a dream.
- **Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled** – an appeal to visit her in the night. Notice he just doesn't come in...he asks her to open the door to him.
- **My head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night** – He has been working or taking care of his flock and his hair is wet with dew.
- **She responds with “I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?”** – She is saying I'm already in bed and I really don't want to get up.
- **He moves closer to the door, and her passion is stirred up so she rises up**
- **When she opens the door, she finds that he is already gone and she is sad that she missed him**
- **She looked for him and called out for him, but he did not answer her** – This is all about a missed opportunity that we will come back to later.

She continues with her dream:

Song of Solomon 5:7-8 The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I *am* sick of love. *The watchmen's job was to maintain law and order at night. It's possible that they perceived her to be a prostitute and that's why she was harmed. She then speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem (Solomon's court women) because they are the ones she's telling the dream to, and says “ If you see my beloved, tell him I'm lovesick for him!”*

The Daughters of Jerusalem speak:

Song of Solomon 5:9 What *is* thy beloved more than *another* beloved, O thou fairest among women? what *is* thy beloved more than *another* beloved, that thou dost so charge us? *They ask her what's so special about her shepherd that she would love him so.*

The Shulamite answers them:

Song of Solomon 5:10-16 My beloved *is* white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. His head *is* as the most fine gold, his locks *are* bushy, *and* black as a raven. His eyes *are* as *the* eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, *and* fitly set. His cheeks *are* as a bed of spices, *as* sweet flowers: his lips *like* lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh. His hands *are* as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly *is* as bright ivory overlaid *with* sapphires. His legs *are* as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance

is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth *is* most sweet: yea, he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, and this *is* my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

- **White and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand** – He has fair skin and a healthy complexion. He stands out as the finest, surpassing all others.
- **His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy and black as a raven** – symbolizing his supreme value, majesty, wisdom and radiant glory praising both his outward appearance and his inner worth together.
- **His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set** – His eyes are beautiful, pure, and peaceful. The whites of them are bold and they are fitly set in his face like gems in a piece of jewelry.
- **His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers** – He projects a delightful fragrance and an attractive presence.
- **His lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh** – His speech is eloquent and pleasing.
- **His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl** – His hands are strong, valuable, and capable.
- **His belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires** – Ivory represents purity, innocence, and physical beauty. Sapphires symbolize exaltation, divine worth, and heavenly richness.
- **His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold** – His legs are strong and stable, chiseled yet graceful.
- **His countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars** – Lebanon cedars were tall and stately, they had an attractive smell. The Shepherd was tall and alluring.
- **His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely** – A declaration of complete admiration for her beloved. He speaks sweetly to her.

The Spiritual interpretation: This description is the church's description of Christ. He is beautiful in every way and there's no other like him. Gold in the scriptures is symbolic of sovereignty and supremacy. Everything in the temple was overlaid in pure gold. Sapphires are blue and symbolize heaven and white is the color of purity. His stance is strong, his hands are powerful, his promises are sure, his presence is captivating, his words are comforting. **1 Peter 2:7** Unto you therefore which believe *he is precious*: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

The life application: The Shulamite describes an occasion where her beloved comes to visit her, but she is slow in responding to his call and misses him. We all should have

devoted time for the Lord where we pray and read our Bibles. This is our attempt to get in his presence. But what about the times he initiates and wants to come into our presence?

- **He came at night** – It might not always be a convenient time. We may be asleep or we might be doing something else when he wants us to stop and pay him attention
- **She responded with “I’m already in bed and I don’t want to rewash my feet”** – She is ultimately saying “I’m comfortable and it would be inconvenient for me to come out to you now”. These are the most used excuses by us for missing his visitation.
- **When she decided to answer the door, it was too late. He had already gone** – We should never forget that he is the Lord and when he wants our attention, it’s of the utmost importance and we need to move quickly.
- **Though she searched for him, she couldn’t find him** – Mary and Joseph lost track of Jesus coming back from Jerusalem in one day, but it took them three days to find him. Again, visits from the Lord are precious and should be treated as such.
- **When she went out into the night, she was harmed** – **John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. **1 John 1:5-7** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. *Fellowship equals light to walk in...walking in the dark is dangerous!*

Another time Christ came to the door but couldn’t get an answer - Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.