

The Love of Our Lives

Clinton, AR
2011 Fall Gathering



© Can Stock Photo - csp4013506

Themes to Watch For

Love

Commitment

Dedication

Sacrifice

Faithfulness

Anticipation of Being Together

Mutual Admiration

Respect

Chastity/Loyalty

THE GROOM'S CHARACTERISTICS

		Scriptures
Overall Appearance	White & ruddy; chiefest among ten thousand Countenance as Lebanon	Ch 5:10 Ch 5:15
Head	Fine gold	Ch 5:11
Locks (hair)	Bushy and black as a raven	Ch 5:11
Eyes	Doves eyes by the river	Ch 5:12
Cheeks	Bed of spices Sweet Flowers	Ch 5:13 Ch 5:13
Lips	Lilies dropping sweet myrrh	Ch 5:13
Hands	Gold rings wet with beryl	Ch 5:14
Belly	Bright ivory overlaid with sapphires	Ch 5:14
Legs	Pillars of marble set upon sockets of fine gold	Ch 5:15
Mouth	Most sweet	Ch 5:16

THE BRIDE'S CHARACTERISTICS

	Compared To:	Scriptural references
Total Appearance	Company of horses in Pharaoh's Chariots A garden enclosed; A spring shut up; A fountain sealed	Ch 1:9 Ch 4:12
Name	Ointment	Ch 1:3
Stature	Palm Tree	Ch 7:7
Hair	Flock of goats from Gilead Purple	Ch 4:1; Ch 6:5 Ch 7:5
Head	Carmel	Ch 7:5
Temples	A piece of pomegranate	Ch 4:3; Ch 6:7
Eyes	Doves' eyes Fishpools in Heshbon	Ch 1:15; Ch 4:1 Ch 7:4
Cheeks	Rows of Jewels	Ch 1:10
Teeth	Flock of sheep that are even shorn	Ch 4:2; Ch 6:6
Lips	Thread of scarlet Drop as Honeycomb	Ch 4:3 Ch 4:11
Nose	Tower of Lebanon	Ch 7:4
Speech	Comely	Ch 4:3
Neck	Chains of Gold Tower of David Tower of ivory	Ch 1:10 Ch 4:4 Ch 7:4
Breasts	Two young twin roes Clusters of Grapes Towers	Ch 4:5; Ch 7:3 Ch 7:7 Ch 8:10
Thighs	Jewels, cunningly made	Ch 7:1
Navel	Round goblet that wanteth not liquor	Ch 7:2
Belly	Heap of wheat set about with lilies	Ch 7:2
Feet	Beautiful	Ch 7:1

Geographic Locations Identified in Songs of Solomon

- Tents of Kedar – Ch 1:5
- Vineyards of Engedi – Ch 1:14
- Rose of Sharon – Ch 2:1
- Lilly of the Valleys – Ch 2:1
- Mountains of Bether – Ch 2:17
- Wood of Lebanon – Ch 3:9
- Mount Gilead – Ch 4:1
- Lebanon, Amana, Shenir, Hermon – Ch 4:8
- Tirzah – Ch 6:4
- Fishpools in Heshbon – Ch 7:4
- Tower of Lebanon – Ch 7:4
- Gate of Bath-rabbim – Ch 7:5
- Carmel – Ch 7:5
- Solomon's vineyard at Baal-hamon – Ch 8:11

SPICES and VEGETATION in SONGS OF SOLOMON

- Ointment - Ch 1:3
- Spikenard - Ch 1:12; Ch 4:13; Ch 4:14
- Myrrh - Ch 1:13; Ch 4:6; Ch 4:14; Ch 5:1; Ch 5:5; Ch 5:13
- Camphire - Ch 1:14; Ch 4:13
- Frankincense - Ch 2:6; Ch 4:6; Ch 4:14
- Saffron - Ch 4:14
- Calamus - Ch 4:14
- Cinnamon - Ch 4:14
- Rose of Sharon - Ch 2:1
- Lilies of the valley - Ch 2:2; Ch 5:13; Ch 6:2-3
- Thorns - Ch 2:2
- “Apple” Tree & “Apples” - Ch 2:3; Ch 2:5; Ch 7:8; Ch 8:5
- Flagons - Ch 2:5
- Fig Tree and green figs - Ch 2:13
- Grape vines and grapes - Ch 2:13; Ch 2:15; Ch 6:11; Ch 7:7-8; Ch 7:12; Ch 8:11; Ch 8:12
- Powders of the merchants - Ch 2:6
- Pomegranates - Ch 4:3; ; Ch 4:13; Ch 6:7; Ch 6:11; Ch 7:12; Ch 8:2
- Garden of nuts - Ch 6:11
- Fruits of the valley - Ch 6:11
- Palm Tree - Ch 7:7-8
- Mandrakes - Ch 7:13

THE ANIMALS IN THE SONGS

- Roe & Roes - Ch 2:7; Ch 2:9; Ch 2:17; Ch 3:5; Ch 4:5; Ch 7:3; Ch 8:14
- Hart - Ch 2:9; Ch 2:17; Ch 8:14
- Hinds - Ch 2:7; Ch 3:5
- Doves, Dove & Turtle Dove - Ch 1:15; Ch 2:12; Ch 2:14; Ch 4:1; Ch 5:2; Ch 5:12; Ch 6:9
- Foxes - Ch 2:15
- Lions - Ch 4:8
- Leopards- Ch 4:8
- Sheep, flock, goats, kids – Ch 1:7-8; Ch 4:1-2; Ch 6:5-6
- Birds & Raven - Ch 2:12; Ch 5:11
- Horses – Ch 1:9

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

Our High Calling and Our Desires

Song 7 – The First Advent Call and Espousal of the Bride – Ch 5:2-6:10

This song begins with a description of the sleepy attitude of the prospective individual members of the Bride Body at the time of the first Advent. This sleepy characteristic could also apply to those of any age who sleep in the Gentile darkness. Continual drowsiness will cause individuals to refuse to answer to the knocking of Christ on our hearts and minds, until it is too late and we cannot find Him.

However, once individuals become part of the Ecclesial Bride, they may be subject to worldly persecution because of their beliefs. The Bride endures and is prepared to always give a reason for the love that she has for her departed Groom and for the hope that she holds that He will return for her and take Her out of the sufferings during the Espousal period. The song concludes with a description of the bride's beauty which is a list of divine virtues that the Bride must strive to develop during the absences of her Beloved.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

Our High Calling and Our Desires

Song 8 – Anticipating His Coming – Ch 6:11-13

Following up with the praise given to the virtues of the Bride in the previous Song, she feels a great desire for the return of her Beloved Groom to be. She falls into a trance and reviews the circumstances of her life, the signs of the times that speak of the nearness of His return, and what these signs may mean. Because of her intense desire for His return, she begins to think of the blessings that His return will bring.

The song concludes with the virgin attendants (individual members of the Bride) wakening the Ecclesial Bride from her thoughts and proclaims what they actions that they need the Ecclesia Bride to be performing in the days of the Espousal.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

Our High Calling and Our Desires

Song 10 – The Bride's Deep Longing and Ardent Desire for the Groom's Return –

Ch 7:10-8:4

This song brings to us a note of expectancy and joy. She has extreme confidence in His love for Her and earnestly prays for His return. She anticipates the mutual labor that they will engage at that time when they will be eternally joined together.

She wants the world to recognize their mutual love just as one would recognize the love between a natural brother and sister. She wants to be embraced by her Beloved, but warns that the love for the Beloved should not be fake or artificially stimulated.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

Our High Calling and Our Desires

Song 3 - Signs of His Coming – Ch 2:8-17

In this song, we see an increasing expectation and anticipation for the return of the Beloved. She forgets her previous doubts and completely realizes the unity that exists between the two of them. “My beloved is mine and I am His”.

Using the types of an approaching spring, the Groom draws attention to certain signs that should be watched for prior to His Return. These remind the Bride of the need for her to continue her preparation for the Marriage Ceremony.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

Our High Calling and Our Desires

Song 4 – The Groom's Sudden Appearance –

Ch 3:1-5

The bride becomes depressed because the one that she so longs for has not yet returned. Even though she recognizes the signs of the times, it appears that His return is still so far away.

The Bride does not let the feelings of loneliness and depression cause her to lose faith. She gets up from her bed of sorrows and becomes active in His service, always seeking Him who is the love of Her life. She continues to seek Him and finally, she is surprised by His sudden appearance. What joy she must feel. He has returned!! He has come for her!! Her desires and hopes are finally realized.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Bride's Preparation

Song 1 – The Bride's Ardent Love and Becoming Humility – Ch 1:1-8

The Ecclesial Bride expresses her strong desire for the presence of her Lord. She does not have to name the love of her life, as all who know her knows of whom she loves. He is the only one for her. She recognizes the love and blessings that our Beloved has bestowed upon her. However, because of her imperfections, she does not think that she is worthy of the love of Her Espoused Groom. She turns to her absent one. He reassures her through the Word of Truth and provides wonderful advice about what she must do to prepare herself for His return. She must continue to be strong and faithful and feed His flock while He is absent. He calls her the fairest among women, a prophecy of the time when she will be presented to Him without spot nor blemish.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Bride's Preparation

Song 2 – Love's Communion and Self-Sacrificing Devotion – Ch 1:9 – 2:7

In communication with her absent groom, she receives love messages that assure her of His continued affection. We do this through constant study, meditation and faithful and earnest prayer. The Ecclesial Bride is admired by the attendant virgins (individual members of the Ecclesia) and want to make for her additional ornaments of grace. We do this by being faithful and strengthening and edifying the Ecclesia at all times. The Groom has chosen her out of the darkness of Egypt (the world) and praises her for her beauty. She is love sick by their continual separation. She has no time for anything except for the time that she seeks for Him. She freely declares what He means to her. Due to her imperfections, the Bride does not see herself as a beautiful flower in the Groom's Garden, but rather as a wild plant in the midst of the plains. She continues to seek His support and embrace and love,

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Bride's Preparation

Song 9 – The Glowing Beauty of the Bride –

Ch 7:1-9

The Bride is dancing the “dance of Mahaniam”. This is a dance of joy that is a result of her knowledge that she is constantly under the protection of her Espoused Groom. This is after the type of protection that Jacob was given at the place called “Mahanaim”. The virgin attendants and even the Groom praises the bride for her skill and beautiful movements of the dancing Bride. This song is a type of the walk of faith that is required by the Bride while dwelling under the protective care of Christ and His Father. The dancer's feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, her loins girt about with Truth, trusting only in our Lord, developing the tried faith, always alert for the return of Her Groom, and knowing that all of this is only possible if we correctly digest the word of truth and manifesting the correct love that is required of us.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Blessings of the Marriage

Song 5 – The Splendor of the Marriage –

Ch 3:6-4:7

This song introduces us to a new group of people. The daughters of Zion are the remnant of the mortal Jews, that have survived the invasion of the northern invader. They see a glorious multitude approaching the city of Jerusalem and are heard commenting on the procession – Who is this? Who are these armed for war? The Jewish people finally recognize their coming Messiah. They see His Bride dressed for war, ready to defend the way of their Groom.

In the second half of this Song, we once again find the Groom, in symbolic form, praising the beauty of His now married Bride. These characteristics of the future Bride are what we should strive to manifest in these days as the Espoused of the Beloved One.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Blessings of the Marriage

Song 11 – The Joy and Communion of True Marriage – Ch 8:5-7

Again, the Song speaks of the Bride and Groom coming out of the wilderness to the admiring gaze of the onlookers. And again, we see the Groom talking to His Bride about the experiences of their courtship. He had seen her and recognized her as a possible marriage mate long before She had recognized Him. He had supervised Her development through the espousal period. He had helped Her in preparing for this great and might day.

She has finally come to the perfect knowledge of the love that He had for her throughout her preparation period. She now knows what she has professed since she became the Espoused – an everlasting love that is indescribable and unimaginable for mere mortals to comprehend.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Blessings of the Marriage

Song 6 – Entering the Inheritance – Ch 4:8 - 5:1

The Groom reflects on the path that the Bride has taken in order to finally be at one with Her beloved Groom. She has now been made righteous after a life of successful battles against the ways of the flesh through a constant, consistent, and remembrance of the Truth. She has used the whole armour of God to defeat the ways of the old man. She now has received an elevated nature and a position of authority and power over those mortals of the world. She has received Her inheritance that has been promised to the faithful from the beginning of the world even to this time.

The chaste character of the Bride is again praised by the Groom. He invites her to eat and drink with Him in the Kingdom. The Bride is now named the Beloved, just as the Son is called. They are finally at one with each in the truest aspect.

THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES

The Blessings of the Marriage

Song 12 –Love’s Labor in the Future–Ch 8:8-14

In this Song, we see the Bride talking to the Groom on behalf of her little sister. Her little sister, who has not yet reached maturity, are the mortals of the world who have accepted the preaching of the everlasting gospel message during the Kingdom Age. The Bride realizes that she, the bride, has reached this maturity, and is able to help teach her little sister about the need to develop the love that the Bride holds for her Groom, as this is the only way to become mature in the household of Christ and God.

The Song and Book closes with a plea from the Bride in her days of Espousal. “Make haste, my beloved”. These are the words on the lips of all who have been brought into holy covenant with her Espoused. These are the same words that closes the entire book of God’s Word – Even so come, Lord Jesus.