

Wedding bells! Song of Songs 3:6 – 5:1

1. The lover's procession S of S 3: 6 - 11

- The procession comes out of the desert. A place where little can grow.
- A column of smoke and incense – (Exodus picture of God's leading?)
- Lover protected by 60 warriors. Prepared for the terrors of the night. A picture of the protection needed against all that would harm intimacy and sacredness of marriage
- Revelation 19: 7 – 8 The marriage feast of the lamb and the rider on the white horse
- Preparation of the lover is
 - i. Personal – he made the carriage himself
 - ii. Communal – lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem
- Involvement of the family. The crown which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding.

2. The lovers' declaration of love S of S 4: 1 - 15

- Head to toe exploration of his beloved.
- He praises her beauty with descriptions we find hard to understand
- His desire is for the person not the act of sex
- He is totally taken up with the beauty of his beloved and the anticipation of oneness they will enjoy
- There is no flaw in you! To look with love is to see whatever is pure and noble and beautiful.
- You have stolen my heart
- The consummation is a celebration of the senses, taste, smell and touch
- Verse 12 a celebration of chastity? A garden a place cultivated and peaceful.

3. Consummation S of S 4:16 – 5:1

- Verse 16 Come, south wind blow, let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruit.
- The lover expresses his satisfaction 5: 1
- This section is the midpoint of the Song.

4. The friends rejoice S of S 5:1

- Drink your fill, O lovers

Digging Deeper

Read Song of Songs 3:6 – 11

1. What are the things that strike you about the procession that the song pictures?
2. Who is involved in the procession and what do the roles imply?
3. Read Revelation 19: 7 – 8. Is this another picture that points us towards a picture of the lover being a type for Jesus?

Read Song of Songs 4: 1 – 15

1. Where does the Lover's gaze go? How does this compare to the description of the beloved hiding in 2:14. What has happened to bring this change?
2. What impact does being loved have? Is this only something for those who are married? How do we encourage those not in a relationship to feel loved?
3. In verse 9 the lover talks about his 'heart being stolen'. If this is a picture that points to both the bridegroom and Jesus how do you react to the thought that you capture Jesus' heart?
4. What are the contrasts between a desert and a garden? 3:6 and 3:14. What is this love relationship celebrating?

Read Song of Songs 4:16 – 5:1

1. This is the midpoint of the song. It is a description of the beloved and the lover on their wedding night enjoying one another. How do you react to this description and what does it say to us about the place of sex in God's world?
2. Why might this scene be placed at the central part of the song?
3. The friends are present and give voice encouraging the consummation! Is sex a purely personal event or does it have a wider impact on the community?