

*NOTES:*



*The*  
**S** *of* **SONG**  
**SOLOMON**

*A study of Love, Sex, Marriage  
and Romance*

*by*

T o m m y N e l s o n

## NOTES:

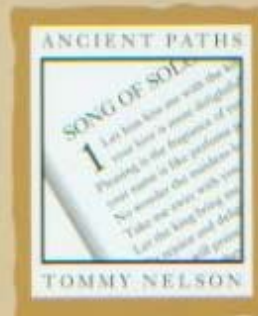


Tommy Nelson is the Pastor of Denton Bible Church, located in Denton, Texas. He has been the pastor since 1977. He is also a national platform speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Crusade for Christ and other national ministry organizations. Tommy graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He then attended Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas and received his Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. He has been the speaker for the METRO Bible Study in Dallas, Texas, at Prestonwood Baptist Church, since 1993. METRO is an inter-denominational Bible study reaching approximately 3,000 young adults each week. Tommy has been married to Teresa Nelson for 21 years. He is the father of two boys, Benjamin, age 19 and John Clark, age 16.

“**R**omantic relationships affect everyone. Do we think that God has given us desire and passion without any instruction? Has God given us romance and tossed it to us like a grenade? Did He just say ‘play around with it and you’ll figure it out?’ No, He has given us an entire book which deals with all of this and more. It’s called The Song of Solomon.”

—Tommy Nelson

This study consists of 12 thirty minute sessions which address the art of attraction, dating, courtship, intimacy, conflict, romance, and commitment. Tommy speaks directly and humorously on each of these issues. The material is designed for both individual and group study. Whether you are single, married, young or old, this study is for you.



## *A study of Love, Sex, Marriage and Romance*

HUDSON & NELSON

For more information on this study or any other teaching material contact:  
Hudson & Nelson at 1.800.729.0815

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## **Overview from Thomas Nelson**

Thomas Nelson, Inc., *Nelson's complete book of Bible maps and charts: Old and New Testament [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1996.

The Song of Solomon is a love song abounding in metaphors and oriental imagery. It depicts the wooing and wedding of a shepherdess by King Solomon and the joys and heartaches of wedded love. The book is arranged like scenes in a drama with three main speakers: the bride, the king, and a chorus (the daughters of Jerusalem).

Based on its first verse, this book is known by the titles "Song of Songs" and "Song of Solomon." In Latin the book is called *Canticles*, which means "songs."

The Song is a type of Semitic wisdom literature, and it parallels the book of Proverbs in a number of ways. As is true of much Hebrew poetry, the book is characterized by parallelism, the stating and restating of an idea in close context. Key images in the book include wine, the garden, the kiss, various spices and fruits, the countryside or pastoral metaphors. Of special note is the fact that the name of God does not appear directly in the book.

*The literary form and intent of the Song have been understood in a variety of ways which reduce to three basic approaches. The allegorical view* understands the book as a poem describing the relationship between God and Israel or between Christ and the church. Each detail is seen as symbolic of deeper spiritual truth. **The typological view** differs from the allegorical by acknowledging the historical foundation and by finding analogy not in all subordinate details, but only in the main outlines. Proponents of this view acknowledge the mutual love between Solomon and the Shulamite, but go beyond that to consider the divine analogy with its more elevated and spiritual meaning as being the more important. **The literal view** takes the content of the song at face value. Some who interpret it in this way maintain that the poem is merely a secular love song expressing human romantic love at its best without spiritual lesson or theological content, but a literal interpretation need not mean that the book has no spiritual illustrations or application.

*The poem may also be understood as depicting the ideal love relationship in marriage and so presenting a divine theology of marriage as expressed in the love between husband and wife in the physical area.*

## **Tape 1, Side A: The Art of Attraction**

### **Chapter 1:1-7**

This is a book of 8 chapters which takes a couple and gives 7 snapshots on:

1. their Attraction,
2. their Dating,
3. their Courtship,
4. their Marriage (Intimacy),
5. their Conflicts,
6. their Romance,
7. their Commitment unto Death.

First we will look at how you attract another in a godly manner, then how do you date in a godly manner.

- ◇ In many cultures marriages are arranged by parents, and romantic attraction in the West is considered barbaric. Remember:

## **NOTES:**

*Prov 31:30*

*Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (KJV)*

- ◇ In those cultures you base marriage upon character and virtue which will grow into romance: we marry by romance and it devolves into apathy or hate.
- ◇ In Genesis, Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for Isaac, who had to be a believer, who had to be willing to leave all to come back to Isaac, and she had to be a servant (Gen. 24:10-19).

## **Chapter 1**

*1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.*

- ◇ The couple in verses 2-4 are married and they are looking back on what attracted her to him.

### **The Shulamite**

*2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—*

*For your love is better than wine.*

*3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,*

- ◇ Oil and perfume were used to cover odors for lack of bathing, so this means that the woman considered him an attractive man, or nice looking.

*Your name is ointment poured forth;*

- ◇ A man's name is a man's character, his virtue and integrity. The English word "character" comes from the Greek word *charassein* which means "to sharpen, engrave, carve, stamp & mark". In other words, personality traits that will not fade away. His name means his character, his love, his holiness, his honesty, his morality, his temperance, his flexibility: his ability to be a good listener.
- ◇ A marriage based upon looks & wealth without character will be a hell-on-earth without hope.
- ◇ A marriage based upon character will always have hope of resolutions during times of conflict.

*Therefore the virgins love you.*

- ◇ Since he is a man of character this means that he is desirable to all women!

- ◇ Women, if a suitor presses you to compromise your morality, he will not be a faithful husband. If he won't obey God when he is single, he won't when married.

**The Daughters of Jerusalem**

*4 Draw me away!  
We will run after you.*

- ◇ This means it is a privilege to marry the man.

**The Shulamite**

*The king has brought me into his chambers.*

- ◇ This means it is a delight to marry the man.

**The Daughters of Jerusalem**

*We will be glad and rejoice in you.  
We will remember your love more than wine.*

- ◇ These daughters are probably Solomon's harem.

**The Shulamite**

*Rightly do they love you.*

- ◇ It is logical, it is a privilege, and it is right. A marriage that would last.

*5 I am dark, but lovely,  
O daughters of Jerusalem,  
Like the tents of Kedar,  
Like the curtains of Solomon.*

- ◇ Tents of Kedar are Bedouin tribes whose tents were made of black wool, and the curtains of Solomon were purple. The Shulamite sees her skin as marred. Her skin was sunburned. Verse 6 tells how her skin was marred.

*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.*

- ◇ The vineyard is speaking of her body. Because she obeyed the authority over her, her skin burned in labor. She was submitted to her father and respectful to her mother. She is obedient, hardworking, in truth, her appearance is down played like the man's as being less important than the character traits.

- ◇ When is a person ready to marry? Two points:

**NOTES:** ⇒ 1. When you have a clear idea of the kind of person you will not settle for less.

**(To Her Beloved)**

7            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?

- ◇ The last line of verse 7 refers to the whores following the shepherds and their flocks. The prostitutes veiled their faces around the men.
- ◇ In other words, the Shulamite would not behave like the hookers in compromising her chasity and morality. She sets her boundaries and keeps them.
- ⇒ 2. The second indication of being ready to marry then, is in holding to one's morality at the cost of losing the suitor. A willingness to wait for the right one.
- ◇ The guy has a name greater than his looks, and the girl has a heart greater than her skin.
- ◇ Premarital sex is like a roaring flame that goes out, but marriage is based upon deep embers that will continue to burn. These embers are honesty, devotion, character.
- ◇ The way to pick a mate is to run as fast as you can after Jesus, then look to your side to see who is running alongside you.
- ◇ Any marriage built on looks and passion is in for trouble, because it is downhill. *The worst marriages are in Hollywood who present the lie that women have male sex drives.* It doesn't work that way.

**Going Further:**

**In Marriage**

- a What character traits does your spouse or fiancé possess that make for a strong basis of marriage?

6

*Husbands list good character traits of your wife in the column that says "In the Wife" and*



## NOTES:

8            *If you do not know, O fairest among women,  
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,  
And feed your little goats  
Beside the shepherds' tents.*

" This means follow him, this guy is worthy to be chased. In dating there are 3 things that are needed:

⇒ **1. Time** - no strings attached and in a place that brings no provision for the flesh.

*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Rom 13:14 KJV)*

This couple spends time together. Look at verse 12, they eat together, and verses 16 & 17 they have a picnic which is a date in the open.

⇒ **2. Cultivate respect** - when a woman respects a man and regards him highly, respect and romance are cousins. You like each other before you can love each other. They create a friendship first. Look how they regard each other. Verse 9:

### The Beloved

9            *I have compared you, my love,  
To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots.*

A mare in Pharaoh's army was a white steed that led the army. This horse to the Egyptians was nigh unto a deity. These huge animals on small feet have to be treated with tenderness. The man regards her as priceless. Be kind and tender. Consider how the woman feels about him. Look at verses 12 & 13.

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.*

### The Shulamite

12           *While the king is at his table,  
My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.*

13           *A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me,  
That lies all night between my breasts.*

" This means that to a woman back then the perfume gave them their fragrance. Myrrh was a very expensive aromatic resin. In other words, she

regards the man as her perfume. In verse 13 the last line means that she dreams of him and thinks of him all the time. Look at verse 15 to see how regard becomes respect:

**NOTES:**

14      *My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms  
            In the vineyards of En Gedi.*

### **The Beloved**

15      *Behold, you are fair, my love!  
            Behold, you are fair!  
            You have dove's eyes.*

- " Doves are gentle and one handles a dove gently. He sees her beauty but sees a deeper beauty, as Peter said:

*But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Pet 3:4 KJV)*

- " Literally expensive in the sight of God. Look at verse 16:

### **The Shulamite**

16      *Behold, you are handsome, my beloved!  
            Yes, pleasant!*

- " Notice the word "pleasant" which is the same way David described his best friend Jonathan.

2 Sam 1:26

*I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. (KJV)*

- " The man was her best friend. Marry your best pal. Look at 16b & 17:

17      *Also our bed is green.  
            The beams of our houses are cedar,  
            And our rafters of fir.*

- " This means that they are out in the woods having their picnic and she regards the humble outdoors as a mansion for their home because she sees him as more valuable than any wealthy home. He is her home, where he is she is at home. Because he is so pleasant, so tactful, so respectful, and such a good listener, she feels like a millionaire and a queen with him.

⇒ *Guys beware of being competitive and conquering her then neglecting her. Always regard her with respect, don't try to win the arguments.*

**The Shulamite**

1 *I am the rose of Sharon,  
And the lily of the valleys.*

- " Roses and lilies are singular nouns, they do not grow in clumps. In other words, he makes her feel like she is the most special woman on the face of the Earth.
- ⇒ *Remember she did not feel pretty in chapter 1, but now she feels beautiful. Her feeling is reinforced by his feelings in verse 2:*

**The Beloved**

2 *Like a lily among thorns,  
So is my love among the daughters.*

- " In other words, he regards her as the most special woman in the universe. Look how she regards him in verse 3:

**The Shulamite**

3 *Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods,  
So is my beloved among the sons.*

- " In other words, no one else compares to him. Consider 3b:

*I sat down in his shade with great delight,*

- " Shade means that he could protect her and that she could come under his wing. The New Testament says this:

*Eph 5:28-29*

28 *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

29 *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: (KJV)*

That means she will never be afraid to get close to him because she knows he will never hurt her, nor demean her, nor mistreat her hardly. Submission is no issue because she knows he will die for her.

*And his fruit was sweet to my taste.*

- " This means that he meets her needs of reassurance in her beauty, quality, and value of self worth. Consider verse 4:

**(to the Daughters of Jerusalem)**

**NOTES:**

4        *He brought me to the banqueting house,*

" Now they are dining publicly for all the world to see them together.

*And his banner over me was love.*

" This means that he owned her like a general owns his army and like God owns us and is our banner. Love is his mark of ownership. His treatment of her displayed his love.

⇒ *Be a gentleman and don't walk in front of your wife. She is your companion, not servant. Let no one challenge your wife, even your kids. You can not have a single mode: you are not a me, but a we.* Look at verse 5:

5        *Sustain me with cakes of raisins,  
Refresh me with apples,  
For I am lovesick.*

" Raison cakes in the orient were considered aphrodisiacs. Used in heathen worship with the temple prostitutes. God had contempt for Israel in Hosea for following other gods with raisin cakes.

*Hosea 3:1*

*The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." (NIV)*

⇒ When David brought the ark of the covenant back into Jerusalem he handed out raisin cakes to the people.

*2 Sam 6:19*

*Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes. (NIV)*

⇒ His intent was for the people, who back in covenant with God, to be fruitful and multiply so the promise of his (Abraham's) seed would be like the stars of the sky (Gen. 15:5).

" Because of his gentleness, protection, and provision, she is open to passion towards him. In other words, she wants him. Look at verse 6:

6        *His left hand is under my head,  
And his right hand embraces me.*

" This is a sexual position of foreplay. God is the author of passion. He understands our drives.

**NOTES:** ⇒ *Regrettably, the church has shied away from acknowledging this and emphasizes the allegorical interpretation of this book as Christ and the church, which also applies, but neglects our God given marital intimacy. Consider Solomon's response:*

### **The Beloved**

#### **(to the Daughters of Jerusalem)**

7 *I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,*

" He speaks of her in the highest of gentle terms: as a brown eyed doe. And he implores the harem:

*Do not stir up nor awaken love  
Until it pleases.*

not to encourage his love's passion before marriage.

⇒ *Note: it is the guy that takes the initiative in discouraging and safe guarding against pre-marital sex.*

Remember, there are 3 things needed in a dating relationship: 1) time, 2) cultivation, and

⇒ **3. Restraint** - because the natural phenomenon of romance is sexual desire, and it must be shut down. Fires have to be contained in the house because of the destruction it causes unrestrained. Sex is not the main course but the topping of the dessert. Proverbs says:

*Prov 6:27*

*Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? (KJV)*

⇒ Relations built on sexual immorality creates the law of diminishing returns. There is a natural progression of physical intimacy that God has created. It is:

1. Hand to hand - exciting the first time, but loses excitement, so next
2. Hand to shoulder - then
3. Hand to waist - then
4. Face to face - then
5. Hand to head - then
6. Body to body in hugs - then
7. Mouth to face - then
8. Mouth to mouth - then
9. Hand to body - then
10. Body to body in intercourse

12 ⇒ *Therefore a marriage built on sexual immorality will constantly lose excitement since there is no other foundation.*

## NOTES:

- ⇒ But a proper foundation with dating restraint will grow better and better.
- ⇒ *If respect begins in dating, then the woman will always trust the man, even in the hard times of marriage. But with the wrong start, a marriage will grow apart and they will seek solace outside of marriage, whether in activities or an extra-marital affair.*
- ⇒ If you started your marriage on the wrong foot, be encouraged in the ability of Christ to redeem your marriage. He can wash you clean.

### Going Further:

The principles that Tommy Nelson shares on dating can be compared to our courting our spouse before marriage and during marriage with the Lord courting us for salvation and when we sin after our salvation.

## Tape 2, Side A: *The Art of Courtship, Part 1*

Chapter 2: 8 -14

### In Marriage

When your marriage loses romance, consider starting fresh in dating again while married and exercise the 3 principles of godly relations: 1. *Spend more time together*; 2. *Give more respect towards one another*; and, 3. *Exercise restraint in physical intimacy until romance is rekindled.*

### In Christ

Before we accept our salvation, Christ courts us, too. Initially we spend time with Christ as His word is preached to us (Rom.

A bad date will cost you a little time, money and annoyance. But a bad courtship will cost you a little bit of your soul. When you date the same person over and over again, you are into courtship. Courtship takes all kinds of sensitivity. Too shallow and you frustrate it; too deep too fast too far will destroy it. It takes great flexibility, sensitivity, tenderness & holiness. To court someone is to treat her as a princess to cultivate trust so that she would want to spend the rest of her life with you. Likewise, she treats him words and compassion so that he would want to spend the rest of his life with her. Courtship takes you intentionally to marriage. Dating is observation, courtship is

**NOTES:** depth. Dating has no strings attached, but courtship has responsibility, trust and vulnerability that can be hurt. Dating is marketing, courtship is the close.

The text will show 4 things that have to happen in dating to lead to courtship. Then there are 2 ways the man should feel if the 4 planks in dating are properly laid. Then we will see 2 things he will do. Finally we will see 3 responses that the woman has toward proper courting followed by a common commitment.

By review these 4 things have to occur:

1) Have the wisdom to properly evaluate the character of the person you are about to court. See correctly the standard of righteousness, character and the personality of that person which won't change.

2) Maintain consistency in dating. It should be easy, negotiable, have the same morality.

3) Have the sensitivity of communication. Girls tend to get hurt here the most. Men tend to shy from inquiring into the status of the relation from her point of view. Always give a girl an out; give her the option to say no, and go away.

4) have patience in the growth of the relationship. Don't escalate the relationship too fast, don't share too much too soon. Keep your hands off each other. Don't kiss a woman before you're willing to be responsible to hold her heart. When ever a girl says thanks but no thanks, or if she is too willing remember this proverb:

*Prov 25:16 & 17*

*16 Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it. (KJV)*

*17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee. (KJV)*

A good thing is good, but too much when you become a boor can make people hate you. Don't move too quickly in a relationship.

Now look at chapter 2:8, which is a new day. This couple dated with sensitivity, piety and restraint.

### **The Shulamite**

*8 The voice of my beloved!  
Behold, he comes*

*Leaping upon the mountains,  
Skipping upon the hills.*

*9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.  
Behold, he stands behind our wall;  
He is looking through the windows,  
Gazing through the lattice.*

14 The 1st phase of courtship should be an increase of desire to be with your partner. The man is viewed by the woman as a stag. He viewed her earlier (Chap 2:7) as a doe. Time should kindle the relationship. That's why separa-

tion should increase the desire to be with one another, not cause forgetfulness as in out of sight out of mind. Look at verses 10 through 13: what season are we in?

**NOTES:**

- 10      *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!*

The second phase of courtship is an increase of godly life. It's springtime going onto summer. Immorality creates death. Immoral behavior causes couples to leave church. Time should produce life. A godly relation should encourage pressing in deeper with the things of God: Bible study, prayer, etc. If a relationship pulls you down, it is not Springtime [i.e., it is not God's will]. The relation should flourish. Verse 14: what should you do?

- 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."*

The third phase of courtship is discovery. Notice that she is in an innocent place, sheltered and protected. Solomon thought he knew her in dating, but he didn't. Courtship is bringing her out. To a dove hiding in rocks, there is nothing more frightening than a man's hand. At some time there needs to be a discreet airing of the linen. There should be one time of honest revelation of what you used to be. You don't want to surprise your mate later in marriage. She can take an imperfect man, but not a deceiver. If you tell your mate to be your past failings and they can't forgive them, then turn and run. If they can't forgive what you did against another, how can they forgive you what you may do to them in the future?

Don't marry an unforgiving person, because unforgiveness is the root of pride and self righteousness. How does Jesus Christ love your girl to be?

*Eph 5:25-27*

25      *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave*

## **NOTES:**

*himself for it;*

26 *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

27 *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (KJV)*

God can forgive anything. And notice there are no wrinkles: that is something hidden. There are some things that only God, you, the offended person and your mate will ever know.

Some girls have been hurt so deeply, that when you find out, your desire will be to love her and protect her even deeper. Eventually time will reveal these past offenses. Time will show the flaws in your mate.

*Prov 27:17*

*Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. (KJV)*

Likewise you and your mate to be will rub each other the wrong way. Time will reveal these characteristics.

## **Tape 2; Side B *The Art of Courtship, Part 2***

Chapter 2:15 - 3:5

### **Her Brothers**

15 *Catch us the foxes,  
The little foxes that spoil the vines,  
For our vines have tender grapes.*

There is a mutual commitment by both of them to resolve problems. This means that some blossoms in your relationship will get nipped and not have a chance to mature. The little foxes that nip the blossom is unresolved conflict. Resolution has to be by clean fighting.

**The Apathetic Spouse:** An incommunicable male is like a tennis player who volleys to a partner but the partner won't hit back. If the man won't talk, then the woman will stop talking out of frustration. Women need facial contact. Men just need the data. Learn to listen in courtship because if you don't in marriage it becomes a cancer. When problems are being expressed take note: it applies to both partners.

**The Slam Dunking Spouse:** The guy or girl explodes. You have to volley. Remember this verse:

*Prov 18:19*

*A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. (KJV)*

16 When you hurt somebody, bars go up to protect those scars, and they won't

let you in again. If you stomp out without reconciling, you have a real problem.

**NOTES:**

**Sexuality as a vineyard:** Her body is viewed as her vineyard. Pre-marital sexual tendencies are another form of little foxes. It will nip in the bud the blossom of holy love. But remember, none have fully fit God's standard, and if you have failed in this, there is redemption and grace. God can restore the years the locust has eaten.

*Joel 2:25*

*And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. (KJV)*

No matter how bad you have gotten, God can redeem you. Don't think you are unimprovable, because all need improvement.

Like Shakespeare says through Prospero, guard the chasity of my daughter. Ferdinand responds that he wants children and will honor his daughter's virtue.

Remember, Jesus can turn water into wine. He doesn't just create, He re-creates.

### **The Shulamite**

*16 My beloved is mine, and I am his.*

This girl has trust. I belong to him. He knows me. There are no illusions.

*He feeds his flock among the lilies.*

She sees her self as a sheep laying down in green pastures (Ps 23:2) . He cares for her. He never hurts her.

### **(To Her Beloved)**

*17 Until the day breaks  
And the shadows flee away,*

That means, all night long. Genesis says:

Gen 3:8

And they heard the voice of the LORD God *walking in the garden in the cool of the day:* (KJV)

which means in the morning.

*Turn, my beloved,  
And be like a gazelle  
Or a young stag  
Upon the mountains of Bether.*

There is no map in the Bible that shows you the hills of Bether. In Hebrew *rt*, 17

**NOTES:** B, Bether means separation. She is talking about her breasts and she wants him all night long. Look ahead to Chapter 3, verses 1 - 4:

## Chapter 3

### The Shulamite

1        *By night on my bed I sought the one I love;  
          I sought him, but I did not find him.*  
2        *“I will rise now,” I said,  
          “And go about the city;  
          In the streets and in the squares  
          I will seek the one I love.”  
          I sought him, but I did not find him.*  
3        *The watchmen who go about the city found me;  
          I said,  
          “Have you seen the one I love?”*  
4        *Scarcely had I passed by them,  
          When I found the one I love.  
          I held him and would not let him go,  
          Until I had brought him to the house of my mother,  
          And into the chamber of her who conceived me.*

This is a panicky woman who wants her man. Guys can start and break up relationships, and girls want to marry but can't start relationships so get nervous. Look at Solomon's response:

### The Beloved

5        *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.*

For the second time he discourages premarital sex. The guy takes the lead in maintaining holiness in the relationship and in the rest of the relationship.

## **Tape 3; Side A, *The Art of Intimacy, Part 1***

Chapter 3:1-11 & Chapter 4:1-4

The church refuses to acknowledge the sexual reality of Christians just like the story of the town with the crocodile that devours people and none will discuss because in their town it is impolite to discuss. We are going to look at how to make love. Now we have the wedding. You don't simply move in with each other, but you make a public covenant. Making a vow before God, means you are not to take the Lord's name in vain. Consider these 6 things, first look at verse 6:

6            *Who is this coming out of the wilderness  
              Like pillars of smoke,*

The language borrows imagery from Exodus which pictures the husband as God, as a holy man. Look at the next half of the verse:

*Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,  
With all the merchant's fragrant powders?*

The wedding is a time of celebration. Verse 7 & 8: It is a time of protection and safety.

7            *Behold, it is Solomon's couch,  
              With sixty valiant men around it,  
              Of the valiant of Israel.*

8            *They all hold swords,  
              Being expert in war.  
Every man has his sword on his thigh  
              Because of fear in the night.*

The girl feels safe and secure, which is the way God wants you to feel. She needs to feel that he will never leave her. Verse 9:

9            *Of the wood of Lebanon  
              Solomon the King  
              Made himself a palanquin:*

Solomon's couch (palanquin) is strong, meaning that there is a strength in the husband that she can rely upon. Bad marriages have passive men, and wild women. The women want manly leadership. Not abusive, but steadfast. Verse 10:

10          *He made its pillars of silver,  
              Its support of gold,  
              Its seat of purple,  
              Its interior paved with love  
              By the daughters of Jerusalem.*

The man is rich in all her desire and needs. Verse 11:

11          *Go forth, O daughters of Zion,  
              And see King Solomon with the crown  
              With which his mother crowned him*

He is majestic and she wants all the women to see him. She is proud of him, because they must think how wonderful she is to get a guy like him. Last part of verse 11:

*On the day of his wedding,*

**NOTES:**

## NOTES:

*The day of the gladness of his heart.*

Girls, stay holy, keep the standard high, and a day will come when your mothers will be proud, your girl friends envious, and you will have the most blessed relationship this side of heaven.

## Chapter 4

We are at the honeymoon. Sexual intimacy will be gradually approached, not rapidly. We are going to examine 10 different aspects of divine sex, of how love is meant to be played out.

### The Beloved

1        *Behold, you are fair, my love!*  
          *Behold, you are fair!*  
          *You have dove's eyes behind your veil.*

This is the bridal chamber. In that culture the guy would get his wife and bring her to the wedding feast, with all the guests present, and consummate their marriage in a room, then they would come out and everyone would applaud.

*Your hair is like a flock of goats,  
Going down from Mount Gilead.*

He has taken her veil and laid it back, perhaps loosing the braids of her hair. The flocks of Gilead was a blessing, and she is therefore seen as a blessing.

2        *Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep  
          Which have come up from the washing,*

Meaning that her teeth are clean. He is seeing every little detail and saying she is beautiful.

*Every one of which bears twins,*

Meaning the teeth are straight, and

*And none is barren among them.*

they are all there.

3        *Your lips are like a strand of scarlet,  
          And your mouth is lovely.*

Imagine him tracing her lips and hair with his hands, a sensuous act.

*Your temples behind your veil  
Are like a piece of pomegranate.*

**NOTES:**

A comment on the rosiness of her cheeks.

4        *Your neck is like the tower of David,  
             Built for an armory,  
             On which hang a thousand bucklers,  
             All shields of mighty men.*

He is moving down her body.

**Point 1 of sex:** he has not touched her, but is speaking to her. The first key to great sex is romance. Romance refers to the vulgar Latin used for common literature, which would be used for things of passion. When a man marries a woman he has both a formal Latin relationship - i.e, a covenant of provision and protection as well as an informal vulgar Latin relationship of passion. Men use romance to get sex, whereas women use sex to get romance. A man is instant, whereas a woman slowly warms up. A man needs to begin loving his wife early on in the day. Men that are married beware of neglecting romance in marriage. Remember spontaneity, it is a mark of sensitivity. A woman's greatest sex organ is her mind.

### **Tape 3, Side B: *The Art of Intimacy, Part 2***

Chapter 4:5 - 16

5        *Your two breasts are like two fawns,  
             Twins of a gazelle,  
             Which feed among the lilies.*

After talking to his wife, the man begins to undress her. Fawns are timid creatures that need to be gently approached so as not to scare them away. Likewise he gently approaches his wife. Remember the first point: sex is romantic.

**Point 2 of sex:** sex is gentle. Move slowly. Learn the different parameters that will be allowed. A woman will have narrower parameters, so she sets the boundaries. Likewise she fluctuates, there is no constant combination that works. Therefore be sensitive to where she is. How do you know when your wife is ready, or how do you let her know when you are ready? Learn the signals.

Guys, your wife should memorize this verse, but you should never quote it.

1 Cor 7:4

*The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. (KJV)*

**NOTES:** **Point 3 of sex:** It is exhilarating. Look at verse 6:

6            *Until the day breaks  
              And the shadows flee away,*

This means the morning, therefore all night long.

*I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh  
              And to the hill of frankincense.*

Remember that the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense is metaphorical for her breasts. Our English heritage has turned marital love into a duty for women to endure. An early Christian teaching was that the original sin was sex.

**Point 4 of sex:** it is frightening. Consider what the husband says to his wife:

7            *You are all fair, my love,  
              And there is no spot in you.*

Never say anything disparaging about your wife's naked body. It will hurt her so deeply. All women tend to be self-conscious about their bodies, hence the fear of disapproval to the wife. This husband encourages her. Consider Ephesians 5 on how Jesus sees us:

*Eph 5:25-28*

25        *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

26        *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

27        *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

28        *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. (KJV)*

**Point 5 of sex:** it is the means of union in marriage. Verse 8:

8            *Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse,  
              With me from Lebanon.  
              Look from the top of Amana,  
              From the top of Senir and Hermon,  
              From the lions' dens,  
              From the mountains of the leopards.*

He is calling her away and the two will become one flesh. You are not one until you have sex. Consider what Paul said:

*1 Cor 6:16*

22

*What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two,*

saith he, shall be one flesh. (KJV)

**NOTES:**

A child born from marriage looks like the both of you. That is oneness.

**Point 6 of sex:** it is sensuous. Verse 9:

9        *You have ravished my heart,  
          My sister, my spouse;  
          You have ravished my heart  
          With one look of your eyes,*

With the eyes is sight.

*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!*

With the scent is smelling her.

11        *Your lips, O my spouse,  
          Drip as the honeycomb;  
          Honey and milk are under your tongue;*

This is open mouth kissing, which is taste. Stay away from this when dating. See how far away you can stay from it instead. Kissing is meant to be frustrating since it is geared for intercourse.

*And the fragrance of your garments  
          Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.*

**Point 7 of sex:** it is holy. Verse 12:

12        *A garden enclosed  
          Is my sister, my spouse,  
          A spring shut up,  
          A fountain sealed.*

A man's sexuality in the book of Proverbs is referred to as a spring for obvious reasons.

Prov 5:16

*Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? (NIV)*

## NOTES:

A woman, for obvious reasons, is called a well. A spring goes into a well.

*Prov 5:15*

*Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. (NIV)*

The husband calls his wife a well of fresh water that is sealed, a spiritual hymen exists between this man and this woman. He kept her a virgin. Marriage is for virgins. However, be encouraged, Christ can change you to be pure and clean again. You can turn it around with God, but you will still have to work through some weeds.

In verse 13 they have groomed the sexuality in full holiness, and now it is ripe.

13      *Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates  
            With pleasant fruits,  
            Fragrant henna with spikenard,  
14      *Spikenard and saffron,  
            Calamus and cinnamon,  
            With all trees of frankincense,  
            Myrrh and aloes,  
            With all the chief spices—**

They protected the relationship, and now it has come to fruition. In verse 15 the well is opened. Her sexuality is now given to him.

15      *A fountain of gardens,  
            A well of living waters,  
            And streams from Lebanon.*

**Point 8 of sex:** it is responsive. Remember that the man has taken the lead in discouraging premarital sex, but now they are married. Look at verse 16:

### **The Shulamite**

16      *Awake, O north wind,  
a strong wind,  
            And come, O south!  
a gentle wind,  
            Blow upon my garden,  
an invitation.  
            That its spices may flow out.  
            Let my beloved come to his garden  
            And eat its pleasant fruits.*

24 Note it's *his* garden & fruits. This woman is responsive. Great sex to a man is a responsive woman. There are 3 things that create excitement to a man:

- 1) What he hears. Tell him how you feel.
- 2) What he sees. He gets excited by what he sees. Wear something exciting.
- 3) What he feels. Everything he feels is registered on the chart.

**NOTES:**

## Chapter 5

**Point 9 of sex:** it is nourishing. Verse 1: notice verb tense change; past perfect - it is done. Consummation is complete.

### The Beloved

1        *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.*

Notice it says 9 times: mine. Holy consummation satisfies both mates, and gratitude to God engendered.

**Point 10 of sex:** marital sex is pleasing to God.

### (The Lord)

*Eat, O friends!  
Drink, yes, drink deeply,  
O beloved ones!*

This is not hidden, illicit sex but open in the face of God and approved by God.

## Tape 4, Side A: *The Art of Conflict, Part 1*

Chapter 5:1-7

Conflict gets 2 chapters which is 25% of the book, which sometimes correlates to marriage. All couples fight. Good couples fight clean, but bad couples fight dirty. Good couples press for a resolution, bad couples press for a victory. Conflict in good couples exposes their character. In bad couples it exposes their immaturity. Remember Proverbs:

*Prov 14:4*

*Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox. (KJV)*

If you want the ox to work for you, you have to accept the manure that it drops along with it. Likewise in marriage, you won't get it your way all the time, and there will be conflict. If you want the joy of marriage then expect

**NOTES:** some conflict, too. There are 3 great stages of marriage:  
1) the honeymoon, which is the sweet month  
2) disillusionment, where the faults are seen and the image of perfection are gone.  
3) commitment, where the knowledge of faults remain, but a commitment to love them biblically is made nonetheless.

Conflict in marriage is healthy. If there is no conflict, then you are either perfect and without sin (not!), boring and non-communicative, or one is dominant and the other subdued (unhealthy).

We will examine 6 steps to resolving conflict. The last stage is compared to having a party, which will deepen the marriage and move the marriage into the next step which is the most passionate place of marriage. Chapter 5:2 -

### **The Shulamite**

2        *I sleep, but my heart [meaning Solomon] is awake;  
          It is the voice of my beloved!  
          He knocks, saying,  
          "Open for me, my sister, my love,  
          My dove, my perfect one;*

What does Solomon want? He wants intimacy.

*For my head is covered with dew,  
My locks with the drops of the night."*

He has been working hard and wants the refreshing that comes from marriage.

3        *I have taken off my robe;  
          How can I put it on again?  
          I have washed my feet;  
          How can I defile them?*

In other words she is declining desire for intercourse. No matter how hard he worked, she isn't getting out of bed, because she thinks she is more important than him. She is being selfish. This is conflict. Solomon doesn't respond like the world.

4        *My beloved put his hand  
          By the latch of the door,*

Notice that he doesn't press it by going in. Instead he slid his hand into the opening, then withdrew it.

5        *And my heart yearned for him.  
          I arose to open for my beloved,  
          And my hands dripped with myrrh,  
          My fingers with liquid myrrh,*

His humble withdrawal, then placing of liquid myrrh on the door, is a Hebrew valentine that says, "I still love you." This stirred desire in the woman for him. It was an indication that he loved her. His example shows how we should respond when our mate hurts us.

#1 Do not react. In other words, do not re-enact what your mate did. Do hurt back. Paul said:

*Rom 12:19*

*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (KJV)*

And in Thessalonians he said:

*1Thes 5:15*

*See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. (KJV)*

In Genesis we read of Joseph and his brothers:

*Gen 50:17-19*

17 *So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.*

18 *And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.*

19 *And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? (KJV)*

Meaning we are not under any obligation to mirror wrongs committed against us. Our standard is God, we don't have to reciprocate what other people do. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Marital conflict is often like a tennis rally. He yells, she throws a cushion, and so on. Regrettably, anger is act of righteousness by God, but is only self-righteousness in man. Yet we feel right and holy in our anger. This prerogative belongs to God, not us.

We shouldn't react, and when we do it is either hot or cold. A hot reaction fuels more anger as each continues to react in anger. The result creates strife and divides the family. Proverbs says:

*Prov 17:1*

*Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife. (KJV)*

Ultimately one mate will subdue the other one. The subdued mate will remember it and harbor it, and leave years later. And they will delight in hurt-

**NOTES:** ing you.

Neither react cold. There is no conflict, but a passive aggression when one gives the cold shoulder for a long time causing all to walk on egg shells due to the subdued tension.

Learn the non-verbal communication when you hurt your mate. Regrettably we create ways to stick it to our mates. Don't blow up or stomp out of a room. Don't cold shoulder people, don't freeze people out, nor pout. Proverbs says:

*Prov 18:19*

*A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. (KJV)*

If you hurt your wife by yelling at her it sends shrapnel into her soul and scars her, which will take time and effort to win her back. Like bars in the castle she won't let you in so easily. Forgiveness is not an excuse to hurt your mate.

#2 Respond to God. Solomon placed myrrh instead of fighting back because God says to love his wife, which is the choice he made instead of reacting. Jesus responded to his enemies this way. While being reviled, he did not revile back. But entrusted himself to God who judges righteously. He said, "Father forgive them" (Luke 23:34).

If you maintain your poise, your composure, in listening to a higher voice in times of stress, you are magnanimous, which is great in spirit. The negative quality is meanness, which is the average response of pagans. Respond to God.

Men and women are not alike. A hurt man gets offended and angry. But a hurt woman is different. Peter said:

*1 Pet 3:7*

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, [meaning don't be dumb] giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker [not lesser, but like porcelain or crystal or china - handle your wife delicately] vessel, and as being [grant her honor as a fellow] heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (KJV)*

Men, you can not throw anger at your wife. They are gentle creatures and you hurt them deeply. When you hurt them do what ever it takes to gain her forgiveness.

Men display affection by insults and hitting them selves. Like two dogs allowing each other in on their throats. Women don't act like that. Remember, #1 don't react, it alienates your wife, and #2 respond to God. This is maturity, spirituality and temperance, which is self-control. Proverbs says:

*Prov 12:18*

*There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. (KJV)*

Look at verse 6:

**NOTES:**

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.*

7            *The watchmen who went about the city found me.  
They struck me, they wounded me;  
The keepers of the walls  
Took my veil away from me.*

Remember Chapter 3 verses 2 through 4:

2            "I will rise now," I said,  
              "And go about the city;  
              In the streets and in the squares  
              I will seek the one I love."  
              I sought him, but I did not find him.

3            The watchmen who go about the city found me;  
              I said, "Have you seen the one I love?"

4            Scarcely had I passed by them,  
              When I found the one I love.

When she was in fellowship with God, things tended to flow her way, but now (in chapter 5) she acts in selfishness in barring her husband, we see that the watchmen don't help, rather they strike her.

Principal #3 is let God change them. Nothing in the Bible says for us to act like God to change our mate. This ends up in manipulation of your mate. This isn't ministry, but manipulation. God can make the needed changes. Let God make the changes. Remember what Jesus said to Pilate:

*John 19:10-12*

10        *Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?*

11        *Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.*

12        *And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. (KJV)*

Pilate recognized that he was under God.

## **Tape 4, Side B: The Art of Conflict, Part 2**

Chapter 5:10 - 16

Skip ahead to verse 10:

## NOTES:

8 *I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
If you find my beloved,  
That you tell him I am lovesick!*

### **The Daughters of Jerusalem**

9 *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?*

Look at what this woman thinks of a man of kindness.

### **The Shulamite**

10 *My beloved is white and ruddy,  
Chief among ten thousand.*

Meaning he is unique: he is the greatest in the universe. No woman brags about her angry husband. Verse 11:

11 *His head is like the finest gold;*

Meaning he has divine leadership of her, pure and untainted.

*His locks are wavy,  
And black as a raven.*

Meaning there is no gray in his hair, or, he is strong because he can forgive.

12 *His eyes are like doves  
By the rivers of waters,  
Washed with milk,*

The idea of blessing. A picture of peace.

*And fitly set.*

The word *fitly* (reposed on the tape) is the same Hebrew word for the sockets of the tabernacle. [Strong's #4402 *taleni millê'th*, *mil-layth fullness*, i.e. (concr.) a *plump* socket (of the eye):— × *fitly*.]

In other words it means that his eyes don't change into anger. They are eyes of blessing, and unchanging in his kindness. Verse 13:

13 *His cheeks are like a bed of spices,  
Banks of scented herbs.*

She wants to draw close to him and put her head upon his shoulders.

*His lips are lilies,  
Dripping liquid myrrh.*

Meaning his lips are full of kindness, forgiveness, tenderness, romance, apologies & love.

14 *His hands are rods of gold  
Set with beryl.*

He never touches her violently, but always gently.

*His body is carved ivory  
Inlaid with sapphires.*

The translation on the tape says abdomen (KJV says belly), which in the Hebrew mindset is the seat of emotions. Therefore the verse is saying that his emotions are pure white. In verse 15:

15 *His legs are pillars of marble  
Set on bases of fine gold.  
His countenance is like Lebanon,  
Excellent as the cedars.*

In other words, he is strong, steadfast, immovable, a rock. He is a man's man.

16 *His mouth is most sweet,  
Yes, he is altogether lovely.*

In other words she wants to kiss him. Why? Because he is completely tender. Look at Chapter 6 verse 1:

*This is my beloved,  
And this is my friend,  
O daughters of Jerusalem!*

## **Chapter 6**

### **The Daughters of Jerusalem**

1 *Where has your beloved gone,  
O fairest among women?  
Where has your beloved turned aside,  
That we may seek him with you?*

## NOTES:

Verse 2: she knows where he is because he never changed.

### **The Shulamite**

2        *My beloved has gone to his garden,  
              To the beds of spices,  
              To feed his flock in the gardens,  
              And to gather lilies.*

She knows where he is because she knows who he is: a gentle shepherd.

3        *I am my beloved's,  
              And my beloved is mine.  
              He feeds his flock among the lilies.*

And she knows what he is: he is faithful, he has never stopped loving her. This is how a woman should feel about her husband. Likewise, husbands should feel the same way about their wives. She doesn't go home to Momma, nor stomps out the door. He should have the same trust in her being gentle and unchanging in her love towards him. Micah 7:18

*Micah 7:18*

*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. (KJV)*

In Tommy Nelson's wedding ceremonies, he has the couple vow in the name of the Trinity, not to depart from one another, and not to take the name of the LORD thy God in vain (Ex 20:7). You do not divorce your mate. God made them male, and God made them female, and what God joined together, let no man set asunder (Matt. 19:4-6). What God has joined, man does not separate: it is not man's institution. Verse 4: how do you talk?

There are 4 major problems in marriage.

#1 is communication

#2 is money

#3 is sex

#4 in-laws and the problems of in-laws go in this order:

1) his mother, when she gives you all grief, it is up to you to deal with her, not the wife.

2) her momma who wants to disciple her forever.

3) her daddy who wants to keep sending money for her baby.

The guy's daddy is glad to see him get his.

Back to #1, how do you talk? There are 13 points to remember. Your flesh can sin anyplace at anytime. Here is how to talk:

1. Never speak rashly. Think before speaking, and cool off before speaking.

Proverbs says:

Prov 27:14

*He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him. (KJV)*

This means, it is not what you say, but when and how you say it.

2. Never confront your mate publicly.
3. Never confront them before your kids. Go in the back room to talk.
4. Never use the kids. In other words, don't have the kids take sides with you.
5. Never say never, nor always. Words of ultimatums create defensiveness in the other person where they have to point out times they didn't, which sidetracks the purpose of the conversation.
6. Never get historical. Not hysterical. Don't drag up the past, keep focused on the specifics of this conversation.
7. Never raise your voice. You can say almost anything as long as it is sweetly spoken. Proverbs says:

Prov 16:21

*The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. (KJV)*

8. Never call names. It is demeaning and hostile. It only encourages a volley of insults back and forth.
9. Never mention family. They are still parents and siblings. It accomplishes nothing except creates anger.
10. Never win. Win you win a conflict, you lose a mate. Press for resolution.
11. Don't condescend. It's an embarrassment to your mate, and creates a seething anger. Your mate is your equal, not beneath you.
12. Never demean. Belittling your mate is abusive to his or her spirit.
13. Never force a quiet mate to talk. Give them space and time.

Now, how do you listen?

- Listen with your face. In other words, given your mate full, undivided attention.
- Do not reason with your wife. She knows the answer. Don't expound logic.
- Do not argue. When your mate is hurt, stop everything and do everything to appease her.
- Don't interrupt. Proverbs:

Prov 18:13

*He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him. (KJV)*

- Never stomp out the door. Stay right there, even when one needs time

## **NOTES:**

- and space.
- Don't vent your spleen outside. In other words, don't tell others about the faults of your spouse.
- No rude body language. Sit and listen politely.

Now let's look at verse 4 on how to speak:

### **The Beloved**

4        *O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,  
              Lovely as Jerusalem,  
              Awesome as an army with banners!*

Meaning I respect you and you are as lovely as I remembered. Verse 5:

5        *Turn your eyes away from me,  
              For they have overcome me.*

That means, "you are so beautiful that I can't even talk to you." He has forgiven her. He is so forgiving you can see with the rest of verse 5, 6 & 7 that he uses the same words as in the honeymoon.

*Your hair is like a flock of goats  
              Going down from Gilead.*  
6        *Your teeth are like a flock of sheep  
              Which have come up from the washing;  
              Every one bears twins,  
              And none is barren among them.*  
7        *Like a piece of pomegranate  
              Are your temples behind your veil.*

In other words, he is saying he loves her as he always has loved her. Verse 8:

8        *There are sixty queens  
              And eighty concubines,  
              And virgins without number.*  
9        *My dove, my perfect one,  
              Is the only one,*

He is saying that she is the only girl in the world for him. Forgiveness is to love someone and to forget what was done. Look at verse 11:

*The only one of her mother,  
              The favorite of the one who bore her.  
              The daughters saw her  
              And called her blessed,  
              The queens and the concubines,  
              And they praised her.*

10        *Who is she who looks forth as the morning,  
              Fair as the moon,  
              Clear as the sun,  
              Awesome as an army with banners?*

**NOTES:**

### **The Shulamite**

11        *I went down to the garden of nuts  
              To see the verdure of the valley,  
              To see whether the vine had budded  
              And the pomegranates had bloomed.*  
12        *Before I was even aware,  
              My soul had made me  
              As the chariots of my noble people.*

In the Hebrew culture, to set someone in the chariot with you was the highest act of reconciliation. In the Old Testament, Ahab the king of Israel, was condemned by God because he set their Syrian enemy the king in the chariot with him (1 Kings 20:33 with Ben Hadad) which showed total reconciliation. Solomon setting the Shulamite in his chariot was a public statement of harmony. Verse 13:

### **The Beloved and His Friends**

13        *Return, return, O Shulamite;  
              Return, return, that we may look upon you!*

Shulamite is not her name, but rather a nickname, which is the female diminutive term for “Solomon.” Similar to Charles and Charlotte. The name implies that she belongs to him. Conflict and forgiveness has brought them closer. Complete this verse:

“Where sin increased.....” grace abounds. The rest of the verse:

### **The Friends**

*What would you see in the Shulamite—  
              As it were, the dance of the two camps?*

They are having a party. Conflict brought intimacy and joy.

Luke 7:47

*Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. (KJV)*

Remember how to deal with conflict;

- Don't react, respond.
- Let God change them.
- Talk
- Forgive and forget.

What helps the most in forgiving is remembering how Christ has forgiven us.

## NOTES:

### **Tape 5, Side A: *The Art of Romance, Part 1***

Chapter 7:1, 2 & 11

Review: We have seen *The Art of Attraction*, *The Art of Courtship*, *The Art of Conflict*, and now *The Art of Romance*, this is the deepening of a couple. The world views marriage as a disintegrating path, whereas the Bible teaches that marriage should be an increasing path to intimacy.

Just as there are 4 horsemen of the apocalypse in the book of Revelation, likewise there are 4 horsemen in marriage.

Horse #1: Sin, when the illusion fades of who you married.

Horse #2: Age, when the beauty fades of who you married.

Horse #4: Forgetfulness, when you take for granted the faithfulness of your mate.

Horse #3: Laziness, is the big one, when you don't bother or try to have romance in the marriage. In the beginning, romance is intuitive and spontaneous, but later it becomes an issue of commitment, resolution & discipline to love your mate.

This is why immorality is no basis for marriage. When the excitement fades, there won't be any reason for commitment, and the marriage will become stale.

This couple grows deeper. Look at verse 7:11 & 12:

11            *Come, my beloved,  
                  Let us go forth to the field;  
                  Let us lodge in the villages.*  
12            *Let us get up early to the vineyards;  
                  Let us see if the vine has budded,  
                  Whether the grape blossoms are open,  
                  And the pomegranates are in bloom.  
                  There I will give you my love.*

What season is this? Springtime! They got married in the Spring, courted in the Spring, and now after marriage, they are experiencing Spring again. Marriages do not have to devolve, that is worldly not biblical.

Men, notice that Chapter 7:1-9a is the man speaking. The man is to initiate romance. In 7:9b-8:4 it is the woman responding to the man. The man is the leader of romance. The man has to have a little of Romeo in him because the woman definitely is a Juliet. Remember that all the great artists, sculptors, painters, chefs, and designers are men. God made man to be romantic. God is a romantic deity. Our salvation is not just a legal relationship, but an everlasting love relationship. Learn the art of romance.

We are going to see 10 things that Solomon does. Verse 1:

## **Chapter 7**

### **The Beloved**

1            *How beautiful are your feet in sandals,*

We are in the bedroom again. Remember, on the honeymoon he described her beauty from top to bottom. Now with marriage he starts from the bottom up. In seeing beauty in the feet, which are not usually considered beautiful, we come to our first point.

**NOTES:**

**Point 1:** He has deepened in the knowledge of his wife. Becoming an authority in the little nuances of your wife, requires spending time together. Remember, after marriage, you still date. Listen, be attentive, and make yourself attractive to her.

*O prince's daughter!*

**Point 2:** His exaltation of his wife deepens. Solomon started by calling her his dove, his unique one, his perfect one, his darling, his mare, his lily, and his rose. Now he calls her royalty. Proverbs:

*Prov 31:28-29*

28 *Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*

29 *Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. (KJV)*

Men, if you want to bless your wife, brag on her in front of your children and in front of the public on how marvelous she is.

*The curves of your thighs are like jewels,  
The work of the hands of a skillful workman.*

**Point 3:** His praise goes up. Thighs and hips are intimate areas that only a husband should see. The husband praises her like the proverb;

*Prov 31:10*

*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. (KJV)*

He praises her to her face.

2 *Your navel is a rounded goblet;  
It lacks no blended beverage.  
Your waist is a heap of wheat  
Set about with lilies.*

**Point 3:** His appreciation increases with time. Blended beverage (wine) and wheat are Spring and Fall crops that get the early and late rains. God said:

*Deut 11:14*

*That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. (KJV)*

## **NOTES:**

Israel didn't have to dig to irrigate, for God would give them rain, and He does. When Solomon looks at her belly, which is a picture of the heart, he says she is as the spring and fall crops. In other words, she is the blessing of God in his life. Men, consider this proverb:

*Prov 31:31*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. (KJV)*

In the Old Testament, to give the fruit of her hands, means to pay your worker. No one likes not being paid for work, neither does a wife like not being paid appreciation for her labors. Men, lack of appreciation opens the door to an extramarital affair. The process is like this, and each step begins with an "E":

Elimination of tenderness and respect, which creates an emotional vacuum in the home.

Encounter someone new.

Enjoyment of the new someone because that person gives you the appreciation that was cut off by your mate.

Expedition in making sure you end up in that person's presence, which is enjoyed from a distance in Fantasy Island. A time will come when you build a bridge toward the fantasy.

Expression is made in some kind of communication in how you feel.

Experience comes after confirmation of feelings, which is the affair.

## **Tape 5, Side B: *The Art of Romance, Part 2***

Chapter 7:3-13 & Chapter 8:1-3

**NOTES:**

3        *Your two breasts are like two fawns,  
              Twins of a gazelle.*

This is familiar, where did we read this before? On the Honeymoon (see chapter 4:5). He treats his wife in marriage, sexually, like he did on the honeymoon. Marriage is not permission to grab your wife's privates any time, nor anywhere. One of the most important areas of marriage is non-sexual touching. Women like to be touched in a courteous way. What bothers a woman is for the man to only show physical affection for sexual arousal. It makes her feel hustled and prostituted. Verse 4:

4        *Your neck is like an ivory tower,*

In other words, his respect deepens. A wicked king of Israel (Ahab) overlaid his house with ivory (1 Kings 22:39). Solomon is expressing how much he reveres his mate. Most women do not care whether they physically climax in sex, but care more for gentleness, respect and love from their husbands.

*Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon  
              By the gate of Bath Rabbim.*

Meaning his delight in her deepens. The bath of Rabbim had 2 pools in which one went for coolness and refreshment. Just looking into her eyes brings him refreshment. Not only does he trust her, but he admires her.

*Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon  
              Which looks toward Damascus.*

The tower of Lebanon faced the enemy. It enabled Israel to see an oncoming attack. As long as the tower was there they were prepared. Likewise, Solomon is saying that as long as he sees his wife's face, he is secure. Ladies, remember this Proverb:

Prov 12:4

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: *but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.* (KJV)

It is a cancer to a man to have a wife who is a drunk, immoral, a gossip, angry all the time. But a rebellious and wicked woman destroys the foundation of marriage.

5        *Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,*

Mt. Carmel is the show piece of Israel for natural beauty. In other words,

**NOTES:** Solomon's admiration deepens, he sees her as the most lovely of all things. Women, men take the greatest pleasure in praise when another man complements him on his wife. Some men will complement the man asking how a such a wonderful woman married such a twit like him.

*And the hair of your head is like purple;*

Purple was a precious commodity back then since the shell fish it came from only appeared infrequently. Purple is also the color of royalty. Solomon is saying that her head is a crowning, rare glory.

*A king is held captive by your tresses.*

In stroking her hair, he was saying that he was the most powerful man on earth, but you own me.

6           *How fair and how pleasant you are,  
                  O love, with your delights!*

[6 "How beautiful and how delightful you are,  
My love, with *all* your charms! (NASB)]

In his translation (New American Standard Bible) "delights" (Strong's # 8588 חֲגִלָּה] ta'ānûgâh, tah-ah-oog-aw'; from 6026; *luxury*:— delicate, delight, pleasant) is translated as "charms" which he says means magic, or that Solomon is in her "spell." He is committed to her. He is devoted to her until the day of her death. Verse 7 is the commencement of sex.

7           *This stature of yours is like a palm tree,*

In chapter 4 she is referred to as a garden, but now, in marriage, she is an oasis.

*And your breasts like its clusters.*

Dates are something that you feast on. Notice that sex is not referred to in this book in regards to children, but strictly conjugal pleasure. On 3 occasions we speak directly of her breasts. Remember Proverbs;

*Prov 5:19*

*Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. (KJV)*

In the book of Exodus came to a place called Elim:

*Exod 15:27*

*And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and*

ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters. (KJV)

**NOTES:**

Solomon is saying her body is like an oasis for him.

8        *I said, "I will go up to the palm tree,  
I will take hold of its branches."*

He has determined to begin intercourse. Note he started at her feet and has moved up her body to her breasts and now he is in an oasis of ecstasy and joy.

9        *Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine,  
The fragrance of your breath like apples,  
And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.*

Now she takes over.

### **The Shulamite**

*The wine goes down smoothly for my beloved,  
Moving gently the lips of sleepers.*

Meaning that they have drunk deeply of the intoxicant of sexuality. This is great sex built on godly love. Men you can have this if you learn to be a loving, tender, Christ-like crucified man that exalts that woman. She will then respond accordingly. Ladies consider verse 10;

10       *I am my beloved's,  
And his desire is toward me.*

The word "desire" in Hebrew is mentioned in the Old Testament (Strong's # 8669 *hqlwvT*]t?shûwqâh, *tesh-oo-kaw'*; from 7783 in the orig. sense of *stretching out after*; a *longing*:— desire.) with Cain:

Gen 4:7

*If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. (KJV)*

A word suggesting an animal seeking to consume another animal. This woman is passionate.

11       *Come, my beloved,  
Let us go forth to the field;  
Let us lodge in the villages.*  
12       *Let us get up early to the vineyards;  
Let us see if the vine has budded,  
Whether the grape blossoms are open,  
And the pomegranates are in bloom.  
There I will give you my love.*

## NOTES:

13      *The mandrakes give off a fragrance,*

In the Old Testament, the mandrakes were considered aphrodisiacs. In Genesis Rachel and Leah quarrel over who gets the mandrakes (Gen. 30:14-16).

*And at our gates are pleasant fruits,  
All manner, new and old,  
Which I have laid up for you, my beloved.*

Fruit is metaphorical for the body, so she is inviting her husband to participate in new foreplay and old foreplay. She is being passionate in creative foreplay. No man likes to make love to his wife merely like a busy little bee buzzing around an open flower, which is lying silent and dormant for him to pollinate.

In Israel, public displays of affection were not allowed unless you were brother and sister. Chapter 8:1 -

## Chapter 8

- 1      *Oh, that you were like my brother,  
Who nursed at my mother's breasts!  
If I should find you outside,  
I would kiss you;  
I would not be despised.*
- 2      *I would lead you and bring you  
Into the house of my mother,  
She who used to instruct me.  
I would cause you to drink of spiced wine,  
Of the juice of my pomegranate.*
- (To the Daughters of Jerusalem)**
- 3      *His left hand is under my head,  
And his right hand embraces me.*

She is saying, "I want you, and wish you were my brother so I could love you in public."

- 4      *I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
Do not stir up nor awaken love  
Until it pleases.*

Tommy quotes Shakespeare in support of the great appreciation that Solomon bears for his wife. But this appreciation, which is a deep passionate intimacy is not something that can be had all the time. Tommy determined, therefore to inculcate the atmosphere that promotes opportunity for romance. This is accomplished by sweet, holy love all the time. Marriage is not meant by God to deteriorate into lethargy.

## **Tape 6, Side A: *The Art of Commitment, Part 1***

Chapter 8:5-9

**NOTES:**

Sylvester Stalone was asked if he thought boxing was a wonderful sport, and he said it was as long as you can say, "cut." In other words, when it is play acting, and no harm comes to you. But reality is a commitment that sometimes can beat you up. Too many see marriage as something that can be quit at any time. Divorce in America went up 700% from the 1900's to the 1980's. Today, 1 in 4 families are broken by divorce.

Is this God's desire? Do you know what the commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain" (Exodus 20:7 & Deut. 5:11) means? Most think you don't curse. What it really means is that you shall not make an oath in God's name, then not keep the oath. Jesus confronted the Pharisees on their loopholes in not swearing in the name of God, but rather the Temple, and other sacred things (Matt. 23:16-22). Therefore, taking the LORD's name in vain is to make oaths lightly that will not be kept. (See Ecc. 5:2).

In marriage, however, you make an oath before God that has to be kept. To divorce is take the name of the LORD in vain since it takes the oath lightly in not being kept.

We are going to see 7 things about commitment. Verse 5 is a reflection of their date.

### **The Beloved**

5        *Who is this coming up from the wilderness,  
          Leaning upon her beloved?*

This woman has been transformed by the love of her husband. Tommy Nelson relates the story of a tribesman married to a shrew who becomes a Christian. This man took the Word at face value and obeyed it.

*Eph 5:25*

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (KJV)*

*1 Pet 3:7*

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (KJV)*

Consequently, the woman changed. The tribe saw that change, so became open to the Gospel. Your wife will not married because you are perfect, but rather that your kindness occurs more often than your rudeness. If the ratio of kindness is less than rudeness then your wife will begin imagining your premature death.

## NOTES:

*I awakened you under the apple tree.*

In Hebraic culture, *the fig tree is a picture of meditation* (Nathanael was under the fig tree; John 1:48); *the olive tree is a picture of Israel*; *the apple tree is the tree of love*. We are looking at when love occurred in this couple.

*There your mother brought you forth;  
There she who bore you brought you forth.*

In other words, love was awakened because you were born for me. She was predetermined by God for him. Remember Isaac was given a wife (Gen. 24:1-7) by Abraham sending his servant. The servant was assured of the choice by Abraham's admonition:

Gen 24:7

*The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. (KJV)*

Abraham was convinced that God was more concerned about the marriage of his son than he was. Marriage is predestined by a divine plan. Consider what Jesus said to the question of divorce:

Matt 19:4-6

4 *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,*

5 *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*

6 *Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (KJV)*

**Commitment point #1:** True devotion is planned by God.

### **The Shulamite**

6 *Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
As a seal upon your arm;*

A man's seal was his proof of ownership. Remember in Genesis how Tamar dressed as a harlot seduced Judah and demanded his seal as collateral for payment (Gen. 38:14-18). This was later used as proof that Judah was the father of the child conceived (Gen. 38:24-26). In the Roman Empire a seal was placed upon a letter to ensure the letter was secure and untampered with. In this case with the Shulamite and Solomon she is saying that she doesn't want any other woman in his heart. Neither should his arm be around any other woman. No flirting, no pornography which is destructive to a woman's psy-

che.

**NOTES:**

**Commitment point #2:** Love is possessive, as well as planned. Mates are not shared with other partners.

What about godly love not being jealous [1 Cor. 13:4 “*envies not*”]. That means when some one else is promoted above us we are happy for him. One of God’s names in the Old Testament is Jealous (Exodus 34:14 “*for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: (KJV)*”), which means that Yahweh would not share Israel with anyone else. It doesn’t mean that we smother our spouses. Husbands and wives look for ways to build up your spouse’s gifts and interests. No spouse wants to feel like the marriage is their cross to bear because they have been smothered out of a life. Christ embellishes his relationship with us, so that we desire him solely, too. Christ does not crush us. We will have friends of both genders, but only your spouse is allowed the emotional and physical intimacy that comes with the inner circle of fellowship in marriage. Tommy warns against the danger of eating alone with another person of the opposite sex. Such companionship is intimate and courts disaster.

*For love is as strong as death,  
Jealousy as cruel as the grave;*

In other words, when you die you never come back. Likewise, once you marry, there is no turning back.

**Commitment point #3:** Marriage is permanent.

*Its flames are flames of fire,  
A most vehement [Yah] flame.*

*The flashes thereof are flashes of fire,  
A very flame of Jehovah. (Song 8:6 ASV)*

**Commitment point #4:** Marriage is a divine institution.

The word “*vehement*” in the New King James is correctly translated as Jehovah in the American Standard Version. It is Strong’s # 3050 Hy. **Yâhh**, yaw; *Jah*, the sacred name:— Jah, the Lord, most vehement. In other words, a marriage based upon God’s choice will have the flame of God’s love to permanently sustain it since His love is everlasting.

All these verses are implied in this permanence of God’s love:

*Heb 6:19*

*Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; (KJV)*

## NOTES:

Rom 8:1

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,*  
(KJV)

Rom 8:35

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* (KJV)

John 6:37

*him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* (KJV)

John 10:27-28

27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

28 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* (KJV)

Jer 31:3

*Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:* (KJV)

Heb 13:5

*for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* (KJV)

7 *Many waters cannot quench love,  
Nor can the floods drown it.*

**Commitment point # 5:** Marriage is to persevere.

There will be many trials and tears in marriage, but God's love sustaining a marriage will not give up. A picture of this is Hosea whose wife left him to become a temple prostitute for Baal. God said to Hosea in chapter 3:

Hosea 3:1

*Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.* (KJV)

The key idea is God's loving loyalty. In the normal marriage, love is persevering. Tommy is not speaking of instances of physical abuse, incest and the like.

**Commitment point # 6:** It is precious.

*If a man would give for love  
All the wealth of his house,  
It would be utterly despised.*

This means that love is not prostituted. No woman wants to marry because she has been bought. *Love is priceless.* Men who keep pursuing relentlessly emotionally rape the women they pursue. Love is given freely, it is not

bought.

**NOTES:**

**Commitment point #8:** Marriage is providential.

### **The Shulamite's Brothers**

8        *We have a little sister,  
          And she has no breasts.  
          What shall we do for our sister  
          In the day when she is spoken for?*

The brothers ask, "How do they know when their little sister will be ready to marry?" There is no age that determines when to marry, rather it is an attribute of the heart. Verse 9:

9        *If she is a wall,  
          We will build upon her  
          A battlement of silver;*

In other words, if she keeps her virginity, or closes her heart to men in retaining morality and purity, and that she has standards which enable her to say no to a man's advances, then they will build up a dowry for her.

*And if she is a door,*

Which means swinging open to any man, i.e., willing to have premarital sex.

*We will enclose her  
          With boards of cedar.*

Meaning the brothers will lock her up and not let her out. When is a girl ready to be married? When she is willing to stay single instead of disobeying God.

## **Tape 6, Side B: *The Art of Commitment, Part 2***

Chapter 8:10 - 14

### **The Shulamite**

10       *I am a wall,  
          And my breasts like towers;*

ASV uses the past tense of "was" a wall and breasts "were" like towers. The idea is that no one could sexually touch her before marriage. In Genesis it says that Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD (Gen. 6:8). Remember this in comparison to the next verse as the woman continues:

*Then I became in his eyes  
          As one who found peace.*

**NOTES:** Peace in Hebrew is Strong's #7965  $\mu/l$  v. shâlôm, *shaw-lome'*, and Solomon is a variation on the word Shalom (Strong's # 8010  $hmd$   $\gamma$ ] Sh?lômôh, *shel-o-mo'*).  
When did she find Solomon? When she said, "No."

Now let's review chapter 1:6 in what the girl says about her brothers.

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.*

She thought her brothers were too tough on her because they wouldn't let her take care of her own little vineyard, meaning her own body. The brothers saw to it that she was hard working, moral and submissive. She thought that they don't like her. Now she has found her husband. Look at chapter 8:11

11           *Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon;*

She worked for her brothers in Solomon's vineyard. She submitted to the authority over her, then we see here the divine joke that it was her husband-to-be's vineyard. By submitting to God, God brought her husband to her. Don't fret over finding a husband.

*He leased the vineyard to keepers;*

The keepers were her own brothers.

*Everyone was to bring for its fruit  
              A thousand silver coins.*

In other words the harvest went to Solomon.

**(To Solomon)**

12           *My own vineyard is before me.*

The metaphor continues poetically as she speaks of the vineyard that is her's by marriage and her body that is in marriage hers to give to Solomon.

*You, O Solomon, may have a thousand,*

Now her body is given to her husband by metaphor as a tithe. Don't forget that God can make all things new, so if you enter marriage sans virginity, then God can recreate the purity of that experience if you guard your premarital relationships.

*And those who tend its fruit two hundred.*

Who are the people that took care of the fruit? The brothers. Fathers, be encouraged by this verse because when your daughter resents your protection in

her teen years, she will be grateful later. Dad's don't be afraid to let the boys know how you feel about your daughter. Boys and girls, when you date and marry, you are dating and marrying a child of the Living God. Beware.

**NOTES:**

Why are the last 5 verses in this book here? To show who the author of their marriage was: God. Remember, commitment is maintained until death because God is the author of your marriage. The last act of your mate is to be their when he or she dies. To return your mate unto his or her Creator.

### **The Beloved**

13      *You who dwell in the gardens,  
The companions listen for your voice—  
Let me hear it!*

The man longs to listen.

### **The Shulamite**

14      *Make haste, my beloved,  
And be like a gazelle  
Or a young stag  
On the mountains of spices.*

The mountain of spices speaks metaphorically of her breasts. The woman longs to give her body to her husband. This book ends with the man and the woman giving to one another. That is love.

Postscript: Look at Malachi chapter 2:13 & 14

*Mal 2:13-14*

13      *And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, inasmuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.*

In other words, God would not even consider their prayers and sacrifices because of this sin in verse 14

14      *Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. (KJV)*

God stills sees the day of oath. Treachery is a betrayal. The woman trusts the man in accepting marriage. Companion means in English (from Latin) with bread. Verse 16:

**NOTES:** Mal 2:16

*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away [i.e., divorce]: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. (KJV)*

This means in Jewish culture that a man will cover his wife and promise to take care of his wife in all circumstances even if it means taking the shirt off his back to protect her. A man's last conscious act is to die for her in caring for her. No matter what the civil authorities say, they did not make the rules: God did on marriage. No matter what happens to your mate, you adjust and continue loving your mate. That is the love of God. We can do all these things because they are divine.

Bottom line: salvation is free. We have nothing to bargain with. But in God's justice, He is merciful. God accomplishes salvation not man. We simply believe and trust God for what He has done. And it is God who will lead and care for you, even in providing the right wife or husband for you. And we trust Him in the ups and downs of marriage.