

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## God's Wisdom In Song

(Jerry Fite)

In the Old Testament, there is a section of the Hebrew Bible known as the “Writings.” Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are two examples of these inspired writings which we recognize as “*wisdom literature*.” Solomon provides much of the wise sayings collected in Proverbs, and in Ecclesiastes, he is at the center of searching out the wise way to live life under the sun. After Ecclesiastes, we see the title: “*Song of Solomon*.” What wisdom is God offering us regarding practical living from Solomon’s “*Song of songs*?”

Four verses into the Book we read of “*kisses*” of “*his mouth*” connected with “*love*” that is “*better than wine*.” “*Virgins*” rejoice with a girl who is being “*drawn*” to “*the chambers*” of Solomon, “*the king*.” Human sexual love is definitely conveyed to our minds in the beginning; and in the end, the Shulammitte girl is calling for “*her beloved*” to “*make haste*,” “*like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices*.” (Song of Solomon 8:14).

As the love song unfolds, we see the first point God’s wisdom is conveying. True love cannot be forced. The point comes in the form of a refrain. “*I adjure*

*you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, or by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love until he please*” (Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4). The young maiden, though honored by Solomon’s attention, is in love with a shepherd boy whom throughout the Book is her “*beloved*” (Song of Solomon 1:13-14, 4:16, 5:10, 6:1-2, 8:14)

What a lesson for Solomon that comes to him by Divine inspiration. At the time of the writing of this song, Solomon already had 60 wives (queens) and 80 concubines. Solomon, in the love song, is wooing still another to add to the number. He is captivated by her beauty and desires her, but he cannot win her by his power, prestige or money. Her heart belongs to another and she is reserving the joys of sexual expression for this special one. She says, “*Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it out; if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, he would be utterly contemned*.” (Song of Solomon 8:7).

God created man and woman with sexual desires to be fulfilled as husband and wife. Becoming one flesh with another was

reserved for marriage, not shared with others (Genesis 2:24, I Corinthians 6:16, Hebrews 13:4).

Sexual expression was to be enjoyed by two people who “*belong*” to one another. They were committed exclusively to each other. This second facet of God’s wisdom is also expressed in a refrain throughout the Book: “*My beloved is mine, and I am his...*” (Song of Solomon 2:16, 6:3, 7:10).

These two facets of God’s wisdom should be in parents’ toolboxes as they raise up maturing young daughters and sons in the admonition of the Lord. As the children mature and strong sexual desires seek a door for expression, that door should be enclosed, not to be casually opened (Song of Solomon 8:9). The door is to be opened exclusively to the one who is your husband or your bride. The Song of Solomon celebrates the joys of sexual fulfillment in the intimacy created by exclusively belonging to one another. Help your maturing teenagers take to heart the refrain of the Shulammitte girl “*My beloved belongs to me, and I to him*.” “*Don’t stir up love before it, he or she pleases*.”