

Bible Study Notes: Song of Solomon 7 & 8
"The Power of Love"

SUMMARY: Chapter 7, I. Christ, the royal bridegroom, goes on to describe the beauties of his spouse, the church, in many instances, and to express his love to her and the delight he has in her conversation ([v. 1-9](#)). II. The spouse, the church, expresses her great delight in him, and the desire that she had of communion and fellowship with him ([v. 10-13](#)). Such mutual esteem and endearment are there between Christ and believers. And what is heaven but an everlasting interchanging of loves between the holy God and holy souls!

HE: VERSES 1-9

How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince ♦s daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of an artist ♦s hands. ² Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. ³ Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle. ⁴ Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. ⁵ Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses. ⁶ How beautiful you are and how pleasing, my love, with your delights! ⁷ Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. ⁸ I said, ♦I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit. ♦ May your breasts be like clusters of grapes on the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, ⁹ and your mouth like the best wine.

SONG OF SONGS 7:4, 5

Heshbon was the ancient capital of the Amorites. Bath-rabbim may have been a gate of Heshbon. The ♦tower of Lebanon♦ may have been a watchtower (evidently a prominent one and seen as very beautiful). Some suggest that this refers to the Lebanon mountain range. Mount Carmel overlooks the Mediterranean Sea and Palestine.

She: Verses 10-13

May the wine go straight to my beloved, flowing gently over lips and teeth. ¹⁰ I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me. ¹¹ Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. ¹² Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom ♦there I will give you my love. ¹³ The

mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my beloved.

SONG OF SONGS 7:10-13

As a marriage matures, there should be more love and freedom between marriage partners. Here the girl takes the initiative in lovemaking. Many cultures have stereotypes of the roles men and women play in lovemaking, but the security of true love gives both marriage partners the freedom to initiate acts of love and express their true feelings.

SUMMARY: Chapter 8: The affections between Christ and his spouse are as strong and lively here, in this closing chapter of the song, as ever, and rather more so. I. The spouse continues her importunity for a more intimate communion and fellowship with him ([v. 1-3](#)). II. She charges the daughters of Jerusalem not to interrupt her communion with her beloved ([v. 4](#)); and they, thereupon, admire her dependence on him ([v. 5](#)). III. She begs of her beloved, whom she raises up by her prayers ([v. 5](#)), that he would by his grace confirm that blessed union with him to which she was admitted ([v. 6, v. 7](#)). IV. She makes intercession for others also, that care might be taken of them ([v. 8, v. 9](#)), and pleases herself with the thoughts of her own interest in Christ and his affection to her ([v. 10](#)). V. She owns herself his tenant for a vineyard she held of him at Baal-hamon ([v. 11, v. 12](#)). VI. The song concludes with an interchanging of parting requests. Christ charges his spouse that she should often let him hear from her ([v. 13](#)), and she begs of him that he would hasten his return to her ([v. 14](#)).

Verses 1-9: If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother's breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me. ² I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house she who has taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates. ³ His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me. ⁴ Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Friends: ⁵ Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved?

She: Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labor gave you birth. ⁶ Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. ⁷ Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

Friends: ⁸ We have a little sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for? ⁹ If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her.

If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

SONG OF SONGS 8:1

In the ancient Near East, it was improper to show public affection except between family members. The girl is wishing that she could freely show affection to her lover, even in public.

SONG OF SONGS 8:6, 7

In this final description of their love, the girl includes some of its significant characteristics (see also 1 Corinthians 13). Love is as strong as death; it cannot be killed by time or disaster; and it cannot be bought for any price because it is freely given. Love is priceless, and even the richest king cannot buy it. Love must be accepted as a gift from God and then shared within the guidelines God provides. Accept the love of your spouse as God's gift, and strive to make your love a reflection of the perfect love that comes from God himself.

SONG OF SONGS 8:8, 9

The girl was reflecting on the days when she was younger and under the care of her brothers, who wondered how to help her prepare for marriage. They decided that if she was chaste, standing firm against sexual temptation, they would praise her. But if she was promiscuous and given over to immorality, they would take steps to guard her from doing something foolish. In 8:10, she testifies that she has been persistent in her morality and thus has found favor in Solomon's eyes.

Verses 10-12:

She: ¹⁰ I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment. ¹¹ Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver. ¹² But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

SONG OF SONGS 8:11, 12

Solomon could demand rent from the tenants for his vineyard, but the girl had her own vineyard, and it was her right to assign it. But she willingly gave Solomon its fruit. In a good marriage, there is no private property, for everything is shared between the partners. This is the only time Baal-hamon is mentioned in the Bible, and its location is unknown.

VERSES 13-14:

He: ¹³ You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!

She: ¹⁴ Come away, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.

SONG OF SONGS 8:14

The love between Solomon and his bride did not diminish in intensity after their wedding night. The lovers relied on each other and kept no secrets from each other. Devotion and commitment were the keys to their relationship, just as they are in our relationships to our spouses and to God. The faithfulness of our marital love should reflect God's perfect faithfulness to us.

Paul shows how marriage represents Christ's relationship to his church (Ephesians 5:22-33), and John pictures the Second Coming as a great marriage feast for Christ and his bride, his faithful followers (Revelation 19:7, 8; 21:1, 2). Many theologians have thought that Song of Songs is an allegory showing Christ's love for his church. It might be even better to say that it is a love poem about a real human love relationship, and that all loving, committed marriages are a reflection of God's love.