

# Song of Solomon 7 - Solomon Praises His Mate; The Wonder of a Woman; A Romantic Getaway

## IV. The continuing marriage (Song 5:2—8:3)

### (2) Maturation of love within marriage (Song 7:1—8:3)

(A) Husband describes his wife's beauty (7:1-9)

(B) Wife's desire for her husband (Song 7:10—8:3)

(a) Wife reinstates the couple's mutual commitment (7:10)

(b) Wife invites her husband on a trip where the couple's love can continue to blossom (7:11-13)

## Song of Solomon 7

### (2) Maturation of love within marriage (Song 7:1—8:3)

(A) Husband describes his wife's beauty (7:1-9)

1 "How beautiful are your feet in sandals, **Prince's daughter!** The curves of your hips are like jewels, The work of the hands of an artist.

1 "How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince's daughter! The curves of your hips are like jewels, The work of the hands of an artist.

1 How beautiful are your feet in sandals, noble lady. The curves of your thighs are like ornaments, the work of a skilled artist's hands.

1 How beautiful are thy feet with sandals, O prince's daughter! the curves of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of an artist (or cunning workman).

- This is the third and most sensual and detailed physical description by Solomon of his wife

— Solomon draws attention to and praises the physical features of his wife, which draw attention to her beauty as a woman

— She has obviously removed her outer garments, and is dancing before Solomon in the light (see through) clothing of a shepherdess, or possibly fully naked. She is wisely and seductively appealing to her husband's heightened sense of sight.

- What makes a woman attractive is different for every man. For some, it's her eyes, her face, her hair, her height, her body, or simply the way she carries herself.

— But one thing that is always attractive and sexy for a man is a woman who gives in to her sensuousness, and woman who enjoys sex with her husband and lets her husband know

she loves to give and receive pleasure.

— "Nothing transcends the traditional definition of beauty like the face and body of a passionately aroused woman."

- "...Prince's daughter!" - his reference to her as a "princess" is a symbolic way of praising her noble character, and testifies to how her husband views and treats her (1 Peter 3:7)

2 "Your **navel** is *like* a round goblet *That never lacks mixed wine*; Your belly is *like a heap of wheat*, Surrounded with lilies.

2 "Your navel is *like* a round goblet Which never lacks mixed wine; Your belly is like a heap of wheat Fenced about with lilies.

2 Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks mixed wine. Your abdomen is a bundle of wheat, enclosed by lilies.

2 Thy navel is like a round goblet, which lacketh not mingled wine: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.

- Solomon focuses on 10 aspects of his wife's beauty. Although his attention is mainly on her physical appearance, he also mentions the attractiveness of her personality and character as well.

- "...navel" - *šōrer*, likely a mistranslation as it does not fit the upward progression of Solomon's description of her

— The Hebrew word is only used two other times in the OT (Prov 3:8; Ezek 16:4)

— It's almost certainly a reference to her vagina; Solomon's description makes no sense of a navel, but it beautifully expresses the sexual pleasures he continually receives from his wife

- "...never lacks mixed wine" - "she never runs dry"; she is a constant source of intoxicating pleasure and sweetness

— "mixed wine" - the idea of blended male and female bodily fluids that come together in the appropriate part of a woman's body as the result of sexual climax

— Solomon's bride was an "exotic garden" (4:12,16) and an intoxicating drink in her lovemaking. Seldom, if ever, was Solomon disappointed

- "...a heap of wheat" - referring to her gently curved figure, and also to the fact that she was like food to him; she nourishes and satisfies him in every way

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

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

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

3 Thy two breasts are like two young roes (fauns), twins of a gazelle.

- Again, Solomon describes her breasts as two fawns (Cf. 4:5). They are soft and attractive, enticing him to touch them.

4 "Your neck is like a **tower of ivory**, **Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon** By the gate of Bath-rabbim; **Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon**, Which looks toward Damascus.

4 "Your neck is like a tower of ivory, Your eyes *like* the pools in Heshbon By the gate of Bath-rabbim; Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, Which faces toward Damascus.

4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory. Your eyes are like the pools in Heshbon, beside the gate of Beth-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, which faces Damascus.

4 Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes like the pools in Heshbon, by the gates of Bat Rabbim: thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.

- "...tower of ivory" - she is majestic, stately, and confident woman

- "...Your eyes *like the* pools in Heshbon" - her eyes were beautiful, comforting, refreshing

- "...Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon" - her nose was perfectly proportioned and complements and sets off her facial beauty

5 "**Your head crowns you like Carmel**, And the flowing hair of your head is like purple threads; **The king is captivated by your tresses**.

5 "Your head crowns you like Carmel, And the flowing locks of your head are like purple threads; *The* king is captivated by *your* tresses.

5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your flowing locks are like purple, and a king could be captured in the dangling tresses.

5 Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the flowing locks of your head like purple; the king is captive in the tresses.

- "Your head crowns you like Carmel" - the Carmel mountain range was the most beautiful in all of Israel

- "...*The* king is captivated by *your* tresses" - Solomon was smitten, ensnared, captured by his wife and her beauty

6 "How beautiful and how delightful you are, *My* love, with *all* your delights!

6 "How beautiful and how delightful you are, *My* love, with *all* your charms!

6 How beautiful and lovely you are, you are love with its exquisite delights.

6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!

- Solomon summarizes his praise of his wife by telling her she is beautiful and pleasing, a love with delights

— He is specific and personal in his praise of her

— Physically she is stunning and personally she is pleasant. He associates nothing but delight with her

A man who behaves beautifully will advance and mature in his praise of his wife, and enjoy all the good things that follow.

7 "Your stature is like a palm tree, And **your breasts are *like its clusters***.

7 "Your stature is like a palm tree, And your breasts are *like its clusters*.

7 Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like clusters of fruit.

7 This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes.

- Solomon is aggressive in his pursuit of his mate

- "...your breasts are *like its clusters*" - her breasts are sweet and tasty fruit that he finds irresistible

#### **Four Categories of Sexual Activity**

(1) The "Quickie" - quick, fast; a gift from one to the other

- In the shower; hand job; blow job

(2) "Normal" - 30-45 minutes of married sex

- In the bedroom; relaxed enjoyment of each other

(3) "Romantic" - vacation sex

- In a hotel or while camping; after a day spent together and/or a romantic dinner

(4) "Adventuresome" - outside, in the car, anywhere but the normal location; experimentation, new positions or routine; changing things up

8 "I said, 'I will climb the palm tree, I will grasp its fruit stalks.' Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of your breath like apples,

8 "I said, 'I will climb the palm tree, I will take hold of its fruit stalks.' Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of your breath like apples,

8 I told myself, "I'll go up the palm tree, and take hold of its fruit. May your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the smell of your breath like apples.

8 I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;

- Solomon moves quickly to express his intentions...

— He has watched his wife dance before him naked or nearly naked as long as he could

— He leaves nothing to chance; he does not assume that his wife understands what he is feeling, so he expresses it in no uncertain terms

— Her breasts, her breath, and her mouth (v9) are all sources of sensual desire and delight

9 And your mouth like the best wine!" "It goes *down* smoothly for my beloved, Flowing gently *through* the lips of those who are asleep.

9 And your mouth like the best wine!" "It goes *down* smoothly for my beloved, Flowing gently *through* the lips of those who fall asleep.

9 May your mouth be like good wine. May it go down smoothly to my beloved, gliding gently over the lips of the sleeping ones.

9 And the roof of thy mouth [palate] like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.

- The deep kisses from her mouth were intoxicating to Solomon, like a fine wine

— His wife had earlier described Solomon's mouth in this same way (Cf. 1:2)

### **Seven Essentials for Satisfying Sex**

(1) Communication

(2) Time

(3) Patience

(4) Experimentation

(5) Understanding

(6) Being teachable

(7) Humor

(B) Wife's desire for her husband (Song 7:10—8:3)

(a) Wife reinstates the couple's mutual commitment (7:10)

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

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

10 I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me.

10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward [or upon] me.

- The Shulammitte now speaks; it has been awhile since she has spoken (Cf. 6:13)

— She has been carefully listening and taking in all that her husband has said. He has gotten the attention of her heart, and again it was through her ears.

- Kind, affirming words from her husband have set Shulammitte free to respond sensually to her husband. Now it was time for her to act...

— The Shulammitte expresses her desire to satisfy and bring pleasure to her husband

— His goal is to satisfy and please her, and her goal is to satisfy and please him

— When there is a mutual goal of pleasing your mate, the marvelous result will be that both spouses will experience the joy and pleasure God intended for us (Cf. 1 Cor 7:3-4; Phil 2:3-5)

- This verse is a strong affirmation of possession and gratification. She delights in the fact of her husband's delight in her only!

— She is grateful, in fact she is relishing, in Solomon's desire for her. So much so that she doesn't even mention her possession of him.

— A wife who is secure in her relationship with her husband is released to love him without holding anything back

## **12 Ways to Keep the Passion Alive in Your Marriage**

- (1) Work at it - a lifetime of love and romance takes constant effort
- (2) Think as a team - make big decisions together; always ask "will this decision have a positive impact on my team?"
- (3) Be protective - especially of your time; passion requires quality time together
- (4) Accept that good and not perfect is OK when it comes to your mate - aim for great but settle for good in your spouse
- (5) Share your thoughts and feelings - quality time spent together; protect communication-generating rituals
- (6) Manage anger and contempt better - anger signals frustration at some underlying need; figure out what that need is and meet it
- (7) Declare your devotion to each other again and again - repeated affirmation of commitment
- (8) Give each other permission to change - bored, unpassionate couples do not update often how they feel or what they know about each other; remain constantly in touch with the other's dreams, fears, goals, disappointments, hopes, regrets, wishes, and fantasies.
- (9) Have fun together - your relationship should feel like recess; play together; keep delight a priority
- (10) Make yourselves trustworthy - people trust those who affirm them; they distrust those who act as if a relationship were a continual competition of who is right and who gets their way
- (11) Forgive and forget - wipe your spouse's slate clean often so anger and resentment doesn't build
- (12) Cherish and applaud - celebrate each other's presence; give your spouse admiration, applause, appreciation, acknowledgement, the benefit of the doubt, encouragement, and the message that you are happy to be with them

(b) Wife invites her husband on a trip where the couple's love can continue to blossom (7:11-13)

- 11 "Come, my beloved, let's go out to the country, Let's spend the night in the villages.
  - 11 "Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, Let us spend the night in the villages.
  - 11 Come, my beloved. Let us go out to the country, let us spend the night in the villages.
  - 11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.
- She extends an invitation for a romantic getaway; she takes the initiative in requesting a time for romance and lovemaking with her husband

— She has realized that sex that takes place only in the home can run the risk of becoming routine. Vacations or weekend getaways often enhance and rekindle passion in marriage.

— Getting away from the daily grind of work, household chores, raising children, and ministry commitments to be together as a couple are requirements to maintain passion and intimacy in a marriage

— Shulammite knows that sexual problems can slip into a marriage if it is not properly cared for. As a woman, she is aware of the role she must play to keep their sex life on a high plain.

12 "Let's rise early *and go* to the vineyards; Let's see whether the vine has grown *And its* buds have opened, *And whether* the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.

12 "Let us rise early *and go* to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded *And its* blossoms have opened, *And whether* the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.

12 Let us go early to the vineyards, let us see whether the vine has budded, whether the blossom has opened, whether the pomegranates have bloomed. There I'll give you my love.

12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.

- Budding vines, blossoms opening, and pomegranates were all considered aphrodisiacs

— In the midst of these outdoor delicacies, the Shulammite says that she will give Solomon her love

— Not just in the country, but outside, under the sun, moon, and stars, we will find a place, just the two of us, to make passionate love

13 "The mandrakes have given forth fragrance; And **over our doors are all delicious fruits, New as well as old**, Which I have saved for you, my beloved.

13 "The mandrakes have given forth fragrance; And over our doors are all choice *fruits*, Both new and old, Which I have saved up for you, my beloved.

13 The mandrakes give off their fragrance, and over our doors are all the choice fruits, both old and new, that I've stored up for you, my beloved.

13 The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

- "...over our doors are all delicious *fruits*" - at the door of your mate, find "every delicacy"

— Lay aside your inhibitions and let your imagination run wild; find "all manner" of pleasant fruit

- "...New as well as old" - some will be "old" (it is good every time, without fail), and some will be "new" (different, previously unexplored experiences)

- Shulammite says she has all of this in store for her husband