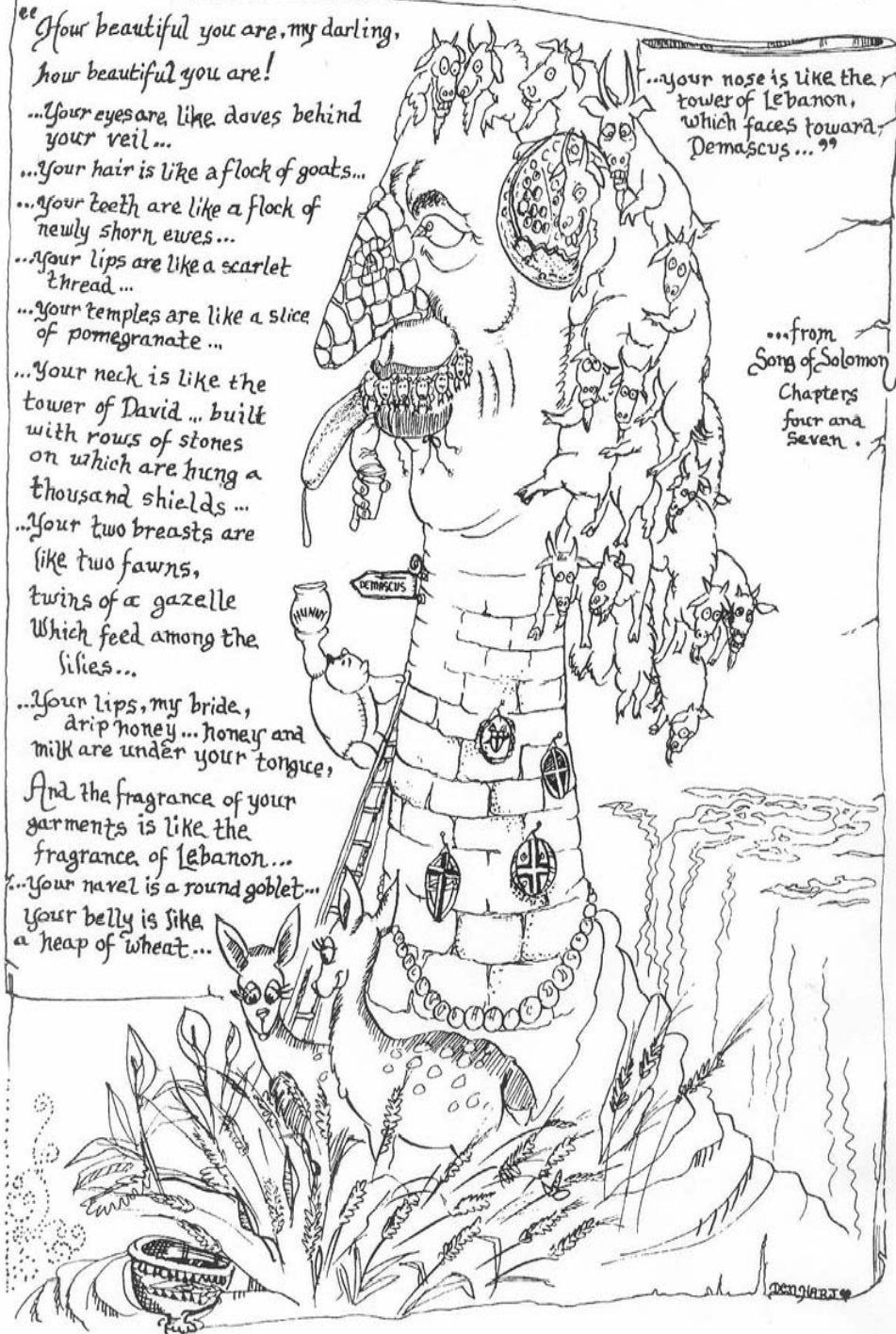


The Song of Solomon Illustrated

(For our literalist friends.)



Have Your Cake And Eat It, Too!

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 30th, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**EAT, FRIENDS; DRINK AND IMBIBE
DEEPLY, O LOVERS.
~SONG OF SONGS 5: 1 B (NASB)**

1) The “Story” Of A Great Wedding

- A) After initial attraction, a godly relationship will seek **GODLY CHARACTER**, a **CHRISTLIKE REPUTATION**, **SERVANTHOOD**, and **OPEN/HONEST** characteristics (Song of Songs 1:1-7) for the dating period.
- B) Godly dating leads to godly courtship which cultivates **RESPECT** and **PRIDE** in one another **EXCLUSIVELY**. Courtship develops an **ENVIRONMENT OF ROMANCE** expressed through **PUBLIC PRIDE AND LOVE** which engenders **SECURITY & PROTECTION** (1:8-14, 16-17, 2:1, 3-4).
- C) As God has designed, desire is heightened through the process of courtship, but **PURITY IS PROTECTED** by both the man and the woman which and is **GUARDS THE HEART** of the bride and groom (2:7)!
- D) As courtship reflects **GODLY MARRIAGE VALUES** (Ephesians 5:15-6:4) it naturally leads to a period of **GREAT ANTICIPATION** and **PLANNING** for the wedding, known as engagement.

2) The Wedding Day (Finally!)

- A) The number one thing which makes for a great wedding day is not the bride and groom, but the presence of God from the beginning to the end of the wedding (Song of Songs 3:6a & 5c).
- B) "What is this... from the wilderness... like columns of smoke" (3:6a). An allusion from Exodus 13:21-22 of **GOD'S PRESENCE** for the wedding day. God is **CELEBRATING!**
- C) "Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all scented powders..." (3:6b). This is a time for **CELEBRATION!** Put on your best clothing & perfumes -- the **BIG DAY** is here!

3) The Wedding!

- A) The processional of Solomon is filled with visions of **SAFETY** and **SECURITY** for his bride, "couch of Solomon, sixty (mighty) men around..., all wielders of the sword, experts in war..., guarding against the terrors of the night" (3:7-8).
- B) The luxuriousness of the wedding publicly communicates what a great gift the couple are to one another (3:9-10).
- C) Solomon is what every woman wants, a strong and godly man worth following because he follows God in the way he treats her!
- D) The Shulammitte girl is what every guy wants, a strong and godly woman who gives all of herself!

- E) The wedding is not only a **PUBLIC EVENT**, it also has the **FULL BLESSING** of the parents, "the crown, which his mother has crowned him..." (Song of Songs 3:11).

4) The Wedding Feast & Honeymoon!

- A) Solomon's Shulammitte bride is beautiful in every way to him, "how beautiful you are..., your eyes..., your hair..., your teeth..., your lips..., your mouth..., your temples..., your neck..., your breasts..., you are altogether beautiful..." (4:1-7). Note that Solomon communicates **VERBALLY**, without so much as laying a **FINGER** on his bride!
- B) This picture of the wedding chamber is as sacred as any passage in Scripture! The **GREATEST** wedding gift you give on your **WEDDING NIGHT** is **YOURSELF!** The **HIGH CALL** of keeping the marriage bed **PURE** is a **GREAT GIFT** (Hebrews 13:4)!
- C) Simultaneously, the **GREATEST** wedding gift you receive on your **WEDDING NIGHT** is **YOUR SPOUSE!** As Solomon examples, treat it **GENTLY** and with **RESPECT** -- as you would receive a **PRECIOUS GIFT!**
- D) Within this environment, **ROMANCE ABOUNDS!** "come with me..., you have made my heart beat faster..., how much better is your love than wine..., your lips drip honey..., honey and milk are under your tongue..., a garden locked..." (4:8-12). Romance is created by **INNOCENCE** and **VIRGINITY!** **EVERYTHING IS NEW!**
- E) **LOVE IS AWOKEN** in the couple, "Awake north wind, come wind of the south..., may my beloved come into his garden and eat..., my... (8 times)" (4:13-5:1). As it began, **GOD'S BLESSING** is in the midst of the married couple!