

SONG OF SONGS

a series on:

SEX • ROMANCE • MARRIAGE • LOVE



Parental Advisory Explicit Scriptures
How Do I Keep the Fire Going?
Song of Songs 2:8–3:5

Song of Songs 2:8–3:5

8 The voice of my beloved!

Behold, he comes,
leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

9 My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Behold, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
looking through the lattice.

10 My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away,

11 for behold, 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 ripens its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away.

14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the crannies of the cliff,
let me see your face,
let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.

15 Catch the foxes for us,
the little foxes
that spoil the vineyards,
for our vineyards are in blossom.”

16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;
he grazes among the lilies.

17 Until the day breathes
and the shadows flee,
turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle
or a young stag on cleft mountains.

1 On my bed by night
I sought him whom my soul loves;
I sought him, but found him not.

2 I will rise now and go about the city,
in the streets and in the squares;
I will seek him whom my soul loves.
I sought him, but found him not.

3 The watchmen found me
as they went about in the city.
“Have you seen him whom my soul loves?”

4 Scarcely had I passed them
when I found him whom my soul loves.

I held him, and would not let him go
until I had brought him into my mother's house,
and into the chamber of her who conceived me.

5 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the does of the field,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.

Longing is the fuel of romance

- Man: “My beloved speaks and says to me: ‘Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away’” (SoS 2:10).
- Woman: “On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not” (SoS 3:1).
- They long to be together.
- The Lord longs for us.
 - “The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 ‘Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown” (Jeremiah 1:1–2).
- How are you keeping the fire of longing lit?
 - Keep your focus
 - Stoke your fire
 - “Because marriage merges two lives and brings you into the closest possible contact, a positive assessment by your spouse has ultimate credibility” (Tim and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*, 148).

Romance is a journey of pursuit

- Man: “8 The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills. 9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice” (SoS 2:8–9).
- Woman: “Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go” (SoS 3:4a).
- They pursue one another.
- The Lord pursues us.
 - 14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. 15 And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt” (Hosea 2:14–15).
- Friends can pursue one another too.
- How are you continuing to pursue one another?
 - Pursue you spouse the way they want to be pursued.

- Words of Affirmation – Expressing love through verbal appreciation, compliments, and encouragement.
- Quality Time – Showing love by giving undivided attention and spending meaningful time together.
- Receiving Gifts – Giving thoughtful and meaningful presents that symbolize affection.
- Acts of Service – Demonstrating love by doing helpful tasks to ease the partner's burdens.
- Physical Touch – Expressing love through physical contact like hugging, kissing, or holding hands.

Marriage is romance's destination

- “16 My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies. 17 Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains” (SoS 2:16–17).
- “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases” (SoS 3:5).
- They're committed to marriage.
 - “Sexual desire, without Eros, wants *it*, the *thing in itself*; Eros wants the Beloved” (C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 120–121).
 - “Two people who are not married should not touch the sexual parts of one another's bodies” (Philip Ryken, *The Love of Loves in the Song of Songs*, 72).
- The Lord is committed to us.
 - “25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:25–27).
- How are you remaining committed to one another?
 - Wait for marriage
 - Keep your focus

Longing fuels the pursuit of romance that leads to the destination of marriage.

- How are you keeping the fire of longing lit?
- How are you continuing to pursue one another?
- How are you remaining committed to one another?