

Homework for Week 4

Read through Song of Songs 4:1-16 and answer the following questions.

This week we are going to incorporate the Background Reading directly as we go through the chapter instead of looking at it at the end of the chapter.

1. The Beloved praises the Shulamith in 7 specific areas in verses 1-5. Fill in the blanks about how he praises her in each area.

1. "You have dove's _____ behind your veil.
2. "Your _____ is like a flock of goats, Going down from Mount Gilead."
3. "Your _____ are like a flock of shorn sheep Which have come up from the washing, Every one of which bears twins, And none is barren among them.
4. "Your _____ are like a strand of scarlet, And your mouth is lovely."
5. "Your _____ behind your veil Are like a piece of pomegranate."
6. "Your _____ is like the tower of David, Built for an armory, On which hang a thousand bucklers, All shields of mighty men.
7. "Your _____ are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle, Which feed among the lilies.

Background Reading: Revelation 1

Read Revelation 1:1-20 and answer the following questions by focusing on verses 12-17.

2. The apostle John sees the resurrected Jesus and describes 7 attributes of Him. Fill in the blanks with each attribute John saw:

1. "His _____ and _____ were white like wool, as white as snow"
2. "His _____ like a flame of fire"
3. "His _____ were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace"
4. "His _____ as the sound of many waters"
5. "He had in His _____ seven stars"
6. "Out of His _____ went a sharp two-edged sword"
7. "and His _____ was like the sun shining in its strength."

Background Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and fill in the blanks based on verses 14-18.

3. The apostle Paul tells the church in Ephesus to put on the whole armor of God. Fill in the blanks with the 7 pieces of armor he commands them to put on or to do:

1. "Stand, therefore, having girded your _____ with truth"
2. "Having put on the _____ of righteousness"
3. "and having shod your _____ with the preparation of the gospel of peace"
4. "above all, taking the _____ of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."
5. "And take the _____ of salvation"
6. "and the _____ of the Spirit, which is the word of God;"
7. "_____ always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—"

Personal Reflection:

What initial thoughts or connections do you see in these three areas of 7's between the attributes of the Shulamith, the attributes of Jesus, and the commands to the church about putting on the armor of God?

[Interesting fact: the number 7 represents completion (like in keeping an oath) in the Bible.]

4. **Let's go back to the rest of our discussion of Song of Songs 4.** Look at Song of Songs 4:6. What similarities do you see between this statement of the Beloved to the Shulamith and the Shulamith's request of the Beloved back in Song of Songs 2:17?

What does this tell you about His responding to her request?

- A. He ignored it.
- B. He responds enthusiastically with a bigger fulfillment than she even requested.
- C. He never heard her.

5. What does the Beloved tell the Shulamith in verse 7?

6. From where is the Beloved asking the Shulamith to come from in verse 8?

Do these places sound fearful or happy to you? (circle one)

7. Describe the expressions of the Beloved for the Shulamith in verses 9-11.

- A. Overwhelmed with excitement and joy
- B. Unexcited and bored
- C. Unhappy and disappointed

8. What are some comparisons the Beloved speaks to the Shulamith to in verses 12-15? (Circle all that apply)

- A. a garden
- B. a spring
- C. a fountain
- D. an orchard
- E. a wilderness
- F. a well of living waters

9. What does the Shulamith give the Beloved in verse 16?

- A. an invitation
- B. a rejection

Personal Reflection: What stood out to you the most during your homework this week?

WEEK FOUR: SONG OF SONGS 4

Chapter Theme: The Joy of the Bridegroom

*You have ravished my heart,
My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart
With one look of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace.*

-Song of Songs 4:9

People featured in the chapter:

- The Beloved
- The Shulamith

Places mentioned in the chapter:

- Mount Gilead (4:1)
- Lebanon (4:8, 4:11, 4:15)
- Mount Hermon (4:8)

(4:1) The lyrics in chapter four are unique in that they are almost exclusively sung by the Bridegroom. He is the only voice heard except for the Shulamith's voice right at the very end of the chapter.

Isaiah 54:5— For your Maker *is* your husband,
The LORD of hosts *is* His name;
And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel;
He is called the God of the whole earth.

(4:1-5) The Bridegroom praises the Shulamith with seven comparisons
The apostle John described the resurrected Jesus with seven comparisons
The apostle Paul commands the church to put on the whole armor of God with seven parts

John 19:28-30—After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Hebrews 10:14— For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 12:2— looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(4:3) The Bridegroom compares the Shulamith’s lips to a strand of scarlet
This comparison recalls the story of Rahab

Joshua 2:17-21—So the men said to her: “We *will be* blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, *when* we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home. So it shall be *that* whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *will be* guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is laid on him. And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear.” Then she said, “According to your words, so *be* it.” And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

James 2:25-26— Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

(4:6) The Bridegroom fulfills the Shulamith’s request—from ordinary to extraordinary

Song of Songs 2:17—
Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
Turn, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
Upon the mountains of Bether.

2 Peter 1:4—by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Ephesians 3:20-21— Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(4:7) The perfection of the Shulamith—speaks of both the priesthood, the sacrifice itself, and the outward appearance

כְּלָךְ יִפָּה רְעִיָּתִי וּמִיָּם אֵין בְּךְ

Hebrew: *m'uwmm*

I. blemish, spot, defect

A. of physical defect

B. of moral stain

Leviticus 21:17— Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in *succeeding* generations, who has *any* defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God.

Deuteronomy 17:1— You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that *is* an abomination to the LORD your God.

2 Samuel 14:25—Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

(4:8) The Bridegroom brings the Bride out of danger

Jude 24-25—Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present *you* faultless
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
To God our Savior,
Who alone is wise,
Be glory and majesty,
Dominion and power,
Both now and forever.
Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24—Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

Revelation 3:10— Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

(4:9-11) The Bridegroom's deep affection for the Bride

The Bridegroom invokes a comparison pointing to the promise land—the land of Israel

Exodus 3:8 (first use)—So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

(4:12-15) The Shulamith as a garden and a fountain

Genesis 2:8-10—The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

Revelation 22:1-2—And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

John 15:1-5—“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

(4:16) The Shulamith's response

James 2:23—And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.
