

Our Loving Shepherd-King

The Shulamite is the story of every Christian, struggling to respond correctly to the advances of “Jesus, lover of my soul.” Intellectually, we can accept that we are loved with everlasting love (Malachi 3:2), and sacrificial love (Galatians 1:4; Titus 2:14).

But it is often more difficult to translate that emotionally; to feel the truth of it and to rest in the comfort of it.

In contrast, the Song of Solomon gives a rich and beautiful presentation of our Shepherd-King and his enduring, pursuing love for us.

Jesus comes seeking

Read through the text and see how often the king encourages and invites (2:10, 13-14; 4:8), searches (2:8-9), comes to her (2:8; 3:6), and knocks at her door (5:2). He draws her in (2:4) and sustains her (2:5).

Jesus affirms his love

Every time the king speaks in the book, he is either telling the Shulamite how lovely she is or he is telling her how much he loves her. See for example, 1:8; 1:15; 4:1; 6:4; 7:1.

The phrase “My sister, my spouse” (4:9, 10, 11, 12, 5:1) speaks of the bond of love in marriage (intimacy), coupled with siblinghood (equality). There is a mutual love, we in him and he in us, (Ephesians 5:25-27, John 15:4-5, 9-10), a shared life not as a servant, but as a friend (John 15:15, also 14:2-3; 10:14-15, 27-28).

Jesus reveals his heart

One glance, shy and doubting though it may be, captivates the heart of our Saviour (4:9). Here, Jesus reveals the heart of love and affection that he has for his people. The Father gave his Son, the Son gave his heart.

In the end, the Shulamite was convinced of his love for her and could say, “I am my beloved’s and his desire is for me” (7:10).