

Song of Songs

**One Story that
Leads to Jesus**



Garden and Temple

*“Let him kiss me with kisses of his mouth,
for your love is better than wine.”* (Songs 1:2)

- Quite the opening verse – makes you wonder why this is Scripture
- Is it an allegory of passionate exchange between God and his people? Or is it a collection of love poems between two people?
- The various poems are lush with references to garden imagery – perhaps an echo of the creation accounts?
- The Garden of Eden was a model holy space – the place of meeting between God and people – the purpose of Temple, where God dwells and the people can “meet” God. (*cf. Tent of Meeting, Exodus*)

Garden and Relationships

“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day” (Gen 3:8)

- In the beginning, in the Garden, all relationships were good.
- All creation and humanity were in harmony... until...
- Harmony and relationship disrupted: between God and humanity, man and woman, and humanity and nature.
- Where does this leave us?

Harmony Restored

- Songs recognizes that the mutual longing between God and humanity is still there.
- Allusions of this longing invites us to imagine the long-awaited healing and restoration of harmony between God and humanity
- “*I belong to my lover, his yearning is for me*” (Songs 7:11) echoes Gen 3:16 - restoration of harmony between man and woman
- In the Hebrew imagination there was a correspondence between the flourishing of the land and faithfulness to the covenant: “*For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come*” (Songs 2:11-12)

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