

**PREFACE**

*“Thank God very much for the great privilege to hear from pastor on the Song of Solomon. It is a beautiful sermon which pastor has given us this day as a closure to the books of Wisdom Literature. I am thankful pastor could announce the news about Ruth Mary tying the nuptial knot with Othiamba Lovelace; it is an appropriate occasion to dedicate this message her. I felt overwhelmed to be found in the presence of God, pastor and God’s people to hear the message this day. Pastor expounded it so beautifully. I enjoy the context in which he brought it out, the story of Solomon in love with this lass—though he had so many wives and concubines, he wrote this poem for this lass who was a ‘nobody’; that’s what love is, regardless of status or the physical appearance of the Shulamite. Though Solomon had this experience before he wrote Ecclesiastes, pastor asked, ‘Why is this book placed after Ecclesiastes?’ and ‘What is the intent of the Holy Spirit?’ It is so beautiful when pastor brought out the context and linked it to the intent of the Holy Spirit in canonizing this book; the relationship of Yeshua Christ and His bride and to our personal relationship with Christ. Solomon was the king and he came incognito, but he did not force her to marry him, but came with gestures and overtures to woo this woman. Even in all these seemingly minor points, I just marvelled how pastor brought the contextual situation and linked them in relation to Christ in that He came incognito. Though Christ is the King of kings, but He condescended to allure me to love Him. I remember one of the past Bible Conferences, pastor spoke about Christ as the Meek and Lowly One. During that conference, I was attracted by the meekness and lowliness of Yeshua Christ, I could not sleep in the night but just thought about the Person of Christ. The Song of Solomon kept ringing in my mind. Though it was not put into tune yet, I wanted to sing it because that was how I felt about my Beloved. That is why I put the tune to that song because I wanted to sing it. I thank God we could sing this portion of the Scriptures to express our love for Yeshua Christ, but today when I sang it, I felt I missed Christ. I have missed that kind of sweetness of meditating on Christ for some time and I cried to Yeshua Christ that He would come back to me, that was how I sang it just now and also this week. I missed the Lord Yeshua Christ and I want to say that I love Him and I miss Him, and I am sick of love. I really waited for Him. Yesterday at 2am, I just cried to the Lord Yeshua that He may not forsake me but come back again. **I feel sick of myself that my religion is often manward.** It does not matter what others think of me but what Christ Yeshua thinks of me is most important, thus I want to secure His favour and presence. When pastor mentioned that in this relationship, the apex of it is that when Christ comes to me, it is not so much that I will be satisfied but Christ Himself must be satiated; my satisfaction is to see Christ being satisfied in the garden of my soul. That is the climax of communion with Yeshua Christ, He must be saturated with the fruits of my love—that my desire is towards Him. The Song of Solomon says Christ wants to hear my voice, see my countenance (Song 2:14b). Christ loves especially the mouth, I must render the songs from my heart with the voice of thanksgiving. When we do so, even the friends of Christ would enjoy. Thank God pastor always gathers us so we can give thanks to God and enjoy the fruits of the other brethren, especially from the garden of pastor. Pastor also spoke on the aspect of singing with our voice. It is an avenue for us to express our love and longing for Yeshua Christ. In this season, I felt the psalms became very precious and special to me as I sang them. I know the dry spells in my life when I could only sing the psalms technically. In this season when I sing the psalms I could express my longing for Christ, be it conviction of sins or for communion. Though pastor said we may not have tasted first love in the first place, whether it is freakish or not, but I want to cherish this moment, though it may be in spurts and starts. For it is difficult even to maintain these little moments of rendezvous; all the little foxes, the distractions that take away those moments of the sweetness and communion with Christ are realities to contend with. Pastor spoke with plainness of speech what this romance is—about departures and approaches. We need to learn to be sensitive in these departures and approaches of our Beloved and learn to respond to them if we want to grow in our spiritual experiences. Thank God for what he mentioned about Hosea 2 about the door of hope to be given to us, to wait and prepare for His approaches. It is so deep. Only pastor is able to bring this book across to us in such a manner. Even if we ever experience the earthly romance, we would not be able to understand the spiritual sense and depth of the Song of Solomon. It is to be seen in the light of fellowship and communion with Christ Yeshua. Pastor mentioned the places and the items in the house come alive and romance is not just confined to the chambers but everywhere in the world and everything comes alive when we are in the season of love. The whole world becomes a place for us to enjoy Christ. Pastor mentioned every city and place that the couple went to in the Song of Solomon. This reminds me that in every city there is the people of God and those whom Christ loves. And there is the aroma of the love of Christ prevalent in these places. It is beautiful. It brought to my mind those Hindi films when the couple dance under the tall trees, in the fields and in the mountains. In every place you can enjoy and savour Yeshua Christ, even in prison and in the most difficult circumstances, if*

*you have Christ, you would enjoy it. As pastor mentioned all these, I really said ‘wow’ as such experience is so deep and so alluring. I pray I would have the depths of it. Why is the Song of Solomon the last book in the Wisdom Literature? Pastor gave the answer to it: it is to show us what the real meaning of life is. Ecclesiastes is about vanity and vexation of spirit in earthly life, but it is those seasons of communion with Christ that make life beautiful and take away our listlessness and makes sense to what we are doing in this earth. Thank God I did not miss this beautiful Sabbath and for this message that pastor ministered to us.” Rhoda Soh’s response to pastor’s exegesis of Song of Solomon, John Bunyan house, Johor Bahru, Malaysia; 8 July AD 2012*