

SONG OF SONGS CLASS

UNLOCK THE
DEEPEST
PLACES OF
YOUR HEART



PASSIONMOVEMENT.COM

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THE SONG OF
SONGS IS GOING TO
CHANGE YOUR
LIFE!



We have been described as true pioneers in ministry. As a spiritual father and mother, our teaching and spiritual gifts have opened doors in many nations to take the message of authentic awakening and revival to many. For the last 40 years we have labored together to present Christ in His fullness wherever God sends us.

After a dramatic conversion to Christ in 1971, I (Brian) answered the call of God to leave everything behind and become missionaries to the tribes. Taking my wife and three children to the jungle of Central America we pioneered church plants for many years with the Kuna people group. While serving as missionaries, we planted churches and established leadership for the churches that Jesus birthed.

While missionaries in the harvest fields, God swept through villages with mighty power. That revival gave us fresh understanding of God's prophetic purposes for the last days awakening among the nations. After our ministry in the tribes, we returned to North America.

I (Brian) began to preach with power and authority for the coming days of glory that will usher in the return of Christ.

We have birthed numerous ministries, including a dynamic church, Gateway Christian Fellowship in West Haven, Connecticut. We also established Stairway Ministries and Passion & Fire Ministries under which we travel full-time.

We serve as U.S. Director. H.I.M. that oversees nearly 20,000 churches worldwide and now travel the nations releasing this message of end time awakening.

We have authored numerous books that reveal depths of insight that the Holy Spirit has released for the last days. We are now committed to finishing the translation of the entire Bible into a new dynamic-equivalent version called, The Passion Translation. See www.passiontranslation.com for more info.

Brian Simmons

The Song of Songs is going to change your life. You know, I fell in love with this book years back, and it changed me in such a powerful way. The last 25 years I've been studying, reading, and praying and even translating the Song of Songs. I've read about 90 plus commentaries on the book and decided that we would write our own. So we did. It's called The Sacred Journey. I hope everyone has a copy of this or will get a copy of this. My wife and I co-wrote it.

PRAYER:

Father, in Jesus' name, we thank You that You have given to us the sweetest, most amazing song ever composed. You've placed it in the Bible to be a source of strength and encouragement and blessing to us. I ask, God, that You would put a tractor beam onto our soul tonight and draw us so close to You that we are literally transformed by the message of Solomon's message. Make it so tonight. We lay it out before You and look to You alone. In Jesus' name, Amen. Amen.

Let me just let you know that the purpose of our course is not simply to teach you the Song of Songs—I think that will happen, but that you would be an instructor, that you would be so encouraged and blessed by the revelation of this book, that from today forward you commit to teaching other people. I mean, when you get the best news of all, you want to spread it, you know when you get married, you're going to put out an invitation. You have the first baby, you're going to get a picture, you know, and put it out on social media. Let people know that the greatest song of all is available to them, and it's sung over them. So in our teacher's manual will be using this not only as a teacher's manual, but as a study manual here in this course. If you'll turn to the page, it's page five. Those of you watching online, make sure that you acquire this and we will make it available for you and give you an opportunity to get it for yourself.

The Church's Bible is one that I've recently connected to by Richard Norris, and it really is amazing how he will connect the church fathers to the Song of Songs and we'll amplify that here in this session tonight. And, if you're a Catholic and you want to have a Catholic perspective, we have The Song of Songs by Father Juan Arintero. And in my opinion, it's perhaps the best commentary from a Catholic perspective written on the Song of Songs. And, we have the Sweetest Song. It's by my personal hero, Richard Wurmbbrand, The Sweetest Song. Richard Wurmbbrand was a Romanian pastor who was imprisoned under communist regime and was severely beaten and persecuted. He has written a number of books.

He's now in heaven, but The Sweetest Song was his interpretation of the Song of Songs from a persecuted church perspective. And I can guarantee you, it will give you some secrets that you will not get in any other book. The one that got me started is by Watchman Nee, and that's a good starting point for a beginner is to take Watchman Nee's book on the Song of Songs. What I learned from his commentary was that there is a story, that there's a drama behind the verses. There is a plot in the Song of Songs, and we'll talk more about that soon. On the next page, just a brief word about Bible translations. Of course, we're involved with the Passion Translation Project, and we have the three basic categories of Bible translations. The formal equivalent, which would be the literal word for word version. This is what people most often say, they want a word for word translation.

Everybody has their own preferences. I want the meaning of the text. I don't want to chop it out to put just one Hebrew or Greek word into an equivalent English word, because most of the time there is not one equivalent word from Greek or Hebrew into English. So we need to have, in my opinion, more of a dynamic equivalent or a thought for thought translation of the text. And that's what the Passion Translation has sought to do. I've given a considerable amount of time thinking about this, and if I were to put exactly where we position the Passion Translation, it would probably be right there between the TNIV and the NCV. Right in that section is where we have positioned the Passion Translation.

To interpret the Bible requires that we go past the surface meaning. You can say amen at any time. We don't just want to read the Bible; we want to understand the Bible. This is why we have commentaries and software programs. This is why we go online and why we try to examine Hebrew and Greek words to get the depth of the meaning. Because what we really want is the meaning, the thought of God that is expressed in language. So I've given to you what I consider one of the best understandings from a Hebrew perspective. I'm going to take the time to go over this briefly, but it's important because the Song of Songs is not meant to be literally thought of. It is a deep allegory. It is a supernatural story. It is a parable. It's something hidden beneath the words that jumps out at us.

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So look PARDES. Like I said, I'll just have a brief moment to cover this, but PARDES is an acronym, p, r, d, s, and on page seven we explained this in detail. The p is the Hebrew word P'shat and in the Hebrew language it means to make a road, and it implies a plain and simple, straightforward, like you're going to cut a path. And so the word of God is straightforward. It can be trusted. It says what it means and means what it says. Amen. So it's important that we have this surface or this a simple level of interpreting scripture, because if we try to jump around to other levels, we will lose the significance and the importance of P'shat. And the example I use here is that when God tested Abraham's faith by telling him to sacrifice Isaac, it means that he truly tested Abraham's faith by telling him to sacrifice Isaac.

And when God told the Israelites to keep feasts, there's a literalness about that. The Hebrew people, indeed were commanded to the feasts of the Lord. Moses lifted up a serpent in the wilderness on a pole. It was indeed a serpent, a bronze serpent made out of brass on a pole. So the scriptures can be and must be interpreted literally as we begin our studies. But there's three more levels. The second is r Remez. Remez is the Hebrew word for hint, and in every scripture there is a hint of something deeper, something that we must pursue. And if you just stick with the surface meaning, that's what we do in our Bible reading so often. We don't stop and ponder and think it through and research and look and uncover the hints that are waiting there for us. The example of Remez, let's take Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice. There was a hint in the narrative where God said that Abraham called the name of the place the Lord will provide, Jehovah Jireh, and in the mountain of the Lord, it will be provided. I mean, think about that. He actually named this mountain—This is the place where it will be provided. What's the hint?

Thousands of years later, this is where the temple was built, and this is where the Mount Moriah, this is where the sacrifices for the temple were made, and this is literally where Christ Himself came into the temple as the sacrifice for our sins. So Abraham gives us a hint, doesn't He, of something that's coming. But there's two more levels.

Drash. It literally means to dig, to search, to learn, to go after, to pursue, and this level of interpreting the Bible does not yield truth to the casual observer. With a superficial reading of the Bible you'll never get to this level. These are things you dig for. These are things you search after. This is why it's good to have commentaries and to dig, to search out, to inquire of the Lord. What does this really mean? What does Jehovah Jireh really mean? You search for that meaning, and God will respond, and God will give to the searching heart. He will give truth. Thank God for that, but the level that we're about to introduce to you now is the level of Sod. The Hebrew word Sod is the word secret or mystery.

Now the Bible has mysteries. The New Testament has the Greek word mysterion. It occurs 28 times in the New Testament, mysterion. 28 mysteries. Doesn't that fascinate you? It does me. It makes me want to know, well, what are those 28 mysteries? Jesus said in Matthew 13:11, I have given to you the mysteries or the secrets of the Kingdom of God, so Jesus has given us these 28 secrets. Let's find out what they are. So the realm of mystery cannot be taken away from the word of God. You could never understand Ezekiel 1 reading a superficial, literal meaning. It boggles the imagination. Even the creation account begs us to discover the secret of the Lord. I have found in the seven days of creation, the seven stages of our perfection in Christ, the seven levels of our maturing until we become that Sabbath man, until we become one who rests fully in Him.

So everything about the creation account—did you know on the third day, it doesn't say God created the ground? It says He raised up the dry ground. Is there anything else that was raised up on the third day? He raised up humanity, the dry ground. He raised us up out of the waters, the ocean of humanity, the Sea of humanity. He raised up a people of Resurrection life and power. See, every verse of the Bible, there is a hidden truth. There's something there that only the spirit of God can unlock. This is not the cleverness of man. This is not a 300 year old commentary. It requires a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit who will unlock truth to us.

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THE HEBREW WORD
SOD IS THE WORD
SECRET OR
MYSTERY.

The book of Revelation. Knock yourself out. Try to read that literally. You've got bugs as big as Volkswagens. You have massive horses that have women's hair, and you've got all these ten-horned beasts. You cannot interpret the book of Revelation literally. You do not worship a lamb on a throne. Sorry to ruin this for you, but folks, there's not a woolly lamb on the throne that we all bow down to, right? It is an emblem. It is a metaphor. It's not meant to be literal. By the way, if you're going to literally worship that lamb, be sure you put seven eyes and 10 horns on him. You just can't. There's portions of the scripture that insist that we go into a deeper level and if we just read them literally, we get silly. We get so confused. How many times have you read the book of Revelation and not understood it? How many different viewpoints are there on that book of Revelation? Yet the Lord has a secret waiting for us. And I hope, my shameless commercial here, I hope you will take that course. Watch it online, The Unveiling, as Jesus Christ is unveiled inside of the last days church.

So, these are the four levels. The Sod level is the deepest level of meaning, and it requires that we get in spirit. The Spirit who wrote the Bible interprets the Bible. If the Holy Spirit inspired the word of God, and He did, only the Holy Spirit can reveal its deepest truths to us. You know, I'm the kind of person that I don't like superficial. I don't like skin deep, shallow. I didn't really learn to swim. I just dove off the high board. That's just how I learned to swim. And, I think there are levels and depths of revelation truth that require we get out of our minds and get into the spirit and let God Himself be our teacher. Can we hear an amen? Those of you in your home watching this, amen.

So, let me introduce the Song of Songs to you. It is the most fascinating, mystical, beautiful story of the journey of the soul. The word Solomon and the word Shulamite is the same Hebrew root word. One is masculine, one is feminine. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him, 1 Corinthians 6:17. We are one spirit with Jesus Christ. Think about that, that there is no distance (that's a myth) between you and Jesus. You are one spirit with Him already. Wherever you are in your life, in your journey with God, you are one spirit with Him. Isn't that exciting? So Solomon and Shulamite, what we're going to see is a beautiful drama, a beautiful story. It's a love story. And someone greater than Solomon...let Him take His place. Let the one who is greater than Solomon, Jesus Himself. Solomon was a king, right? He wasn't a shepherd. And the first appearance we have in the Song of Songs is a man as a shepherd.

So this is not Solomon speaking about himself and having some affair with somebody. You remember Solomon had lots of women. He had lots of wives. Why? I don't know, well, maybe I do, but he had lots of wives and concubines, not a good idea, right? So the Song of Songs is not legitimising one of his adulterous affairs. It is a mystical, beautiful journey of how he wins, woos, and conquers us, driving away fear from our hearts and bringing us into the passion and the fire of His eternal love. I can't wait to share this with you. So excited.

The Hebrew scholars have held this book as the most sacred and glorious portion of the scripture. It's been called the Holy of Holies. It's the song of all songs written from the holy of holies by the king of kings and Lord of Lords to His lovers, you and me. We're the lovers of God that He's writing this book to. See yourself in the shulamite journey. You, my friend, male or female, there is no distinction in Christ, right? Male or female. We must see ourselves as the shulamite. And can I just say a quick word to the men—we're going to have to get over a lot of this stuff, but I have found that true manhood, to be a true man, according to 1 Corinthians 13, is to embrace love. Paul says, when I became a man, I put away childish things, and in the context of First Corinthians 13, "childish things" are loveless attitudes.

When we talk as a child, that is selfishly, we babble to hear our own voice, but when I became a man, Paul writes, meaning, when I embraced love, I put away loveless things. So, my point being to be a real man in God's kingdom is to embrace love and go deeper and farther, further into this love reality than you've ever imagined you would go. God has a plan to make you more loving than you ever thought you would be. Male or female. God has a plan to make you more tender, more loving, more sensitive. We are the bride, male or female. We are the bride that responds to Him, that moves at the impulse of His heart, and we dance with Him. We slow dance with Jesus. How's that? But we become those lovers that are consumed with passion for Him; it's a divine opera. It's not the greatest Song of Solomon; It's the greatest song ever. There's never been a song like this. Where all of our worship ends, this begins. The greatest, most powerful, anointed, beautiful song that tells us things that nobody would ever tell us. Believe me. People don't tell you eight times how lovely you are, and yet in the Song of Songs, eight times He says to you, to me, you're beautiful. How many of know Jesus does not exaggerate?

Oh, how beautiful. Three of the eight, He says, oh, how beautiful. Eight is the number of a new beginning. You're a new beginning, a new creation life. You're the new creation by the kiss of God, He's given you divine breath, divine glory. The DNA is transmitted through a kiss, so the very life of God, the triune glory is imparted to you by a kiss.

I want you to see the Song as one song. This is not a compilation of different cultic, mythical, erotic songs that Solomon decided he'd put it in a hymnbook or something. This is one song. It's one unified, piece of poetry. When you read poetry or you listen to music, there's always multiple meanings to it. There's maybe a double entendre or there is something hidden. There's a message in that poetry, and the literary tool of poetry and nuance, it comes through and it's touches the heart. And so the Song of Songs must be seen as a masterpiece, as the most beautiful piece of art and music ever, ever composed, ever painted on a canvas. This beautiful message of Christ romancing His bride. The fact that we're reading poetry should awaken multiple layers of interpretation. We want every word and every verse to mean one thing, but folks, God, He loves puns, riddles, metaphors, allegories. Jesus taught in parables, and the apostles, they followed suit, and we have perhaps one of the most mystical books in our Bible written by John. And remember, John was a lover. John was the one that described himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. Who wrote the Revelation? A lover,

And who is going to interpret that book? Lovers. I believe the Holy Spirit's waited 2000 years to unveil that book, but I'm teaching Songs of Songs. Forgive me. I just finished translating the book of Revelation, and it's just so ripe in me. If you bump me, revelation spills out, right? So it's a unified compilation, a compilation. It's one unified song, and it's an inspired song included in our Bible. Let me explain what I mean by that. If it's in the heart of our Bible, then it means it must be integrated into the broader message of the Bible, and the broad message of the Bible is spiritual, not natural. It's a transcendent revelation that soars above physical senses and literal interpretations. When he tells the shulamite her teeth are like fluffy sheep, do you really think her mouth is full of wool? No. It is a metaphor, and we'll uncover that. We'll talk about what fluffy sheep coming up from the washing, what that signifies. Now, Solomon was the son of David.

He was in the lineage of the Messiah, and I'm convinced he knew he was receiving revelation about Jesus. He was the wisest man that ever lived. I mean, he was a real wise guy, right? He had wisdom greater than all the wise men of the east, greater than all of the wisest people of the world. There was one man who was given such supernatural wisdom. His name was Solomon. He wrote three books in the Bible. He gave us Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, and Song of Songs. This is the greatest song he composed. He wrote a thousand and five songs. This is the greatest. This hit number one. This was top of the charts.

The title of the book, I believe, shows the masterpiece of it's lyrical creativity. The literal Hebrew translation is the most amazing song of all, the most stupendous, tremendous, transcendent, glorious... I mean, whatever synonym you'd like to choose to fill in the blanks, but it is the greatest song ever composed and to think that we now have it in our Bibles, directly from the holy of holies. That song was sung over you, I believe, the day you were born. I believe it'll be sung over you when you step into eternity. Some even see it as the song of the Lamb. In revelation 15 it mentions two songs. It says the song of Moses, which we have in the Bible, Exodus 15, but it also says the song of the Lamb. Perhaps this is the song of the Lamb. The Lamb's song, of Christ Himself coming forth in us with great power and authority.

Well, this is just the beginning, and I just want to pray as we finish this session, that God will open the eyes of our heart, and that we get into that sod level of truth. Is that okay?

PRAYER

Father God, none of us are smart enough or clever enough to understand a transcendent God who's given us an inspired word. So, help us, Holy Spirit, peel back the layers of our hearts until we are tender enough and loving You enough to be trusted with the great revelation of the song of the ages, the song of all songs. Do a mighty work in every one of our hearts and with those that are watching on this online course. Speak powerfully to them as well. We commit it to You, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes:

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.