

2: A royal wedding – 3:1-5:1

The bride seeks for the love of her soul - 3:1-5

The king carries his bride to Himself - 3:6-11

smoke Exodus 19 incense Ex. 32:34-38 myrrh Ex. 32:22-33

Desire reaches its goal - 4:1-16

Enjoying the fruits of the garden - 4:16-5:1

“my” bride...

“I know my own, and my own know me” John 10:14

Conclusion: help from John Owen 1616-1683

“conjugal affection in this communion
between Christ and believers”

Questions:

1. Read these words from John Owen:

Delight is the flowing of love and joy... Now, Christ delights exceedingly in his saints... The delight of the bridegroom in the day of his espousals is the height of what an expression of delight can be carried unto. This is in Christ answerable to the relation he takes us into. His heart is glad in us, without sorrow. And every day whilst we live is his *wedding-day*... The thoughts of communion with the saints were the joy of his heart from eternity.”

Communion with God, Works, vol. 2, p118

2. How has Christ spoken to you here?

3. What do you think about the idea that all desire finds its true satisfaction in Christ? What happens when you put that idea alongside romantic, sexual and other desires?

To help us further study the Song of Songs

A readable commentary:

Iain M. Duguid, *The Song of Songs* (Tyndale)

A thought-provoking book for personal reflection:

Julian Hardyman, *Jesus, lover of my soul: fresh pathways to spiritual passion* (IVP)

Learning from previous centuries:

Tim Chester, *Meeting Christ in the garden: a devotional of classic writings on the Song of Songs*