

Message Three

**Living in the Divine Romance
to Become Terrible as an Army with Banners**

Scripture Reading: S. S. 1:2-4, 12-14; 2:14-15; 4:7-8, 12-15; 6:4, 10, 13

- I. The Bible is a romance, in the most pure and the most holy sense, of a universal couple—God in Christ as the Bridegroom and God’s redeemed people as the bride—John 3:29; Matt. 25:6; Rev. 19:7; 21:2; 22:17:**
 - A. The Bible is the entire revelation of this divine romance, and Song of Songs is an abridged form of this romance.
 - B. The subject of Song of Songs is the history of love in an excellent marriage, revealing the progressive experience of an individual believer’s loving fellowship with Christ—S. S. 1:2.
- II. The Lord needs the overcomers to carry out the economy of God to have the Body, which consummates the New Jerusalem—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10; 3:9; 1:22-23; Rev. 2:7b; 3:12, 21; 21:2.**
- III. In Song of Songs the lover of Christ overcomes in stages:**
 - A. In the first stage of this book (1:2—2:7), she overcomes the attraction of the world by being captivated by Christ—1:2-4a.
 - B. In the second stage (2:8—3:5) the lover of Christ overcomes the self, which secluded her from the presence of Christ, by becoming one with the cross of Christ.
 - C. In the third stage (3:6—5:1) the lover of Christ overcomes the old creation (the physical things) by living in the ascension of Christ in resurrection after her self has been dealt with by the cross.
 - D. In the fourth stage (5:2—6:13) the lover of Christ overcomes the flesh, the natural man, the old man, by living within the veil; this requires a deeper experience of the cross.
- IV. In the eyes of God the overcoming lover of Christ is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem; however, to the enemy she is as terrible as an army with banners—S. S. 6:4, 10:**
 - A. The lover of Christ is beautiful and comely before the Lord, as solid as the heavenly city and as serene as the sanctuary; at the same time, she displays the glory of her victory before the enemy and the world—v. 4:
 1. Weapons are the most important thing to an army in battle, but unfurled banners, signifying the glory of victory, are the most important thing in victory—Exo. 17:15.
 2. Banners indicate a readiness to fight and are also a sign that the victory has been won—Isa. 59:19.

- B. A life within the veil is not only a life before the Lord but also a life before the enemy—S. S. 6:4; Heb. 10:19; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 6:10-12:
1. God has no intention that the lovers of Christ possess the heavenly beauty without possessing a warring nature—2 Cor. 11:2; 10:4-6.
 2. The overcoming lover of Christ not only has a future that is full of hope and a life that is absolutely heavenly, but she is also a victor who constantly triumphs in her victory—S. S. 3:7-8.
- C. A terrible army signifies that the Lord's overcomers terrify God's enemy, Satan—S. S. 6:4, 10:
1. Satan is afraid of only one kind of people—those who do not love their soul-life—Rev. 12:11.
 2. The enemy is terrified of Bethel, the house of God—Gen. 35:1-5.
 3. The enemy is frightened by the church which is built up as the city of God—Neh. 6:15-16; Psa. 102:12-16.
 4. The demons and the evil angels are terrified of the one new man created by Christ on the cross—Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:14-15.
 5. Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, even if they number in the thousands, but is terrified of the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate warrior fighting against him and his kingdom—Eph. 6:10-20.