

It's time for the Song of the Bride

Houses of Light Church • January 12, 2025 • Netz Gomez, Marcos Brunet, Ilse Marquez

Focus: Song of Songs 2:10-14

How do we respond to times of trouble? What is the Lord inviting us to do in this hour?

- I. In context: The great and terrible day of the Lord.
 - A. We are in a time of both the goodness and the severity of God (Romans 11:22). James tells us that “mercy triumphs over judgement.” The word Mercy comes from the greek: “miseria” = cardia (heart). It means this is the expression of God’s heart over people.
“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” Malachi 4:5-6
 - B. The day of the Lord is great for those who are ready and terrible for those who are not. We are living in times of both high pressure and high presence. Calamity has no respect for social status, no one on the earth gets to look at catastrophes as if they are distant realities, but rather we ought to ask: how can I best prepare to respond?
 1. This is real — every time we sing and pray we are training to step into action. Singing is our compact theology, it can even bypass our logical arguments so the truth about the Lord can reach our hearts and actually change how we behave.
 2. Think about it: What would our lives look like if we fully believed everything we sing? — Sometimes, we don’t need intense academic training, we simply need the willingness to practice what we say we believe.

When we feel worried, overwhelmed, and maybe even powerless in the face of our circumstances, this is the Lord’s invitation over us:

My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away. O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”

Song of Songs 2:10-14

(Context on Song of Songs: It’s a book believed to be written by king Solomon about one of his wives, a peasant that had no place falling in love with royalty. Throughout church history and Jewish history, the poems in this book have been interpreted as poems of love between God and His people. Today, it is often interpreted as a reflection of the loving relationship Jesus desires to have with His bride, the church.)

What does this mean?

- I. It’s time for us to arise!
 - A. “the time of singing has come...” (vs. 12b) — As a generation we are witnessing the earth’s “labor pains” in preparation for the return of Jesus. The Lord is inviting us to arise to be the bride that responds to Him in song. We need to know how to sing in the dark. This is not the moment to be discouraged or afraid, even though it feels like everything is falling apart. Those who learn to sing through the difficult moments will receive comfort and will be a comfort to others.
“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened.” Acts 16:25-26
 - B. “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away...” (vs. 13b) the Lord tells us: “Come and partner with me in what I’m doing.” This is the moment for the salvation of many. It’s time for the church to be a shining light.
“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way,

let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

- C. “Oh my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your face is lovely.” The Lord is saying: “You’ve been in the secret place but now show your face!” This is the moment where we leave the cave to make our voices heard to Him and the world, that we would have a sweet voice! In bitter times the church sings sweetness and wisdom.
- II. Why does God want us to sing?
 - A. Studying effects of singing on human beings shows us that singing has a surprising affect on us! Singing releases endorphins and oxytocin (which are the neurotransmitters that connect the brain with the pleasure center). Singing lowers cortisol levels, which is the stress hormone. Singing also activates the parasympathetic nervous system, which regulates body functions like digestion and heart rate.
 - B. Singing improves our perception of pain — singing when you’re in pain can make your organism redefine pain. My soul and my mind can think: this pain will not end me. When we sing together, the effect is greater! Singing can help us process deep pain.
- III. It’s time for us to sing a new song!
 - A. The Bible repeats the invitation to “sing a new song” 9 times. This is really important! God is preparing a people who know how to interpret what is happening according to His Word and can sing their way through it. When God does a new thing, the church is called to respond with songs. (note: In nature, birds, whales, and insects use songs for territorial defense and attracting mates — to keep away what is not welcome and attract what they long for!)
 - B. The new songs in Scripture teach us what this looks like:
 - 1. Psalm 33 - A song of mercy in a time of death and hunger
 - 2. Psalm 40 - A song of confidence in times of depression
 - 3. Psalm 96 - A song of salvation in a season of bad news
 - 4. Psalm 98 - A song of justice in times of calamity
 - 5. Psalm 144 - A song of victory in the time of war
 - 6. Psalm 149 - A song of worship in a time of affliction
 - 7. Isaiah 42 - A song of glory in times of oppression
 - 8. Revelation 5 - The song of heaven meeting the song on the earth.
 - 9. Revelation 14 - A new song from the redeemed ones.

When we look around our city today, what new song could the Lord possibly be writing?

Take a moment and ask Him. Remember: He is not somewhere far away, watching suffering from a distance, He is in this room and in the brush with firefighters — He is near.

Ask Him: Lord, what song are you inviting me to sing in the midst of these circumstances?

Reflection questions:

- 1. According to this teaching: What is the Lord inviting us to do in this hour?
- 2. Do you think you can be an instrument of comfort and hope for those who are suffering or afraid? why or why not?
- 3. Is there anything about this message you don’t understand or find it difficult to live out? Share it with your group.

Announcements:

- 1. This Wednesday we restart our friendship groups, youth service (holy58), young adult set (YAS). Thank you to everyone who joined us for the week of sanctification! If you don’t have a friendship group you can sign up for one today by talking to one of our team members or logging on to housesoflight.church
- 2. The new semester of School of Discipleship (SOD) and Affirming Your Steps (AYS) starts Monday, Jan. 27th! Sign up today to continue your process of discipleship and growth! - Talk to one of our team members to reserve your spot!