

Overcoming Obstacles on Two Horizons! (Song of Solomon 2:8, 9a)  
GCC, Morning Worship, 4/18/21,  
Series: *Song of Solomon: A Portrait of Love on Two Horizons*

I. **A Two-Horized Hermeneutic for Reading the Song of Solomon**

- A. History of Interpretation
  - 1. Literal Reading
  - 2. Allegorical Reading
- B. Choosing one, at the exclusion of the other, is a false dichotomy
- C. We may read SoS with both lenses (literal and Allegorical)
- D. Example of Marriage Considered from Two Horizons (Eph 5:22–33)

II. **Overcoming Obstacles on the First Horizon**

- A. The Husband Overcomes Obstacles in the Marriage (2:8)
  - 1. He talks the talk AND Walks the Walk
  - 2. He takes dominion in the marriage
  - 3. He overcomes obstacles of apathy and complacency (Phil 2:3–8)
  - 4. He overcomes the obstacle of a cold marriage bed
- B. The Wife Adores, Celebrates and is Proud of the Obstacle-Overcoming Feats of her husband (2:9a)
  - 1. She recognizes, complements, and praises the overcoming activity of her husband
  - 2. The wife is *proud* of her husband and tells him so
  - 3. This is important because woman is the glory of man (1 Cor 11:7) and her praise and adoration of her husband reminds man of his glorious task of taking dominion and overcoming obstacles.

III. **Overcoming Obstacles on the Second Horizon**

- A. Christ is the husband, and the Church is the wife
- B. Behold Him Come (SoS 2:8)—How does he come to us in the “now time?”
  - 1. *Behold him come in the preaching of the Word* (Eph 2:14–17)
  - 2. He comes to you in your justification
  - 3. He comes to you in your sanctification
  - 4. He will one day come to you physically in the glorification of all things.
- C. Behold How Christ has overcome obstacles **in our redemption!**
  - 1. Christ makes impossibilities become possible!
- D. Behold how Christ overcomes obstacles in **the application of our redemption** (i.e., our sanctification)
  - 1. You bring the **impossibility** and Christ will bring the **remedy!** *When you consider all the obstacle-overcoming activity of our Lord, you soon realize that you undervalue his power when it comes to your sanctification.*
  - 2. Allowing Christ to overcome the obstacles in YOUR life is not a matter of “behavior modification,” it is a matter of Beholding the Beloved!” (2 Cor 3:15):

### **Questions for Discussion and Application:**

1. In the history of its interpretation, what are the two ways in which the Song of Solomon (hereafter, SoS) has been read?
2. How should Christians read and understand the marriage relationship in the SoS and why? Can you give a NT example of how marriage is understood in this way?
3. What is meant by reading the SoS on two different horizons?
4. Read SoS 2:8. Note that the wife *both* hears the voice *and* beholds the obstacle-overcoming activity of her beloved. What can husbands learn from this?
5. Discuss some ways in which the husband “takes dominion” in his home and specifically in his marriage relationship.
6. Read Paul’s account of the incarnation of our Lord in Phil 2:3–11. How does Christ’s selfless, emptying disposition for the church motivate husbands to overcome apathy and complacency in their service to their wives?
7. Read SoS 2:9.
  - a. What is the wife doing in this verse?
  - b. Why is the wife’s praise and adoration of the husband so important to the health of the marriage relationship?
8. Read SoS 2:8 and Eph 2:14–17. How does the voice of Christ come to us in the “now time?”
9. SoS 2:8 says that the beloved comes “leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.”
  - a. What do the mountains and the hills represent?
  - b. Discuss some of the “mountainous-obstacles” Christ has overcome in his first coming?
  - c. Discuss some of the “mountainous-obstacles” Christ WILL overcome in his second-coming?
10. What are some ways in which we undervalue Christ’s overcoming activity when we think about the prospect of gaining victory over our besetting sins? How can we overcome this?