

## Purity And Eschatology – Part 2

Song of Solomon 8:8-14



Usually when you think of True love, perhaps the last thing you think of (assuming we know what the word even means) is ESCHATOLOGY. What's love got to do with that?!?

**Eschatology is ultimately about the final RESTORATION of everything; and a big part of that is the final reunion of the BRIDE (which is every Christian) with her true BRIDEGROOM (which is Christ).**

*ESV Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his **Bride** has made herself ready;*

**We are UNITED to Christ by Faith, but yet we must WAIT for the future final reunion, when the New Heavens and the New earth is where all true believers will live forever in the very palatable presence of the Lord.**

*ESV Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **ESV Revelation 21:2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride** adorned for her husband. **ESV Revelation 21:3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **ESV Revelation 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

So, eschatology refers both to the RESTORATION of all things and to the ANTICIPATION of that restoration and the delights of that restoration.

### How eschatology plays out in Song of Solomon.

- The song both **BEGINS** and **ENDS** with **LONGING**. **CF SOS 1:2; 8:13-14** Longing *bookends* the book!

- **WHY?** {While full of some graphic scenes and bad language, the movie *Forest Gump* is @ it's core relationship of Forest and Jenny is pretty much a modern-day update of Hosea and his unfaithful bride Gomer . . . who Hosea never stopped loving and eventually brought her home . . . Forest Gump, “. . . it was the happiest day . . . “ but followed by separation and longing.} Because the song of love is never over! There's an endless cycle in marriage of longing, delight, and more longing. In marriage, we hug, we kiss, we delight in each other, and yet in between those times, our arms are always outstretched toward each other in anticipation and longing. Love endures forever **Cf 1 Corinthians 13:13**
- **What is the eschatology here? It's the tension between the “already” and the “not yet”.** For UNMARRIEDS, the desire for open, intimate relationships has been awakened already, but the message of SOS to the DOJ's is, “NOT YET!” Not until marriage! For married couples, the God-sanctioned physical intimacy that is in marriage has already happened; but in healthy marriages, it is something that is not over yet, but always looked forward to.

This mini-eschatology plays out throughout our lives . . . Marriages ALWAYS involve seasons of bliss as well as hours, days, weeks, months, sometimes years of waiting. Think of a soldier deployed. Eschatology is about LONGING and WAITING, and so is the SOS! Waiting for marriage. As Christians, believers, the bride of Christ, we are waiting for the marriage supper of the lamb.

### **How the Christian life IS very much a life of LONGING and WAITING.**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 40:1** TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID. *I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

<sup>ESV</sup> **Isaiah 40:31** *but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

<sup>ESV</sup> **Titus 2:13** *waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Thessalonians 1:9** *For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 9:28** *so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 8:23** *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly **as we wait eagerly** for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Peter 3:11** *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **waiting for and hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*

So why, in light of the “already” & the “not yet” should longing and waiting NOT be a part of our relationship with the other sex??

### **Whether before or within marriage, waiting is COUNTER-CULTURAL**

- **Where our culture is (and where we all struggle) . . .** A singer-songwriter, Tom Petty, has a knack for timeless lyrics with universal appeal. In 1981, Petty released a song, “The Waiting”

The waiting is the hardest part  
Every day you see one more card  
You take it on faith, you take it to the heart  
The waiting is the hardest part

Some 30 years after its release, this song speaks in a powerful way to our culture. Whether the waiting is waiting in line, waiting in traffic, waiting for food service, or waiting for marriage, WAITING is COUNTER-cultural. And proclaiming waiting as the hardest part resonates deeply. We have been conditioned to have it our way, and right away. 1<sup>st</sup> it was fast food and instant coffee, then it was everything else as well. We have a built-in disdain for waiting {kickstarter with immediate download. . . }

- **Why we need to wait.** Because in the Christian worldview and belief system, PATIENCE is a VIRTUE to be CULTIVATED and DISPLAYED to the world, like a rare plant @ a plant show. So we develop patience. And here are some BENEFITS of patience.
- **Patience builds FAITH and HOPE.** The natural gravitational pull of our lives is to trust in OURSELVES or to trust in OTHERS. That kind of trust feeds and fuels an attitude of IMPATIENCE. We need to think of the delays and pauses in our lives as reminders that our FAITH and TRUST is in the LORD who is working ALWAYS to save us from our self-reliance and to point us to HIM as the object of our faith.
- **Patience can prompt you to PRAY and GIVE THANKS.**

*ESV Romans 12:11-12 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord, rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer;*

A healthy prayer life is cultivated to see the pauses of life and seasons of waiting as opportunities to declare our ongoing dependence on God through prayer. [shoulder rehab... God has HIS timing on my rehab, and the longer I had to wait, the more I realized my limits and need to wait on the Lord to do what needed to be done in my life. Also, there are very few things in life, perhaps NOTHING, that will pass the time as effectively and richly as counting your blessings and naming your blessings to God.

- **Patience should be a reminder to us of the patience of GOD.** God has always been patient with His people . . . Adam, patience in the days of Noah, Abraham, prophets, His people and their sin. Apart from God's patience, we would have no hope. When we show patience before and within marriage, we reflect into our marriage and into society, the image of God. We RE-present a God who is patient.

{Tombstone film clip . . . } Notice the longing . . . Notice how it's not until Wyatt confesses his bankruptcy to his one true Josephine – who he has been separated from for awhile – and declares his undying love, that he discovers the riches he has to draw from. The Clanton Gang (evil) is vanquished, and notice how the couple stayed together through the ups and downs of life b/c their love was true.

The Gospel is, when we confess our spiritual, moral bankruptcy to the Lord and are joined to the Lord by the confession of our faith and love for Him, we are united to our bridegroom who never leaves our side through thin or flush, not just TILL we die, but AFTER we die and enter into glory! One day, evil WILL be vanquished and we will always be with our bridegroom!

And OUT of the strength of our UNION w/our Bridegroom, we live out to a watching world what it means to WAIT. To wait FOR marriage. To wait IN marriage. And give the world and audio-visual of what it means to be PATIENT w/ALL people!