

Reading

Song of Songs 2: 8–10. 14. 16. 8: 6–7

Love is strong as Death.

A reading from the Song of Songs.

- 8 I hear my Beloved.
See how he comes
leaping on the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
- 9 My Beloved is like a gazelle,
like a young stag.
See where he stands
behind our wall.
He looks in at the window,
he peers through the lattice.
- 10 My Beloved lifts up his voice,
he says to me,
'Come then, my love,
my lovely one, come.
- 14 My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock.
In the coverts of the cliff, show me your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet
and your face is beautiful.'
- 16 My beloved is mine and I am his.
- 8:6 Set me like a seal on your heart,
like a seal on your arm.
For love is strong as Death,
jealousy relentless as Sheol.
The flash of it is a flash of fire,
a flame of the Lord himself.
- 7 Love no flood can quench,
no torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.

Looking at the Text

O-7 Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a
Love is as strong as Death.

The Song of Songs

This is a book about love — pursuing love, finding love, abandoning ourselves to the loved one, expressing love. It encourages wholehearted self-giving and passion. It can also remind us that God seeks us with a tender and zealous love too.

Reflecting on Scripture together

Use the 'Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way' in the introduction 'Choosing your Wedding readings'.

Further Reflection

Following the 'slow reading' process, here are some questions for further reflection:

- When you have shared the words or phrases that caught your attention in this beautiful love poem, perhaps you might talk about your own lives together. What is the place of romantic love and sexual love in your own relationship?
- Go back to the beginning. How did you meet? What attracted you to one another? How did your love for one another begin and what has helped it grow? How are you going to sustain the romance and love-making in your marriage when you both have busy lives?