

FOREWORD

These notes on the Song of Solomon - the result of considerable research - are purposely oriented toward what we are sometimes prone to call, "the Harvest Message," as it was proclaimed by that "wise and faithful servant" (Matt. 24:45), the Laodicean Messenger (Rev. 3:14), Bro. Chas. T. Russell. We found, however, that he had written very little on the Song of Solomon; and we wondered, "Why?" It seems to us now, that it was because of the fact that the period subsequent to the 1914/1915 date, is by way of inspiration, reflected therein! It will be recalled that for some time, based on certain parallels, it had been expected that not only would the "Times of the Gentiles" end then, but that the Church would be glorified at the same time. But, before that date had fully arrived, Bro. Russell already saw that while the Gentile times would then end, it would not also be the time for the glorification of the Church. (See R:5449.2,4) What he did not know was that the Church would be here for a considerably longer period than he had anticipated. This period, we believe, is by way of inspiration, reflected in the Song! The disappointment served its purpose, for it "weeded out" some; but the true Church, the "espoused virgin" class, did not become alarmed, since it was evident that the heavenly Bridegroom was not disturbed; for it seemed that He felt it was more important, at this time, to make His "fairest among women," His bride, the Lamb's Wife! (Compare Cant. 2:8, 9, 17, with Cant. 4:8)

And, while it is true that for the elect's sake "those days should be shortened" (Matt. 24:22), this will not be at the expense of the "espoused virgin" class, that is still endeavoring to make their "calling and election sure." (2 Pet. 1:10) Surely, we are thankful for this seeming extension of time. Let us strive, dear friends, to make the very most of it!

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