

SONG OF SOLOMON

Author: Solomon

Date: Approximately 960 B.C.

The Song of Solomon (also called Song of Songs) is a song rich in description and imagery. This unique book is a moving love story about a young country girl and her beloved. In delicate poetry, the lovers express intense passion and deep longing for each other. The young woman compares her love for her husband to the anticipation of a frantic search, while her beloved likens his bride's beauty to picturesque gardens and delicious fruit. Yet even in this eloquent expression of the passion between a bride and a bridegroom, there is an exhortation to remain sexually pure before marriage. In this way, the book celebrates human sexuality within the context of marriage.

The book is arranged like scenes like in an opera with three main characters: the Shulammitte bride, her beloved, and a chorus (the daughters of Jerusalem). This mini-opera describes Solomon's love for a Shulammitte girl. He comes in disguise to her family's vineyard, wins her heart, and ultimately makes her his bride. The joys of love in courtship and in marriage are portrayed.

Jewish tradition considers the book a product of Solomon's early years, before his excessive multiplying of wives and concubines. The experiences recorded in this book may reflect the only true romance of his life.

Many scholars think that this song is more than just a literal story about married love. Some say it is an allegory of God's love for Israel and symbolic of Christ's love for the church. Others say this is simple love poetry and is not necessarily in chronological order.

Theme: Love is a beautiful gift from God. On one level, we learn about love, marriage and sex. On another level, we see God's overwhelming love for His people.

Key verse: *"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine."* (6:3 ESV).

OUTLINE

- I. The Engagement (1:1—3:5)
- II. The Procession for the Wedding (3:6-11)
- III. The Consummation of the Marriage (4:1—5:1)
- IV. The Honeymoon is Over (5:2—6:13)
- V. The Marriage Deepens (7:1—8:7)
- VI. Conclusion (8:8-14)

Application: *Song of Solomon is a wedding song honoring marriage. The purity and sacredness of love represented here are greatly needed in our day where distorted attitudes about love and marriage are commonplace. God created sex and intimacy, and they are holy and good when enjoyed within the bounds of marriage. A husband and a wife honor God when they love and enjoy each other. All loving, committed marriages reflect God's love. As you read the Song of Solomon, remember that you are loved by God, and commit yourself to seeing life, sex, and marriage from His point of view.*