

Book of Song of Solomon

Study BIBLE



Introduction

Book No	22
Name	Song of Solomon
Written By	Solomon
Testament	Old
Category	Wisdom
Date Written	Approx. 970 - 930 BC
Place Written	Jerusalem
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To tell of the love between a bridegroom (King Solomon) and his bride, to affirm the sanctity of marriage, and to picture God's love for his people
History Covered	NA
Chapters	8
Verses	117
Key Verse	I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies. (6:3)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Solomon ❖ Young woman
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jerusalem ❖ Shunem

Purpose of the Book

The Song is a constant goad to drifting marriages with its challenge to seek for openness, growth, and joyous relationship. It also makes an excellent premarital manual. As a biblical archetype it can bring healing to the core of our being with its hope of covenant love as it reshapes our marriages. Its portrayal of the covenant love relationship also has application to the covenant love relationship enjoyed by God's church. In this regard, the Song can be rich in symbolism but should not be read as an arbitrary allegory with mysterious meanings supplied by the whim of the reader; rather, any such personal application of one's love relationship with Christ should be interpreted with solid application, using *obvious* biblical parallels.

God thinks sex is important, and Scripture contains numerous guidelines for its use and warnings about its misuse. And sex is always mentioned in the context of a loving relationship between husband and wife. Perhaps the highlight of this is Song of Songs, the intimate story of a man and a woman, their love, courtship, and marriage. Solomon probably wrote this "song" in his youth, before being overtaken by his own obsession with women, sex, and pleasure.

A moving story, drama, and poem, Song of Songs features the love dialogue between a simple Jewish maiden (the young woman) and her lover (Solomon, the king). They describe in intimate detail their feelings for each other and their longings to be together. Throughout the dialogue, sex and marriage are put in their proper, God-given perspective.

There has been much debate over the meaning of this song. Some say it is an allegory of God's love for Israel and/or for the church. Others say it is a literal story about married love. But in reality, it is both—a historical story with two layers of meaning. On one level, we learn about love, marriage, and sex; and on the other level, we see God's overwhelming love for his people. As you read Song of Songs, remember that you are loved by God, and commit yourself to seeing life, sex, and marriage from his point of view.

Overview

- ❖ 22nd book of the BIBLE, Old Testament and 5th of the 5 wisdom or poetic books
- ❖ Solomon is mentioned 7 times in the book.
- ❖ Song of Solomon:

- Is a love song.
- Abounds in:
 - Metaphors
 - Oriental imagery.
- ❖ The book is arranged like scenes in a drama.
- ❖ There are three main speakers in the book.
 - The bride (a Shulamite girl)
 - The king (Solomon)
 - A chorus (daughters of Jerusalem)
- ❖ By the time of Song of Solomon, Solomon's harem had:
 - 700 queens
 - 300 concubines
 - 640 more queens to be chosen
 - 220 more concubines to be chosen
- ❖ Song of Solomon depicts:
 - The wooing and wedding of a shepherdess by King Solomon.
 - The joys and heartaches of a shepherdess by King Solomon.
- ❖ Although Solomon knew 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:32), song of Solomon is considered the greatest.
- ❖ Song of Solomon alludes to:
 - 21 species of plants
 - 15 species of animals
- ❖ Song of Solomon refers to 15 geographical locations from Lebanon in the north to Egypt in the south.
 - Kedar (1:5)
 - Senir (4:8)
 - Egypt (1:9)
 - Hermon (4:8)
 - En Gedi (1:14)
 - Tizrah (6:4)
 - Sharon (2:1)
 - Heshbon (7:4)
 - Jerusalem (2:7)
 - Damascus (7:4)

- Lebanon (3:9)
 - Carmel (7:5)
 - Mount Gilead (4:1)
 - Baal-Hamon (8:11)
 - Amana (4:8)
- ❖ “Shulamite” may have been derived from the town of Shunem, located southwest of the Sea of Galilee in the land assigned to Issachar.
 - ❖ 49 words appear in Song of Solomon that are not to be found anywhere else in the Bible.
 - ❖ Song of Solomon is a book about the love of a man and a woman and its dimensions of:
 - Attraction
 - Union
 - Desire
 - Separation
 - Companionship
 - Faithfulness
 - Pleasure
 - Praise

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Song of Solomon

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

In the Song of Solomon, as in other parts of the Bible, the Garden of Eden, the Promised Land, the tabernacle with its ark of the covenant, the temple of Solomon, the new heavens and the new earth are all related to Jesus Christ, so it is not a matter of merely choosing a few verses that prophesy of Christ.

The very essence of covenant history and covenant love is reproduced in Him (Luke 24:27; 2 Cor. 1:20).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

According to Romans 5:5, “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” On the basis of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is the bond and the binding

power of love. The joyous oneness revealed in the Song is inconceivable apart from the Holy Spirit. The very form of the book as song and symbol is especially adapted to the Spirit, for He Himself uses dreams, picturelanguage, and singing (Acts 2:17; Eph. 5:18, 19). A subtle wordplay based on the divine “breathing” of the breath of life (the Holy Spirit, Ps. 104:29, 30) in Genesis 2:7 seems to surface in the Song. It shows up in the “break” or breathing of the day (2:17; 4:6), in the “blowing” of the wind on the Shulamite’s garden (4:16), and surprisingly in the fragrant scent and fruit of the apple tree (7:8).

Mega Themes of Song of Solomon

SEX

Sex is God’s gift to his creatures. He endorses sex but restricts its expression to those committed to each other in marriage.

God wants sex to be motivated by love and commitment, not lust. It is for mutual pleasure, not selfish enjoyment.

LOVE

As the relationship developed, the beauty and wonder of a romance unfolded between Solomon and his bride. The intense power of love affected the hearts, minds, and bodies of the two lovers.

Because love is such a powerful expression of feeling and commitment between two people, it is not to be regarded casually. We are not to manipulate others into loving us, and love should not be prematurely encouraged in a relationship.

COMMITMENT

The power of love requires more than the language of feeling to protect it. Sexual expression is such an integral part of our selfhood that we need the boundary of marriage to safeguard our love. Marriage is the celebration of daily commitment to each other.

While romance keeps a marriage interesting, commitment keeps romance from dwindling away. The decision to commit yourself to your spouse alone begins at the marriage altar. It must be maintained day by day.

BEAUTY

The two lovers praise the beauty they see in each other. The language they use shows

the spontaneity and mystery of love. Praise should not be limited to physical beauty; beautiful personality and moral purity should also be praised.

Our love for someone makes him or her appear beautiful to us. As you consider marriage, don't just look for physical attractiveness in a person. Look for the inner qualities that don't fade with time—spiritual commitment, integrity, sensitivity, and sincerity.

PROBLEMS

Over time, feelings of loneliness, indifference, and isolation came between Solomon and his bride. During those times, love grew cold, and barriers were raised.

Through careful communication, lovers can be reconciled, commitment can be renewed, and romance refreshed. Don't let walls come between you and your partner. Take care of problems while they are still small.

Life Lessons in Song of Solomon

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing a Godly Marriage</p> <p>Faithfulness, verbal affirmation, friendship, romantic getaways, working through conflict, and availability are but a few of the keys given in the Song of Solomon to building a godly marriage.</p> <p>It is not Solomon's life we are to examine for instruction in a godly marriage. However, this Song—God's inspired picture of what a godly, loving marriage can be—invites us to reach toward it wholeheartedly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Move from the mind-set of “me” and “mine” to “we” and “ours.” When two become one flesh, their union is mental and emotional, as well as physical. Work at becoming one in all aspects of life together (Gen. 2:23, 24). ❖ Recognize that conflict and misunderstanding can arise over the issue of being sexually available to one another. Talk through any conflict. ❖ Do not give each other the “silent treatment” or run from the problem. Work toward a loving compromise that is pleasing for both of you (1 Cor. 7:5). ❖ Verbally express your love to your marriage partner in positive and creative ways.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Work to remain friends with your marriage partner. One of the great gifts of marriage is to be both best friends and lovers. ❖ Intentionally plan time to get away together. ❖ Remain faithful to your spouse. Guard vigilantly your thoughts, emotions, and actions, and aggressively resist temptation. Keep your seal, your word, and your promise of enduring love unbroken as long as you both are living.
<p>Cultivating a Devoted Marriage</p> <p>Love between a man and a woman flourishes in its highest form and reaches its greatest potential within the bonds of God’s covenant of marriage.</p> <p>In pure and candid language, the Song instructs, expounds, and extols the love between a husband and a wife. By the mere inclusion of the Song in the Bible, God makes a strong statement that sexual intimacy is not a lower or base instinct to be suppressed or overcome.</p> <p>Rather, His intention is for sexual intimacy within marriage to be fulfilling, passionate, and exciting. The Song can instruct couples in every phase of marriage from the newly wed to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that physical desire for your spouse is entirely appropriate. ❖ Be free in your physical expression of love to your spouse. These verses express only some of the ways in which the Song illustrates the joy, freedom, and excitement of sexual intimacy within the God-given covenant of marriage. ❖ Eat and drink deeply at the banquet of love. ❖ Enjoy and allow physical love to nourish you and your marriage. ❖ Embrace one another freely, tenderly, and lovingly. ❖ Intimacy reaches its greatest expression in marriage as a husband and wife embrace each other without barriers between them. ❖ Learn to speak the language of love. Build up each other verbally; it will cause each of you to be more secure in your relationship and improve your love life.

<p>those whose marriage has passed the half-century mark.</p>	
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>God calls us to pursue holiness in every area of our lives. Our culture today, however, exerts tremendous pressure to throw away moral biblical standards in relationships. The Song brings a refreshing look at the need to maintain sexual purity before marriage.</p> <p>Following this godly standard of purity before marriage enables us to enjoy the greatest possible sexual fulfillment, health, and freedom in marriage.</p> <p>Sex is God’s gift that is to be cherished and kept until our wedding day when it can be opened and fully enjoyed for a lifetime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Refuse and abstain from any sexual involvement before marriage. Avoid situations and activities that might arouse or awaken sexual desire before marriage. Be wise! God created sex to be wonderfully fulfilling only within the secure relationship of marriage. ❖ Keep yourself sexually pure for your wedding day. Your virginity is a gift you can only give once. Reserve it for your husband or wife alone. If it is too late for that, ask God to forgive you, purify you, and redeem what has been lost. Ask your fiancée or spouse for their forgiveness, too. Seek godly counsel, if needed, to work through this potentially difficult issue. Pray together, and ask the Lord to restore and heal your relationship. ❖ Christian families, get involved in the development of your children’s views and choices about sexual morality. Parents, instruct your children in godly relationships, sexual morality, and the God-given gift of sex within marriage. ❖ Encourage and support sexual purity and virginity in order to help build defenses that will close the door to cultural seduction to immorality.
<p>Advice to dating couples</p> <p>Using courtship to maximum advantage minimizes difficulties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ understand that it is of the utmost importance that we learn to know and accept our intended spouse as he/she is

<p>in marriage. Many couples enter marriage unprepared to deal with the things they will face. Though brief and indirect the advice given by Solomon and the Shunamite should be heeded by those preparing for marriage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ accept as wrong thinking any hidden plans to changer that person ❖ know it is better not to follow through with the plans for marriage than to marry one you can not accept as he/she is ❖ take time to identify and resolve potential problems to your marriage. Face them honestly and candidly ❖ Determine to build a strong un breakable commitment to each other in your marriage
---	---

Praise Points in Song of Solomon

- ❖ His creation of man and woman in his own likeness (2:1-4)
- ❖ The intimacy and warmth of his love for his people (2:10-14)
- ❖ The capacity to feel deeply and to experience tenderness in relationships (4:1-15)
- ❖ The joys of christian marriage (7:1–8:3).

Worship Insights in Song of Solomon

- ❖ The love between a man and woman can be a reflection of God's faithful love for us (1:2).
- ❖ The public ceremony of a wedding invites the community to share in the happiness of the union God has blessed (3:11).
- ❖ Love is as strong as death: In Jesus, God's love for us overpowered the grave (8:6).

An Outline of Song of Solomon

Title: The Royal Relationship: [Son_1:1](#)

Poem I. Longing and Discovery: Son. 1:2-2:7

- A. Song of Yearning for the Absent Lover (Beloved): [Son_1:2-4](#)
- B. Self-description of Modesty (Beloved): [Son_1:5-6](#)
- C. Teasing Dialogue Imaginatively Seeking an Encounter (Be loved; Lover):
[Son_1:7-8](#)
- D. Song Admiring Her Worth and Beauty (Lover): [Son_1:9-11](#)
- E. Song of Admiration in Reply (Beloved): [Son_1:12-14](#)
- F. Song of Admiration in Dialogue (Lover; Beloved; Lover; Be loved): Son. 1:15-

2:4

G. Song of Yearning for Intimacy (Beloved): [Son_2:5-6](#)

H. Call for Patience with Love's Course (Beloved): [Son_2:7](#)

Poem II. Invitation, Suspense, Response: Son. 2:8-3:5

A. Description of the Lover's Approach and Invitation (Be loved): [Son_2:8-14](#)

B. Teasing Response Turned Serious by Affirmation of Mutual Possession (Beloved): [Son_2:15-16](#)

C. Invitation to Intimacy (Beloved): [Son_2:17](#)

D. Description of Frustration and Fulfillment (Beloved): [Son_3:1-4](#)

E. Call for Patience with Love's Course (Beloved): [Son_3:5](#)

Poem III. Ceremony and Satisfaction: Son. 3:6-5:1

A. Dramatic and Admiring Description of the Groom's Arrival (Beloved):
[Son_3:6-11](#)

B. Description of the Bride's Beauty: (Lover): [Son_4:1-7](#)

C. Invitation Song to Bride (Lover): [Son_4:8](#)

D. Admiration Song to Bride (Lover): [Son_4:9-15](#)

E. Invitation Song to Groom (Beloved): [Son_4:16](#)

F. Song of Eager Response (Lover): [Son_5:1](#)

G. Song of Encouragement (Daughters of Jerusalem): [Son_5:1](#)

Poem IV. Frustration and Delight: Son. 5:2-6:3

A. Report of a Vexing Dream (Beloved): [Son_5:2-7](#)

B. Call for Urgent Help (Beloved): [Son_5:8](#)

C. Teasing Question (Daughters of Jerusalem): [Son_5:9](#)

D. Description of Lover's Beauty (Beloved): [Son_5:10-16](#)

E. Teasing Question (Daughters of Jerusalem): [Son_6:1](#)

F. Response of Delight and Commitment (Beloved): [Son_6:2-3](#)

Poem V. Pomp and Celebration: Son. 6:4-8:4

A. A Descriptive Song with Touches of a Boast (Lover): [Son_6:4-10](#)

B. A Fantasy Experience of Separation (Beloved): [Son_6:11-12](#)

C. A Plea to Return (Daughters of Jerusalem): [Son_6:13](#)

D. A Teasing Reply in Question Form (Beloved): [Son_6:13](#)

E. A Description of the Dancing Woman (Daughters of Jerusalem): [Son_7:1-5](#)

F. A Yearning Song for Intimacy (Lover): [Son_7:6-9](#)

G. An Invitation to Fulfillment (Beloved): [Son. 7:10-8:3](#)

H. A Call for Patience with Love's Course (Beloved): [Son_8:4](#)

Poem VI. Passion and Commitment: [Son_8:5-14](#)

A. A Question Signaling the Couples' Return (Daughters of Jerusalem): [Son_8:5](#)

B. A Seductive Reminder of Love's Continuity (Beloved): [Son_8:5](#)

C. A Yearning Song of Chastity (Beloved): [Son_8:6-7](#)

D. A Test of Chastity (Beloved, speaking for her brothers): [Son_8:8-10](#)

E. A Boast of Chastity (Beloved): [Son_8:11-12](#)

F. A Yearning Song to Hear Her Voice (Lover): [Son_8:13](#)

G. An Invitation Song to Take His Fill of Love (Beloved): [Son_8:14](#)