

The Song of Solomon

THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Introduction:

1. Solomon was blessed by God with great wisdom (1 Kings 3:12).
2. As a result, the nation of Israel experienced its greatest period of growth, peace, and prosperity (1 Kings 4:20-25).
3. During this time, Solomon was able to record his wisdom in 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:32-34).
4. The greatest of all these songs – and the only one that remains available today – is the Song of Solomon.

I. Background

- A. Author – Solomon
- B. Title – The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s
 1. The Hebrew Old Testament called it “The Song of Songs.”
 2. The Latin Vulgate translated this as *Canticum Canticorum* – thus, the book is sometimes called “Canticles.”
 3. The KJV and most other English versions title it “The Song of Solomon.”
- C. Date – around 980 – 970 BC
 1. Clearly, it was written during the early days of Solomon’s reign.
 2. It may be in reference to his first love and his first marriage.
- D. Characters
 1. Solomon
 2. Maiden of Lebanon who becomes his wife
 3. Chorus of women who praise the new queen
- E. Theme – Love
 1. Job addresses suffering.
 2. Psalms focuses on worship.
 3. Proverbs deals with wisdom.
 4. Ecclesiastes explores the meaning of life.
 5. Song of Solomon explains love.
 - a. The nature of true love
 - b. The power of true love
 - c. The meaning given to life by true love
- F. Style – Poetic
 1. It is not an allegory, parable, or type.
 2. It is not a drama nor a collection of random poetry.
- G. Outline
 1. 1:1 – 3:5 – Courtship
 2. 3:6 – 5:1 – Marriage and Honeymoon
 3. 5:2 – 8:14 – Marriage Difficulty, Resolution, and Growth

II. The Courtship of the Young Couple

(1:1 – 3:5)

- A. This first section of the book is made up of the bride’s description of and feeling toward her groom.
- B. 1:5-6 – Lessons about true love
 1. True love is not based upon physical appearance.
 2. True love is manifested in service.
 3. True love is demonstrated by sacrifice.
- C. 2:1-3 – True love creates devotion when one sees what others cannot.

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- D. 2:10-13; 3:1-4 – True love desires companionship.
 - E. When choosing a spouse, true love should be the guide and the goal.
- III. The Marriage and the Honeymoon (3:6 – 5:1)
- A. 3:6-11 – The King’s procession to claim his bride
 - B. 4:1-7 – The King describes his bride’s beauty
 - C. 4:8-9 – The King’s proposal
 - D. 4:12 – The bride’s purity praised
 - E. 4:16 – 5:1 – The two become one
 - 1. Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 13:4
 - 2. The marriage relationship is sacred and holy.
- IV. The Union Tested and Strengthened (5:2 – 8:14)
- A. 5:2 – 6:2 – The bride has a dream that disturbs her; she feels separated from her husband.
 - B. 6:3 – In the end, she concludes that they are still one.
 - C. 6:4 – 7:9 – The King describe the beauty of his bride and his love for her.
 - D. 7:10 – She is satisfied that their love has not faded.
 - E. 7:11 – 8:4 – She seeks the continual companionship of her husband.
 - F. 8:5-14 – A picture of true love in marriage
 - 1. 8:6 – A seal upon the heart and the arm – undivided, unending love
 - 2. 8:6 – True married love is exclusive
 - 3. 8:6 – The very flame of Jehovah
 - 4. 8:7 – True love is unquenchable
 - 5. 8:7 – True love is priceless, beyond measure

Conclusion: Ephesians 5:22-33