

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 22 – “*Song of Songs*” AKA “*Song of Solomon*”
November 11, 2007

This is the last of the five poetic books of the Old Testament—Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

The book’s authorship and the title are given in 1:1 – “*Solomon’s Song of Songs*”

It’s believed that Solomon was a fairly young man when he wrote Song of Songs. It’s the first of three Bible books he authored. (He penned Proverbs during his middle-aged years and Ecclesiastes during his twilight years.)

The Song of Solomon is a passionate, personal love letter. (There was an old Jewish belief that it should not be studied by anyone under the age of 30.)

The book is lyrical and poetic, like a beautiful love song. (Solomon wrote some 1005 songs according to I Kings 4:32.)

During his lifetime, Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 3:1, 11:1-3). Many of his marriages were merely political alliances. At the time he wrote Song of Songs, Solomon already had several of these women in his life (Song of Songs 1:9, 6:8). Song of Songs was written to a Shulamite maiden, perhaps the first woman Solomon ever really loved, or the woman he loved above all others.

An Outline of Solomon’s Song of Songs

Chapters 1-2	The <u>Courtship</u>
Chapters 3-6	The Wedding and <u>Honeymoon</u>
Chapters 7-8	The <u>Early</u> Days of Marriage

This book is a running dialogue between a bride and groom. (“Beloved” is the bride. “Lover” is the groom.)

Some interpreters see a third major character, not just two—(a) The Beloved, (b) Her shepherd lover, and (c) Solomon, the king who wooed her away. There is no problem with the two-person view, however, in that King Solomon also can be regarded as a “shepherd” in that he owned many flocks.)

What is this steamy personal love letter doing in the Bible, preserved for the whole world to see? God must have had a reason for it. The contents of this letter obviously were intended for our instruction and our benefit.

How then are we to interpret this unusual book?

1. **Spiritually/ allegorically**

- It provides a prophetic view of Christ and His church. (Solomon is Christ. The Bride is the Church) Ephesians 5:26-27
- It provides a picture of the relationship between Christ and an individual believer. Song of Solomon 2:1, 4; 5:10
- It provides a picture of God's relationship to Israel. (Like the love of the prophet Hosea for his unfaithful wife Gomer.)

2. **Literally**

Song of Solomon is a beautiful picture of marital love between one man and one woman as God intended for it to be.

What does this book teach us about marriage?

In his back-and-forth dialogue between a husband and wife, we discover...

5 Qualities Essential to a Healthy Growing Marriage:

1. Communication. 1:2-4, 4:9-10
2. Cultivation. 4:1-7, 5:10-16
3. Confidence. 8:6-7a
4. Companionship. 7:11-13
5. Commitment. 6:3, 7:10

According to the Bible, love is more than a feeling. It involves commitment. This is the strong foundation upon which you build a home, a marriage, and a family.