



Song of Solomon

*My beloved is mine,
and I am his...*

SS 2:16

Song of Solomon

The Book

- *“Song of songs”*
- *“Canticles” from the Latin*
- *Value of the studying the book:*
 - *Scripture*
 - *Beautiful language, just enough. Intimacy does not need to be tawdry, salacious. Stephen called “Implicit, not explicit”.*

Song of Solomon

The Interpretation

- *Is it allegorical or is it historical?*
 - *No reference in the N.T.*
 - *No direct instruction as in Hosea*
 - *Marriage as an allegory of Christ and His church*
(Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 21:2)
- *Real story, real characters, real love*

Song of Solomon

The Beauty of the Book

1. *Who is, most likely, the author of the book?*
 - *Little serious objection to Solomon as the author*
 - *Mentioned by name seven times (1:1, 5; 3:7, 9, 11; 8:11, 12)*

Song of Solomon

The Beauty of the Book

2. List the characters or possible characters you see in the story.

- *Two main interpretations:*
 - 1. Solomon and the Shulamite*
 - 2. Shulamite, the beloved (shepherd), Solomon*
- *Some also see a chorus or “daughters of Jerusalem”, as well as a speaker or narrator*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

3. As the song begins, of what is the Shulamite girl thinking?

- The kisses of her beloved*
- His cologne*
- Being led to his chambers*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

4. *What effect do the two have on one another? (4:9; 5:4)*
- *4:9... “You have made my heart beat faster, my sister, my bride; You have made my heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes, with a single strand of your necklace.”*
 - *5:4... “My beloved extended his hand through the opening, and my feelings were aroused for him.”*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

5. *Twice she describes herself as “lovesick”. (2:5; 5:8)*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

6. Contrast her misgivings of herself with his reassurances of how she appears to him?

a) 1:5-6, 8-10

- She is self-conscious... “dark” (swarthy, burnt) from her outdoor labors.
- He refers to her as “Most beautiful among women”

b) 2:1-2

- She thinks herself common, a “lily of the valleys”.
- He sees her as a “lily among thorns”, darling among maidens

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

7. Consider the anticipation of their time together in each passage.

a) 2:6; 8:3

- She longed for the time they could be together*
- Along with anticipation was self-control.*
 - 2:7 and 8:4 - “Do not awaken love...”*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

7. Consider the anticipation of their time together in each passage.

b) In 2:14, as she imagines him speaking to her.

- Even in separation, she imagines his desire to see her, his voice, and his compliments*
 - “My darling, my beautiful one” (v. 10, 13)*
 - “Let me see your form... it is lovely”*
 - “Let me hear your voice... it is sweet”*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

7. Consider the anticipation of their time together in each passage.

c) He in 4:10-15.

- She is better to him than any of the finest food and drink, spices and fragrances, the choicest fruit.*

Song of Solomon

Romance/Anticipation

7. Consider the anticipation of their time together in each passage.

d) As they call to one another at the close in 8:13-14.

- Anxiously awaiting their time together.*
- “Listening for your voice... Let me hear it”*
- “Hurry, my beloved”*

Song of Solomon

Mutual love, admiration, and commitment

8. *Consider the mutual compliments.*

a) *Speaking of each other (1:15-16).*

- *“How beautiful you are, my darling, how beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves. (v. 15)*
- *How handsome you are, my beloved, and so pleasant.” (v. 16)*

Song of Solomon

Mutual love, admiration, and commitment

8. Consider the mutual compliments.

b) She speaking of him:

- 1:7a; 3:1, 4
 - “Whom my soul loves”
- 2:3
 - “An apple trees among the trees of the forest”
- 2:9; 8:14
 - “Gazelle or young stag”
- 5:10
 - “Dazzling, ruddy, outstanding outstanding among ten thousand”

Song of Solomon

Mutual love, admiration, and commitment

8. Consider the mutual compliments.

c) *He speaking of her:*

- 4:7

- *“Altogether beautiful... no blemish”*

- 6:5a

- *Even a glance overwhelms him*

- 6:8-9

- *Unique among all others*

Song of Solomon

Mutual love, admiration, and commitment

9. How does she describe their mutual commitment to one another? (2:16; 6:3; 7:10)

- 2:16 - "My beloved is mine, and I am his"*
- 6:3 - "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"*
- 7:10 - "I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me"*
- 8:6-7 - "Set me as a seal... Love is as strong as death"*

Song of Solomon

Chastity before marriage

10. How has she behaved in anticipation of giving herself fully and wholly to him, and how does that make him feel?

(4:12; 7:13b; 8:10-12b)

- 4:12 - “A garden locked... a spring sealed up”*
- 7:13 - “Which I have saved up for you”*
- 8:10 - “A wall”*
- 8:12 - A vineyard maintained and valuable*

Song of Solomon

Chastity before marriage

10. How has she behaved in anticipation of giving herself fully and wholly to him, and how does that make him feel? (4:12; 7:13b; 8:10-12b)

- 2:15 - “Catch the foxes” that would spoil the fruit*
- 2:7; 8:4 - “Do not awaken love...”*
- It is obvious throughout that Solomon feels special and privileged because she has maintained her chastity. She is all the more desirable to him as a pure and chaste bride.*

Song of Solomon

Chastity before marriage

- *Without shame*
- *Surrender accepted, even expected*
- *“Innocence of youth” lost*

Song of Solomon

Sexual fulfillment in the proper setting

11. Consider the obvious references in the song to the couples physical attractions and consummation of their love. What are the lessons for us? List any other supporting scriptures.

- Gen. 2:25; Mt. 19:4-6 - One flesh, unashamed, joined and ordained by God*
- Gen. 9:7 - Be fruitful and multiply*
- 1 Cor. 6:15-7:5; Heb. 13:4 - The proper place for intimacy*