

THE WRITINGS OF SOLOMON

The writings of Solomon will be studied in the order in which they probably were written? The Song of Solomon, in his youth; Proverbs in the prime of his life; and Ecclesiastes, in his old age.

THE SONG OF SOLOMON: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

In this first study of the Song of Solomon, seek to get an over-all picture of the book in its historical setting. Later, we will study its significance for us today:

A. The Main Characters of the Song:

1. Who is the first main character mentioned? Song of Solomon 1:1

 2. With whom is he speaking? Song of Solomon 6:13

 3. What position did she have in Solomon's affections, compared with all the other women he knew? Song of Solomon 6:8-9

 4. There are differences of opinion as to just who this bride of Solomon was. What is one possibility? 1 Kings 3:1

 5. Another possibility is that she was Abishag the Shunamite, whom Solomon refused to give to his brother after the death of his father. (See 1 Kings 1:2-4, 2:21-24.) However, it is not definitely known that Solomon married this girl.

1. In addition to these two main characters, several minor characters appear in this Song. Notice especially the "daughters of Jerusalem", to whom the bride speaks several times: 1:5, 2:7, 3:5, 5:8, 16, 8:4.

B. The Main Figures of Speech in the Song:

1. In what different roles is the bride pictured in this Song? Song of Solomon 1:6, 1:8, 7:1

2. In what different roles is the groom pictured? Song of Solomon 1:4, 1:12, 3:9, 11, 1:7

C. The Main Form of the Song:

1. How many songs did Solomon write? I Kings 4:32b

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2. Notice that this Song is called “the Song of Songs”, which is a Hebrew expression similar to “the Holy of Holies”. If the Holy of Holies is the Most Holy Place of the temple, then what does this expression show about this Song?

3. Although this Song is divided into 8 chapters in our Bible, it was originally divided into five parts, or songs. Mark and number these five divisions in the margin of your Bible: (1) 1:1 - 2:7; (2) 2:8 - 3:5; (3) 3:6 - 5:1; (4) 5:2 - 8:4; (5) 8:5 - 14.

4. Notice what words occur at the end of three of these divisions: Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, and 8:4. What underlined word on page 10 would describe these verses?

5. Notice that the whole Song is written in the words of the main characters mentioned above. Most of it is a dialogue between the bride and the groom. Read through the entire 8 chapters, marking the speaker’s name in the margin of your Bible every time you think the speaker changes, using pencil, so that corrections may be made in class. This is probably the best way to understand the meaning of the Song. Although some of these divisions are indefinite, many of them are quite plain.

6. Notice the ending of each part of the Song: 2:3-6, 3:4, 4:16 - 5:1, 8:1-3, and 8:13-14. Would you say that this bride and groom had a happy marriage?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What has God planned for every marriage to picture? See Ephesians 5:22- 33.

2. Has my marriage (or my plan for marriage) been turned over completely to God, so that He might make it all that He planned for it to be?
