

Session 18: Song of Solomon

Video:

- Overview: Song of Songs (The Bible Project)

Recommended Readings from the ESV Study Bible:

- Introduction to the Song of Solomon (pp. 1211–1215)

Handouts from The Bible Project:

- The Song of Songs Overview Poster

Handouts from Dr. Parke:

- Song of Solomon - Slides from Dr. Parke's Teaching

1:1 "THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS OF SOLOMON..."



HEBREW IDIOM:
 "HOLY OF HOLIES"
 "KING OF KINGS"
THE GREATEST SONG

MAYBE **AUTHOR?** MAYBE NOT



HIS NAME BEGINS THE BOOK.

- MAIN VOICE IS A WOMAN.
- MAIN'S VOICE FIRST SOLOMON.
- SOLOMON'S MENTIONED, BUT NEVER SPEAKS.
- SOLOMON HAD 700+ WIVES! (1K 1:1-5:17)

"OF SOLOMON" = IN THE WISDOM TRADITION OF SOLOMON

SOLOMON WAS KNOWN FOR WISDOM, POETRY, AND A LOVE OF LEARNING. (SEE 1KINGS 4:32-34)

POEMS THAT EXPLORE LOVE AND DESIRE



1:2-7 **INTRODUCTION**



LET HIM KISS ME! (1:2)

COME FIND ME. (1:3)

TAKE ME AWAY WITH YOU! (1:4)



FINDING, EMBRACING

SEPARATE, SEEKING

THEME ONE

INTENSE DESIRE: SEEKING AND FINDING



SONG of SOLOMON



8:6-14 CONCLUSION

LOVE ... IS AS STRONG AS DEATH,
ITS PASSIONS ARE AS SEVERE AS THE GRAVE,
ITS FLAMES ARE OF FIRE, A DIVINE FLAME.
MANY WATERS CANNOT EXTINGUISH LOVE,
RIVERS CANNOT SWEEP IT AWAY.
IF ONE WERE TO GIVE ALL THE WEALTH
OF ONE'S HOUSE FOR LOVE,
HE WOULD BE OTTARLY SCORNED. (8:6-7)

THE POWER AND INTENSITY OF LOVE?
(BEAUTIFUL & LIFE-GIVING ... OR ... DANGEROUS & DESTRUCTIVE)

THE HUMAN LONGING TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN

TRANSCENDENT, MYSTERIOUS, AND A GIFT FROM GOD



(OPEN)ENDING
...A LOT LIKE LOVE...

THE JOY OF PHYSICAL ATTRACTION

YOUR EYES ARE LIKE DOVES...
YOUR HAIR, LIKE A FLOCK OF GOATS...
YOUR TEETH, LIKE LAMBS...
YOUR NECK IS A TOWER,
YOUR LIPS ARE HONEY...

REMEMBER:
HEBREW METAPHORS ARE
NOT
-PRIMARILY
VISUAL!



WHAT IS LOVE POETRY DOING IN THE BIBLE?

THREE MAIN INTERPRETATIONS THROUGH HISTORY:

1 JEWISH TRADITION
AN ALLEGORY OF ISRAEL AND GOD



2 CHRISTIAN TRADITION
AN ALLEGORY OF THE CHURCH AND CHRIST
(SEE EPHESIANS 5:25-33)



THE DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AND MESOPOTAMIAN LOVE POETRY,
PART OF ISRAEL'S CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

3 COLLECTION OF ANCIENT POETRY
THAT REFLECTS ON THE DIVINE GIFT OF LOVE



A KEY FEATURE

GARDEN IMAGERY ECHOES
the Garden of Eden
(GENESIS 1-2)

MAN AND WOMAN NAKED AND VULNERABLE, YET UNITED AND SAFE
VISION OF A RELATIONSHIP UNTAINTED BY SIN
THE SONG HOLDS OUT HEE!

created by the Bible Project

Song of Solomon

Dramatic INTERPRETATION

Two-Character FORMAT: ❶ Solomon and ❷ Shulammite Girl

<p>1:2-5a Shulammite Girl</p> <p>1:5b Solomon</p> <p>1:6-7 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>1:8-11 Solomon</p> <p>1:12-13 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>1:14-17 Solomon</p> <p>2:1 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>2:2 Solomon</p> <p>2:3-3:5 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>3:6-10 Daughters of Jerusalem</p> <p>3:11 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>4:1-15 Solomon</p> <p>4:16 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>5:1a Solomon</p> <p>5:1b Daughters of Jerusalem</p> <p>5:2-8 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>5:9 Daughters of Jerusalem</p> <p>5:10-16 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>6:1 Daughters of Jerusalem</p> <p>6:2-3 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>6:4-10 Solomon</p> <p>6:11-12 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>6:13a Daughters of Jerusalem</p> <p>6:13b Shulammite Girl</p> <p>6:13c-7:9 Solomon</p> <p>7:10-8:4 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>8:5a Daughters of Jerusalem</p> <p>8:5b Solomon</p> <p>8:6-8 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>8:9 Solomon</p> <p>8:10-14 Shulammite Girl</p>	<p>1:2-4a Shulammite Girl (<i>bride</i>)</p> <p>1:4b Chorus</p> <p>1:5-7 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>1:8-10 Bridegroom (<i>Solomon</i>)</p> <p>1:11 Chorus</p> <p>1:12-14 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>1:15 Bridegroom</p> <p>1:16-2:1 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>2:2 Bridegroom</p> <p>2:3-6 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>2:7 Bridegroom</p> <p>2:8-13 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>2:14 Bridegroom</p> <p>2:15 Chorus</p> <p>2:16-3:4 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>3:5 Bridegroom</p> <p>3:6-11 Chorus</p> <p>4:1-15 Bridegroom</p> <p>4:16 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>5:1 Bridegroom</p> <p>5:2-8 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>5:9 Chorus</p> <p>5:10-16 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>6:1 Chorus</p> <p>6:2-3 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>6:4-12 Bridegroom</p> <p>6:13a Chorus</p> <p>6:13b-7:9a Bridegroom</p> <p>7:9b-8:3 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>8:4 Bridegroom</p> <p>8:5a Chorus</p> <p>8:5b-7 Bridegroom</p> <p>8:8-9 Chorus</p> <p>8:10-12 Shulammite Girl</p> <p>8:13 Bridegroom</p> <p>8:14 Shulammite Girl</p>
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The Living Bible

NASB

Song of Solomon

Dramatic INTERPRETATION

Three-Character FORMAT: ❶ Solomon, ❷ Shulammitte Girl, and ❸ Beloved
“Shepherd Hypothesis”

SCENE #1: King’s Palace

1:2-3	King’s Harem	1:15	Solomon
1:4-7	Shulammitte	1:16-2:1	Shulammitte
1:8	King’s Harem	2:2	Solomon
1:9-11	Solomon	2:3-6	Shulammitte
1:12-14	Shulammitte	2:7	Chorus

SCENE #2: Country Home

2:8-9	Shulammitte
2:10-14	Beloved
2:15-17	Shulammitte

SCENE #3: Dream or Search at Night

3:1-4	Shulammitte
3:5	Chorus

SCENE #4: Solomon’s Procession

3:6-11	Shulammitte	4:16	Shulammitte
4:1-7	Solomon	5:1	Beloved
4:8-15	Beloved		

SCENE #5: Secret Visit by Beloved

5:2a	Shulammitte
5:2b	Beloved
5:3-8	Shulammitte

SCENE #6: King’s Palace

5:9	King’s Harem	6:2-3	Shulammitte
5:10-16	Shulammitte	6:4-10	Solomon
6:1	King’s Harem		

SCENE #7: Reminiscing

6:11-12 Shulammite
6:13 Shulammite People

SCENE #8: King's Palace

7:1-5 King's Harem
7:6-9 Solomon

7:10-8:3 Shulammite
8:4 Chorus

SCENE #9: Lovers Reunited

8:5a Shulammite People
8:5b Beloved
8:6-7 Shulammite

SCENE #10: Reminiscing

8:8-12 Shulammite
8:13 Beloved
8:14 Shulammite

John A. Balchin, "The Song of Solomon," *The New Bible Commentary Revised*, 579.

Song of Solomon

Dramatic INTERPRETATION

Three-Character FORMAT: ❶ Solomon, ❷ Shulammite Girl, and ❸ Beloved
“Shepherd Hypothesis”

- 1:2-7** In the King’s Chamber
1:8 Women of Jerusalem *Reply*
1:9-11 King *Expresses* His Love
1:12-2:7 Maiden *Thinks* of Beloved
2:8-17 Maiden’s Beloved *Appears*
3:1-5 Maiden’s Dream
3:6-11 King *Returns*
4:1-7 King *Offers* His Love
4:8-15 Beloved *Offers* His Love
4:16 Maiden *Chooses* Beloved
5:1a Beloved’s Response
5:1b Women of Jerusalem *Speak*
5:2-8 Torment of Separation
5:9 Women of Jerusalem *Ask*
5:10-16 Maiden *Tells* of Her Love
6:1 Women of Jerusalem *Ask*
6:2-3 Maiden’s Answer
6:4-10 Maiden and Court *Compared*
6:11-12 Maiden in Garden
6:13a Women of Jerusalem *Call*
6:13b Maiden’s Reply
7:1-9 Dance before the King
7:10-8:4 Maiden *Desires* Her Beloved
8:5a Women of Jerusalem *Ask*
8:5b-7 Strength of Love
8:8-12 Maiden and Her Family
8:13 Beloved *Calls*
8:14 Maiden *Answers*