

Song of Solomon 1 - 3

Songs Summary
[by Jay Smith](#)

“The book of Song of Solomon is a large love poem filled with smaller poems of different kinds. Solomon is the author and he wrote it sometime during his reign 970-930 B.C. It is a story of a bridegroom who is in love with his bride. Key personalities are King Solomon, the Shulammitte girl, and friends.

The story greatly emphasizes the sanctity of marriage and that it is designed, blessed and consecrated in the eyes of the Lord. The purpose of “Song of Songs”, as it is also called, is a picture of God’s love for His people. Although there is explicit sexual content, it is a book in which we can learn the depths of God’s authentic love for us and what should be in the sacredness of marriage.

- In chapters 1-3, Solomon writes of the courtship and engagement of the Beloved (Solomon) and the Lover (Shulammitte girl), *“My beloved responded and said to me, ‘Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along”* (2:10).
- Chapters 3-4, we read of the marriage ceremony of the bride to the bridegroom, *“Go forth, O daughters of Zion, and gaze on King Solomon with the crown with which his mother has crowned him on the day of his wedding”* (3:11).
- Chapters 5-8, are the relationship between the husband and wife and the power of their love, *“Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised”* (8:7).”

And so, as we come to this book we must once again view it through the eyes of the Holy Spirit who is directing our attention to the bride and the bridegroom.

Any guesses who might be the bride and bridegroom ultimately being displayed in this book?

Unless we approach this book in the light of who is being taught on here, it will be relegated to one more book on morals and teachings on a temporal institution God calls marriage between a man and a woman.

And though we can certainly learn much on God's institution of marriage through this book we must ultimately see the bridegroom and bride as being that relationship between Christ and His church.

Song of Solomon 1:1 ^{NAU} The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

Solomon wrote a lot of songs during his reign as King. In fact, we are given an exact amount.

^{NAU} **1 Kings 4:32** He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.

So, when he uses the phrase song of songs, what might Solomon be intimating?

This is the crown jewel of his songs.

Does he mean to suggest that it makes number one on the charts, or might he have something else in mind?

It may not have been a song that was ever meant to be sung in public, but rather a song he may have written for one of his wives. But the point of any song is to celebrate an aspect of life that moves you.

And by celebrate I don't mean to suggest to write a celebratory song, like the birthday song, but to highlight an aspect of life that has touched you in a special way. It could be any type of song that tells a story like the death of a loved one, the birth of a child, the feeling you get with the first snow, or the first leaves turning during the fall.

In other words, people write songs to let their hearts reflect on different aspects of life that can include people, places and things and it enables them to express their heart whether anyone else ever hears that song or not.

By the way, songs were written by others in the bible and one famous one was written by Moses and we have it recorded in Exodus.

Exodus 15:1-3 ^{NAU} Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said, "I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. ² "The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God,

and I will extol Him. ³ "The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.

This was a celebratory song giving God praise and glory for delivering His people from Pharaoh.

It appears that the people of Israel were a singing people and we see this again with Moses as God directs them to a well where their lives are saved from the ravages of the desert heat near Moab.

Numbers 21:16-18 ¹⁶ From there *they continued* to Beer, that is the well where the LORD said to Moses, "Assemble the people, that I may give them water." ¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up, O well! Sing to it! ¹⁸ "The well, which the leaders sank, Which the nobles of the people dug, With the scepter *and* with their staffs." And from the wilderness *they continued* to Mattanah,

Near the end of Moses' life the Lord directs him to write another song.

By the way, who invented music and songs?

Music and songs come from the ultimate musician who is God Himself. Sometimes people think of God as some Fatherly figure who is far off and devoid of anything we might categorize as fun or creative.

But who could be more creative than the Creator who has built fun into every aspect of His creation. Look at a puppy who chases his tail, or a group of squirrels who chase each other around a tree, or a child who uses his imagination to create characters and scenarios that include toy cars and boats and cardboard boxes that leads to imaginary worlds where they get lost from the rest of life around them.

But back to the last song of Moses. This was a song that was intended to teach a lesson, as many songs were and still are to some extent. But this song was meant for the entire congregation of Israel to sing as a reminder of their stubborn hearts before a holy God.

Deuteronomy 31:19-22 ¹⁹ "Now therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, so that this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel. ²⁰ "For when I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied

and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant. ²¹ "Then it shall come about, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify before them as a witness (for it shall not be forgotten from the lips of their descendants); for I know their intent which they are developing today, before I have brought them into the land which I swore." ²² So Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the sons of Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:22 ²² So Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the sons of Israel.

The entire 32nd chapter of Deuteronomy contains the song that God gave to Moses.

Deuteronomy 32:1-5 ^{NAU} "Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth. ² "Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb. ³ "For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴ "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. ⁵ "They have acted corruptly toward Him, *They are* not His children, because of their defect; *But are* a perverse and crooked generation.

This song was directed to the very people whom God was going to bring into the Promised land. And it was a song that would bear testimony to the people as to why they would ultimately be rejected as a nation to represent Him before the world.

The song ends this way as the Lord testifies to His righteousness and holiness as judge of all people.

Deuteronomy 32:42-43 ⁴² 'I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.' ⁴³ "Rejoice, O nations, *with* His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land *and* His people."

By the way, the last part of verse 43 declares that God atones for His people and of course we know how He did that with the Messiah dying on the cross to take away the wrath of God for His people.

But how does He atone for His land?

The atonement of Jesus Christ was not just to buy back a people as He took their curse and sin, but to also buy back His entire creation as He took its curse and reverses it on the last day.

Romans 8:19-22 ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

And so, the blood of Christ is universal in its scope to include a chosen people and the handiwork of His hands in the rest of creation that will be set free from its slavery to corruption, including plants and animals and stars and planets and moons. The new heavens and the new earth are all going to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

But the Song of Solomon is a song of love and hope and intimacy, but in reality it is a new song that we have been taught by the Holy Spirit Himself, who is like the choir director of His people, as He places this song in our hearts as He did with David.

Psalms 40:1-3 ^{NAU} For the choir director. A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD.

Only God can put this song in our hearts. Does anyone know what this celebratory song is?

^{NAU} **Psalms 32:7** You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Our song is Christ our deliverer. He is our new song.

Revelation 5:9-10 ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ "You have made them *to be a*

kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Revelation 14:3 ³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

Revelation 15:3-4 ³ And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! ⁴ "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

And so, the song of Solomon, though its key characters are the king and his bride, is a song of deliverance unto a marriage relationship that is unique to only God and His people as we see at the end of the first chapter of Solomon.

Song of Solomon 1:12 - 17 ¹² "While the king was at his table, My perfume gave forth its fragrance. ¹³ "My beloved is to me a pouch of myrrh Which lies all night between my breasts. ¹⁴ "My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms In the vineyards of Engedi." ¹⁵ "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are *like* doves." ¹⁶ "How handsome you are, my beloved, *And* so pleasant! Indeed, our couch is luxuriant! ¹⁷ "The beams of our houses are cedars, Our rafters, cypresses.

But as we come to chapter 2 we get a glimpse into the heart of the bridegroom and the bride who are identified as each speaks to one another giving their praises to each other.

Song of Solomon 2:1-2 ^{NAU} "I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys." ² "Like a lily among the thorns, So is my darling among the maidens."

This is the language of the bridegroom who is stating his position with his bride. It is not unlike the language we see in the gospel of John.

John 15:1 ^{NAU} "I am the true vine,

John 6:35 ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

And in the same way, Jesus can say, I am the rose of Sharon.

But what is instructive is the way in which the Rose of Sharon views the maiden with whom He is in love and how that love is reciprocated.

Song of Solomon 2:4-6 ⁴ "He has brought me to *his* banquet hall, And his banner over me is love. ⁵ "Sustain me with raisin cakes, Refresh me with apples, Because I am lovesick. ⁶ "Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me."

What is the picture here that we have of these two individuals and the love they share with one another?

Do we view Christ's love for us and ours for Him in this way? Is it a vibrant love that anticipates being in each other's presence and delights in each other's company?

Or is this picture more of how we view our love with the world as we only periodically check in with our Lord on Sundays and holy days?

Much of what we see in the "church" today is not a love relationship between the bride and the bridegroom but a love with programs and committees and buildings and building projects and the means to all of these things where the Pastor spends more time digging into your pocket books than in the book that magnifies this love relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Solomon is being used by the Spirit of God to give us a glimpse into the heart of our Savior and how He views His bride, but also what He expects of His bride as that love is given back. I mean, can we really say to our Lord, as we read at the end of verse 5, I am lovesick?

If we understood the love Christ has for us we would indeed be lovesick for Him as He calls to us.

Song of Solomon 2:10 ¹⁰ "My beloved responded and said to me, 'Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along.

Matthew 11:28 - 12:1 ²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The end of chapter 3 of the Song of Solomon is a picture of the bridegroom getting ready to receive his bride.

Song of Solomon 3:6-11 ⁶ "What is this coming up from the wilderness Like columns of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all scented powders of the merchant? ⁷ "Behold, it is the *traveling* couch of Solomon; Sixty mighty men around it, Of the mighty men of Israel. ⁸ "All of them are wielders of the sword, Expert in war; Each man has his sword at his side, *Guarding* against the terrors of the night. ⁹ "King Solomon has made for himself a sedan chair From the timber of Lebanon. ¹⁰ "He made its posts of silver, Its back of gold *And* its seat of purple fabric, *With* its interior lovingly fitted out By the daughters of Jerusalem. ¹¹ "Go forth, O daughters of Zion, And gaze on King Solomon with the crown With which his mother has crowned him On the day of his wedding, And on the day of his gladness of heart."

And next week we'll see the bride from the bridegroom's perspective.

We'll end with this and probably start with it next week as well.

Revelation 19:7-9 ⁷ "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." ⁸ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."