



WEEK 25:

Song of Solomon Overview

Main Point: Love between a husband and a wife is something to celebrate and enjoy, both in words and in sexual intimacy.

Writer: “This is Solomon’s song of songs, more wonderful than any other” (Songs of Solomon 1:1). But most Bible experts say they doubt Solomon wrote the book—for several reasons.

- The first verse seems to act like a title added later by an editor compiling the songs—as editors did with many psalms.
- In Hebrew, the byline is phrased vaguely: “of Solomon,” That could mean its by him. Or it’s for him, perhaps one of his weddings. Or it’s about him, though there’s little mention of him afterward.
- Some of the phrasing seems to come from hundreds of years after Solomon.

Many Bible experts say this book is probably a collection of poetry and love songs used in wedding celebrations. Others say a single writer wrote it, perhaps a woman. That’s because the starring female character in the Song speaks 61 of the 116 verses—more than the starring male or minor characters.

Many students of the Bible take the traditional approach, arguing that Solomon wrote the song. Among the supporting evidence: names of the cities in the song fit the time of Solomon before the nation split in two. The writer talks about many exotic spices, plants, and jewels—which fits this era when Solomon was trading with countries throughout the Middle East and Africa. Also, this genre of writing is similar to songs that Egyptians were writing at and before the time of Solomon.

Date: Unknown. Solomon ruled from about 970-930 BC.

Location: Israel. The lovers mention many locations in Israel, such as Jerusalem, the coastal plains of Sharon, and Mount Hermon.

Where’s Jesus in the Song of Solomon?

In this song, there’s an allegorical picture of Israel as God’s betrothed wife and the church as the bride of Christ. In Ephesians 5:31-32, Apostle considers it to be a mystery—the parallel between the husband, his wife and Christ and His church.

In Song of Solomon 8:7, the Shulamite says “Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.”

Genesis 6:6-8 says “And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of

the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” While a flood would destroy nearly all of civilization, it could not quench the love of God for His creation—for His bride. A love that would be proven by God’s willingness to give all his wealth—His only Son, for the life of those He loves. The Shulamite says that for this reason [his house] “would be utterly despised.” This became true through Jesus. Where He “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6-7). This was foolish in the sight of men as they expected the Messiah to come in power and majesty to restore the kingdom of Israel. Whereas His focus was to resume the expansion of His Father’s kingdom.

A conquest lead and fulfilled by love. “He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love” (Song of Solomon 2:4). When a kingdom or nation expands its territory, one of the key indicators of its sovereignty in the newly claimed region is the raising of a flag. An example of this would be when the soldiers of England raises their flag in a new territory, they are laying claim to the land on the behalf of the crown. A similar depiction is made in this statement by the Shulamite, “And his banner over me was love.” This means that he conquered her by love. This is a perfect picture of how our savior overtakes new territory in the hearts of men. He conquers us by love.

How the groom praises the purity of the bride:

- **Song of Solomon 4:7** — “You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you.”
- **Ephesians 5:25-27** — “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

The request to enter one’s intimate place:

- **Song of Solomon 5:2** — “I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.””
- **Revelation 3:20** — “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Love is more memorable than wine.

- **Song of Solomon 1:2** — The Shulamite says “For your love is better than wine.”
- **Song of Solomon 1:4** — The Daughters of Israel says they will remember their love more than wine.
- **Song of Solomon 4:10** — The Beloved says “How much better than wine is your love...”
- The first recorded miracle in the Gospel of John is at the wedding in Cana where Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11). While it was a notable miracle, it isn’t Jesus’s wine that He’s most remembered for. It’s His love. One chapter later, we find this famous quote “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” Even in using wine in the last supper, the wine could never steal His glory but is used to *reveal* His glory. It’s through the blood of the grape that we see that the blood of our Savior that was shed as the greatest demonstration of His love.