

## Old Testament Introduction

### The Book of Song of Solomon

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#### INTRODUCTION

1) Three names have been given to this book:

- The Song of Solomon = *1:1 (Title in our English Bible)*
- The Song of Songs = *1:1 (Title in the Hebrew Bible)*
- Canticles = (*From the Latin word "canticum" which means "\_\_\_\_\_" or "\_\_\_\_\_."*)

2) In *1:1* this book is called "*the song of songs.*" All titles in the Bible like this, such as "*king of kings,*" "*Lord of lords,*" "*Holy of holies,*" etc., are titles indicating superiority or supremacy. The title "*song of songs*" says that this is the \_\_\_\_\_ or most exquisite song. It excels all other of the songs of Solomon. According to *1 Kings 4:32*, Solomon composed \_\_\_\_\_ songs.

3) One commentator writes:

*"To turn from Ecclesiastes to the Song of Solomon is like stepping out of the wilderness into the Promised Land; it is like the bright shining of the sun after the rain."*

The Jews have always held "*the song of songs*" in the highest esteem and consider it to be amongst the holiest of books. They compare Proverbs to the outer court of the Temple, Ecclesiastes to the Holy Place, and the Song of Solomon to the Holiest of all.

Another commentator says:

*"When reading the Song of Solomon, take off the shoes from the natural man, for the ground on which you stand is spiritual ground."*

4) The Song of Solomon is another of the most misunderstood books of the Bible. Critics have called it \_\_\_\_\_, and some even question its right to be a part of the canon of Scripture. We need to keep several things in mind as we read this book.

- The Song of Solomon is Oriental (*Eastern*) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Orientals are a very passionate people, both in their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- The figures of speech that express love in Eastern poetry would not offend even the most modest of Orientals.
- The Song of Solomon was penned under divine inspiration and teaches monogamous love as God's ideal for mankind.

#### Dr. H. A. Ironside's presentation of Song of Solomon

- King Solomon had a vineyard in the hill country of Ephraim, about 50 miles north of Jerusalem. (*8:11*)
- He let out this vineyard to keepers. The father was apparently dead. The family consisted of a mother and possibly at least two sons (*1:6 = "children" = ben* which can be translated "sons."), at least two daughters--the Shulamite (*6:13*) and a little sister (*8:8*).
- The Shulamite was the "*Cinderella*" of the family, naturally beautiful, but unnoticed (*1:5*). Possibly, her brothers were half-brothers. It seems that they made her work very hard, making her keep the vineyards, denying her any privileges and little opportunity to care for personal appearance.
- She pruned the vines and set traps for the little foxes (*2:15*). She also kept the flocks (*1:8*). Being out in the open so much, she became very sunburned (*1:5-6*).
- One day a handsome stranger came to the vineyard. It was Solomon disguised. He showed a personal interest in her and she became embarrassed concerning her personal appearance. She takes him for a shepherd and he answers her evasively, but also speaks loving words to her promising her rich gifts in the future (*1:8-11*).
- Solomon wins her heart and leaves with the promise that some day he will return. She dreams of him at night and sometimes thinks he is near (*3:1*). Finally, he does return in all his kingly splendor to make her his bride (*3:6-7*).
- The Song of Solomon is a human love story as well as a picture of the love between God and His people.

## AUTHORSHIP

1) **Traditional:** There is good evidence to support the claim that

\_\_\_\_\_ is the author of this love song.

- Direct claim = **1:1**
- Solomon's name is mentioned a number of times = **1:5; 3:7, 9, 11; 8:11-12**

2) **The Critical view:** Critics would say that the song originated in the sacred literature of the pagan religions of Canaan and was arranged and preserved by "wise men" who then attributed it to Solomon.

## RECIPIENTS

The Song of Solomon was written to God's Old Testament people,

\_\_\_\_\_, but is also for the people of God of every age.

## DATE OF WRITING

Solomon reigned over Israel from \_\_\_\_\_ B. C. This song was probably written during the early years of his reign.

## PURPOSE OF BOOK

- To glorify \_\_\_\_\_ and wedded love. The book speaks of the blissful love of Solomon and his bride. (**4:7, 19; 5:10, 16**)
- To picture the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for his people. Both in the Old and New Testaments the relationship of the Lord's people is illustrated by the figure of \_\_\_\_\_. (**Jeremiah 31:32; 2 Corinthians 11:2**)

## THEME OF THE BOOK

The tender love of the bridegroom and the bride.

## OUTLINE

- I. The Bride Muses in the Bridegroom's Palace **1:1-3:5**
- II. The Bride Accepts the Bridegroom's Invitation **3:6-5:1**
- III. The Bride Dreams of Separation From the Bridegroom. **5:2-6:3**
- IV. The Bride and Bridegroom Express Ardent Love for Each Other. **6:4-8:14**