



THE BIBLE

in a nutshell

Song of Solomon

—by Peter Hammond

"He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."

Song of Solomon 2:4

The love story

The Song of Songs illustrates God's passionate love for His people through a love story based on an actual romance of King Solomon. In the Song of Songs we see:

- The Betrothal,
- Seeking His countenance,
- Surrendering the will,
- Reflecting His beauty,
- The perfection of the Bridegroom,
- Sharing the Divine nature and
- Bearing fruit.



The Song of Solomon is also known as the Song of Songs. This book was written early in King Solomon's reign, probably around 965 BC. (The Song of Songs is unique in Scripture in that it makes no specific reference to Yahweh, God.)

Union and communion

The psalms and hymns are essentially celebrations of God's love for us, and our love for Him. Our relationship with God is to be celebrated and sung about.

The Psalms are about worship,

The main themes are:

The Heavenly Bridegroom

- His love covers all defects of the Bride (4:7)
- He rejoices over her (Isaiah 62:5)
- The Bridegroom gives His life for the Bride (Eph 5:25)
- The Bridegroom will come to claim the Bride as His own (Matt 25:6).

The Bride

- The Bride loves the Bridegroom (2:16)
- She feels her unworthiness (1:6)
- She has been purified and dressed in matchless garments (Rev 19:8)

The Song of Songs illustrates God's passionate love for His people through a love story based on a romance of King Solomon.

Proverbs deal with wisdom, Song of Songs deals with our love for God and His love for us.

Wisdom, worship and love are to be received with gratitude and celebrated with joy. "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth." Psalms 96:9.

- She wears the jewels of His Divine grace (Isaiah 61:10)
- She issues wedding invitations (Rev 22:17).

The marriage feast

- Prepared by the Father for the Son (Matt 22:2)
- Costly preparations are made for the

Marriage is God's design

The Song of Songs is a spiritual allegory and analogy, an affirmation of Biblical marriage, and a celebration of the covenant between God and His people.

Love involves a warm and enriching experience. Marriage is a picture of God's love for His Church. Marriage is God's design. Song of Songs affirms that marriage must be a life-long partnership of exclusive, enthusiastic, and enduring love between a man and a woman.



guests (Matt 22:4)

- Invitations to this Marriage Feast are a great honour (Rev 19:9)
- Invitations are scorned by many (Matt 22:5)
- Invitations include all classes (Matt 22:10)
- Neglect of the wedding garment leads to exclusion from the Feast (Matt 22:11-14).

True love

Love is shown in actions and attitudes. Love is far more than a feeling, it is an act of the will. Relationships require mutual affection, commitment and duties. Love must be exclusive, enthusiastic and enduring.

Balanced love

The Song of Songs combats two great extremes: Aestheticism and Hedonism. Both those who deny pleasure (the aesthetics) and those who seek to indulge in pleasure (hedonists) are unbiblical.

The Shepherd is also the King

The bride discovers that the shepherd who won her love is actually the king. Moses was a shepherd before he became a leader of God's people. David was a shepherd before he became King of Israel.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shep-

herd of His people, is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Song of Songs leads us into the Holy of holies as we celebrate God's love for us and our love for Him.

Biblical analogy

The Bridegroom represents Christ and the Bride represents the Church. Throughout the Bible, marriage is presented as an analogy of God's relationship with His Church.

The Lord is presented as the husband and Israel as His wife. He courts her and marries her at Sinai, when the Covenant is established. When Israel goes after other »

In Song of Solomon, marriage is shown as a warm and enriching experience designed by God. It is also the analogy of Christ and His love for the Church.

The Biblical definition of love

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..." 1 Cor 13:4-8.





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gods, she is described as an adulteress. God courts His people, wins her, loses her, still loves her, and works to bring her back home again.

In the New Testament the Lord Jesus is depicted as the Bridegroom, looking for the Bride and on the last page of the Bible, the Bride eagerly makes herself ready with the

- Chapter 2: The Bride's delight in the King's love and embrace
- Chapter 3-5: The Bride's dream of her lover's disappearance and her joy at finding him again
- Chapter 3:6-11: The Bridal procession and greetings in the palace garden
- Chapter 4: The King adores His Bride and

and Groom is celebrated

- Chapter 8: The unquenchable love and indissoluble union of the Bride and Groom are celebrated.

"Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death... Many waters cannot quench love, nor can floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised." S of S 8:6-7.

Song of Solomon, along with Revelations 2:4-5 reminds us that we are to "remember our first love" - which is Christ. He adores His Bride and mutual love between the Bride and her Groom is celebrated.

robes of righteousness and calls out: "Come!"

Song of Songs can be divided up in this way:

- Chapter 1: The Bride's love and devotion for the King

- she replies by inviting him into her garden
- Chapter 5: Another dream of the King's apparent distance and then His return
- Chapter 6: The beauty of the Bride is celebrated
- Chapter 7: The mutual love between Bride

Christ's rebuke to His Church

"...I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent." Rev 2:4-5. ■

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Christian love

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

"This is My Commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
John 15:12

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good." Romans 12:9

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." John 15:9

"The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.' Jer 31:3

"I will seek the one I love...when I have found the one I love, I held him and would not let him go..." S of S 3:2-4