



Part Ten: The Song of Songs
Proclaiming Perfect Love

Song of Solomon
1-8

Pastor Courtney Hall

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We conclude this series with the last of the three Biblical books most associated with Solomon as a primary author (or at least as a king to whom the book is dedicated), a book which references his very name in the ascribed title, **THE SONG OF SOLOMON**. Also known as **THE SONG OF SONGS**, this **lushly romantic & even gracefully erotic ode to connubial love** offers **a sumptuous spiritual metaphor for the passionate bond between Jesus & His Church** called **the Bride of Christ** (*CF. 2 COR 11:2; EPHES 5:25; REV 19:7, 21:2*).

SUMMARIZING SOLOMON

- Solomon = (peace; peaceable) | Jedidiah ("beloved of YAH")
- Son of King David & Bathsheba
- Born after the death of their first child (2 Sa 12:15-25)
- King (after David) over all Israel, 970-930 BC
- Asked for & received divine wisdom (1 Ki 3:9-12; 2 Ch 1:10-12)
- Built the first Temple for God in Jerusalem (1 Ki 5-9; 2 Ch 2-7)
- Rule marked by peace & great material wealth (1 Ki 10; 2 Ch 9)
- Built up national infrastructure, military, & international trade
- Wrote & collected 3K proverbs & 1K+ songs (1 Ki 4:32)
- Had a thousand wives & concubines (1 Ki 11:3)
- Also engaged in idolatry through influence of his wives (1 Ki 11)
- Associated with *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, & the *Song of Songs*

SUMMARIZING THE SONG OF SONGS

- **Solomon** is referenced throughout (1:5; 3:7-11; 8:11-12)
- May have been **written by, for, or about Solomon**
- **LOVE** is the key word & theme of the book
- **GARDEN** is another key repeated word/image
- One of the five **megillot** ("scrolls") in the **Ketuvim** ("writings")
- An **elaborate, erotic poem of love between a man** ("King Solomon") **& a woman** ("the Shulamite," perhaps indicating she comes from Shunem in northern Israel or as a feminine form of Solomon as a marriage name meaning "peaceful")
- The lovers engage in **romantic & passionate dialogue**, *with* each other & at times *with others about* each other, culminating in **descriptions of a wedding processional**.

SUMMARIZING THE SONG OF SONGS

- The Song is **likely meant to be sung out loud** & perhaps even performed in festal ceremonies
- May be intended primarily as a **drama, poetic ode, or allegory**
 - **DRAMA:** the story of Solomon & his (first) bride
 - **ODE:** a general paean to romantic marital passion
 - **ALLEGORY:** the man represents God & Israel is His bride
- The book is full of **vivid visual & sensual images & metaphors**
- It celebrates both **covenant principles** & also the pure joy of faithful **love expressed in physical ardor & spiritual devotion**
- A Christian reading of the text reveals **a beautiful picture of Jesus & His Bride, the Church** in the *Song of Solomon*.

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1. **When a Man Loves a Woman** 1:1 – 3:5
Courtship
2. **The Two Shall Be One** 3:6 – 8:4
Wedding (3:6-5:1) & Marriage (5:2-8:4)
3. **One Who Found Peace** 8:5 – 8:14
Epilogue

1. When a Man LOVES a Woman | *Song of Solomon 1:1-3:5*

COURTSHIP

- Introduction (1:1-6)
- Dialogue Between the Lovers (1:7 – 2:7)
- The Woman Recalls Her Lover's Visit (2:8-17)
- The Woman Addresses the Daughters of Zion (3:1-5)

An Introduction to the Bible (Kugler & Hartin, 2009)

1. When a Man LOVES a Woman | Song of Solomon 1:1-5

¹ The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

² *SHE*: "May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For **your love is better than wine.** ³ Your oils have a pleasing fragrance, Your name is [like] oil poured from one vessel into another; therefore the maidens love you. ⁴ **Draw me after you [&] let us run [together]! The king has brought me into his chambers."**

CHORUS: "We will rejoice in you & be glad; **we will extol your love more than wine.** Rightly do they love you."

⁵ *SHE*: "I am dark but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. Do not stare at me because I am swarthy, for the sun has burned me...."

1. When a Man LOVES a Woman | Song of Solomon 1:1-5

¹² *SHE*: "While the king was on his couch, 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 *HE*: "Behold **how beautiful you are, my darling**, behold how beautiful you are! Your eyes are [like] doves."

¹⁶ *SHE*: "**How handsome you are, my beloved**, [&] so pleasant! **Indeed, our couch is luxuriant!** ¹⁷ The beams of our houses are cedars, our rafters, cypresses."

2. The Two Shall Be ONE | *Song of Solomon 3:6-8:4*

WEDDING (3:6 – 5:1)

- Sighting a Royal Wedding Procession (3:6-11)
- The Man Describes His Lover's Beauty (4:1-5:1)

MARRIAGE (3:6 – 5:1)

- The Woman Addresses the Daughters of Jerusalem (5:2-6:4)
- The Man Describes His Lover, Who Visits Him (6:5-12)
- Observers Describe the Woman's Beauty (6:13-8:4)

An Introduction to the Bible (Kugler & Hartin, 2009)

2. The Two Shall Be ONE | Song of Solomon 4:6-7

HE: ⁶"**Until the day breaks & the shadows flee**, I will go to the **mountain of myrrh & to the hill of incense.** ⁷ **You are altogether beautiful**, my darling; **there is no flaw in you.**"

v6a - The shadows of night & breaking of day bring to mind the **darkness at Christ's death** on the Cross on "Dark Friday" (Mt 27:45) & His **Resurrection at dawn** on the following Sunday (Mt 28:1-10).

v6b - Christ was **crucified on a hill** (Golgotha; cf. Mt 27:33). **Myrrh & incense** were gifts **given to Jesus by the Magi** at the start of His earthly life (Mt 2:11) & also **used to embalm His corpse at death** (Jn 19:39). **Thus they symbolize the Incarnation & the Crucifixion, both acts of LOVE (Jn 3:16; He 12:2).**

2. The Two Shall Be ONE | Song of Solomon 4:6-7

HE: ⁶"**Until the day breaks & the shadows flee**, I will go to the **mountain of myrrh & to the hill of incense.** ⁷ **You are altogether beautiful**, my darling; **there is no flaw in you.**"

v7 - The **beauty of the Bride of Christ** is described in Re 21:1-5. The ultimate **flawless purification** of the Bride of Christ is referenced repeatedly throughout the New Testament, e.g.:

Ep 5:25-30, "Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the Church & gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her...that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle...**but that she would be **holy & blameless**. So husbands ought also to love their own wives....just as Christ also [does] the Church, because we are members of His Body."

2. The Two Shall Be ONE | Song of Solomon 4:6-7

HE: ⁶"**Until the day breaks & the shadows flee**, I will go to the **mountain of myrrh & to the hill of incense.** ⁷ **You are altogether beautiful**, my darling; **there is no flaw in you.**"

√7 - The **beauty of the Bride of Christ** is described in Re 21:1-5. The ultimate **flawless purification** of the Bride of Christ is referenced repeatedly throughout the New Testament, e.g.:

Ro 8:1, "There is now **no condemnation for those...in Christ Jesus.**"

2 Co 5:17, "Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation...**"

1 Jo 3:2-3, "...**when Christ appears, we shall be like Him....All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.**"

3. One Who Found PEACE | Song of Solomon 8:5-14

⁵ *FRIENDS*: Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved?

SHE: Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labor gave you birth. ⁶ **Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.** ⁷ Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

⁸ *FRIENDS*: We have a little sister, & her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for? ⁹ If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

3. One Who Found PEACE | Song of Solomon 8:5-14

¹⁰ *SHE*: I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. **Thus I have become in his eyes like ONE WHO FOUND PEACE.** ¹¹ Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon ["Lord of a Multitude" *OR* "Lord of Abundance"]; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver [*ABOUT 25 LBS*]. ¹² **But my own vineyard is mine to give;** the thousand shekels are for you, Solomon, & two hundred [*ABOUT 5 LBS*] are for those who tend its fruit.

¹³ *HE*: You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, **let me hear your voice!**

¹⁴ *SHE*: **Come away, my beloved,** & be like a gazelle or like a young stag **on the spice-laden mountains.**

3. One Who Found PEACE | *Song of Solomon 8:5-14*

Revelation 21:2-5

² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a Bride beautifully dressed for her husband**. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! **God's dwelling place is now among the people**....They will be His people, & God Himself will be with them.... ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for....⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Revelation 22:5, 17

⁵ There will be no more night....¹⁷ **The Spirit & the Bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!"**