



## Song of Solomon

Jesus Christ, Lover of Our Souls

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## The *Song of Songs*, which is *Solomon's*. (1:1)

### Hebrew Superlative

- “Holy of Holies” (Ex. 26:33)
- “God of gods” (Deut. 10:17)
- “Sabbath of sabbaths” (Ex. 31:15)
- “king of kings” (Ezra 7:12)
- “servant of servants” (Gen. 9:25)
- “vanity of vanities” (Eccl. 1:2)

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## F-L-I-G-H-T

**F** – The first verse of Song of Solomon identifies King Solomon as the author. We know from 1 Kings 4:32 that Solomon wrote more than 1000 songs, but this was his “greatest hit,” his “song of songs.” This song was singled out as a separate work and canonized in Scripture.

Solomon probably wrote the Song of Solomon when he was a young man, possibly around 950 BC.

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## F-L-I-G-H-T

**L** – While Solomon’s other books, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, focus on the intellectual and philosophical issues of life, the Song of Solomon centers on emotion. It’s a poem that depicts the wooing and wedding of a country girl to King Solomon and the deep passions that ensue in their married lives. It reflects on a two-year period in their relationship.

**I** – The Courtship (1:1-3:5), The Wedding (3:6-5:1), The Marriage (5:2-8:14)

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Although Song of Solomon tells a true love story between a husband and wife, it also points to the kind of love God has for his people. Without straining the meaning or consigning it to allegory, the Song of Solomon effortlessly hints at a truth unpacked in the NT. A number of passages draw a connection between human marriage and God’s love for Israel and the church.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Marriage between a man and a woman is a microcosm of divine love, a picture of the great love Christ has for the church. This idea is especially reflected in one of the best known verses in the book: “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love” (2:4). A banner’s purpose was to clearly identify the people who gathered beneath it, whether they were soldiers or members of a tribe. In the context of the verse, Solomon’s bride was enjoying an unmistakable public display of her husband’s love for her.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Similarly, God’s banner of love over the Christian is the cross. If you ever doubt God’s love for you, all you have to do is look at the cross, the visible sign of his sacrificial, eternal, perpetual love. It’s humbling to think of what Jesus suffered to show God’s banner over us. In going to the cross, Jesus not only showed his passion to fulfill the will of the Father, but he also showed us the commitment and sacrificial love that a successful, godly marriage requires.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – The Song of Solomon is believed to be the first of Solomon’s three works in the Bible, likely written in the early years of his reign. Along with Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, it chronicles Solomon’s thoughts and ideas during his rise to power, his wise ruling during Israel’s golden age of unification, and ultimately his falling away from God, painting a revealing picture of his reign (ca. 970-931 BC)

## F – L – I – G – H – T

**T**–**Put character first.** Solomon’s bride was first and foremost attracted to his character-his good name-more than anything else. **Sex is for marriage.** God designed sex to be an expression of intimate love within the boundaries of marriage. Since sexual impulse is God’s invention, it must be God-guided and God-governed. **A godly marriage takes hard work, humility, forgiveness, respect and kindness.** The key to having a successful marriage is the same as in your walk with Christ: deny yourself.

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## Sexuality in Scripture

Song of Solomon extols the richness of human erotic love as a gift from God. It is a celebration of sexual intimacy within the bounds of marriage. Erotic love within the marriage relationship, then, does not lie outside the sphere of God’s intended blessing; rather, it is God’s gift to be received and enjoyed.

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## Sexuality in Scripture

*“While the marriage relationship is meant to be a partnership and friendship on the deepest level, that does not mean that the sexual and emotional aspects of love between a man and a woman are themselves unworthy of the Bible’s attention. Sexuality and love are fundamental to human experience; and it is altogether fitting that the Bible, as a book meant to teach the reader how to live a happy and good life, should have something to say in this area.”* (Duane Garrett)

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## Courtship

- Proper love is built on an appreciation of good character. (1:2-4)
- Proper love builds on legitimate common ground. (1:5-8)
- Proper love nurtures by praise. (1:9-11)
- Proper love cultivates the fragrance of joy. (1:12-14)
- Proper love delights in verbal admiration. (1:15-2:3)
- Proper love keeps passion and purity in focus. (2:4-7)

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### Courtship

- Proper love realizes that it must wait for the right time. (2:8-14)
- Proper love has to overcome destructive factors, whether they come from external threats or internal drives. (2:15-17)
- Proper love in bringing greater joy also brings greater pain. (3:1-5)
- Proper love gives its very best. (3:6-11)

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### Wedding

- **Appreciation** (4:1-11) That for which Shulamith had longed in the opening scene of the song she has now come to enjoy.
- **Purity** (4:12-15) Solomon uses the images of a locked garden and a sealed spring to speak of Shulamith's virginity.
- **Intimacy** (4:16-5:1a) The proper time has now come for Solomon and Shulamith to enjoy sexual intimacy with full joy, and without guilt.
- **Approval** (5:1b) God's blessing is the fitting conclusion to the tender scene presented so delicately in this song.

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### Growth in Marital Love

- **Overcoming selfish indifference** (5:2-6:13) This extended scene focuses on a typical challenge within a marriage relationship – the subversive effect of selfishness.
- **Intended for pleasure** (7:1-8:4) This passage, the most explicitly erotic in the entire song, depicts the vibrant sexual intimacy of Solomon and Shulamith as a married couple.

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### Growth in Marital Love

- **The nurture of love** (8:5-7) Four figures of speech are used to describe the qualities and commitments necessary for love to flourish: a seal, death, inextinguishable fire, material riches.
- **Preparing for love** (8:8-14) In a sense, this love story has no end, because the song cycle does not reach a final resolution, but rather it sweeps on in an upward trajectory of delight.

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