

2019 Through the Bible Reading: *Bible Study Support*

The Book of Song of Solomon	
Background (Who, what, why, when)	<p>The original Hebrew version of the book took its title from the book's first two words, <i>shiy'r hashiy'rim</i>, usually translated as "the song of songs." This latter title remained in Greek and Latin Bible translations in later centuries. The title of the book eventually took on King Solomon's name because of the mention of his name throughout the book (1:5; 3:7, 9, 11; 8:11–12). This title change also supports the traditional view of Solomon as the author of the book. The repetition of the word <i>song</i> indicates that the writer considered this "the greatest of all songs." Song of Solomon was used as a Love song, but God used it for so much more. This book is made up of different sections which show the progression of the relationship between King Solomon and his beloved wife. The narrative starts with a courtship. Clearly, the characters in Song of Solomon are deliriously happy over their mutual growing affection. Their longing for one another is very passionate but the couple demonstrates restraint and integrity. Solomon wrote the book during his reign as king of Israel, between 971 and 931 BC. This book remains singular within the Old Testament for at least two reasons: its character as a single poem and its subject matter; particularly the frank discussion of love between a married couple.</p>
Interesting Facts in Song of Solomon	<p>The Song of Songs is also known as the Song of Solomon. It is a love song between two lovers! But according to ancient Hebrew writings, this song is considered the Song of Songs in the same way Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the temple had the Holy of Holies. It expresses the ultimate passion for a covenantal couple. The Song of Songs is a very beautiful book and one of the most misunderstood books in the Bible. The beauty of this theatrical song is greater than that of the words of Shakespeare. The book has sensual references, and through this book, God endorses intimate passion within the marriage covenant before God. There are some critical keys and insights to understanding the Song of Songs. This song is meant to be read more than once for the reader to contemplate and understand all its intended revelation. This book is made up of different sections which show the progression of the relationship between King Solomon and his beloved, and it starts with a courtship. It is important to understand the use of Hebrew metaphors. Poetical descriptions of the lovers can be misinterpreted in contemporary western culture. For example, "<i>Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an armory, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men</i>" (Song of Solomon 4:3-4 NKJV). In Hebrew poetry the comparisons to fruit and towers are not meant to be imagined literally, but rather emotionally. The nobility and beauty of the images stir up emotion that enrich the passion of the writing.</p>
Reasonable Defense for the faith in Song of Solomon	<p>This book remains singular within the Old Testament for at least two reasons: its character as a single poem and its subject matter, particularly the frank discussion of love between a married couple. The Song of Solomon's willingness to broach the topic of physical love within marriage has made many of its readers throughout history uncomfortable, so much so that Rabbi Aqiba had to vigorously defend the book's place in the Jewish canon even as late as AD 90 at the Council of Jamnia. But as a testament to the beauty of the marriage relationship in its fullness, Song of Solomon stands out with its uniquely detailed vision of this beautiful reality. The Song of Songs illustrates the amazing love between a groom and his bride. In a parallel fashion, this book depicts the love of God for His people of faith and/or the love of Jesus for the Church.</p>

Life Application from Biblical Themes in Song of Solomon

From courtship to marriage to the assurance of Biblical love, Song of Solomon poetically presents a broad range of events and feelings in the days leading up to and during marriage. This love song offers encouragement toward an enduring love amid the petty jealousies and fears that can threaten even the strongest of relationships. Love is a gift from God. We should heed the Song's sublime words by continuing to value marriage as one of the bedrocks of society; appreciating the goodness and the beauty borne out of the union of two people in holy matrimony. Would you consider your marriage a sign of God's goodness and beauty working in your life, or has it become something less than that over time? Song of Solomon reminds us that both marriage and the physical union that follows, originates in God. We should therefore, consider each of them as evidence of His grace working itself out in the world. Be sure to connect with the Rock Church Marriage Ministry if you would like assistance in your journey: www.sdrock.com/ministries/marriage