

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK THE SONG OF SOLOMON

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## AUTHOR AND DATE

Internal claims of the book itself and external tradition both indicate that this book was the work of Solomon.

Assuming Solomon wrote it places the date during his reign (971-31 B.C.).  
The evidence for his youth argues for a date early in his reign.

## BACKGROUND

Solomon reigned at the peak of Israel's history.  
Politically, its borders were never greater.  
Economically, their wealth was great and increasing continually.  
Solomon's wisdom was known throughout the world.

The book describes his love relationship with a Shulammitte girl. It is difficult to identify her historically, since Solomon had many wives. It has been proposed that since many of his marriages were political alliance marriages, this may have been the one wife he really loved.

## PURPOSE AND THEME

*Allegorical view:*

The book demonstrates God's love for His people.

- For Israel
- For the church

The emphasis on the physical aspects of their romantic relationship seems to demonstrate that it was not the purpose of the author to cause the reader to focus on the love of God for His people.

*Physical view:*

The attention paid to physical details draws the reader's attention to the romantic relationship between the two principal participants, particularly to the physical aspects of that romantic relationship.

Apparently the author wants to teach us something about love and romance. As part of the family of wisdom literature, the book seems to provide practical counsel on what true romantic love ought to be. This would correspond to Solomon's counsel elsewhere to live together with, and to enjoy, the wife of your youth.

Solomon's counsel might reflect some of his own frustration from many women, but perhaps, little genuine love. The book sets forth a pattern for the kind of relationship that will satisfy.

## ORGANIZATION

The book depicts a gradually developing and maturing relationship of love.

The normal, logical divisions seem to have been eliminated, in favor of the gradual development of a continually deepening personal relationship.

## WHAT PRACTICAL LESSONS DOES SOLOMON'S SONG TEACH US ABOUT LOVE AND MARRIAGE?

## SONG OF SOLOMON

### GODLY COUNSEL ABOUT LOVE AND ROMANCE

Ralph Porter

| <b>ATTRACTION INTO COURTSHIP</b><br>1:1-3:5  | <b>CONSUMMATION OF MARRIAGE</b><br>3:6-5:1  | <b>APPRECIATION THROUGH SEPARATION</b><br>5:2-6:13  | <b>APPRECIATION THROUGH MATURATION</b><br>7-8  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Title</b> 1:1</p> <p><b>Expression of Affection</b> 1:2-2:7</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Her longing for affection 1:2-7</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">His expression of affection 1:8-11</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Dialogue of affection 1:12-2:7</p> <p><b>Visit to the Bride's Home</b> 2:8-17</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">His arrival 2:8-9</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">His proposal 2:10-13</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Her response 2:14-17</p> <p><b>Dream of Separation</b> 3:1-5</p> | <p><b>Wedding Procession</b> 3:6-11</p> <p><b>Song of Praise</b> 4:1-15</p> <p><b>Response of Love</b> 4:14-5:1</p> | <p><b>The Separation</b> 5:2-8</p> <p><b>The Search</b> 5:9-6:9</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Her description of him 5:9-6:3</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">His description of her 6:4-9</p> <p><b>The Discovery</b> 6:10-13</p> | <p><b>His Praise of Her Beauty</b> 7:1-9a</p> <p><b>Her Surrender to Him</b> 7:9b-10</p> <p><b>Her Invitation to Escape Together</b> 7:11-8:4</p> <p><b>Her Visit Home with Memories and Deepened Desire</b> 8:5-12</p> <p><b>Their Mutual Desire to Escape Together</b> 8:13-14</p> |