

Song of Songs

The Beauty of Married Love

By Timothy Sparks

TimothySparks.com

Title of the Book

- Hebrew title: Song of Songs
 - “The song of songs, which is Solomon's” (1:1)
 - It is the best of the 1,005 songs Solomon wrote (1 Kings 4:32)
 - Similar to “Lord of lords” and “King of kings” (Rev. 17:14)

Genre

(Category of Literature)

- Books of Poetry and Wisdom:
 - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Interpretations

- Incorrect interpretations:
 - God's love for Israel
 - The church as the bride of Christ
 - Solomon pictures Christ and the Shulamite pictures the church
- Correct interpretation:
 - Literal view—the love between a man and a woman who become husband and wife

Key Words

- **Love and beloved** (Hebrew דָּוָד, *dod*)
 - 39 times; refers to romantic love
 - 1:2, 4, 13, 14, 16; 2:16; 4:10; 5:16; 6:1; 7:11; 8:5, 14
- **Love** (Hebrew אָהָבָה, *ahabah*)
 - 11 times; refers to love or strong affection based on relationship; a committed and responsible love
 - 2:4-5, 7; 3:5, 10; 5:8; 7:6; 8:4, 6-7

Verses to Remember

- 1:8, 16
- 2:1, 4, 16
- 4:8
- 5:16
- 7:10
- 8:6-7

Chapters to Remember

Chapters 4, 7, 8

- Ch. 4—The Honeymoon/Wedding Night
- Chs. 7 & 8—The Marriage Strengthens & Matures

Overview Outline

Chs. 1-2: Courtship

Chs. 3-4: The Wedding & Honeymoon

Chs. 5-6: Marital Strife & Reconciliation

**Chs. 7-8: The Marriage Strengthens &
Matures**

Outline by Chapter

Ch. 1: Romantic beginnings

Ch. 2: Growth of the romance—courtship

Ch. 3: The wedding

Ch. 4: The wedding night—the honeymoon

Ch. 5: Marital strife

Ch. 6: Reconciliation

Ch. 7: Mutual affection

Ch. 8: The strength of love

Messages

- While attraction between a man and a woman initially comes in various ways, the basis for a strong and lasting romantic love is the committed, sacrificial and responsible love that protects the marriage relationship, the romance and the friendship
- During dating and engagement a couple must discover friendship and compatibility

Messages

- Sexual passions and sex before marriage can “blind” a couple to each other's true character and personality
 - If a couple marries at that point, they may not know each other; love may not stay “blind”
 - Resist sexual passions before marriage; God designed sex to be enjoyed between husband and wife
- Marriage requires committed, sacrificial and responsible love to navigate successfully the many challenges of marriage

Qualities of an Ideal Marriage

- The man and woman are learning to be totally captivated with each other
 - 1:15-17; 2:10-14
- Each is developing love and contentment with the physical attributes of the other
 - 5:10-16; 6:4-7
- Verbal appreciation is often expressed
 - 1:8-10, 16-17; 4:1-15; 6:4-9; 7:1-9

Qualities of an Ideal Marriage

- Longing for the affection of the other and desiring the love of no other
 - 1:2-8; 2:3-6; 8:1-3
- Confidence of total commitment
 - 2:16; 6:3; 7:10; 8:5-7

Trivia

How many times is Song of Songs quoted
in the New Testament?

None

How many times does the name of God
appear in Song of Songs?

Once (8:6)

Memory Verse Review (Esther—Ecclesiastes)

- Esther 4:14b—“Yet who knows...”
- Job 23:12b—“I have treasured...”
- Ps. 119:30—“I have chosen...”
- Prov. 3:5—“Trust in...”
- Eccles. 12:13—“Let us hear...”

Memory Verse for Song of Songs

8:7a

“Many waters cannot quench love,
nor can the floods drown it”