

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, PART 21
May 16, 2018
Song of Solomon: “A Celebration of Married Love”

Introduction

• **Title**

- Hebrew, “Song of Songs” (from 1:1)
 - Solomon wrote _____ songs.
 - 1 Kings 4:32: _____
 - This was the _____ of them all!
- The Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate follow the Hebrew Masoretic text.
- English, “Song of Solomon” also identifies the author of this magnificent song.

• **Author: _____**

- Identified as the author in the first verse:
 - Song 1:1: _____
- Mentioned 6 other times by name in the book as the _____ central to the story.

• **Other Key People:**

- The _____—Solomon’s bride
 - Not the daughter of _____
 - Probably not Abishag, the Shunnamite concubine of David
 - Probably an Israelite maiden from the area of Shunem, north of Jerusalem
 - Solomon’s _____ love and _____ wife
- The _____ of Jerusalem
 - Other Israelite women Solomon’s bride addresses throughout the story, possibly members of his household and staff
- The Shulamite’s _____
 - Defenders of their sister’s _____
- The watchmen on the walls
 - Who _____ the Shulamite in her dream

• **Date: Between _____ and 931 B.C.**

- The events described in the song took place when Solomon was a _____ man, shortly after he became king.
- The song could have been written at _____ time during his life.
- The song describes a _____ Israel under Solomon’s rule.

• **Background and Setting**

- The Shulamite girl was from a _____ family in Israel, possibly in the

- employ of Solomon (8:11-12).
- Solomon personally spent time involved in _____ pursuits.
 - Ecc. 2:4-5: _____
- Solomon evidently met her near her home, married her, and brought her to live with him in Jerusalem.
- Some parts of the poem take place in the country, some in the city.
- The events described in the poem took place over a period of at least _____ years.

- **Overview**

- The couple's _____ bliss (1:1-2:7):
 - In the palace (1:2-8)
 - At the banquet table (1:9-12)
 - In the bridal chamber (1:13-2:7)
- A visit to the bride's _____ (2:8-3:5)
 - _____ in the country (2:8-14)
 - Catching the little foxes (2:15-17)
 - Dreaming of a separation (3:1-5)
- A description of the _____ day (3:6-5:1)
 - The wedding procession (3:6-11)
 - The wedding night (4:1-5:1)
- More about the couple's wedded bliss:
 - Another dream of _____ (5:2-8)
 - The bride praises her husband's beauty (5:8-6:3)
 - The groom praises his wife's _____ (6:4-13)
 - The bride _____ for her husband (6:14-7:10)
- Another visit to the country (7:11-8:14)

- **Challenges In the Book**

- How should the Song of Solomon be interpreted?
 - Not as an _____
 - Not as an extended _____
 - Not as a _____ or play
 - Not as a _____ of wedding songs
 - The song is a lyric poem that tells a _____ story, although events are not presented in chronological order.

- **Key Themes/Doctrines**

- The beauty of God’s plan for _____
- The joys of marital _____
- The importance of sexual _____
- A much-needed book that reinforces the teaching of many other passages of Scripture:
 - Heb. 13:4: _____

• **Key Words**

- “_____” (32 times in various forms)
- “My beloved” (25 times)
- “_____” (11 times)
- “Lily” or “lilies” (8 times)
- “Myrrh” (8 times)
- “Garden” (6 times)
- “King” (5 times)

• **Application**

- What does this song teach about God’s _____ for married love?
 - It should be a mutual, total _____ of two people to one another:
 - Song 2:16: _____
 - It should be an undying, _____ commitment (8:6-7).
 - It should be consummated _____ only after the couple’s commitments to each other have been witnessed publicly (3:11-5:1).
 - Physical intimacy in marriage is pure, _____ by God, and intended by God to be a source of great joy for the married couple.
 - Song 5:1: _____
 - Physical purity before marriage must be carefully _____ (8:9-10a).
 - Song 8:9-10a: _____

• **Christ in the Book**

- Since Christ is our Heavenly _____, we can learn from this description of married love what our _____ should be like for Christ.
 - Compare the bride’s dream of separation from her beloved (5:2-7) with the words of Christ to the Laodicean church (Rev. 3:19-20).
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