

## OUTLINE OF SONG OF SOLOMON

1A THE ROYAL WEDDING REMEMBERED chap 1:1 - 2:7

2A THE BRIDES' COURTSHIP REFLECTED UPON chap 2:8 - 3:5

3A THE OCCASION OF THE BETROTHAL RECALLED chap 3:6 - 5:1

4A THE BRIDE'S TROUBLED DREAM RELATED chap 5:2 - 6:3

5A THE KING'S MEDITATION ON HIS BRIDE chap 6:4 - 7:10

6A THE BRIDE LONGS TO SEE HER OLD HOME chap 7:11 - 8:4

7A THE RENEWAL OF LOVE AT LEBANON chap 8:5 - 8:14

The poem is a dialogue between Solomon, his friends, the Shulamite, her brothers, a relative (probably her mother's midwife), and the daughters of Jerusalem. The dialogue between Solomon and the Shulamite dominates the story. To see when these various characters speak, it is best to read this book in the NKJV. The shift in speakers is seen by the change in the gender, number, and person in the original Hebrew language.

THEME: The beauty and blessing of marital love

Key Verse: Song of Solomon 2:16a My beloved is mine, and I am his...

Purposes:

1. To glorify marriage and wedded love as a Divine institution. Genesis 2:18-25
2. To represent the love Jehovah has for Israel. Hosea 2
3. To represent the love of Christ for His church. Ephesians 5:22-33, Rev 19:6-8
- 4 To depict the love between Christ and an individual believer. 2 Cor 11:2, Rom 7:4

Interpretation:

This book is PRIMARILY a celebration of courtship and marriage, and the bliss of emotional and physical love between a husband and wife. It sets forth the joy and the intoxicating love and the delightful pleasures they should enjoy together. It also sets forth how others should rejoice in the happiness of the married couple.

This real historical and physical marriage SECONDARILY typifies in some aspects and in a few points the spiritual relationship between God and His people. Not every line is to be seen as typical, and efforts to make them so become ridiculous.

While this poem abounds in metaphors, it should be understood as a literal event, not as an imaginary allegory.

Much of the improper mystical interpretation of this book is due to an unwarranted embarrassment with the obviously sexual elements in the book. We must understand that God designed human sexuality, and He delights in human sexuality within the covenant of marriage. Hebrews 13:4 says, Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed is undefiled... So, what God delights in and approves of, we should as well. The Song of Solomon is designed to teach us that lesson.