

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes: Song of Songs 1

"The Wedding Day"

8/14/13

SUMMARY

The Song Of Solomon is sometimes, also, called the Song Of Songs. It is agreed by most scholars, that Solomon was the penman of this book. Love is spoken of in such an explicit way in this book, that some people wanted to leave it out of the Bible. I personally believe that would be a mistake. It is not to be taken literally. It is love poetry and is really speaking of God's love affair with Israel, or Jesus' love affair with the church. We will deal with it as the relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. The bridegroom in this book is speaking of Christ, and the bride is speaking of all Christians.

I. The daughters of Jerusalem's view of Solomon (1:1-4):

SONG OF SONGS 1:1

Solomon, a son of King David, became king and was chosen by God to build the Temple in Jerusalem. God gave him extraordinary wisdom. Much of his reign was characterized by wisdom and reverence for God, although toward the end of his life he became proud and turned from God. Read about Solomon in 1 Kings 1-11 and 1 Chronicles 28-2 Chronicles 9. Solomon wrote more than 3,000 proverbs (see the book of Proverbs) and over 1,000 songs, one of which is this book, Song of Songs. His Profile is found in 1 Kings 3.

SONG OF SONGS 1:1A

Solomon frequently visited the various parts of his kingdom. One day, as he visited some royal vineyards in the north, his royal entourage came by surprise upon a beautiful peasant woman tending the vines. Embarrassed, she ran from them. But Solomon could not forget her. Later, disguised as a shepherd, he returned to the vineyards and won her love. Then he revealed his true identity and asked her to return to Jerusalem with him. Solomon and his beloved are being married in the palace as this book begins.

The Song of Songs is a series of seven poems, not necessarily in chronological order, describing the first meeting of Solomon and the peasant woman, their engagement, their wedding, their wedding night, and the growth of their marriage after the wedding.

SONG OF SONGS 1:1B

There are three characters or groups of characters in this book: the girl (the "young woman"), Solomon (the "young man"), and "young women of Jerusalem." The girl who caught Solomon's attention may have been from Shunem, a farming community about 60 miles north of Jerusalem. Her tanned skin indicates that she probably worked outside in the vineyards (1:6); thus, she may not have been from the upper class. The young women of Jerusalem include either members of Solomon's harem or workers in the palace.

SONG OF SONGS 1:1-4

This vivid description of a love relationship begins with a picture of love itself. Love is "sweeter than wine"; it makes the lovers rejoice. Acts 10:9-16 teaches that what God has created and cleansed we should not misuse or call common. We can enjoy love. God created it as a gift to us and a delight for all our senses.

II. The Shulammite woman addresses the daughters of Jerusalem (her competition for Solomon's love) (1:5-6):

SONG OF SONGS 1:5

Kedar was a nomadic community in northern Arabia. It was known for its tents that were woven from black goats' hair.

SONG OF SONGS 1:6

The vineyard mentioned here was apparently owned by Solomon (because he came to visit it) and leased to the girl's brothers, who made her take care of the vineyards in the hot sun. Thus, she could not take care of her own skin. When she was brought to Jerusalem, the young girl was embarrassed about her tanned complexion because the girls in the city had fair, delicate skin that was considered much more beautiful. But Solomon loved her dark skin.

III. The Shulammite now addresses Solomon (though Solomon is not present) (1:7):

SONG OF SONGS 1:7

The girl felt insecure at being different from the women of Jerusalem (1:6) and at being alone while her lover was away (1:7). She longed for the security of his presence. The basis of true love is commitment; so in a relationship where there is genuine love, there is never any fear of deceit, manipulation, or exploitation.

IV. The Daughters of Jerusalem answer the Shulammite's Thoughts (8:16):

SONG OF SONGS 1:14

En-gedi was an oasis hidden at the base of rugged limestone cliffs west of the Dead Sea. It was known for its fruitful palm trees and fragrant balsam oil. The terrain surrounding En-gedi was some of the most desolate in Palestine, and it had an extremely hot desert climate. The henna blossoms in En-gedi would have appeared all the more beautiful because of their stark surroundings; thus, the girl was complimenting Solomon's looks, saying that he stood out among all the men.

SONG OF SONGS 1:16, 17

The lover and his beloved describe their woodland surroundings as a wedding bedroom.