

Key to SONG OF SOLOMON

1. STATISTICS:

Other titles given: "Song of Songs" (Hebrew) meaning the best of Solomon's 1005 songs (I Kings 4:32), "Canticles" meaning song of songs (Latin). Writer is undoubtedly Solomon; time of writing, about 1000 B.C.; type of book, dramatic poem; key thought, the delights of married love (spiritual); key phrase, "beloved"; key verse, 6:3.

2. THEME:

This is an oriental poem setting forth the tender joys of intimate love. The characters are Solomon and his bride. The spiritual application reveals the love which is between JEHOVAH and Israel, and between CHRIST and the Church.

3. OUTLINE:

The dialogue suggest dividing at:

- (1) 1:1-2:6;
- (2) 2:7-3:5;
- (3) 3:6-5:1;
- (4) 5:2-6:9;
- (5) 6:10-8:4;
- (6) 8:5-14.

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Like Hebrew poetry, this Song passes suddenly from speaker to speaker and from scene to scene. The identification is usually by the pronouns used. The names of principal characters: Shelomoh (Solomon - masculine, Prince of Peace) and Shulamith (Shulamite - feminine, Seeker of Peace) correspond, as for example, Julius and Julia; Frank and Frances.

The marriage bond is a favorite figure used by many of the Prophets and the Apostles to represent GOD's relationship to His people.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The elder daughter in a poor family was apparently charged with the burden and responsibility of much of the labor. She tended the herds and tilled the family vineyard which belonged to King Solomon. One day as she was caring for the flock, she saw a handsome stranger, and they became friends with great affection for each other.

One day the stranger departed but promised to return. She believed him, trusted him and awaited the fulfillment of his promise. Apparently, no one else in the village did. She waited long and dreamed often. And one day he did return, at the head of a glorious procession, and claimed her

as his bride.

Another interpretation presupposed what was held by some that the Shulamite was Solomon's bride. Some reasoned that it must have been the daughter of Pharaoh; some the lovely Abishag whom Solomon may have married early in his reign (I Kings 1:3; 2:20-25).

6. INTERESTING FACTS:

The name of GOD is not mentioned throughout the book.

Shunem was a village on the southwest slope of little Hermon. This book was always read at the Jews' Passover Feast.

Some regarded the book as a collection of songs to be sung at a marriage feast.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

A true appreciation of the value of the Song is reserved for those whose hearts are wholly given over to Christ. To them the relationship is quite understandable, and the truths plain.

~ end of Song of Solomon ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
