1. **Intro:**

1.1. “We see our Saviors face on every page of the bible, but here we see his heart & feel his love to us.” (Spurg)

1.1.1. I’ll tell you right up front, I’m a little nervous peering in to this book.

1.1.2. I will not know all the interpretations (as many have struggled with some of the metaphors) but I seek to gain all God has for me. I pray you’d be open for the same.

1.2. Some say Solomon wrote Eccl. For the Inquiring Mind – Proverbs for the Obedient Will - & S. of S. for the Loving Heart!

1.2.1. Which is better? – Neither one! – We need all 3 for a balanced life!

2. **CONTENT! – See 1:1**

2.1. **Date & Authorship:**

2.1.1. **Date** - 10th cent. bc.

2.1.2. **Authorship** - Solomon as we see in vs.1(& in 5 others places in the book).

2.2. **What we have here!**

2.2.1. **The Song of Songs!** – The Choicest of 1005 songs he wrote(1 Kings 4:32). His moist exquisite song!

2.2.2. As Jesus is the King of Kings – The Temple had the Holy of Holies – Here this is Solomon’s Song of Songs!

2.2.3. (Spurgeon) “The historical books I may compare to the outer courts of the Temple; the gospels, the epistles, & the psalms bring us into the holy place, or the court of the priests; but the Song of Solomon is the most holy place – the holy of holies, before which the veil still hangs to many an untaught believer,”

2.2.3.1. Wow! - Doesn’t that make you want to peek through the veil? – Yes, we might not understand everything that is going on in there, but ohhhh the beauty!
2.2.4. In Hebrew/Shir Shirim; {each refers to Song & the Song plural} In Greek/Asma Asmaton; In Latin Canticum Canticorum (Canticles=a little song).

2.2.4.1. This song is made up of 13 canticles (lyrics) – [See overhead] 2.2.4.2. They do not necessarily tell a “connected” story.

2.3. Geography:

2.3.1. 15 geographic locations are mentioned.

2.3.1.1. Spanning: From Lebanon & Syria (North) – Egypt (south).

2.3.2. See Map! - Overhead

2.4. Outline:

2.4.1. Courtship (1-3:5)
Marriage (3:6-5:1)
The Joys & Trials of Marriage (5:2-8:14).

2.5. Plot:

2.5.1. Shows King Solomon’s love for a humble maiden!

2.6. Be Alert:

2.6.1. Who’s speaking? (most new translations will identify them for you)
2.6.2. Remember this is a Poem/Love Song – Read it Poetically.
2.6.3. It is a poem for mature people – Rated “PG” (Kids in here?)
2.6.4. It is rich in Metaphors & Oriental Imagery & must be “felt” as well as read.

2.6.4.1. How do you want your love letter to be read…Analytically & monotone?

“Dear Brian, I miss you…hmmm what did she mean by “miss” (to feel the want of?)

2.7. Problems:

2.7.1. God is not mentioned anywhere in this song.

2.7.1.1. Yet seems to be all about “Him” & “His” love!

2.7.2. The Book is not quoted in the Old or New Testament.

2.7.2.1. Yet has been placed confidently in the Hebrew Scriptures. And, was found in the Septuagint 150 years before Christ.

2.7.2.2. It was around in the time of Christ & He never said this one book should be removed.
2.7.3. **Tradition**: The Jews read this book every year at Passover.

2.7.3.1. **Ruth** @ Pentecost – **Eccl.** @ Feast of Tab. – **Esther** @ Purim.

2.8. **The Main Players:**

2.8.1. **The Shulamite** – (6:13)

2.8.1.1. Possibly **Abishag** of Shunem (who attended David in his last days)

2.8.1.2. A young country girl.

2.8.2. **The King** – Solomon.

2.8.3. **The Daughters of Israel** – The palace ladies.

3. **INTENT!**

3.1. **Interpretations!**

3.1.1. Here we seem to have a many-faceted diamond (reflecting & refracting light in all directions).

3.1.2. **[1]** It’s an Allegory –

3.1.2.1. {1} Displaying Jehovah’s Love to Israel.

3.1.2.2. {2} Shows a love triangle between: **Solomon** representing the world system – **The maiden** representing the Church - & **The Shepherd King** representing Jesus Christ.

3.1.2.3. {3} Showing Jesus love to the Church. [most common]

3.1.3. **[2]** It’s a Marriage Manual - on how to relate to each other.

3.1.3.1. It reveals **3 qualities of love** between a man & a woman: **Self-giving; Desire; & Commitment**!

3.1.3.2. These reflect the greater love of God our Creator & lover of our Souls!

3.1.3.3. Of course Paul tells us to liken the 2 together (Jesus’ love to church – mans love to his wife in Ephesians)

3.1.3.4. This Love reaches it’s pinnacle in 8:6,7.
3.2. **One more Problem!**

3.2.1. What’s this self-proclaimed polygamist (6:8) doing writing a book about “Marital Love”?

3.2.1.1. At this time he “only” had 140 women in his life…& a long line of virgins on the waiting list – Not the 700 wives & 300 concubines he ends up with!

3.2.1.2. Doesn’t it prove God’s way from the beginning…that “1 is best?” – Solomon found true love in one! – And it is the love of this one that is promoted as “Good”!

3.2.1.3. The Holy Spirit never promotes polygamy in scripture, though for some reason it was tolerated in that day, maybe as laziness, lukewarmness, & lethargy “seem to be” tolerated in Christianity today (though never “accepted” by God).

3.3. **My Heart in Going Through this Book:**

3.3.1. I will do my best in interpreting,…bringing out the metaphors, culture, & Imagery of Solomon’s day.

3.3.2. Whether you’re a mystic or analytical, both or neither – if you’ll spend time quietly & patiently w/ the Lord, this love letter will be precious & personal to you!

3.3.2.1. Let’s not just learn “about the book”, let’s read & study to hear from the Lord how he wants it to apply it to our lives today.

3.3.2.2. The Lover is going to speak & pray all His Beloved will listen!

3.3.3. We are going to deal with Courtship(Dating); Marriage; & the Joys & Problems of marriage.

3.3.4. **I’m convinced this is timely for our church today!**

3.3.4.1. In our singles dating/courting relationships!

In our marriages!

In our relationship to Jesus!