

Song of Solomon 1:1

9-30-99

“The Inner Room!”

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 Gods 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", lets 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!**