

Book of Song of Songs

Historical Background

Biblical scholars tend to believe that the Song of Songs (also known as Song of Solomon) is written by Solomon during his reign as king of Israel, sometime between 971 and 931 BC. In the last two centuries, numerous critics have disputed Solomon's authorship; however, the internal evidence—the appearance of Solomon's name and references to his royal status—suggest otherwise. Interestingly, the repetition of a single word, “song of songs,” and its similar construction can be observed in other famous biblical phrases: “Lord of lords, King of kings, and Holy of Hollies, to name a few.

How is the book Song of Songs relevant to us today?

Song of Songs is poetically sound and allegorically rich in conveying the love between God and Israel or Christ and the church. In addition, the book captures the beauty of the marriage relationship in its fullness, a uniquely detailed vision of God's gift. It also reminds readers that marriage signifies God's goodness and beauty working in people's lives. Ultimately, both marriage and sex originated with God, whose grace is working itself out in the world through people.

Song of Songs 1 (Romance)

Observation: What expressions and gestures of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: Considering the expressions and gestures of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us romance to understand God's love?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who demonstrated/demonstrate romance, when and where did you experience their romantic endeavors?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate romance in life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate romance?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating romance?

Song of Songs 2 (Affirmation)

Observation: What expressions and imageries of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and imageries of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with a spouse who affirms our love for one another?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who affirmed/affirm our love for a spouse, when and where did you experience their marriage being affirmed by themselves?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you stay faithful and loving in your marriage life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate your affirmation toward your spouse?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating affirmation toward your spouse in the future?

Song of Songs 3 (Commitment)

Observation: What expressions and gestures of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and gestures of love you observed, what are some values/qualities that you identify in a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with people who are committed to one another?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who committed/commit themselves to God and others, when and where did you experience their commitment coming alive?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate commitment?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate commitment in your life, in a community, in a church, and in the world?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating commitment in the future?

Song of Songs 4 (Sensibility)

Observation: What expressions and imageries of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and imageries of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with people with sensibility?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who were/are sensible, when and where did you experience their sensibility?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate sensibility?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate sensibility in your life, in a community, in a church, and in the world?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating sensibility in the future?

Song of Songs 5 (Attentiveness)

Observation: What expressions and gestures of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and gestures of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with attentive people?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who possessed/possess attentiveness, when and where did you experience their attentive behaviors and practices?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate attentiveness?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate your attentiveness toward God and others in your life, in your church, and in the world?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating attentiveness in the future?

Song of Songs 6 (Self-control)

Observation: What expressions and imageries of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and imageries of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with self-control?

God Meeting Us: In the life of the saints who possessed/possesses self-control, when and where did you experience their self-discipline?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate self-control in your life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate self-control?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating self-control in the future?

Song of Songs 7 (Sexuality)

Observation: What expressions and imageries of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and imageries of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with sexuality?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who advocated/advocate for healthy perspectives of sexuality, when and where did you experience their understandings of sexuality?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate healthy perspectives of sexuality in your life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can inform and discuss with others about God-given sexuality in your life, in your church, and the world?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in cultivating healthy perspectives and understandings of sexuality in the future?

Song of Songs 8 (Companionship)

Observation: What expressions and imageries of love do you see in this text?

Interpretation: In light of the expressions and imageries of love you observed, what are some values/qualities needed to continue such a loving relationship?

God loving Us: How has God gifted us with companions?

God Meeting Us: In the lives of the saints who demonstrated/demonstrate companionship, when and where did you experience their embodiment of companionship?

God Refining Us: What are some people or means to help you cultivate companionship in your life?

God Inspiring Us to Serve: What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate companionship in your life, in your church, and the world?

Real Life Today: What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating companionship in the future?