

# **Analysis of Song of Songs**

## **General <sup>1</sup>**

“Perhaps no other biblical book has been read so differently from one time period to another” (Dillard and Longman, p. 257). Thankfully, the modern church has generally moved away from an allegorical reading of the text.

## **Authorship**

Lasor concludes, “Solomon himself probably was not the author” (p. 511). Dillard and Longman recognize that Solomon was probably the author of some of the poems in the Song (p. 264). Longman sees the Song as an anthology of poems and not a single song). Based on the title of the Song as being Solomon’s, his ability to write songs (1 Kings 4:32), the genre of the Song (as wisdom literature) and the extensive use of floral and fauna (1 Kings 4:33), this analysis will maintain Solomon as author for the entire Song.

## **Date**

Since Solomonic authorship is assumed, then a date consistent with his authorship would be approximately 1000 B. C.

## **Key Issues**

Key issues in Song of Songs are: 1) to recognize the difference between authorship and characters in the song, 2) to identify the various speakers, 3) to appreciate the wealth of poetic features and the Song’s genre, 4) to identify the connection between the various cycles, 5) to recognize the history of the tortured reading of the Song, 6) to recognize its importance in the canon to explain what went before it and to build for what comes after it in the NT, 7) to harmonize Solomon’s authorship of this Song and his own sordid love life, 8) to appreciate God’s viewpoint on the physical relationship between a man and a woman and for the married couple to enjoy it.

## **Subject/Purpose Statement**

The Song of Songs is a love song between a couple who revel in their strong love for each other. Through the use of highly charged sexual imagery that is clothed in Hebrew poetry this fictitious couple invite every couple who is wise to join them in their own celebration of love at the proper time.

---

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Dr. Mark McGinniss and his insights and help with this analysis. Check out his blog at <https://outsidemydoor.wordpress.com> for some great ministry, O.T. theology, and his specialty...S of S insights!

## Outline of Song of Songs<sup>2</sup>

- I. Cycle one (1:1-2:7).
  - A. Expressions of her desire to be kissed by him (1:1-4).
  - B. A problem: her self-deprecating description of her beauty (1:5-6).
  - C. Mutual desire to be together (1:7-8).
  - D. His declaration of desire (1:9-11).
  - E. The lovers' separation (1:12-15).
  - F. The lover united (1:17-2:7).
- II. Cycle two (2:8-17).
  - A. The lovers' separation (2:8-9).
  - B. The lovers united (2:10-14).
  - C. Their problems (2:15).
  - D. Mutual desire to be together (2:16-17).
- III. Cycle three (3:1-5).
  - A. A problem of not being able to find him, her desire and their separation (3:1-3).
  - B. The lovers united (3:4-5).
- IV. Cycle four (3:6-5:1).
  - A. The lovers' separation (3:6-11).
  - B. His desire expressed (4:1-15).
  - C. Her desire expressed (4:16).
  - D. The lovers' union enjoyed (5:1).
- V. Cycle five (5:2-7:10).
  - A. The lovers' separation (5:2).
  - B. A problem of selfishness (5:3-8).
  - C. Her desire expressed (5:9-6:1).
  - D. The lovers united (6:2-7:10).
- VI. Cycle six (7:11-8:4).
  - A. Her desire expressed (7:11-13).
  - B. A problem of physical intimacy (8:1-3).
  - C. The lovers united (8:4).
- VII. Cycle seven (8:5-14).
  - A. The lovers united (8:5-7).
  - B. A potential problem (8:8-9).
  - C. Problem solved (8:10-12).
  - D. Separation and mutual desire to be together shared (8:13-14).

---

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Mark McGinniss states: "There is little agreement to the division of the Song. At present I see seven cycles that rotate the themes of separation, desire, problem and union."

## **Theological Issues**

The book of Song of Solomon speaks of the following theological area: the description and joy of sexual relationship between a husband and wife within the context of marriage.

## **Theological Application**

No other book of the Bible speaks so eloquently on the theme of romantic love within the confines of marriage. In an age where sex has been devalued and there is a wealth of poor advice on intimacy, the Song is a much needed admonition for singles to wait until the proper time to enjoy the physical relationship and for the married couple to enjoy the mystery of the sexual relationship with the same degree celebration as the couple in this song.