SONG OF SOLOMON

EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Song of Solomon Well?

DATE: ***~965 BC:*** Likely Solomon's 1st Marriage
GENRE: ***Poetry:*** Longing for Marital Intimacy
AUTHOR: ***Solomon:*** Also Called Song of Songs
SETTING: ***Israel:*** Early in Solomon's Reign
PURPOSE: ***Pursuit:*** God's Passionate Heart Expressed
AUDIENCE: ***Mature Age:*** All in Covenant with God

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Song of Solomon Well?

Early in Solomon's Life & Reign

- Possibly Solomon's First Marriage
- Before His Heart Turned Away
- Sketches of Those in the Marriage
- Roles: Lover, Beloved & Friends
- Some Wait to Read Until Ready

KEY VERSES

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women. As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

- Song of Solomon 2:1-4

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Song of Solomon?

- The Beauty of Marital Intimacy
- Longing for Love & Affection
- Adoring the Lover's Appearance
- Responding to Her Lover's Advances
- Poetic & Allegorical Depictions
- Father's Covenant Love for Israel
- Spiritual Union: Christ & the Church
- Undertones of Wooings & Warnings

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Song of Solomon?

CH 1:1-2:7: 1. Communion: Delight of Bride & Bridegroom
Solomon and his bride delight in their love, picturing God's love for his people

CH 2:8-3:5: 2. Absence: Longing for Intimacy & Affection
The bride waits expectantly for the return and embrace of her absent bridegroom

CH 3:6-8:14: 3. Enjoyment: Experiencing Marriage
The divine design of marriage, its private wonder, and its effect on the community



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of the Song?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1:1-2:7: 1. COMMUNION: DELIGHT OF BRIDE & BRIDEGROOM

Righteousness and romance together: the joy of covenant love, and a window into God's delight in his beloved

CH 1:1-4: Better Than Wine
The book opens with a kiss: his love is better than wine, and the virgins love him

CH 2:1-7: His Banner over Me Is Love
A rose of Sharon, a feast in the banqueting house, and the first charge not to awaken love early

CH 1:5-17: Your Eyes Are Doves
Each praises the other as fair and beautiful, eyes fixed on the beloved alone

CH 2:8-3:5: 2. ABSENCE: LONGING FOR INTIMACY & AFFECTION

Separation deepens desire: faithful longing, not a foreign substitute, like the church awaiting Christ's return

CH 2:8-14: Rise Up & Come Away
Come away, my fair one; my dove in the clefts of the rock, let me see your face

CH 3:1-5: I Sought Him
By night she seeks the one she loves through the streets and squares until she finds him

CH 2:15-17: The Little Foxes
Guard the tender vines from small things that spoil them, for my beloved is mine and I am his

CH 3:6-8:14: 3. ENJOYMENT: EXPERIENCING MARRIAGE

Mutual covenant love in all its intimacy, with warnings to the watching friends to wait for its time

CH 3:6-11: The Wedding Day
King Solomon's procession arrives, crowned on the day of his wedding, the day of his heart's gladness

CH 5:2-7:13: Love Tested & Renewed
A brief distance, the friends' questions, and renewed praise of each other from head to toe

CH 4:1-5:1: A Garden Enclosed
My sister, my spouse: a garden locked and a fountain sealed, opened to her beloved alone

CH 8: Many Waters Cannot Quench Love
Do not stir up love until it pleases; love is a fire no flood can drown or wealth can buy

5. HOW SONG OF SOLOMON POINTS TO CHRIST

- In the Bridegroom's pursuit of his bride: Christ and the church
- "My beloved is mine": abiding in Christ as branches in the vine
- In the bridegroom who goes to prepare a place (John 14:2)
- In the church presented as a pure bride to Christ (2 Cor 11:2)

