|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 |  |  |  |
|  |

**Song of Songs**

**Purpose:** To tell the love between a bridegroom (King Solomon) and his bride, to affirm the sanctity of marriage, and to picture God’s love for his People

**Song of Solomon** (The Hebrew title is Shir Hashirim, Song of Songs, meaning ‘The finest song” Because 1:1 mentions Solomon, English Bibles have often included his name in the title.
**Key Text: 6:3**...... I am my love’s and my love is mine; he feeds among the lilies.
**One sentence summary**:
A bride and groom (or wife and husband) celebrate with exuberant passion God’s wonderful gift of the love they share by describing the intimate dimensions of their love -physical, emotional, and spiritual.
**Author and date of Writing**:
Solomon, probably written early in Solomon’s reign around 965 BC
**Setting**: Israel- the Shulamite woman’s garden and the king’s palace.
**The Blueprint**
-**The wedding day** (1:1-2:7)
- **Memories of courtship** (2:8-3:5)
-**Memories of engagement (3:6-5:1)**
-**A troubling dream** (5:2-6:3)
**-Praise in the brides beauty(6:4-7:9a)
-The brides tender appeal(7:9b-8:4)
-The power of love (8:5-14)**

 **Overview**Song of songs is a wedding song honoring marriage. The most explicit statements on sex in the Bible can be found in this book. It has often being criticized down through the centuries because of its sensuous language. The purity and sacredness of love represented here, however, are greatly needed in our day in which distorted attitudes about love and marriage are commonplace. God created sex and intimacy, and they are holy and good win enjoyed within marriage. A husband and wife honor God when they love and enjoy each other.

**MEGATHEMES;**
**Sex**...... sex is God’s gift to his creatures. He endorses sex but restricts its expression to a man and a woman who are committed

to each other in marriage.

**Love.....** As the relationship developed. The beauty and wonder of a romance unfolding between Solomon and his bride. The intense power of love affected the hearts, minds, and bodies of the two lovers.

**Commitmen**t: The power of love requires more than the language of feeling to protect it. Sexual expression is such an Integral part of our selfhood that we need the boundary of marriage to safeguard our love. Marriage is the celebration of daily commitment between a husband and a wife.

**Beauty**: The two lovers praise the beauty they see in each other. The language they use shows the spontaneity and mystery of love. Praise should not be limited to physical beauty; beautiful personality and moral purity should also be praised.

**Problems**: Overtime, feelings of loneliness, indifference, and isolation came between Solomon and his bride. During those times, love grew cold, and barriers were raised.

**Four Interpretations for the Song of Songs:**

**Allegorical:** This treats biblical narrative in a non-literal Manner- one looks beyond the literal meaning of the words and construct a new and spiritual meaning. (many of the church fathers have adopted this message and found a message of God’s love for the

Church.)

**Typical:** This view sees a Portrayal of the love between Christ, the bridegroom and the Church his bride.

**Literal:** This view sees the book as a collection of love songs or poems that is designed to extol human love.

**Dramatic:** This approach suggests that the song is drama. Solomon has fallen in love with the Shulamite girl who has already given her heart to her shepherd.

**Thoughts on the book of the Song of Song:** It is one of the most beautiful books in the Bible, but is often the most neglected by the simple beauty of its words.