OLD TESTAMENT · POETRY AND WISDOM · BOOK 22 OF 66

Song of Solomon

Many waters cannot quench love (8:7)

8	Solomon	c. 965 B.C.	11
Chapters, 117 Verses	The Writer (1:1)	Early in His Reign	Places on the Map

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

The Song moves from longing to marriage, through a time apart, to a love sealed for ever.



Each bar shows that part's share of the 117 verses.

I 1:1–3:5 · 39 verses

Courtship

Longing, first meeting, springtime, seeking by night.

II 3:6–5:1 · 23 verses

The Wedding

The royal procession, the bride praised, a garden inclosed.

III 5:2–8:4 · 45 verses

Separation

A door opened too late, the search, love restored.

IV 8:5–14 · 10 verses

Love's Strength

"Set me as a seal upon thine heart."

WHO'S WHO

The Voices of the Song

Three voices speak in the Song.

1:5; 6:13

The Bride

The Shulamite, a keeper of the vineyards: "I am black, but comely."

1:1; 3:11

The Beloved

King Solomon, who calls her "my love," "my sister, my spouse."

1:5; 5:9

The Daughters of Jerusalem

The bride's friends, who ask and answer.

From Lebanon to En-gedi

MAP

From Lebanon to En-gedi

The Song draws its pictures from all over the land. Gold marks cities, navy fields, vineyards and hills, and rust the northern mountains. The numbers match the cards below.

SONG OF SOLOMON

From Lebanon to En-gedi

The places named in the Song

The reign of Solomon, c. 965 B.C. · Places approximate



Cities — Jerusalem, Tirzah and others

Fields, vineyards and hills — En-gedi, Sharon, Carmel and more

The northern mountains — Lebanon and Hermon (4:8)

"Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon."

SONG OF SOLOMON 4:8 (KJV)

The Song draws its pictures of love from the whole land, north to south.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 3:6–11; 6:4

Jerusalem

A city. Solomon's city; "comely as Jerusalem," and home of the "daughters of Jerusalem."

2 6:13

Shunem

Field, vineyard or hill. "Return, return, O Shulamite": the bride is the woman of Shulem.

3 1:14

En-gedi

Field, vineyard or hill. "A cluster of camphire in the vineyards of En-gedi."

4 2:1

Sharon

Field, vineyard or hill. "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."

5 7:5

Mount Carmel

Field, vineyard or hill. "Thine head upon thee is like Carmel."

6 4:1; 6:5

Mount Gilead

Field, vineyard or hill. Her hair is "as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead."

7 6:4

Tirzah

A city. "Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah."

8 7:4

Heshbon

A city. Her eyes are "like the fishpools in Heshbon."

9 7:4

Damascus

A city. "The tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus."

10 4:8, 15; 5:15

Lebanon

The northern mountains. "Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse"; "streams from Lebanon."

11 4:8

Mount Hermon

The northern mountains. "From the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens."

SONG OF SOLOMON AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 6

The Courtship and the Wedding

1:1–3:5

The Courtship

Love grows in the springtime, and the bride charges her friends not to hurry it.

1:2
Longing
“Thy love is better than wine.”

2:1
The Rose of Sharon
“And the lily of the valleys.”

2:4
His Banner
“His banner over me was love.”

2:10–12
Springtime
“The winter is past, the rain is over and gone.”

2:15
The Little Foxes
Guard love from what would spoil it.

2:16
Belonging
“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Love in Its Time
“I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem … that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please” (2:7; 3:5; 8:4).

3:6–5:1

The Wedding

King Solomon comes up from the wilderness for “the day of his espousals” (3:11).

3:6–10
The Procession
Sixty valiant men guard the king’s bed

3:11
The Crown
“In the day of his espousals”

4:7
No Spot
“Thou art all fair, my love”

4:12
A Garden Inclosed
“A spring shut up, a fountain sealed”

SONG OF SOLOMON AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 6

Separation, Reunion and Love Strong as Death

5:2–8:4

Separation and Reunion

She is slow to open the door, and he is gone. She seeks him, praises him, and finds him again.

1 5:2–6
Too Late
"My beloved had withdrawn himself"

2 5:10–16
Altogether Lovely
"The chiefest among ten thousand"

3 6:3
Found Again
"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine"

4 7:10
At Rest
"His desire is toward me"

SHE SAID	WHAT IT SHOWS
"My beloved is mine, and I am his" 2:16	**She speaks first of what he is to her** 2:16
"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine" 6:3	**Then of whose she is** 6:3
"I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me" 7:10	**At last she rests in his love for her** 7:10

8:5–14

Love Strong as Death

The high point of the Song: true love is faithful, fierce and beyond price.

> *"Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it."*
>
> Song of Solomon 8:6–7 (KJV)

8:7
Beyond Price
All the substance of a house could not buy it.

8:10
I Am a Wall
She has kept herself pure.

8:14
Make Haste
"Make haste, my beloved."

Christ and His Church

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ and His Church

Married love is God's good gift, and it also pictures a greater love: Christ's love for His bride, the church.

EPHESIANS 5:25, 32

Christ Loved the Church

"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

4:7 · EPHESIANS 5:27

Without Spot

Christ will present His church "not having spot, or wrinkle."

8:6 · ROMANS 8:38–39

Stronger Than Death

Nothing "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus."

8:14 · REVELATION 22:20

Make Haste

"Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

"For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is His name" (Isaiah 54:5).

Key Themes and Key Verse

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Love Is Good
A gift of God to be enjoyed.
4:10; 7:6

Love in Its Time
Stir not up love till it please.
2:7; 8:4

Purity
A garden inclosed.
4:12; 8:10

Faithfulness
Set me as a seal.
8:6

Belonging
My beloved is mine.
2:16; 6:3; 7:10

Longing and Seeking
I sought him whom my soul loveth.
3:1–4; 5:6

Praise
Words of delight in each other.
4:1–7; 5:10–16

Love's Strength
Strong as death.
8:6–7

Christ and the Church
The greater love it pictures.
Ephesians 5:25–32

KEY VERSE

"Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death."

Song of Solomon 8:6 (KJV)