

Song of Songs

Summary

Song of Songs is the love story between a young shepherdess/vineyard worker and King Solomon, the third king of Israel. It tells of their courtship and marriage, and it describes the passion and joy felt by both men and women. This book of the Bible is unique because of the graphic description of sexual love and devotion. This book is also often called "The Song of Solomon," which indicates that it is referring to King Solomon.

Author

Song of Songs is often attributed to King Solomon, although there is speculation that others may have authored the book.

Date

The date given by most scholars for Song of Songs is the tenth century B.C., which coincides with Solomon's reign as king. However, there is some uncertainty about the date due to speculation about authorship.

Primary Characters

The Lover/Suitor/Bridegroom is generally assumed to be King Solomon (Song of Songs 1-8)

The Beloved/Bride (Song of Songs 1-8)

Historical Moments

Solomon's Marriage to the Shulamite Woman (Song of Songs 3)

Major Theological Themes

God Created Us to Love in Unique and Satisfying Ways - When God made man and woman, he purposefully made the two sexes very different from one another. He created our bodies with an amazing plan. He wants us to be able to share pleasure with each other. God's desire is that we love our spouses and devote ourselves wholly to them. Some scholars have argued that Song of Songs is an allegory of the relationship between Christ and His bride (the church or body of believers), but this seems much less likely due to the language used throughout the book.

Lessons Learned from Song of Songs

Sexuality Has an Important Place in Marriage - God's divine plan for marriage is for a man and woman to give themselves to each other and to experience pleasure. Sexuality has an important place in marriage and is not intended to be shameful. It is also not something to be avoided or misused. This divine gift is not something to be taken lightly, as it is a sacred covenant between husband and wife.