

## ***"The Song of Solomon"***

*Wednesday Evening Adult Class by Ray Reynolds (November 13, 2013)*

**Introduction:** In **The Story** we are considering the life of Solomon. We mentioned on Sunday that Solomon is credited with writing three books (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs/Song of Solomon) in addition to a few psalms (**I Kings 4:29-32, Psalms 72, 127**). Song of Solomon (or the Song of Songs) is a large love poem filled with smaller poems of different kinds. King Solomon penned the song sometime during his reign (970-930 BC). It is a story of a groom who is in love with his bride. The key personalities are King Solomon, the Shulamite girl (Abishag – **I Kings 1-3**), the harem of Solomon, and some family and friends. The song emphasizes the sanctity of marriage and purity of love. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

### **I. The Outline of Song of Solomon**

- A. The Courtship – chapters 1-3
- B. The Wedding – chapters 3-4
- C. The Marriage – chapters 5-8

### **II. The Shulamite Girl & The King**

- A. The Shulamite is probably Abishag, King David's nurse (**I Kings 1:1-4, 2:13-25**), from the region of Shulam/Shulem (the region around Narazeth).
- B. The Shunammites are the inhabitants of Shunem in Issachar, the Valley of Jezreel (**Joshua 19:18, I Samuel 28:4, II Kings 4**), and have an established city (like saying you are an American, but also an Alabamian, from Baldwin County, Gulf Shores).
- C. The relationship between the Shulamite and her beloved is displayed for all to read.

### **III. The Courtship of the Shulamite Girl & The King (1:1-3:5)**

- A. The Discovery of Love (1:1-7)
- B. The Description of Love (1:8-2:7)
- C. The Development of Love (2:8-3:5)

### **IV. The Wedding of the Shulamite Girl & The King (3:6-5:1)**

- A. The Celebration of Love (3:6-11)
- B. The Cultivation of Love (4:1-15).
- C. The Consummation of Love (4:16-5:1)

### **V. The Marriage of the Shulamite Girl & The King (5:2-8:14)**

- A. The Anxiety of Love (5:2-6:3)
- B. The Allegiance of Love (6:4-7:9)
- C. The Authenticity of Love (7:10-8:14)

Conclusion: This book is different from any other in the Bible, and it ends abruptly, but you can use your imagination as to what happened after the story concluded. **Song of Solomon 8:7** says, *"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can all the floods drown it."* Wouldn't you like to have that kind of passion in your marriage? Consider applying the principles of this book.

**Concerning the Song of Solomon.....Did you know?**

According to **I Kings 4:32**, Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and penned 1,005 psalms. Two of his psalms are included in the Bible (**Psalms 72, 127**). The Song of Solomon/Song of Songs is considered his greatest song.

The word "ahav" means "love," as in the sense of the Greek "agape," and it occurs 18 times in this book. The word "dodem" is found 36 times and means love with a delight or more affection, akin to the Greek "phileo." Together, they are found 54 times, averaging six times per chapter. There are actually 49 words that appear in this book that are not found elsewhere in the Bible.

According to **Song of Solomon 6:8**, when Solomon married the Shulamite (Abishag) he already had 60 queens and 80 concubines. We know from **I Kings 11:3** that Solomon's harem at its fullest had 700 queens, and 300 concubines (plus many virgins). So at this time he still had 640 queens and 220 concubines to marry after the events within this book.

Solomon was interested in botany as his great songs alludes to 21 species of plants: **Spikenard** (1:12, 4:13,14), **Myrrh** (1:13, 3:6, 4:6,14, 5:1,5,13, 7:17), **Frankincense** (3:6, 4:6,14), **Henna** (1:14, 4:13), **Cedar** (1:17, 5:15, 8:9), **Fir** (1:17), **Rose** (2:1), **Lily** (2:1,2, 4:5, 5:13, 6:2,3, 7:2), **Thorns** (2:2), **Apple** (2:3,5, 7:8, 8:5), **Raisin** (2:4), **Fig** (2:12), **Grape** (2:12,15, 7:12), **Pomegranate** (4:13, 6:7,11, 7:12, 8:1), **Saffron** (4:14), **Calamus** (4:14), **Cinnamon** (4:14, 7:17), **Aloe** (4:14, 7:17), **Walnut** (6:11), **Wheat** (7:2), **Palm** (7:8), **Mandrake** (7:13), in addition to generic references to herbs, spices, vines, wines, gardens, and nuts.

Solomon was interested in geography as his great songs alludes to 17 geographical locations: **Kedar** (1:5), **Egypt** (1:9), **En Gedi** (1:14), **Sharon** (2:1), **Jerusalem** (2:7, 5:16, 6:4, 8:4), **Bether** (2:17), **Lebanon** (3:9, 4:8,11,15), **Gilead** (4:1, 6:5), **Amana** (4:8), **Senir** (4:8), **Hermon** (4:8), **Tirzah** (6:4), **Heshbon** (7:4), **Bath-Rabbim** (7:4), **Damascus** (7:4), **Carmel** (7:5), **Baal-Hamon** (8:11).

Solomon was interested in biology as his great songs alludes to 14 species of animals: **Goat** (1:8, 4:1, 6:5), **Filly** (1:9), **Dove** (1:15, 2:14, 4:1, 5:12, 6:9), **Gazelle** (2:7,8,17, 3:5, 4:5, 7:3, 8:14), **Dog** (2:7), **Stag** (2:8,17, 8:14), **Turtledove** (2:12), **Fox** (2:15), **Doe** (3:5), **Sheep** (4:2, 6:6), **Fawn** (4:5, 7:3), **Lion** (4:8), **Leopard** (4:8), **Raven** (5:11).

Many Bible scholars perceive the Song of Solomon as a symbolic representation of Christ and His church. Christ is the king and the church is the Shulamite bride. There are some obvious elements that foreshadow the church and our relationship with Jesus. For instance, **Song of Solomon 2:4** describes the experience of those sought and bought by the Lord Jesus. **Song of Solomon 2:16** says, "My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies" (NKJV). This a vivid picture of an illustration Christ uses in His ministry (**John 10:28-29**). Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep, loves them, and lays down His life for them (**John 10:11**). Therefore, we are no longer stained by sin, having had our "spots" removed by His blood (**Song of Solomon 4:7, Ephesians 5:27**). However, we need to keep in mind that the main purpose of this book is to reveal the sanctity and purity of marriage.