

Song of Solomon: His Banner Over Me is His Love

Introduction:

1. Right in the middle of the Bible is a beautiful love letter from God. It is called the Song of Solomon. In Hebrew there are no adjectives, or else it would have been called the Greatest Hits of all Times, or the Best Songs of Solomon. It's like saying the King of Kings, or Lord of Lords.
2. It is a very sensual and romantic book.
3. Why is Song of Solomon in the Bible? Let's open a box of love letters and read with interest a romantic novel.

I. Interesting facts about the letter

- A. Not preached from too often. Some Christians have never heard a lesson from the Song of Solomon.
 1. For some it is too confusing-too many players in the story, is it a play, is it an allegory, is it an analogy?
 2. Someone told me that only the mature preacher can understand the meaning (**Song 1:13**) so I put the book down (reference between Old and New Testaments!)
- B. Analogy vs. allegory
 1. Not an allegory
 - a) Allegory is a fictional story that someone has made up with a hidden message and things are not what they seem on the surface. i.e., Aesop's story.
 - b) Many have interpreted Song of Solomon as an allegory and have come up with many different interpretations.
 - c) Why not just read and accept Song of Solomon as it is written.
 - (1) Some cannot handle the romantic language.
 - (2) Some question how God would speak about falling in love, man and wife, bedroom scenes, sex...
 - (3) God invented sex, the devil perverted it.
 - d) Song of Solomon is not an allegory, it is an affirmation of love between man and a woman.
 - e) Right in the middle of the Bible God is affirming love. God had made love between man and woman, pure and clean.
 2. It is an analogy: Analogy is a fact-"The Kingdom of heaven is like..."
 - a) Song of Solomon is love between man and woman, it is like the love between God and mankind, the two are like each other.
 - b) One can say of the Lord, "My beloved is mine..." (**2:16**)
 3. Love letter: SWALK
- C. Scholars are divided about the plot
 1. Love triangle between Solomon, shepherd boy and Shulamite girl. It is a nice story where both men, one a royalty wants to marry the country girl and the other, a poor shepherd has nothing but love to offer. Who will she choose, the prince of the world or the shepherd boy? Great sermon, but not the plot. There is no shame or arrogance in the story, and why would Solomon write a song where he is the loser and the bad guy?

2. The plot is Solomon is both the King and the shepherd boy who comes to the country side and falls deeply in love with a country girl. She has lost all hope of every finding love and all of a sudden her prince shows up with her glass slipper, sort of a cinderella story or a Romans 5:8.

II. The Love Story

A. Beginning at the end **(8:11)**

1. Solomon had a country estate-When he needed a break from the city and being king he would go to the country, to the cabin.
 - a) Presidents do this: vineyards, ranches, islands, golf courses.
 - b) Modern day kings (Spain, Middle East), queens (England) do the same.
2. Solomon took his crown off, put on his shepherding clothes on and when to the country.
 - a) He had an estate with vineyards that he had leased out to a widowed family. The mother had divided the vineyards:
 - (1) to her sons
 - (2) one to her daughter, the Shulamite girl
 - b) Something had happened to the Shulamite girl. **(1:5-6)**
 - (1) She thought she was going to be single for the rest of her life and a slave to her brothers forever, and she complained about it.
 - (a) Her brothers forced her to do the housework
 - (b) Her brothers forced her to work in their vineyards all day long
 - (c) She had to tend to her own vineyard, too
 - (d) As a result the sun had made her skin very dark.
 - i) In the Middle East have dark skin was not considered to be attractive.
 - ii) Now girls go to a tanning bed to get a head start on Spring Break.
3. **1:7, 8, 9-10, 15-16;** One day she is out in the vineyard she meets a young shepherd boy, they chat each other up, they like each other, arrange a date for the next day... and fall deeply in love.
4. **1:17;** They said silly little nothings to each other before marriage like, "The grass can be our bed, any tree can be our roof." After marriage, "Take me to Rooms to Go, I want Pampered Chef and some Scentsy."

B. Marriage proposal **(2:8-17)**

1. Finally, she can't believe it, the day has arrived. But the bad news was that Solomon has to leave, but he would be back for her later. In the meantime she was to get her things ready.
2. **Nightmares:** (Chapter 3) "I've lost him and I'm looking for him."
 - a) **(3:3-4)** Shulamite girl is looking for her fiancée in the night, asks the watchman. She finally finds him, grabs him tight and takes him to her mother's bedroom and is never going to let him go. When she wakes up she is hugging a pillow or something, but not her fiancée.
 - b) **(5:2-7)** Solomon comes in the middle of the night, knocks on the door and she can't open the door. When she finally does open the door she runs to the street looking for him and the watchman beats her.

C. The wedding day has come! **(3:6-11; 6:8)**

1. Shulamite is in the field working and sees the king coming, she learns that her fiancée is the king.
2. The wedding is in the palace and learns that she will be his 61st wife.
3. She will suffer from an inferiority complex.
 - a) God in His infinite wisdom has commanded one husband and one wife for life.
 - b) Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley complex **(2:1-2)**

- D. "He has brought me to his banquet hall, and his banner over me is love." **(2:4)** That's the whole picture of Song of Solomon.

III. Why is the book in the Bible?

- A. At the heart of our religion is a very personal relationship.
 - 1. If you don't have that relationship you've missed it.
 - 2. Being a Christian is not simply reading a Bible and going to church.
 - 3. It is being in love with the Lord, it is a heart relationship.
 - 4. The point of singing hymns is that we are singing love songs to the Lord.
 - 5. Right in the middle of the Bible is a very intimate story about a man and his wife, God and Israel, and we can see in the New Testament the love between Christ and His Bride, Christ and the Christian.
 - 6. Example: Hosea and Gomer=God and Israel
 - 7. From beginning to end we read of a love story where God desires to love us
Genesis 3 and ***Revelation 22:17***
- B. There is an emotional relationship
 - 1. Peter denied the Lord over a fire (Luke 22:55)
 - 2. A second time a fire and Peter are mentioned, Jesus is concerned about love (John 21:15-17) "Peter do you really love Me like I really love you?"
 - 3. Our relationship with God is a very public one. He is King of Kings, now I have to live as His bride, in submission to Him, I need to surrender to Him and serve Him.

Conclusion:

- 1. God is calling us out of pure and simple love.
- 2. Plan of salvation.