

Through the Bible Course

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The Song of Solomon

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Key Word: Beloved

Key Verse: 6:3

Author: 1:1 – Solomon; according to 1 Kings 4:32, he had 1005 songs. This book is called in Latin, “Canticles,” meaning, “Song of Songs.”

It is a sublime song setting forth human affection in its most holy and highest form. As such, it is an expression of relationship between Jehovah and Israel and is prophetic of relationship between Christ and Church. That this last meaning was intended can be shown from fact that the Chaldee Targum which is a Jewish commentary gives the book the following title – “The Songs and Hymns Which Solomon, the Prophet-King of Israel Delivered by the Spirit of Jehovah, the Lord of the Whole Earth.” Also, because in Ephesians 5:21ff, Paul uses the relationship between husband and wife to be illustrative of the relationship between Christ and His Church.

The setting is peculiarly Eastern. It seems that the king brought a maiden from Lebanon and tried to win her love, but that in spite of all of his inducements, she remained loyal to her beloved.

Note: Outline taken from J. B. Tidwell’s, “The Bible, Book by Book.”

- I. The King’s First Attempt to Win the Virgin’s Love – 1:1 – 2:7
 1. She converses with the ladies of the court – 1:1-8
 2. The king’s attempt fails to win her – 1:9 – 2:7
- II. The King’s Second Effort to Win Her Love – 2:8 – 5:8
 1. The virgin recalls her former happiness when with her lover at home – 2:8-17
 2. In a dream she goes in search of him – 3:1-5
 3. The king shows her his glory and greatness – 3:6-11
 4. She again rejects his love in spite of his praises of her beauty – 4:1-7
 5. She longs for her absent lover – 4:8 – 5:1
 6. She dreams of seeking in vain for him – 5:2-8
- III. The King’s Third Attempt to Win Her – 5:9 – 8:4
 1. The ladies of the court cannot understand her faithfulness to her old lover – 5:9 – 6:3
 2. The king’s third effort to win her is met with the declaration of her purpose to remain true to her absent lover – 6:4 – 8:4
- IV. The Triumph of the Maiden – 8:5-14
 - I. Its Foundation

- a. Shows mutual satisfaction. It may have been impossible by human reason to account for this, but it was true – 2:2, 3
 - b. This supreme affection should be only natural basis of marriage.
 - 1. Each sees the other as the only one.
- II. Strength – 8:6, 7
 - a. Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 13:8 – love never faileth
 - b. The allurements of palace luxury and honors could not break it.
- III. Its blessing
 - a. There is joy, rest, peace and courage in such a love.
- IV. A warning to leave love at liberty to express itself in pure and natural affection.
 - a. Between wooing and betrothal – 2:7
 - b. At end of marriage – 3:5
 - c. In midst of united life – 3:4

Lesson on Love of Christ and Church

- I. Mutual satisfaction on its foundation
 - 1. We should be satisfied with Him.
 - 2. He will present the Church without spot or wrinkle adorned as a bride for her husband – Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 19:7, 8; 21:2
- II. Intensity of Strength of this Love
 - 1. We should love Him more than anyone or anything else in all the world.
 - 2. The world should not be able to allure us away.
- III. Should be faithful in waiting and watching for His coming