

Purpose

To tell of the love between a groom (Solomon) and his bride, to affirm the sanctity of marriage, and to picture God's love for his people

Penmen

Solomon

Date Written

Probably early in Solomon's reign

Setting

Israel — the Shulammitte woman's garden and the king's palace

Key Verse

"I am my lover's, and my lover is mine. He grazes among the lilies!"

Song of Solomon 6:3

Key People

King Solomon, the Shulammitte woman, and friends

An Overview (14 Chapters)

- The Wedding Day (1:1-2:7)
- Memories (2:8-5:1)
- A Troubling Dream (5:2-6:3)
- Praising the Bride's Beauty (6:4-7:9)
- The Bride's Tender Appeal (7:10-8:4)
- The Power of Love (8:5-14)

Major Themes

- **Sex:** The most explicit statements about sex in the Bible can be found in this book. Sex is God's gift to His creatures. He endorses sex but restricts its expressions to marriage.
- **Love:** Because love is such a powerful expression of feeling and commitment between two people, it is not to be regarded casually. We are not to manipulate others to love us, and love should not be prematurely encouraged in a relationship.
- **Commitment:** While romance keeps a marriage interesting, commitment keeps romance from dwindling away. That commitment to each other must be maintained daily.
- **Beauty:** While the two lovers praise the beauty they see in each other, our praise should not be limited to physical beauty. Look for the inner qualities that don't fade with time — spiritual commitment, integrity, sensitivity, and sincerity.
- **Problems:** There will be problems in a marriage; we can count on that. However, through careful communication, lovers can be reconciled, commitment can be renewed, and romance refreshed. Don't allow walls to come between you and your partner. Take care of problems quickly.