Song of Solomon
A Song Out of Tune!

- No mention of God, sin, duty, weakness, death, salvation
- Solomon – the romantic king!!
- Nelson: A romantic song!
- Rylaarsdam: No spiritual lesson
- John Wesley: “indecent . . . absurd . . . monstrous”
- Rabbi Saadia: the lost keys
- Jerome’s (340-420 A.D.) advice for his daughter Paula
- Neglected in the Church

- Inspired and profitable!
Interpretations of the Song of Solomon

- Allegory: a made-up story
  - Jewish: stages of Jewish history
  - Christian: Church and Christ
- Drama
  - Two character drama
  - Three character drama
- Historical
- Cultic – Adaptations of Canaanite culture
- A Love Song
  - A collection of unrelated love songs.
  - An epic love poem

Guides to interpretation of the Song of Solomon

- John 5:39 – Scripture speaks of Christ
- The Song of Songs (1:1)
  - The greatest song in the Bible
  - The theme of the Bible – “God with us”
- The Old Testament is based in history
- Old Testament Types

A Proposal: An historical account illustrating spiritual truth
Structure

Three parts
    Male, Female, Group
    Solomon, Shulammite, Daughters of Jerusalem

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Song of Solomon 1:1-5:1

1. Title (1:1)
2. Introduction – Shulammite and chorus (1:2-4)
3. Dialogue – Shulammite and Solomon (1:5-2:7)
4. Monologue by Shulammite (2:8-17)
5. The dream (3:1-5)
6. The wedding (3:6-11)
7. Monologue by Solomon (4:1-16a)
8. Beginning of life together (4:16b-5:1)
Solomon and the Shulammite as Types

- The marriage imagery in Old and New Testaments
  - Isaiah 54:5-8
  - Isaiah 61:10
  - Isaiah 62:5
  - Jeremiah 2:2
  - Ephesians 5:25-32
- The corruption of the marriage imagery
  - Ezekiel 16:8 – the faithless bride
  - Ezekiel 23 – Oholah and Oholibah
  - Hosea – a real and typical marriage
- The Primacy of Love
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-5
  - The great commandment (Matt 22:34-40)
  - Luke 14:26
- Delighting
  - Job 22:26; 27:10; 34:9
  - Psalm 1:3
  - Psalm 16:3
  - Psalm 35:27
  - Psalm 37:4
  - Psalm 41:11
  - Isaiah 62:4
  - Ezekiel 24:16
- Delighting typified
  - Song of Solomon 2:3 – the apple tree
  - Song of Solomon 4:7 – you are altogether lovely
Song of Songs

- A new perspective in the Wisdom literature
- A point of self-examination
- A point of rejoicing

- The Christmas story
  - John 3:16
  - The joy of God
  - The joy of the saints