

## **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
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## Guides to interpretation of the Song of Solomon

- ▶ John 5:39 – Scripture speaks of Christ
- ▶ Luke 24:13-27 (v. 27) – on the road to Emmaus
- ▶ 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, Shulammitte, Daughters of Jerusalem

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## **Song of Solomon 1:1-5:1**

1. Title (1:1)
2. Introduction – Shulammitte and chorus (1:2-4)
3. Dialogue – Shulammitte and Solomon (1:5-2:7)
4. Monologue by Shulammitte (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
  - Psalms 1:3
  - Psalms 16:3
  - Psalms 35:27
  - Psalms 37:4
  - Psalms 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