

#### 4) Beginning To Sing Solomon's Song

- A) There are three literary "characters" in the Song of Solomon. First, there is a young Shulammitte girl. Second, there are the daughters of Jerusalem (a group of her peers). Third, there is the bridegroom (Solomon).
- B) The Shulammitte (cf. 6:13) girl, begins the Song looking back on her days of courtship for the benefit of the daughters of Jerusalem (1:5), by remembering her attraction to Solomon (Song of Songs 1:2-4a).
- C) The focus of the first few verses is her attraction to Solomon physically ("your oils," 1:3a) and as a response to his character ("your name is like purified oil; therefore the maidens love you," 1:3bc).
- D) The assumption of the text is that Solomon's purified name and the admiration of others is from a pure character, a character which is assumed is provided by God!
- E) Embarrassed by how dark and tan she appears (imagine that!), the Shulammitte girl speaks of her own beauty in negative terms, lamenting she doesn't look good enough for her man (1:5-6).
- F) Despite her frustration with her brothers, the Shulammitte girl is clearly living in active service to her family (1:6). She shows herself to be a sacrificial hardworking servant.
- G) Despite this, the girl seeks to be where her man is at (1:7). Note she is seeking a meeting out in the open, in the daytime, unlike the prostitutes who "veil" themselves (1:7).

# Purity In Priorities

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**"HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE, MY  
DARLING, HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE!  
YOUR EYES ARE LIKE DOVES."  
"HOW HANDSOME YOU ARE, MY  
BELOVED, AND SO PLEASANT!  
INDEED, OUR COUCH IS LUXURIANT!  
THE BEAMS OF OUR HOUSES ARE  
CEDARS, OUR RAFTERS, CYPRESSES."  
~SONG OF SOLOMON 1:15-18 (NASB)**

#### 1) Solomon's Silent Song

- A) Because of romantic, sensual and erotic themes, the Song of Songs (for nineteen centuries!) was interpreted in an allegorical (a story or poem which can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning) manner.
- B) Despite the allegory method, the true meaning behind the Song of Solomon was increasingly embraced. In the last century, many excellent literal interpretations celebrating sexuality and love from Solomon's Song have been written.
- C) The faithful literal interpretation, because of the tendency of the church to treat sexuality as a taboo, has left the book as one of the least preached books of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> centuries!

D) While the church often treats sexuality as taboo, the world clearly does not. In fact, sex is one of the primary idols of our culture, a powerful attempt to find meaning and purpose outside of God's control.

E) For many people in the world, life without sex -- particularly sex without restraints or boundaries -- is a life that is not worth living. In light of the Song of Solomon's message, the church cannot continue in silence -- we must sing Solomon's Song loudly for the world to hear.

## 2) Why Solomon?! Why Not Someone Else?

A) Solomon is probably best known for being the King of Israel who chose wisdom over power or wealth (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 3:6-14). Solomon's wisdom was legendary (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 3:16-28)

B) Solomon is also remembered for his unbelievable wealth and power (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 4:20-34). Solomon built the great temple (first temple) in Jerusalem, one of the eight wonders of the ancient world (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6:1-38 & 7:13-8:66).

C) Solomon wrote a large portion of the book of Proverbs, which were only a portion of the total number of proverbs he spoke (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 4:32). He also composed over 1,000 songs (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 4:32), of which the Song of Songs is "supreme."

D) Despite all of this, Solomon had a weakness for women, especially foreign women with which God had forbidden marriage (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:1-2). Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines which turned his heart away from God (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:3-4).

E) Solomon's actions, especially his worship of foreign idols, would quickly destroy the united monarchy of Israel, and eventually decimate Israel and leave her victim to invasion and captivity (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:4-13).

F) Despite all of this (perhaps because of it?), God chose to inspire Solomon's relationship with a young Shulammite girl for the instruction of couples in what God thinks about romantic relationships. Remember, God is inspired, not people!

## 3) Isn't Song Of Songs For Married People ONLY?

A) While it is true that the Song of Solomon has a large portion which is written about a marriage relationship, there are also large portions written about courtship, conflict, and fidelity -- all areas of study which benefit both marrieds and singles.

B) If you are single, this is a book which helps to answer the question, "What am I looking for in a member of the opposite sex?" Or, if you are single and in a relationship, does the person you are dating "have the right stuff?" The Song of Solomon will help you prepare for a great marriage.

C) If you are already married, this is a book which can help your marriage become the best it can be. There will be great reminders of what goes into a great marriage, and great challenge for living it out.

D) For some of us, who are in marriages which are struggling and on the rocks, the Song of Solomon could be (I am praying), God's call for you to save your marriage before you become crashed against the rocks of divorce.