

Song of Solomon Outline

Introduction: Another odd book in the canon, the Song of Solomon is not on the surface a religious book, but a book of erotic love poetry. Like Ecclesiastes and Proverbs, the book claims Solomonic authorship, but like the others, scholars believe this attribution is more traditional than historically helpful. The Song of Solomon, also called the Song of Songs, was one of the last books to be allowed into the canon with many arguing it had no place. Like a kalaidoscope, different people hear different things in the Song: some see an allegory between God and the synagogue, Christ and the church, the mystical relationship between the individual and God, etc. Whatever this is, it is an extremely provocative book and a clear example of a writer using a popular genre to express a religious sensibility.

Chapter 1: Opening with the woman day dreaming of her love and her self description

Chapter 2: Further self description and daydreaming about being with her beloved;
Imagining her beloved speaking to her in the spring of their love;
“My beloved is mine and I am his”

Chapter 3: Searching for the beloved in the night; the wedding of Solomon

Chapter 4: Now the description of the woman

Chapter 5: Coming to the garden, eating, drinking- being drunk with love, another search

Chapter 6: Further description of the woman's beloved

Chapter 7: The description of the woman, the lovers going off together in the field

Chapter 8: The power of love and the yearning of the two lovers for one another

To know: “My beloved is mine and I am his” (2:8-17); the nighttime search (5:2-8); Love being as strong as death (8:6-7)