



## Song of Songs

Those who assume that the Bible is either boring or prudish are in for a shock when they read the **Song of Songs** [also called the Song of Solomon]. While it is perhaps correct to say Solomon was personally involved in developing this “song,” it does not mean that this love story is necessarily autobiographical. 1 Kings 4:32 declares that Solomon composed 1,005 songs. The title “Song of Songs” means “the best of them all,” implying perhaps that this praise of intimacy was the high point of his song-writing endeavor.

The best way to see this book is as a literal, powerful description of the romantic and sensual love between a man and a woman, observing both their courtship and their marriage. It does not give us a smooth chronological story, beginning with the introduction of the couple to one another and ending with their married life together. Instead, it is a collection of “snapshots” of their courting and married life, with the pictures not necessarily in order.

The Song of Songs celebrates the beauty and intimacy of married love. It teaches that a lasting marriage requires dedication, commitment, and a strong loyalty between husband and wife. The fact that this “greatest of all songs” focuses on romance and marital love shows us what a high regard God has for the institution of marriage. God deliberately uses the marriage relationship as an illustration of the relationship that He has with His people. We find that this great song of songs illustrates the love, the intensity, and the beauty of relationship that should exist between God and the believer as well. This is clearly a secondary meaning, but the connection can still be made to the plain literal implication.

It is befitting that this book is part of the wisdom collection. Wisdom Books address how one is to live wisely and the role of one’s intimate relationship with their spouse is foundational and a critical component of living.

On a humorous note, if one tries to apply Song of Songs to our marriage, be sure to contextualize the comments to fit today’s culture... a husband telling his wife that **her hair looks like a flock of goats** (4:1b) may not end well. Blessings.