



COMING UP ... FEB 16 Proverbs FEB 23 1 Kings 5-9 MAR 1 Ecclesiastes MAR 8 1 Kings 9-11 MAR 15 1 Kings 12-16

SONG OF SOLOMON SUMMARIZED in a word or phrase: "Marital Love"

THE BASICS

Who: Solomon (see 1:1) **When:** sometime between 971-931 B.C. **Where:** probably Jerusalem

Why: "The purpose of the book is to extol human love and marriage. Though at first this seems strange, on reflection it is not surprising for God to have included in the biblical canon a book endorsing the beauty and purity of marital love." – Bible Knowledge Commentary

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Song of Solomon is a "poetic drama"

It's filled with metaphors and uses allusions rather than straightforward descriptions

It's been taken metaphorically ...

the love the Lord has for Israel

the love Christ has for His Church

But it should be understood first and foremost as a divine story of a maturing married love

LESSON THEME: It takes hard work to love your spouse well

The King Courts His Bride (1:2-3:5)

They're attracted physically (1:3, 5, 8-11)

But they're also attracted to each other's character

The king ...

Is pure and holy; he's a godly man (1:3)

The young woman ...

Is industrious (1:6)

Is obedient to her brothers; a servant (1:6)

Is morally upright and committed to purity (1:7)

So they eat together (1:12, 16; 2:4) in the open and in the light (1:17); they "date"

She finds the king ...

To be gentle and complimentary (1:9-10)

To be tender and sweet (1:14); even his memory is precious to her heart (1:13)

Pursuing her exclusively (2:2)

Protecting and nourishing her soul (2:3)

Honoring and respecting her (2:4)

And he finds that the young woman ...

Increasingly respects him (2:3)

So their passions grow

The young woman ...

Begins feeling more passionate (2:5)

Has a longing for physical intimacy (2:6)

The king ...

Responds with patience and self-control (2:7)

A time and a place for love ... but not now

Must await a future "season" for intimacy

Springtime is the "season" for love (2:10-13)

There's been time to become friends before lovers

And their mutual passions grow (2:8-9)
Yet the young woman ...
Has feelings of insecurity (2:14) and doesn't want to be led on
So the king ...
Reassures her of his commitment to her (2:14)
Together ...
Their trust in each other is growing and deepening
They're committed to protecting their relationship from the "little foxes," the little destructive sins, that could ruin their relationship (2:15)
And so the young woman ...
Grows in security and respect for him (2:16)
Has a recurring dream of longing for him (3:1-3)
And finally introduces him to her mother (3:4)
And yet the king ...
Exhorts her to wait for the right time for intimacy (3:5)
That time will coincide with the soon-coming wedding day

The King Marries His Bride (3:6-5:1)

Finally, the wedding day comes in magnificent splendor, and the bride expresses the fullness of her feelings (3:6-11)
That night is the honeymoon (4:1-5:1)
And what has been "off limits" until now becomes the source of great delight for both of them (4:16; 5:1)

They Resolve Conflict (5:2-6:13)

It seems he's been working late ... again ... and comes to her bedroom unanticipated (5:2)
She's indifferent; "silent treatment" (5:3)
He doesn't force the issue, and she finds herself responding to his kindness (5:4)
But he leaves ... back into the night (5:6)
She repents, not because of his punishment, but under Another's chastening hand (5:7)
Her heart has changed and she again wants to be with him (5:8)
She reminds herself of who he is (5:9-16)
She knows where he is, and that brings a renewed sense of security (6:1-3)
She comes to him apologetic; he's forgiving and tender with her, not harsh (6:4-7)
He reminds her that she's unique and holds a special place in his sight (6:8-9)
His love, embrace and forgiveness restore her and make her grow (6:10)
They resolve the conflict by making up ... which is fun (6:11-13)

They Kindle Romance (7:1-8:4)

It's clear ... romance doesn't just happen!
The king praises and affirms his wife ...
With intimate words, spoken with maturity and tenderness
Regarding her character (7:1-4)
Regarding her beauty (7:5-6)
Regarding her desirability (7:7-9)
He truly longs for *her* (7:8)
It's clear ... romance doesn't just happen!
The king praises and affirms his wife ...
And she in turn ...
Is responsive to his words (7:10)
Is determined to lure him to herself (7:11-12)
Is creative in appealing to him (7:13)
Is spontaneous and passionate (8:1-3)
Romance must be awakened and nurtured

They're Committed For Life (8:5-14)

- The couple's commitment (8:5-7)
 - Their love is providential (8:5)
 - Their love is permanent (8:6)
 - Their love is precious (8:7)
- The truth of biblical, marital love (8:8-14)
 - The principle: it's to be protected until the time is right (8:8-9)
 - The timing: evidenced by *maturity*
 - Been obedient to God and family (8:10-11)
 - Been patient (1:6; 8:10 also cf. 8:10; 8:8a)
 - The timing: evidenced by *morality*
 - Maintained purity (8:12)
 - The timing: evidenced by the readiness to enter into a mutual, *life-long commitment* to serve one another (8:13-14)

"The Song of Solomon"
by Sir William Russell



Application: It takes hard work to love your spouse well

It Takes Hard Work To Love Well

- To the unmarried ...
 - Put character ahead of looks
 - Put together a spouse "values checklist"
 - Make absolutely sure they're running in the same direction and at your spiritual pace
 - Be *mature*: obedient to God and patient
 - Be *moral*: protect your purity ... and the other's
 - Wait until there's a mutual commitment to a lifetime of serving one another; you deserve it!
- To the married ...
 - Resolve conflict biblically
 - Kindle your romance
 - Men ...
 - Offer genuine words of praise and affirmation to your wife, said with maturity and tenderness
 - Study your wife
 - Speak to her about her character, her beauty and her desirability to you
 - Women ...
 - Take the initiative from time-to-time to draw your husband to yourself
 - Be creative in appealing to him
 - Be spontaneous and passionate



"Beloved" by Amy McCutcheon

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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