

*Journey of the
Shulamite*



The Shulamite's Journey

March 26, 2023, The Well Los Osos

Introduction

Title: Song of Songs

Author: Solomon, King of Israel after David the patriarch and friend of God

Time period: 970-931 BC

Type of Literature: Jewish poetry and wisdom writings

Song of Songs is read every year among practicing Jews *during Passover*.

In Hebrew: "Shir HaShirim" = SONG OF ALL SONGS

Solomon wrote 1005 songs in total!

Notes on songs in the Old Testament

Hebrew word *shir*

Used 90 times in the OT as:

song (74x), music (7x), singing (4x), musical (2x), sing (1x), singers (1x), song (with H1697) (1x).

Used for:

- Joy
- Worship
- As a witness to the people; of God's glory (Deuteronomy 31:21)
- As a prophecy (see Judges)
- Singing praise
- Dedication of the House of God
- Love song to God (Psalm 45:1)
- Song of battle and proclaiming God's goodness (Psalm 68:1)
- Songs of Thanksgiving (Psalms)
- Song for the Sabbath Day (Psalm 92:1)
- Song of Isaiah [prophetic song from God to His children] (Isaiah 5:1)
- Song of a harlot [prophecy against kingdom of Tyre] (Isaiah 23:15)

Interesting note: This word *shir* was translated *behold* in Job.

Job 36:24 *KJV*

Remember that thou magnify his work, which men *behold*.

A Multi-Dimensional God is revealed in His Word

Question: did Jesus misquote the Bible?

Matthew 21:15-16 *NKJV*

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?”

And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?”

Psalm 8:2 *NKJV*

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have ordained strength,

Because of Your enemies,

That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

Jesus didn't misquote the Bible (He is the Word; He can't misquote Himself—John 1:1;14).

He introduced a deeper level of revelation to those who are hungry for it!

Perfect praise will silence Satan in your life!

Christ and the Church

Question: Did Paul misquote the Bible?

Ephesians 5:30-32

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Paul took Genesis 2:24 and made it about Christ and the Church. This concept was introduced even before the Fall of man (interesting, right?).

Early Church History

Before the Church, Jewish interpretation clearly understood this book as a powerful illustration of God’s love and relationship with His people, Israel. Most early Church fathers including Hippolytus (the earliest recorded ~200 AD), Origen, Jerome, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, and others viewed Song of Songs as a clear representation of Christ and His Bride; a masterpiece of the Holy Spirit written in deeply symbolic and allegorical language. The idea that Song of Solomon was strictly sexual has only surfaced widely since the mid-19th century.¹

On Jewish perspective of Shir HaShirim:

Quote from *Haaretz*; Jewish online paper; describing one rabbi’s (Akiva) interpretation of Song of Songs:

Thus, the Song of Songs is the holiest of holies, not because it is a cryptic text that must be deciphered through an allegorical reading. Quite the contrary: In the sages’ view, it is an allegory in itself. The sages regard it as a very simple text whose images are clear and whose parables are easy to understand. According to the sages, the Song of Songs enables an understanding of another text that is truly enigmatic – the Torah. They see the Torah as a text that is inaccessible and, in their opinion, Solomon’s creation of figurative phrases in the Song of Songs opens the door to an understanding of the Torah.

The Song of Songs is one notch above the other writings in the Bible in terms of holiness not because of its esoteric nature, but because it paves the way for an understanding of the Torah’s text. Were it not for the Song of Songs, the Torah would lack a handle [like a coffee mug] for a comprehension of its content.²

The Shulamite’s Journey

“Shulamite” ≡ ♀ SOLOMON

Let’s journey through four clear stages of the Shulamite’s growth.

1. CONFIDENT and COMFORTABLE love
2. SACRIFICIAL love

¹ Tanner, J. Paul. “The History of Interpretation of the Song of Songs.” *Bibliotheca Sacra*, vol. 154, no. 613, 1997, pp. 23–46, biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_song1_tanner.html.

² Meyer, Yakov. “Parashat Song of Songs a ‘Handle’ for the Torah.” *Haaretz*, 7 Apr. 2014, www.haaretz.com/jewish/portion-of-the-week/2014-04-17/ty-article/.premium/parashat-song-of-songs-a-handle-for-the-torah/0000017f-e11a-d9aa-afff-f95a0eb80000.

3. MATURING in PARTNERSHIP
 4. STANDING in FULLNESS

Stage 1: CONFIDENT AND COMFORTABLE LOVE

- 1:2 She is focused on getting her love needs met.
- 1:3 She starts with a revelation of His Name.³
- 1:5-6 She doesn't yet see herself as the King sees her.
- 2:9 She is aware of a "wall" that stands between her and the King.
- 2:10-13 The King invites His Bride to a deeper place with Him.
- 2:14 The King makes His perspective of His Bride clear.
- 2:17 The Bride rejects the King's invitation.
- 3:1 The Bride regrets her 'no' and sets out to pursue the King.
- 3:6 The Bride sees her King in a new light.
- 4:16 First indication that the Bride is willing to endure hardship for her King.

Stage 2: SACRIFICIAL LOVE

- 5:2 The Bride is too comfortable to answer the King's second invitation⁴.
- 5:5 She thinks better of it and runs after Him.
- 5:7 She endures her first hardship for her King.
- 5:8 The Shulamite's character has shifted! She shows resolve in hardship.
 - Notice she is still distant; asking others to find Him for her and carry her message of lovesickness to Him.
- 5:9 The onlookers ask the Shulamite, "What's so great about this King you speak of?"
- 5:10-16 The Shulamite displays her passion for her King.
- 6:1 Her display of sacrificial love has spurred others on to seek Him.
- 6:2 The Shulamite shows early signs of another character shift.

Stage 3: MATURING IN PARTNERSHIP

- 6:13 She is still self-conscious and does not yet see herself as the King sees her.
- 7:1 First use of this concept "How beautiful are the feet..." in the Bible⁵.

³ The name of God reveals and is a manifestation of His glory (Exodus 33:18-34:7).

⁴ See Revelation 3:20

⁵ See Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15

- 7:10 The Shulamite finally begins to see who she really is.
- 7:11-12 The Bride's desires have matured beyond getting her needs met; she is consumed with the same desires as her King. His desires have become her own.
- 8:4 She is now sounding like Him in speech.

Stage 4: STANDING IN FULLNESS

- 8:5 The Shulamite here is not the same Shulamite as in Chapter 1.
- 8:6-7 Eternal partnership⁶ with her King expressed fully from a place of maturity⁷, not merely personal desire.
- 8:10 She walks in spiritual motherhood and nourishes⁸ others.
- 8:12 She manages and tends the work of the King.
- 8:13 The King desires to hear the beauty of her voice as it has grown to align with His.
- 8:14 The Shulamite cries to the King as a finale⁹, "Come!"

Main points

1. Jesus is calling each one of us to a higher place in Him.
2. Jesus is speaking *your true identity* to you 24/7, and He sees you lovely, beautiful, and very, very worthy of His love.
3. What are you going to do *right now* to respond to Jesus' invitation to you?
 - a. *For the curious*
 - i. Jesus is real, alive, and He loves you very much.
 - b. *For the hungry*
 - i. Have you given your life to Jesus? I mean, have you really given your LIFE?
 - ii. The deeper places with God are costly, but always worth it.
 - c. *For those beginning their walk with Jesus*
 - i. Get baptized in the Holy Spirit!
 - ii. Pray in tongues.
 - iii. Learn how to meditate Scripture.
 - iv. Surround yourself with people you want to "rub off" on you spiritually.
 - d. *For those walking in maturity with Jesus*
 - i. Pray in tongues continually.
 - ii. Serve and nourish others well as a spiritual father/mother.
 - iii. *It comes with a price. How much time will you spend?*
4. **Song of Songs FREE study resource with Justin's personal notes available at www.UnstoppableBlog.com**

⁶ See John 17:20-26

⁷ See Ephesians 4:15

⁸ See Galatians 4:19

⁹ See Revelation 22:20