

Basic Training in the Bible

Andrew Stepp | Song of Solomon

Review of Ecclesiastes:

The Key Word and Meaning:
Used 37x in the book *hebel*

Song of Solomon:

“The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s.” 1:1

Interpretations:

Allegory

Jewish

Christian

Others:

Write down key words from the definitions of biblical wisdom:

- **Typological/Typical** – Recognizes the historicity of the book but subordinates it to a NT theme like Christ/Church. Similar to allegory but accepts the historicity.
- **Wedding cycle** – A collection of wedding nuptial poems similar to what was used at Arabic weddings at that time.
- **Didactic** – Does not deny but discounts the historical aspects of the Song in favor of the moral and instructional purposes. The Song should be taken literally with its expressions of romantic and sexual bliss in marriage, at the same time the Song seems to communicate a lesson on marital love that goes even deeper.
- **Literal** – Takes it at face value and interprets it for what it appears to be – a sensual, erotic expression of emotions and passion. It is simply love poetry with no intended plot behind it. It celebrates, illustrates, and warns of the power of sensuality.
- **Anthology**– It should be understood in reference to literal human sexual/romantic expression, but not as a unified document with a single theme and purpose. The Song of Songs represents instead a collection or anthology of love poems.
- **Drama** – A play or drama to be performed for royal entertainment
 - But how many characters are there? ...2 or 3???



Major Themes:

- The poet affirms the virtue of chastity in the young lovers – faithful, monogamous marital relationship between a man and a woman.
- The Shulamite and her shepherd-lover model genuine love demonstrating sincerity and fidelity by strength of character and flame of passion. They exude loyalty, integrity, commitment, and faithfulness.
- ...affirms the goodness and righteousness of physical love within the confines of God-ordained marriage. “The sanctity of marriage and the appropriateness of physical intimacy within marriage are vital truths for the church of God set in a society mired in sexual license and easy divorce.”

Song of Solomon as wisdom literature...

This Week’s Readings:

Son of Solomon = 8 chapters

Use extra time to read Proverbs and/or Ecclesiastes