



Celebration of Love

Biblical Courtship and Marital love

100 years of moral decay

Victorian morality



Margaret Sanger opens the first abortion clinic in US in 1916



Industrialization destroys small family farming along with the 3-generation family model



Jazz age: rise of flappers and the Lost Generation, loss of Victorian morality

1916

1920

1930



Legalizing murders of unborn humans in 1973 helped to decrease the cost of sexual immorality



Sexual revolution leads to wide acceptance of sexual promiscuity



Since 1960, "the pill" has been helping to avoid consequences of sexual immorality



Mass production of penicillin reduced the health cost of sexual immorality



Automated manufacturing of condoms facilitates sexual promiscuity

1940

1970

1960

1950

1980



Sex, Drugs & Rock & Roll era glorifies drug use & sexual promiscuity



Rise of a narcissistic generation



Spread of hedonistic anti-natalism

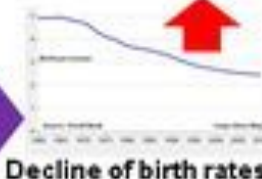


Needs of society

Personal pleasures



Human extinction



1990

2000

2010

2016

Biological mechanism of human procreation is broken by the birth control



Why Song of Songs?

Wisdom books attributed to Solomon

Proverbs

Living



Ecclesiastes

Thinking



Song of Songs

Loving



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands assembling a jigsaw puzzle on a light-colored table. The puzzle pieces are scattered across the surface, and the person is holding a piece in their right hand, ready to place it. The background is dark and out of focus.

A Puzzling Book



**The title of
the book is
disputed**

The Song of Songs, which is
Solomon's

Songs 1:1

Puzzling



- Song with a story?
- Voices of a man, a woman and who else?
- Uses figurative speech
- No mention of God
- Explicit sexual content



Leads to different interpretative approach

- Allegorical approach
- Typological approach
- Literal approach

A vague storyline

- **The Characters in Song of Songs**
 - Solomon
 - Shepherd
 - Shulamite woman
 - Daughters of Jerusalem
- **Two common interpretations of the story**
 - A love triangle
 - Love between a man and a woman



The Couple's Love Journey

- Their Courtship
- Their Wedding
- Their Marriage

A Preamble: How (*I think*) they met...

Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon;

He leased the vineyard to keepers;

Everyone was to bring for its fruit

A thousand silver coins.

My (*Shulamite*) own vineyard *is* before me.

You, O Solomon, *may have* a thousand,

And those who tend its fruit two hundred.

Songs 8:11-12



Their Courtship

After their meeting(s), she fell in love with him

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
For your love *is* better than wine.
Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name *is* ointment poured forth;
Therefore the virgins love you.
Draw me away!

Songs 1:2-4

Her friends were happy for her

We will be glad and rejoice in you.

We will remember your love more than wine.

Songs 1:4

She describes her shortcomings

Rightly do they love you. I *am* dark, but lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the
curtains of Solomon. Do not look upon me, because I *am*
dark, because the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons
were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the
vineyards, *but* my own vineyard I have not kept.

Songs 1:5-6

She is in love with a mysterious man

Tell me, O you whom I love,
Where you feed *your flock*,
Where you make *it* rest at noon.

Songs 1:7

Her friends' advice to her

If you do not know, O fairest among women,
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,
And feed your little goats
Beside the shepherds' tents.

Songs 1:8

A dating scene

While the king *is* at his table,
My perfume sends forth its fragrance.
A bundle of myrrh *is* my beloved to me,
That lies all night between my breasts.
My beloved *is* to me a cluster of henna *blooms*
In the vineyards of En Gedi.

Songs 1:12-14

He praises her

Behold, you *are* fair, my love! Behold, you *are* fair!
You *have* dove's eyes.

Songs 1:15

She praises him

Behold, you *are* handsome, my beloved! Yes, pleasant!
Also our bed *is* green. The beams of our houses *are* cedar,
and our rafters of fir. Songs 1:16-17

Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so *is* my
beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great
delight, and his fruit *was* sweet to my taste.

Songs 2:3

She dreams of their future together

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me *was* love. Sustain me with cakes of raisins, refresh me with apples, for I *am* lovesick. His left hand *is* under my head, and his right hand embraces me.

Songs 2:3

A good piece of advice

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases.

Songs 2:7

He appears and disappears (the cycle repeats)

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Songs 2:8-10

She had troubled & sleepless night

By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him. “I will rise now,” I said, “And go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love.” I sought him, but I did not find him. The watchmen who go about the city found me; I said, “Have you seen the one I love?”

Songs 3:1-3

This is what she would do ...

When I found the one I love.
I held him and would not let him go,
Until I had brought him to the house of my mother,
And into the chamber of her who conceived me.

Songs 3:4

A reminder to the Daughters of Jerusalem – yet again

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases

Songs 3:5

Their Wedding



A spectacular surprise!!!

Who *is* this coming out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the merchant's fragrant powders? Behold, it *is* Solomon's couch, *with* sixty valiant men around it, of the valiant of Israel. They all hold swords, *being* expert in war. Every man *has* his sword on his thigh Because of fear in the night.

Songs 3:6-8

Solomon appeared as the bridegroom

Of the wood of Lebanon Solomon the King made himself a palanquin: He made its pillars *of* silver, its support *of* gold, its seat *of* purple, its interior paved *with* love. By the daughters of Jerusalem. Go forth, O daughters of Zion, and see King Solomon with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day of the gladness of his heart.

Songs 3:6-8

Solomon serenades her..

Behold, you *are* fair, my love! Behold, you *are* fair!
You *have* dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair *is* like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead. Your teeth *are* like a flock of shorn *sheep* which have come up from the washing, every one of which bears twins, and none *is* barren among them. Your lips *are* like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil *are* like a piece of pomegranate.

Songs 4:1-3

Your neck *is* like the tower of David, built for an armoury, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men. Your two breasts *are* like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies. You *are* all fair, my love, and *there is* no spot in you.

Songs 4:4-7

Come with me...

Come with me from Lebanon, *my* spouse, with me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, from the top of Senir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards

Songs 4:8

Captivated by her love

You have ravished my heart, my sister, *my* spouse;
You have ravished my heart with one *look* of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace. How fair is your love,
My sister, *my* spouse! How much better than wine is your
love, and the scent of your perfumes than all spices!
Your lips, O *my* spouse, drip as the honeycomb;
Honey and milk *are* under your tongue; and the fragrance of
your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

Songs 4:9-11

He praises her virginity

A garden enclosed is my sister, *my* spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Your plants *are* an orchard of pomegranates with pleasant fruits, fragrant henna with spikenard, spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices— A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

Songs 4:12-15

She gives her virginity to him

Awake, O north *wind*, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden, *that* its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits.

Songs 4:16

They consummate their marriage..

I have come to my garden, my sister, *my* spouse;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice;
I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey;
I have drunk my wine with my milk.

Songs 5:1

**Their
Marriage**



The bride had a bad dream

I sleep, but my heart is awake; *it is* the voice of my beloved!
He knocks, *saying*, “Open for me, my sister, my love, my
dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, my
locks with the drops of the night.”

She is dreaming

I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on *again*? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them? my beloved put his hand by the latch *of the door*, and my heart yearned for him. I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped *with* myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the lock. I opened for my beloved, But my beloved had turned away *and* was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

She searches for him

The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls took my veil away from me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I *am* lovesick!

Why are you lovesick?

How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you so charge us?

Songs 5:9

She speaks highly of her husband

My beloved *is* white and ruddy, Chief among ten thousand. His head *is like* the finest gold; His locks *are wavy, and* black as a raven. His eyes *are* like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, *and* fitly set. His cheeks *are* like a bed of spices, banks of scented herbs. His lips *are* lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. His hands *are* rods of gold set with beryl. His body *is* carved ivory inlaid *with* sapphires. His legs *are* pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance *is* like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth *is* most sweet, Yes, he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, and this *is* my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!

He praises her romantically

O my love, you *are as* beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as *an army* with banners! Turn your eyes away from me, for they have overcome me. Your hair *is* like a flock of goats going down from Gilead. Your teeth *are* like a flock of sheep which have come up from the washing; Every one bears twins, and none *is* barren among them. Like a piece of pomegranate *are* your temples behind your veil.

Songs 6:4-7

He praises her beauty and character

There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favourite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her. Who is she who looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, awesome as *an army* with banners?

Songs 6:8-10

He praises her physical body

How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince's daughter! The curves of your thighs *are* like jewels, the work of the hands of a skilful workman. Your navel *is* a rounded goblet; It lacks no blended beverage. Your waist *is* a heap of wheat set about with lilies. Your two breasts *are* like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

Songs 7:1-3

Your neck *is* like an ivory tower, your eyes *like* the pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose *is* like the tower of Lebanon which looks toward Damascus. Your head *crowns* you like *Mount* Carmel, and the hair of your head *is* like purple; A king *is* held captive by *your* tresses.

Songs 7:4-5

A repeated line

I am my Beloved's and my beloved is mine

Songs 6:3, 2:16

Marriage is a lifelong commitment

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; For love *is as* strong as death, jealousy *as* cruel as the grave; its flames *are* flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised.

Songs 8:6-7

Be a Protector

We have a little sister, and she has no breasts.

What shall we do for our sister in the day when she is spoken for?

If she *is* a wall, we will build upon her a battlement of silver;

And if she *is* a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

Songs 8:8-9

She remains sexually pure until her marriage

I *am* a wall, and my breasts like towers; Then I became in his eyes as one who found peace.

Songs 8:10

Love and courtship must continue after marriage

Come away, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
On the mountains of spices.

Songs 8:14

Summary of key lessons

- To the unmarried, **“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases”**
- To the married, **“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine”**

Marriage in redemptive history

- Genesis 2:20-25
- Ephesians 5:32
- Revelation 19:6-9