

The opening verse of the Song of Solomon identifies King Solomon as the author. According to 1 Kings 4:32, Solomon composed over a thousand songs, but this one Solomon considered finest—the “*Song of Songs*”. While Proverbs highlights wisdom for daily living and Ecclesiastes explores life’s big questions, the Song of Solomon celebrates love and intimacy.

It tells the story of Solomon’s courtship, marriage, and early years of love with a country maiden called the Shulamite. The book unfolds in three sections:

- The Engagement (Song 1:1–3:5)
- The Wedding (Song 3:6–5:1)
- The Marriage (Song 5:2–8:14)

Though it may be a real love story, the Song also gives us a picture of God’s love for His people. The New Testament often compares marriage to Christ’s relationship with His church (Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27). Legal marriage between husband and wife becomes a reflection of divine love—pointing us to Jesus, who gave Himself sacrificially for us.

One of the best-known verses says: “*He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love*” (Song of Solomon 2:4). Just as a banner identified people in battle or in a tribe, Solomon’s bride was marked out by his public display of affection. For us, the cross is God’s banner of love—an undeniable symbol that Jesus laid down His life for us. Whenever doubts arise, the cross stands as proof of God’s eternal, sacrificial love.

Solomon’s Early Years and the Power of Love

Many scholars speculate that this was the first of Solomon’s three biblical works, written in his early reign (ca. 970–931 BC). It reveals the passion of a first love—before Solomon’s many later failures. The book reminds us that marriage is God’s good gift, designed for intimacy, transparency, and trust.

When Adam and Eve were first united, “*they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed*” (Genesis 2:25). That openness is what God desires in marriage. And just as with Solomon’s bride, love should be rooted in character above all else: “*Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, your name is ointment poured forth*” (Song of Solomon 1:3).

From this, we learn:

- **Put character first.** Looks fade, but character lasts.
- **Sex is for legal, biblical marriage.** God designed it as a gift to be enjoyed within a covenant bond. Outside of marriage, it becomes destructive.
- **A godly marriage requires humility, lifelong commitment, and sacrifice.** The same principle applies to following Christ: *deny yourself* and walk in love.

The Engagement of Solomon and the Shulamite

The Shulamite was a farm girl from the Jezreel Valley (Israel's "bread basket". Solomon noticed her, and their love blossomed into an engagement. The book's dialogue includes Solomon, the Shulamite, the daughters of Jerusalem (court ladies), and her family—showing the value of community and accountability in relationships.

She admired his kisses but valued his character above all: *"Let him kiss me... for your love is better than wine"* (Song of Solomon 1:2). Even as she struggled with her appearance, worrying about her sun-tanned skin (vv. 5–6), she maintained dignity and purity, refusing to compromise herself to gain his attention (v. 7).

The lesson is timeless: attraction is natural, but patience and purity matter more. Rushing into love leads to regret, but waiting produces blessing. That's why the Shulamite wisely repeated: *"Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases"* (Song of Solomon 2:7).

Solomon, meanwhile, pursued her wholeheartedly. His compliments—comparing her to a prized filly among Pharaoh's chariots (1:9) and praising her *"dove's eyes"* (1:15)—revealed both admiration and delight. She responded in kind, recognizing his beauty and enjoying his company. Their growing committed affection was not hidden—*"He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love"* (2:4).

Lessons for Us Today

The Song of Solomon gives us practical wisdom for love, marriage, and purity:

- Guard your heart. Don't awaken love prematurely. Build relationships on character, not mere attraction.
- Invite accountability. The Shulamite's brothers warned, *"Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines"* (Song of Solomon 2:15). In relationships, small issues left unchecked can destroy love. Address problems early.
- Honor God's design. Like soil in a garden or fire in a fireplace, sex is good in its place—within marriage. Outside of it, it brings ruin.

Marriage illustrates Christ's love for His church—selfless, faithful, and enduring. That's why Paul wrote: *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her"* (Ephesians 5:25).

Our Greatest Need

While the Song of Solomon celebrates the beauty of human love, it ultimately points us to the greatest love of all—God's love in Christ. Just as Solomon's bride rested under his banner of love, we are invited to rest under God's banner—the cross.

Jesus died and rose again so we could experience forgiveness, freedom, and eternal life. Human love, as beautiful as it is, cannot fill the deepest need of our hearts. Only Christ can.

That's why the call of the Song of Solomon, when traced to its ultimate fulfillment, is an invitation: give your life to Jesus. Let His banner of love cover you. Trust Him as Savior, follow Him as Lord, and enter into the eternal love story that will never fade.