

1:1 "THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS OF SOLOMON..."

HEBREW IDIOM:
"HOLY OF HOLIES"
"KING OF KINGS"
THE GREATEST SONG

MAYBE

AUTHOR?

MAYBE NOT

✓ HIS NAME BEGINS THE BOOK.

✓ MAIN VOICE IS A WOMAN.

✓ MAN'S VOICE ISN'T SOLOMON.

✓ SOLOMON'S MENTIONED, BUT NEVER SPEAKS.

✓ SOLOMON HAD 700+ WIVES! (SEE 1 KINGS 11:1-3!!!)

"OF SOLOMON" = IN THE WISDOM TRADITION OF SOLOMON

SOLOMON WAS KNOWN FOR WISDOM, POETRY, AND A LOVE OF LEARNING. (SEE 1 KINGS 4:29-34)

POEMS THAT EXPLORE *JOIE* AND *DESIRE*

the Song of Songs

1:2-7 INTRODUCTION



THEME ONE

INTENSE DESIRE: SEEKING AND FINDING

SEPARATE, SEEKING

FINDING, EMBRACING



THEME TWO

REMEMBER:
HEBREW METAPHORS ARE **NOT** PRIMARILY VISUAL!

THE JOY OF PHYSICAL ATTRACTION

YOUR EYES ARE LIKE DOVES...
♪ YOUR HAIR, LIKE A FLOCK OF GOATS...
♪ YOUR TEETH, LIKE LAMBS... ♪
♪ YOUR NECK IS A TOWER...
YOUR LIPS DRIP HONEY...



8:6-14 LOVE CONCLUSION

Love ...IS AS STRONG AS DEATH,
ITS PASSIONS ARE AS SEVERE AS THE GRAVE,
ITS FLAMES ARE OF FIRE, A DIVINE FLAME.
MANY WATERS CANNOT EXTINGUISH LOVE,
RIVERS CANNOT SWEEP IT AWAY.
IF ONE WERE TO GIVE ALL THE WEALTH
OF ONE'S HOUSE FOR LOVE,
HE WOULD BE UTTERLY SCORPED. (8:6-7)

THE POWER AND INTENSITY OF LOVE?
(BEAUTIFUL & LIFEGIVING ... OR ... DANGEROUS & DESTRUCTIVE)

THE HUMAN LONGING TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN

TRANSCENDENT, MYSTERIOUS, AND A **GIFT FROM GOD**



(OPEN)ENDING
...A LOT LIKE LOVE...

WHAT IS LOVE POETRY DOING IN THE BIBLE?

THREE MAIN INTERPRETATIONS THROUGH HISTORY:

1 JEWISH TRADITION
AN ALLEGORY OF ISRAEL AND GOD

2 CHRISTIAN TRADITION
AN ALLEGORY OF THE CHURCH AND CHRIST
(SEE EPHESIANS 5:25-33)

*THE DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AND BABYLONIAN LOVE POETRY, PART OF ISRAEL'S CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

3 COLLECTION OF ANCIENT POETRY
THAT REFLECTS ON THE DIVINE GIFT OF LOVE

A KEY FEATURE
GARDEN IMAGERY ECHOES *the Garden of Eden* (GENESIS 1-2)

MAN AND WOMAN NAKED AND VULNERABLE, YET UNIFIED AND SAFE
VISION OF A RELATIONSHIP UNTAINTED BY SIN
THE SONG HOLDS OUT HOPE...

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