

sermon notes

Sept 20, 2026 | Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Song of Solomon**
“Intro to Song of Solomon: God’s Book on Love, Sex, and Marriage” | **Song 1:1**

Seven Preliminary Matters:

- 1) **The Book’s Name:** _____ of _____ (Hebrew: שִׁיר הַשְּׁמִירִים)
- 2) **The Book’s Author:** _____, king of Israel
- 3) **The Book’s Genre:** A _____ of Hebrew love _____
- 4) **The Book’s Setting:** Ancient _____ in the _____ century BC
- 5) **The Book’s Canonical Context:** _____ literature (following Ecclesiastes in the Bible)
- 6) **The Book’s Main Theme:** Celebrate God’s good gift of romantic _____, sexual _____, and _____
- 7) **The Book’s Relationship to the NT:** Human marriage ultimately points to the greater covenant love between _____ and his _____ (Eph 5:22–33; Rev 19:6–9)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Familiarize yourself with The Song of Solomon. Who wrote this book? Where is it found in the OT? What is the genre of the book? What are its main themes? Access a study Bible, commentary, or reputable online source to help you answer these questions. For an overview, see the following BibleProject video: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/song-songs/>

Discuss Solomon’s authorship. What evidence supports Solomonic authorship? Why might God have chosen Solomon to write this book? Why is Solomon a poor candidate to write about love, sex, and marriage (1 Kgs 11:1–9)? Why is he a strong candidate to write on these subjects (1 Kgs 3:12; 4:29–34; 10:23–24; Eccl 1:16; 2:9)? Does God ever use imperfect candidates to communicate perfect truth (i.e., crooked sticks that draw straight lines)?

Why would God include a book in the Bible devoted so extensively to romantic and sexual love? What does its inclusion teach us about God’s view of the body, sexuality, pleasure, and marriage?

GET PERSONAL

List a few things that you know about this book. Have you ever read it before? If so, how many times? Are there any passages or phrases from the book that you remember or that were confusing to you?

Consider contemporary views on love, sex, and marriage. What does our current culture get right? What does it get wrong? How is marriage celebrated in the Bible? How is sex celebrated? How are lovemaking and childbearing celebrated? How are sexual immorality and perversion denounced?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read Song of Solomon in one sitting. This should take you about 20 minutes. Now write down three or four observations from the reading. Also, write down three or four questions you have about the book. Keep these handy as we work through the text verse by verse. How is the end of the book (Song 8:6–14) key to understanding the message of the book as a whole?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Many Jewish and Christian scholars have allegorized Song of Solomon over the centuries to avoid the overtly sexual themes of the book. How would you assess this approach to the book? Does this approach adequately convey God’s message in this book? How might we read this book “typologically” (not allegorically) in light of the greater, eternal marriage between Christ and the church (see Eph 5:22–33; Rev 19:6–9)?