

**SONG OF SOLOMON**

1. Why is this book in the Bible, especially when there is no mention of God (just as in the book of Esther)? What is this book about? It does not seem spiritual as it is about human sensuality and describes the 5 senses of our body.
2. Yet this book begins with “Song of Songs of Solomon”. It is the Hebrew way of saying it is the “greatest song” like King of Kings. The Hebrew language has no “superlative adjective” eg. “greatest” Hence this phrase is the Hebrew equivalent for the word “greatest”.
3. It is the greatest song because it is a love song.
  - a) However, many people think that our Christianity is intellectual. So why have such a love song?
  - b) The Hebrews considered this song as very sacred and it is read on the Sabbath of the Passover. They saw it as an analogy and type of God’s love for Israel and Israel’s response to God’s love.
  - c) It was placed in the middle part of the Bible. Love is the centre or heart of Christianity because the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30).
4. Unlike the Greek way of thinking which clearly divides the spiritual and physical worlds, the Hebrews saw the physical and spiritual worlds as one. Both these worlds were created by God.
  - a) Our minds are affected by the Greek way of thinking which places the “spiritual” realm above the “physical” realm because the Greeks love philosophy.
    - i. Christians today also place scholars above labourers, e.g. they think studying is better than working.
    - ii. The ones we look up to in most churches are those who can teach and preach the Word or study the Bible well but not those who go out to serve or take care of the widows and the poor. We often see these services as “lowly”.
  - b) But God made both spiritual and physical worlds as one. Therefore, though the Song of Solomon speaks of physical love, it is the most precious book because physical love is invented by God. Sex is invented by God in the Garden of Eden, not by Satan.
  - c) Christians think sex is dirty or just to be tolerated and is not to be exalted.
    - i. Therefore, terrible immorality happens even amongst Christians, and many Christian couples never enjoy the celebration or fulfilment of love.
    - ii. God gave sexual intercourse as a means of enjoyment between partners in a Christian marriage.
    - iii. If Christians do not think sex is good, their other party may look for extra-marital sex.
  - d) Satan is a great deceiver and perverts the beautiful concept of sex and makes it “dirty”. Even the Song of Solomon may look dirty to some.

Who wrote this book?

1. It is likely that King Solomon wrote it. He was a very musically inclined and emotional person and he wrote this as a love song. Many such writings do not make sense to people who are not in love, especially to those who are not in love with God.
2. Therefore, do not read to dissect this book or analyse it. Read it with a simple heart. God instituted the Passover for Israel to show His love for Israel. That is why the Song of Solomon is read in synagogues on the Sabbath of the Passover Day.

Why was it expressed in a love song?

1. The analogy of our loving God as a loving earthly father makes it easier for us to love God and respect Him for loving us, providing for us and protecting us.
2. Similarly, this Song of Solomon, expressed as a love song between a man and his lover, helps us to better understand how an invisible God loves us and how we can respond to His love.
3. It is expressed as the love between a husband and wife.
  - a) God loves us in the same way as a husband loves his wife and God wants us to love Him in the same way the husband wants his wife to love him.
  - b) It is like God is the husband and the believer is the wife. So the Song of Solomon depicts God's love as a husband and also how the wife (the believer) should respond. It is an analogy.
  - c) So while Solomon wrote it as a normal love song, the Hebrews took it as sacred.

What is the story about?

1. It is about 2 people, not 3, the king who was the shepherd-like person and a lady. The king and the shepherd here are one person (just as David was a shepherd).
2. Solomon loved to go into his country and study plants, animals, etc. in the countryside. This story is about him going out, dressed like a shepherd, meeting a simple and dark-skinned farm girl and falling in love. The girl did not know who he was. One day he promised to marry her but said that he had to go to the city to settle some business and so she waited for him.
3. So a significant part of the song was about her waiting and her dream of going to Jerusalem to look for him, hearing a knock on the door in her dream and discovering that he was gone by the time she got up. This is the same as anyone desiring and seeking someone or something but has not got it yet.
4. One day, he returned, married her and brought her back to Jerusalem. A large part of the story is about the marriage banquet, and the love songs expressed to each other.
5. Therefore, we should not analyse details like "pomegranate" speaking of blood, etc. as suggested by some commentators.

What was the purpose of this book?

1. It is an analogy of God's intimate love for Israel and God expecting Israel to love Him back intimately. Ephesians 5:31-32 says, "A man must leave his father and mother and

2. the two shall become one flesh” It is very sexually expressed. BUT it also says “this is a great mystery for I speak concerning Christ and the Church”. Marriage and the intimate love between a husband and a wife is an analogy of the love between Christ and the Church. In the Old Testament, it was the love between God and Israel.
3. What does God want?
  - a) God wants us to fall in love with Him personally and intimately.
    - i. This sounds bizarre to many Christians. When we sing to God, we are singing love songs to Him. We are not to dissect the words of the songs.
    - ii. Sometimes in church worship, our singing is so plain, so painful, and so boring without emotions. While some churches hype up the singing with music, some people just want to hear the sermon and about 2/3 of the church may be absent during the singing part of the church service.
  - b) God wants us to love Him with passion.
    - i. When Peter denied Jesus 3 times, Jesus asked him, “Do you love Me?” three times!
    - ii. People fall in love with the things of the world but not with God. They talk about their work, hobbies, travel, etc. with so much passion and enthusiasm but not so about God.
    - iii. This book is placed right after the book of Ecclesiastes. The book of Ecclesiastes talks about failing in love with things under the Sun. Love not the things under the Sun but the One who made the Sun (1 John 2:15-17).
  - c) God wants to teach us that sex is invented by Him.
    - i. He wants us to enjoy it in the sanctity and sacredness of marriage.
    - ii. Within marriage, sex is given for enjoyment and a blessing from God.
    - iii. When done outside marriage, it perverts marriage and is adultery and idolatry.

What do we learn about God from this book of the Song of Solomon?

1. God is emotional. He cares for us in a personal way. He expresses His love for us, He feels! He is not a cold, distant God giving decrees.
2. Therefore, the book of the Song of Solomon was placed in the centre of the Bible. Our love for God should be the centre of Christianity. Do not be ashamed to express our love for God and tell others about it. Any man in love will be seen to be in love by the way he looks and talks. Do you see this in Christians going to church? Not really; we think it is more about Bible Study, etc.
3. If we have no love, we are all nothing but noisy “cymbals”(1 Corinthians 13:1). Everything done out of duty means nothing to God.