**Love Is In The Air**

***(Overview of The Song of Solomon)***

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 13th, 2022

Text: Song of Solomon

Intro

1. By the first verse of The Song of Solomon it indicates that Solomon felt that this was the finest of the 1,005 songs that he wrote (I Kings 4:32).
	1. **SoS 1:1:** The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.
	2. The NET *(New English Translation)* Bible says, “Solomon’s Most Excellent Love Song.”
	3. Some versions call it the Song of Songs or the Song of Solomon.
2. This is the excellency of the songs that he has written. Of the 1,005 songs he wrote, this one is *IT* as far as Solomon is concerned.
3. Some people over time have questioned its inspiration and why it is included in the Bible. God shows us the proper context for dating & love in marriage, with the theme of commitment!
4. I always looked forward to Christian gatherings to try out my Song of Solomon pick up lines…
	1. Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead (SoS 4:1)
	2. Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate behind your veil (SoS 4:3)
	3. Your eyes are like doves (SoS 1:15)
	4. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, which faces toward Damascus (SoS 7:4)
	5. Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is lovely (SoS 4:3)
	6. Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn ewes which have come up from their washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost her young (SoS 4:2)
5. This time of the year when “Love is in the Air,” as they say, most are concerned about young people.
6. While this short book addresses all ages, we will focus on married people today as we discuss Marital Romance! (Almost the title of this lesson)
	1. The Song of Songs is an explicit but tasteful love song designed to point singles to patience, spouses to each other, and everyone to God *(can later be used to describe the Christian’s relationship to Christ – Ephesians 5:22-33, more on that next time!)*
	2. It is not an allegory nor is it a sex manual. It is the poetic description of a romance between a husband and a wife! *(Yes, husbands and wives can have romance!)*
7. Society seems to think that the romance is dead once a couple marries…
	1. Seen in changes to comic book heroes (Spiderman – 2008, Superman – 2011, etc.)
	2. An article (<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/43316213/ns/today-books/t/clark-kent-lois-lanes-marriage-rocks/>) says, “Younger, modern crowds find married superheroes not as cool as single ones” so DC comics changed their heroes across the board in an event called The New 52 – marriages removed.
	3. It worked for Marvel Comics in 2008 – removed marriages of many heroes!
	4. Seen in attitudes towards the family in books, movies, TV, etc. – “Not cool to be married!”
	5. Seems writers of comics, books, movies and TV think it is all about the chemistry while dating, the tension of will they or won’t they, and once they do the story is boring!
8. The Song of Solomon demonstrates that the married couple can still love one another and delight in each other’s company!
9. **Overview of the Song of Songs!**
	* 1. **Dating (SoS 1:2-3:5)**
			1. This is a song so there are the two main characters, King Solomon and his bride, called a Shulamite in SoS 6:13, and a chorus made up of the “daughters of Jerusalem” (SoS 1:5; 2:7).
				1. Some think the Shulamite is the Queen of Sheba, Abishag who nursed David in his old age, a woman from the area of Shunem by the Valley of Jezreel, or the Egyptian princess Solomon built a house for. Whoever she was, she captured Solomon’s heart!
				2. Could be Pharoah’s daughter – SoS 1:9; 7:1: “Chariots of Pharaoh”; “Prince’s daughter”
				3. “Shulamite” could just be a term of endearment, though, for the Hebrew word *(H7759)* means “perfect, without spot, peaceful.” (The perfect one, or, the peaceful one)
				4. This fits, since Solomon extols her beauty over and over again and tells her she is perfect! (SoS 1:8; 4:7; 6:9)
			2. **The Bride**
				1. She is dark-skinned from the sun and refers to herself as “black but lovely” and says, “Do not stare at me because I am swarthy, For the sun has burned me” (SoS 1:5-6).
				2. She loves the king and tells him and tells the daughters of Jerusalem, “May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine” (SoS 1:2); “My beloved is mine, and I am his” (SoS 2:16).
				3. Her eyes are only for him, and she calls the king, “him whom my soul loves” in a dream sequence in SoS 3:1-5, and calls him, “handsome” (SoS 1:16).
				4. She is pure and chaste prior to the wedding day: SoS 4:12; 6:9-10; 8:8-10

**SoS 8:8-10:** Her brothers planned a dowry if she was pure until the day they gave her away (a “wall”), but if not (a “door) they would not let her marry but would barricade her, shut her away and would not let her marry.

She tells them she was a “wall.”

* + - 1. **King Solomon**
				1. Both while dating and after the wedding he extols and praises her beauty, from the top of her head to her feet and her form (shape) in-between! (SoS 1:1, 9; 2:14; 4:1-15; 7:1-9)
				2. He uses his words to tell her just how exquisite he finds her and even tells her his harem couldn’t keep from praising her beauty & purity! (SoS 6:8-10)
			2. **Flirting:** This song even has their witty banter over how humble the bride was on her appearance.
				1. **SoS 2:1-3:** She says she is “the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys.”
				2. She is saying there is nothing special about herself, just another flower among the lilies of the valleys.
				3. Solomon tells her that she is “a lily among the thorns, So is my darling among the maidens.” He turned it around and said she is prettier than all other women!
				4. She then says, “Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, So is my beloved among the young men.” She told him that he stood out from other men and was not ordinary.
		1. **Wedding Day & Honeymoon (SoS 3:6-5:1)**
			1. **SoS 3:6-10:** The Wedding. King Solomon arrives with much fanfare with a custom sedan chair made from the timber of Lebanon, with its interior “lovingly fitted out by the daughters of Jerusalem,” escorted by 60 Mighty Men, all experts in war and armed with their swords.
				1. He was taking no chances this day. He brought his best men of war to protect his bride!
			2. **SoS 3:11:** He wore his best crown, the one his mother (Bathsheba) placed on his head for his wedding day – He made quite a striking groom that the daughters of Zion were told to gaze upon him in all his magnificence!
			3. **SoS 4:1-15:** Solomon gazes upon his bride in her veil (4:1) and praises her beauty and purity (4:7, 12) as he looks her up and down.
				1. “You are altogether beautiful, my darling, And there is no blemish in you!” (4:7)
				2. This is what “Shulamite” *(H7759)* means, “perfect, without spot or blemish.”
			4. **SoS 4:16-5:1** records the Honeymoon Night. With its uses of the words “garden” and “fruits” the song gets its point across that the two have become one.
		2. **Romance in the Marriage (SoS 5:10-8:7)**
			- 1. The wedding takes place early on in this song (SoS 3-4) and the rest of the song shows the happy married couple enjoying spending time together and delighting in one another’s love.
				2. **SoS 5:10-16:** We see the bride describe the form of her husband and express how she feels about him.

“My beloved is dazzling and ruddy, Outstanding among ten thousand” (5:10).

We know Solomon finds her more beautiful than all the other women and that she had said he stood out among men, but here she calls him, “Outstanding among ten thousand!”

She praised him from his head to his legs and said, “His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem” (5:16).

She was letting the daughters of Jerusalem know he was hers!

* + - * 1. **SoS 6:4-7:9:** Solomon, in his flattery speech, tells her how much he loves her and that even his harem took notice of her beauty and her purity and praised her!

He gives a full-length portrait of her physical charms, comparing her to famous places in his far-flung realm: Heshbon, Bath Rabbim, Damascus, and Mount Carmel.

Then he sees her as a lovely palm tree, and would like to embrace her.

“How beautiful and how delightful you are, My love, with all your charms!” (7:6)

He even comments on her breath and says, “the fragrance of your breath like apples, And your mouth like the best wine! (7:8-9).

His word pictures of her shapely form convey a portrait of delicate and tender beauty.

* + - * 1. **SoS 7:10:** The Bride’s Response: “I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me” – He made her feel special and desired.
				2. ***Husbands and wives, do your spouses know that you desire them?***
				3. **SoS 7:11-13:** The married couple travel together and everywhere they go they express their love for one another.
				4. **SoS 8:6-7:** The bride recognizes that love is stronger than death and cannot be bought!

She says, “Put me like a seal over your heart, Like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes are flashes of fire, The very flame of the LORD. Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, It would be utterly despised.”

This kind of love cannot be bought. The Beatles once sang, “Can’t Buy Me Love” (1964) The bride says it here first!

* + 1. Who says the romance in marriage is gone? Take a lesson from these two love birds and express your love to one another!

**Conclusion**

* + 1. We will draw some further lessons from this Song of Songs next time!
		2. Marriage is a gift from God so we can enjoy & delight in the one whom our soul loves (SoS 3:4).
			1. **Genesis 2:24:** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
			2. **Proverbs 5:18:** Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth.
			3. **Proverbs 18:22:** He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.
			4. **Proverbs 31:10:** An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.
			5. **Hebrews 13:4:** Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
1. Have patience while dating, embrace your spouse on the wedding day, and continue to flirt and go on dates together and let your spouse know how much they mean to you!
2. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins!
3. If a Christian in error…repent of your sins and be renewed! Seek the Lord with your whole heart!