

# Song of Songs

Author: Probably Solomon - "Song of Songs" (the most excellent of songs 1:1) means this Song ranks highest of Solomon's 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:32)

Theme: Love Strong as Death: the love of Yahweh for Israel, and of Christ for His Church

\*no reference to God, sin, or any religious theme

\*\*neither quotes from other books or is quoted in other books

\*\*\*Jewish young people aren't allowed to read the book until they're 30

## Quick Outline

Song of Songs 1-4	Allegory of God's Love for Israel
Song of Songs 5-8	Allegory of Christ's Love for the Church

3 Main Characters:

1. Solomon
2. Shulamite Woman
3. Daughters of Jerusalem

## Song of Songs in a Week

Thursday	Song of Songs 1-2	Love's Longing
Friday	Song of Songs 3	Love's Dream
Saturday	Song of Songs 4	Love's Enrapture
Sunday	Song of Songs 5	Love's Search
Monday	Song of Songs 6	Love's Description
Tuesday	Song of Songs 7	Love's Delight
Wednesday	Song of Songs 8	Love's Declarations

"There is no doubt that the message of this book clarifies the position of intimacy in God-honouring marriage; it denounces asceticism on the one hand and lust on the other. All may learn here that there is a God-ordained place for the enjoyment of physical love between husband and wife and that there is no other place for physical love except in the confines of the covenant of marriage." - Gareth Crossley

"What is true of every Old Testament book holds true with respect to the Song of Solomon: it is never interpreted fully until it is viewed in the light of New Testament revelation."

- William Hendriksen

"[Song of Songs] extols real, pure, unquenchable love between two human lovers: a bridegroom and a bride. This must be our starting point in the interpretation... This love between bridegroom and bride is a symbol not only of the love between Jehovah and Israel (Isaiah 50:1, 54:5, 62:4, Jeremiah 2:2, 3:1-3, Ezekiel 16, 23), but also of the love between Christ and his church. Not only is Solomon a type of Christ (2 Samuel 7:12-17, Psalm 72, Matthew 12:42, Luke 11:31), but the love between husband and wife is a symbol of the close relationship which exists between our Lord and his church (Ephesians 5:31-32)." - William Hendriksen

"This intimacy depicts the church's relationship to God in Christ (Hos 2.16, Mk 2.19, Eph 5.22-33, Rev 19.7, 21.2,9, 22.17)." - Jeremiah Montgomery

# Ecclesiastes

Author: Probably Solomon

Theme: Life Under the Sun is Vanity (apart from God, all is vanity) - Ecclesiastes 1:2

*hevel* ('vanity') – occurs 38x, lit. means “a puff of wind” or “a breath of air”  
*tachath hashamesh* (“under the sun”) – occurs 28x

VANITY = ephemeral - short-lived, transient, fleeting, passing, brief, momentary, transitory, temporary

What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

- Ecclesiastes 1:15

Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?

- Ecclesiastes 7:13

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, **and the crooked shall become straight**, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

- Luke 3:4-6

Quick Outline	
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	Introduction
Ecclesiastes 1:12-6:12	Everything in Life is Ephemeral
Ecclesiastes 7:1-12:7	How to Live with Ephemerality
Ecclesiastes 12:8-14	Conclusion

“The power of this book is in the absence rather than in the presence of Christ. This is a testimony to everything that is good and virtuous in life being tested and tried and found wanting.”

- Gareth Crossley

Ecclesiastes in a Week		
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	Introduction
Friday	Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26	Satisfaction is Evasive (part 1)
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-6:12	Satisfaction is Evasive (part 2)
Sunday	Ecclesiastes 7	The Well-Ordered Life
Monday	Ecclesiastes 8-9	Live Life Wisely & Soberly (part 1)
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 10-12:7	Live Life Wisely & Soberly (part 2)
Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 12:8-14	Conclusion

See Ephesians 2:12,  
 Romans 1:25

John 4:10, 6:48 7:37, 10:10

Life Under the Sun	Life Under the Son
Ecclesiastes 1:3 What advantage is work under the sun?	Philippians 1:6
Ecclesiastes 1:9 Nothing new under the sun	2 Corinthians 5:17
Ecclesiastes 1:14 All deeds are vanity under the sun	1 Corinthians 15:58
Ecclesiastes 2:18 The fruit of labour is hated under the sun	Colossians 1:10
Ecclesiastes 6:12 Man is mortal under the sun	John 3:16
Ecclesiastes 8:15 Pleasure is temporary under the sun	Philippians 2:13
Ecclesiastes 8:17 Man cannot discover God's work under the sun	1 Corinthians 13:12
Ecclesiastes 9:3 All men die under the sun	1 John 5:11
Ecclesiastes 9:11 Strength and speed under the sun	1 Corinthians 1:27
Ecclesiastes 12:2 Life under the sun will cease	1 John 5:13

\*from Gareth Crossley's *The Old Testament Explained and Applied*