



The Song of Solomon: SEASONS OF LOVE LOVE SEASONS OF

Part One:
Overview

Part One: Overview



<https://www.revtimothygibson.com/sos/sos.htm>

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The Song of Solomon: SEASONS OF LOVE

Part One: Overview

How to Interpret the song?



1. Author's original intention (the 2 S's).
2. Jewish interpretation through history.
3. Church interpretation through history.
4. Two Levels of valid interpretation.
 - Human love (Marital union)
 - Divine love (God and his people)
5. Song of Solomon is an Extended Type.
6. Functional not Descriptive.
7. Best Song. Best Love.
8. Four Charges. Five Seasons.

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1. Author's Original Intention (the 2 S')

- Solomon's
PRIMARY
- Spirit's
PROPHETIC



For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable, and hence no part is, or can be, neglected without loss. Few portions of the Word will help the devout student more in the pursuit of this all-important knowledge of God than the much-neglected Song of Solomon”

Hudson Taylor (English Missionary to China)



*Union and
Communion*
Or, Thoughts on the
Song of Solomon
JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR

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2. Jewish Interpretation through history.



For thy Maker is
thine husband; the
Lord of Hosts
is His name; and thy
Redeemer the Holy One
of Israel; The God of the
whole earth shall
he be called.
- Isaiah 54:5

Through the Old Testament prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Hosea, and in Song of Songs, God reveals the mystery of His desire for union with His people – a union so intimate that He describes it as spousal love; God is the bridegroom and Israel is the bride. Jews have interpreted SOS this way right up until modern times.

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**Jews see Song of
Songs as the
Holiest of Holies
in the Bible!
It is read during
Pesach (Passover)**



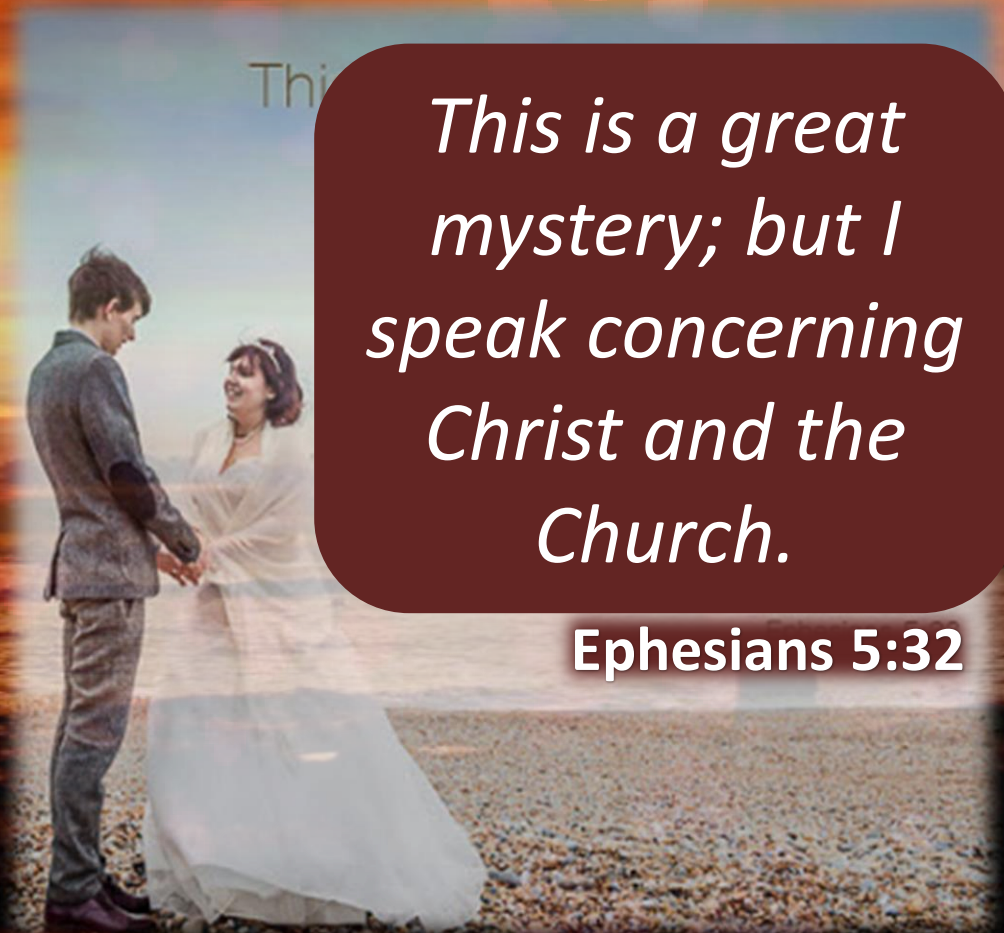
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3. Church Interpretation through history.

Most early Church interpretations and those through history have interpreted Song of Solomon as Jesus' love for the Church, following Paul's understanding that the Bridegroom/Bride relationship mysteriously reflects that of Christ and the Church. Only recently have scholars challenged this (denying supernatural).



This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.

Ephesians 5:32

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4. Two Levels of valid interpretation.

- Human love



Song of Solomon

God's Guidebook
To Happy Dating and Marriage

- Divine love (God and his people)



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5. SOS is an Extended Type

Type	Anti-Type
King Solomon - The Bridegroom. (Name means 'Prince of Peace')	Lord Jesus - Lover of His People (Is THE Prince of Peace - Isa 9:6)
The Shulamite Woman - Bride. (Feminine form of the masculine Solomon- i.e. Princess of Peace.)	God's People (Israel & Church) (The Bride of Christ)
The Daughters of Jerusalem. (Term for the poor living outside the city walls).	The Poor as seen in N.T - (The unreached, poor in Spirit)

A TYPE is a historical foreshadowing of an aspect of Christ. It does not have to be perfect as a shadow is just a dull picture of the real thing.

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6. Functional not Descriptive



**JEWISH
MIND**



**WESTERN
MIND**

Dynamic Understanding.
Impressions. What
something or someone
DOES (functional).

Static Understanding.
Images. What something
or someone **IS**
(Descriptive)



JEWISH THINKING
would look at the
function of each
image given and
see the beautiful
character of the
Bride being
described.

**Literal picture
Of Bride! (4:1-5)**

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“You have dove’s eyes” Songs 4:1

Think functionally:

Eyes = Vision

**Dove is symbol of Holy
Spirit (gentle/peaceful)**

**Interpretation: Jesus says to us, *“You have
the vision of the Holy Spirit”***

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“literal sense” = the usual, customary and socially accepted meaning conveyed by words or expressions in their contexts.

As this is an ancient near eastern poetic love song, we must interpret the ‘heart’ of the song, not simply taking it literally. We should interpret the meaning of the things mentioned (body parts, plants , animals, buildings) according to their function. The rest of scripture must also be used to determine the interpretations of frequently mentioned things (e.g., DOVE = HOLY SPIRIT)

Where there is a place name etc. it is useful to look at the original meaning (e.g., SOLOMON = Prince of Peace).

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“We see our Saviour’s face in almost every page of the Bible, but here we see His heart and feel His love to us...We cannot appreciate the spirituality of this book unless God’s Spirit shall help us”

Charles Spurgeon

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "C. Spurgeon", positioned over the background image of a sunset and water.

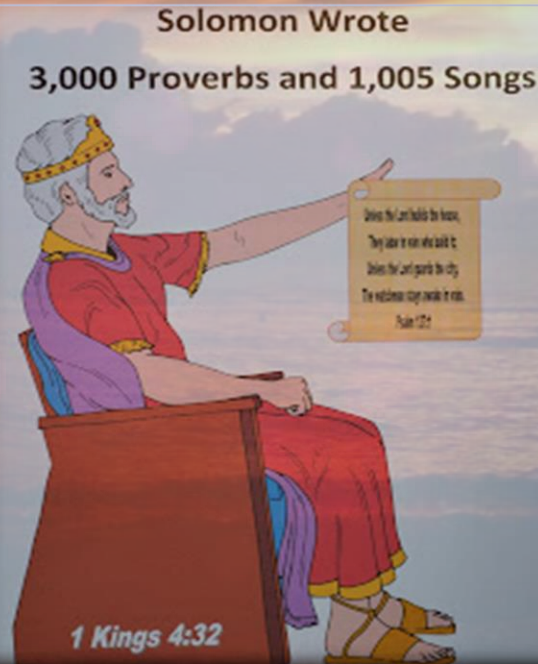
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7. Best song. Best Love.

"The song of songs, which is Solomon's."
Song 1:1 (NKJV)

Best song
out
of 1005
(1 Kings 4:32)



Best love
out
of 1000
(1 Kings 11:3)

He had 700 wives,
who were princesses,
and 300 concubines.
And his wives turned
away his heart.

1 Kings 11:3 ES



**KEEP ME AS
THE APPLE OF
YOUR EYE;
HIDE ME IN
THE SHADOW
OF YOUR
WINGS
PSALM 17:8**

**Yahweh, your God, is
among you, a mighty one
who will save. He will
rejoice over you with joy.
He will calm you with his
love. He will rejoice over
you with singing.**

Zephaniah 3:17

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8. Four Charges. Five Seasons.

4 “charges”

“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the does of the field, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases.”

Song 2:7;3:5 (NKJV)

“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am lovesick!”

Song 5:8 (NKJV)

“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases.”

Song 8:4 (NKJV)

5 “seasons”

Premature Love

I Charge You (2:7)

Possessive Love

I Charge You (3:5)

Painful Love

I Charge You (5:8)

Powerful Love

I Charge You (8:4)

Perfecting Love



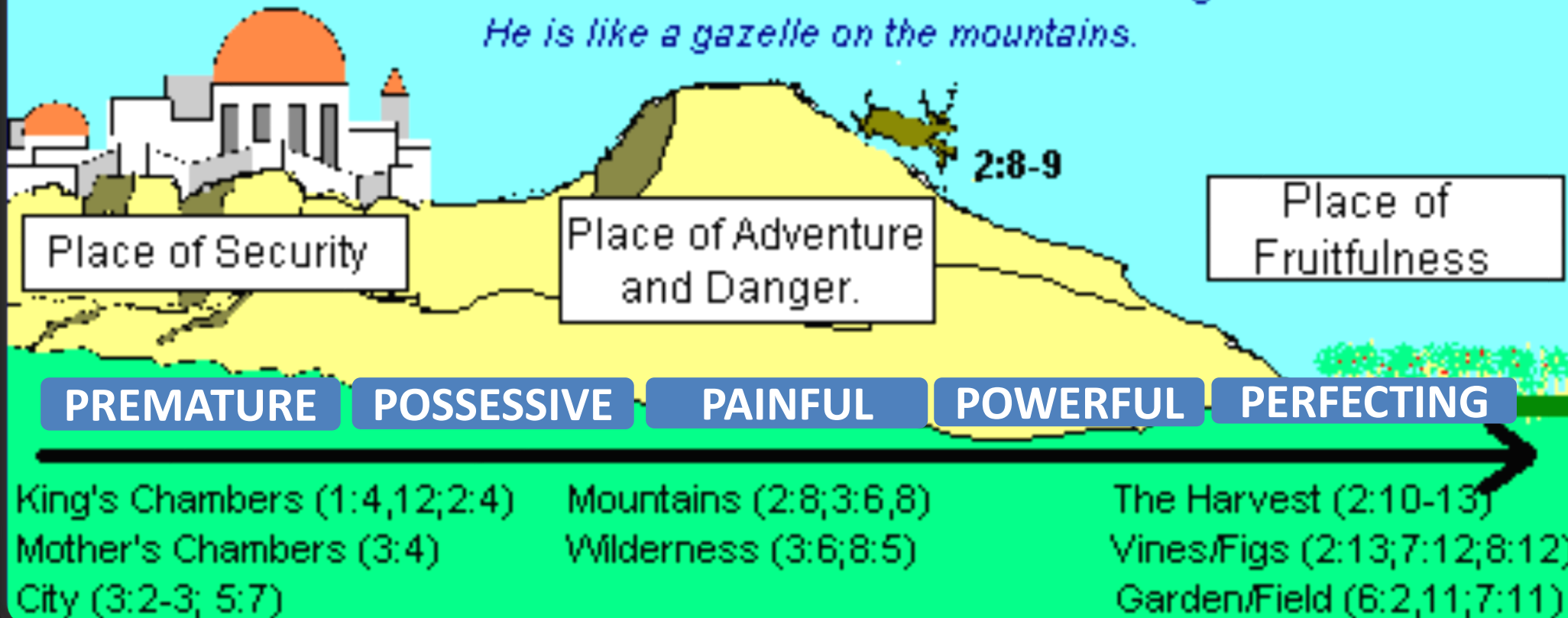
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Picture Showing The Progress Of Song Of Solomon.

*The Groom draws the Bride from left to right.
He is like a gazelle on the mountains.*



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**Let the Love of Christ,
our Bridegroom,
Lead us into His
Seasons of Love.**