

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

SONG OF SOLOMON

Song of Solomon

The Song of Solomon is one of the most beautiful of all the poetic books of the Bible. This, like the book of Ruth, has been much misunderstood. Most often this misunderstanding of the book comes with good intentions or seemingly so. As has been discussed before, often in the west we look at everything in the Bible in light of the teachings of the New Testament. In our effort to do so, we often err in reading too much into the ancient text, without allowing the original meaning to be the primary meaning, not an afterthought. An illustration of this is the often quoted saying of Charles Haddon (C.H.) Spurgeon, the far famed preacher of the mid to late 1800's in England. He urged his students in his "Pastor's School" "to take a text, any text and make a bee line to Jesus." That is an exaggerated form of what Jesus taught His disciples in Luke 24:44 and similar passages.

Many passages in the Law, Prophets and the Writings do point to Messiah, if not in a primary way, certainly in a secondary application. However, it is not good Biblical interpretation to pass over the primary meaning of any passage in its context and apply it directly as a Messianic

passage unless it is truly that. The Song of Solomon is primarily a love story between the King of Israel and a Shulamite woman from the Northern part of Israel. Solomon had much commerce in that area and the famed chariot city of Megiddo, in the Jezreel Valley, was not too distant from the home of his beloved. Although some identify these consonants forming the word as coming from the same words as "Shalom" SHLM, or the City of Peace, in a reference to Jerusalem itself.

The reality is that a sacred marriage, holy in the eyes of the Lord, is a blessing to all who witness it. It is a picture of the relationship between the Lord Jesus and His bride, the Church. Is that accurate? Of course, it is, but it is not the primary application of the Song of Solomon. The book is to be taken as a love letter between a man and woman who have given themselves to each other in the bonds of holy love.

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear Lord, May I love with pure, holy love that one you have given to me and to love you supremely.

Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
