

# THE SONG OF SONGS

**The God Who Oversees  
Male and Female Sexuality**

Jason S. DeRouchie, PhD  
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
[www.jasonderouchie.com](http://www.jasonderouchie.com)

# Different Interpretations

- ◆ Allegorical
- ◆ Cultic
- ◆ Lyrical
- ◆ Dramatic
  - ❖ Two-character drama
  - ❖ Three-character drama

# Structure

- ◆ **Superscription (1:1):**
- ◆ **True Love Declared (1:2–2:7)**
- ◆ **True Love Longed For (2:8–3:5)**
- ◆ **True Love Contrasted and Testified (3:6–5:8)**
  - ❖ True Love Contrasted and Challenged (3:6–5:8)
  - ❖ False Love Combatted and True Love Testified (5:9–8:4)
- ◆ **Conclusion: True Love Affirmed and Solomon Rejected (8:5–14)**

# Superscription (1:1)

# True Love Declared (1:2–2:7)

◆ 1:2–4

◆ 1:5–7

◆ 2:3–6

◆ Oath-Curse Refrain, 2:7

# **True Love Longed For (2:8–3:5)**

◆ 2:8

◆ 2:16–17

◆ Oath-Curse Refrain, 3:5

# True Love Contrasted and Testified (3:6–8:4)

## ◆ True Love Contrasted and Challenged (3:6–5:8)

- ❖ Solomon's arrival as a foil for true love (3:6–11)
- ❖ Solomon's sinful advances, the harem's urging, yet the woman's refusal (4:1–5:1)
  - ❖ 4:1–11
  - ❖ 4:12
  - ❖ 4:16b
  - ❖ 5:1
- ❖ The maiden's desire and dream of loss (5:2–8, partial refrain, 5:8)

## ◆ True Love Combatted and True Love Testified (5:9–8:4)

- ❖ The maiden's testimony of her beloved's greatness (5:9–16)
- ❖ The maiden's testimony of her beloved's distance (6:1–3)
- ❖ Solomon and the harem's praise for the maiden, yet her refusal (6:4–13)
  - ❖ 6:4–9
  - ❖ 6:13
- ❖ Solomon's final advance, and her refusal (7:1–10)
- ❖ The maiden's expressed longing (7:11–8:4; reworked refrain, 8:4)



# **Conclusion: True Love Affirmed and Solomon Rejected (8:5–14)**

## **◆ 8:6–7: The makeup of true love within the bounds of marriage:**

- ❖ True love allows for no intruders (8:6)
- ❖ True love is God-wrought (8:6)
- ❖ True love is constant and unquenchable (8:7)
- ❖ True love cannot be purchased (8:7)

◆ 8:10

◆ 8:11

◆ 8:12

◆ 8:13–14

# Message

- ◆ **Song of Songs is likely a commentary on Genesis 1–2.**
- ◆ **Song of Songs is typology of Christ's relationship with the Church.**

# Long Summary of Song of Songs

The Song of Songs celebrates how Yahweh's flame of love between a husband and wife wards off intruders, is constant and unquenchable, and generates a garden of Eden-like intimacy that helps the relationship endure every struggle as it anticipates the Messiah's marriage with his people.

# Long Summary of Song of Songs

A husband and his wife should celebrate the love Yahweh gives to fight off intruders and to enjoy a garden of Eden-like intimacy that hopes in the new creation and looks forward to the Messiah's marriage with his people.