BOOK OVERVIEW

Song of Solomon

Author: King Solomon **Date:** 970–950 B.C.

Recipient: not specifically stated

Key words: beloved (32 times), usually the bride speaking of her bridegroom **Summary:** A description of the love between a bridegroom and his bride.

Key verse: Song of Solomon 2:16

Notes:

This may be the most significant of Solomon's 1005 songs. In Latin songs are called *canticles*. The book is referred to in Hebrew as *The Song of Songs*.

There are three ways this book is commonly interpreted:

- 1) Literally—the account of the love relationship between a husband and his wife.
- 2) Allegorically—a picture of the love between God and the Jewish people. This is the view that many Jews have held through the centuries.
- 3) Typical—a picture of the love that Christ has for the Church (the Shulammite bride). This is a view that has been held by Christians since the early days of the Church.

Nothing in the book suggests that it is to be interpreted in any way but literally; but, as is true of much poetry, people expect it to have more than a superficial meaning.

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