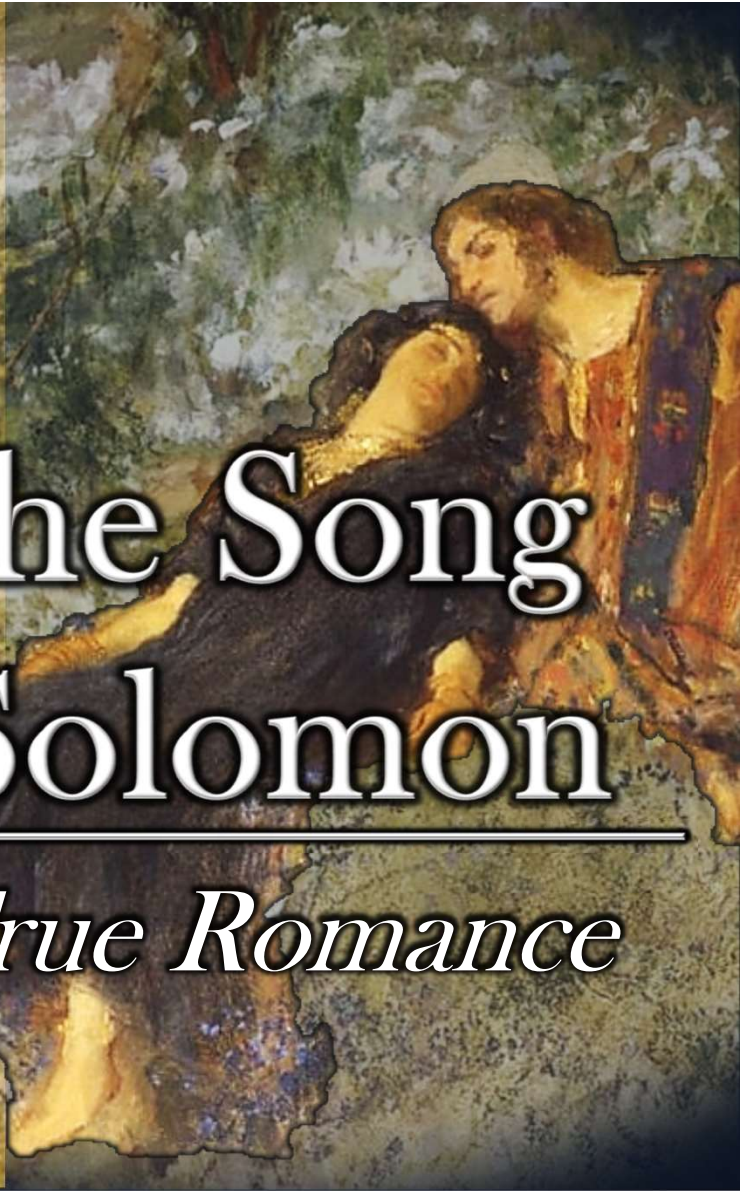


Session 2



The Song of Solomon

True Romance

The main themes of the Song of Songs

- Central theme: The “love felt between a man and a woman as they approach & experience their wedding” (Garrett) and its consummation.
- Subordinate themes:
 - longing & anticipation (1:2-4; 3:1-5; 4:8-15; 8:1-4)
 - mutual desire, attraction, & admiration (1:9-2:7; 4:1-7; 5:10-16; 6:4-9; 7:1-9)
 - the frustrations of love (5:2-8)
 - the exclusivity of love (2:16; 6:3; 7:10)
 - the beauty of love (4:10-15)
 - the power of love (8:6-7) *

The central theme of the Song is the “*love felt between a man and a woman as they approach & experience their wedding*” (Garrett) and its consummation.

- The Song is (most obviously) an expression—a lyrical poem—of young love and “true romance” as God intended.
- The context is anticipation of the fulfillment of intimacy in *marriage*.
 - The wedding is anticipated in 3:6 – 4:15.
 - The “lover” calls his “beloved” *bride* 5 times in chapter in chap. 4, leading up to the sexual consummation of the marriage in 5:1.



The subordinate themes are interwoven throughout the Song, though there is a loose outline:

- The lover and his beloved express their desire and longing for one another .
The lover and his beloved anticipate their wedding.
The lover and his beloved become “one flesh” (see Gen. 2:24).
- The Song’s expression of the course of romantic love is timeless, resonating with couples through the ages.



Attraction & Desire; Admiration; Longing & Anticipation

- The Song begins (chaps. 1 & 2) with expressions of mutual attraction & desire. These kinds of expressions recur in many places (chaps. 4, 5, 6, 7).
- Desire & attraction call forth admiration and delight in one another.
- The lovers' anticipation focuses on their approaching wedding in 3:6 - 4:15.
- The beloved repeats an injunction to the “daughters of Jerusalem” (2:7; 3:5; 8:4) not to “arouse or awaken love until it so arises”—a warning not to go “too fast too soon” when it comes to physical intimacy.

The Frustrations of Love (3:1-5; 5:2-8)

- The longings and anticipation of the lovers are in themselves a source of frustration, as they must restrain the full expression of their physical intimacy until the right time.
- In two sections, 3:1-5 and 5:2-8, the beloved voices her anxiety and frustration in two sequences, one before the wedding/consummation and one after. One or both may be a recounting of dreams. Both express the beloved's deep feelings and perceptions about her first sexual experience with her lover; the first prospective, the second retrospective.

