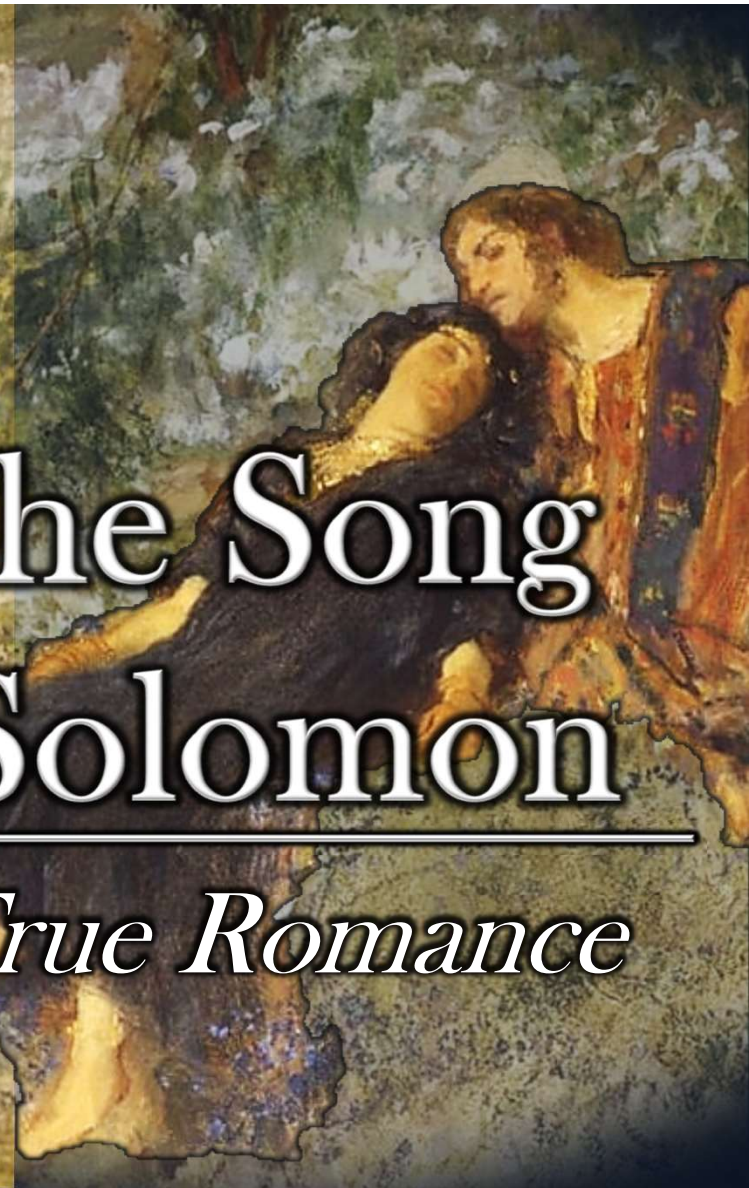


Session 3



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 Exclusivity of Love.

- Nowhere in the Song do we see even a hint of the lover or his beloved “playing the field.” They are committed to one another exclusively.
- The motif of wedding & marriage (3:6-11; 4:8-5:1) also expresses the exclusiveness of the relationship, particularly in the historical context of ancient Israel.
- The beloved three times voices the couple’s mutual & undivided belonging to one another (2:16; 6:3; 7:10).



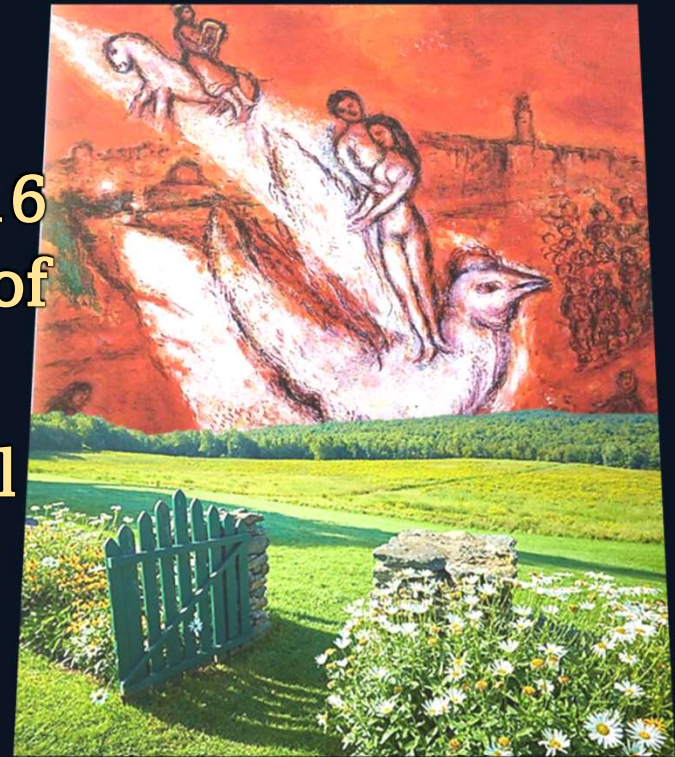
The Beauty of Love.

- The Song creates an ambience of loveliness and lavishness with recurring references—many metaphorical—to expensive perfumes & spices; wine, fruits, & delicacies; jewels & finery; flowers, forests, & gardens.
- The two lovers repeatedly express their delight & joy in one another with words & symbols of gracefulness, beauty, and strength.



The Consummation of Love.

- The intimate love of the man and woman is sexually consummated in 4:16 – 5:1, following the wedding sequence of 3:6 – 4:15.
- Solomon describes the delight of sexual intimacy in restrained & tasteful poetic metaphors and symbolic language.
- The last part of 5:1 is the author's “affirmation of the lover’s activity. What they are doing is good, wholesome, right, and proper” (Gledhill).



The Power of Love.

- Both the man and the woman directly express the strong influence over their feelings that the other has (4:9; 5:8; 6:5a), but this is also shown throughout the Song by the regular intimate dialogue between the two.
- In 8:6-7, the beloved gives voice to Solomon's climactic statement of romantic/marital love as the most powerful of human experiences.

