

The King and His Bride Song of Songs 1:1-2:7

1:1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

Jim Hamilton

"The Song is about Israel's shepherd King, a descendant of David, who is treated as an ideal Israelite enjoying an ideal bride in a lush garden where the effects of the fall are reversed. If divine love is the pattern for marriage, then there must be something pedagogical and eschatological about marriage. It is an earthly institution that in itself images something greater than itself."

Song of Songs 8:6

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
the very flame of the Lord.

1:1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

#1: Words of Longing and Love (1:2-4)

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is better than wine;
3 your anointing oils are fragrant;
your name is oil poured out;
therefore virgins love you.
4 Draw me after you; let us run.
The king has brought me into his chambers.

We will exult and rejoice in you;
we will extol your love more than wine;
rightly do they love you.

#2: Words of Insecurity and Uncertainty (1:5-7)

5 I am very dark, but lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
like the tents of Kedar,
like the curtains of Solomon.
6 Do not gaze at me because I am dark,
because the sun has looked upon me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
they made me keeper of the vineyards,
but my own vineyard I have not kept!
7 Tell me, you whom my soul loves,
where you pasture your flock,
where you make it lie down at noon;
for why should I be like one who veils herself
beside the flocks of your companions?

#3: Words of Assurance and Encouragement (1:8-11)

8 If you do not know,
O most beautiful among women,
follow in the tracks of the flock,
and pasture your young goats
beside the shepherds 'tents.
9 I compare you, my love,
to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
your neck with strings of jewels.

11 We will make for you ornaments of gold,
studded with silver.

#4: Words of Admiration and Delight (1:12-2:2)

12 While the king was on his couch,
my nard gave forth its fragrance.
13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh
that lies between my breasts.
14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms
in the vineyards of Engedi.

15 Behold, you are beautiful, my love;
behold, you are beautiful;
your eyes are doves.

16 Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful.
Our couch is green;
17 the beams of our house are cedar;
our rafters are pine.

2:1 I am a rose of Sharon,
a lily of the valleys.

2 As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.

#5: Words of Longing and Warning (2:3-7)

3 As an apple tree among the trees of the forest,
so is my beloved among the young men.

With great delight I sat in his shadow,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

4 He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his banner over me was love.

5 Sustain me with raisins;
refresh me with apples,
for I am sick with love.

6 His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand embraces me!

7 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the does of the field,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.