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# BOOK OVERVIEW

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## 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 Shulammitte 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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