

# An Old Testament Glance

## The Poetry Books – Song of Solomon, Pt. 1

<b>Written</b>	970 – 950 B.C.	<b>Period*</b>	Timeless	<b>Author</b>	Solomon
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1. \*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

Song of Songs 1:1 – 5:1	The Beginning of Love
A. Song of Songs 1:1 – 3:5	A. Falling in Love
B. Song of Songs 3:6 – 5:1	C. United in Love
Song of Songs 5:2 – 8:14	The Broadening of Love
A. Song of Songs 5:2 – 7:10	A. Struggling in Love
B. Song of Songs 7:11 – 8:14	C. Growing in Love

***The Song of Solomon is referred to in the Hebrew text as the "Song of Songs" (maybe a very special song to Solomon).***

*If Solomon reigned over Israel from roughly 970 B.C. to 931 B.C. (beginning of his reign until his death), he probably wrote or collected the material for all three books (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon) while he was king.*

1. Here is a possible summary of these three books. Match them.
  - a. Proverbs                    \_\_\_ **Middle-aged** king being **wise**
  - b. Ecclesiastes                \_\_\_ **Young** king being **romantic**
  - c. Song of Solomon            \_\_\_ **Old** king being **regretful**

*This seems like the cycle of life for all of us. Why wouldn't God want Solomon to share the struggles of life with us.*

*Song of Solomon is a poem. It talks about love in very descriptive terms. There is a lot of phrases that may be hard to understand. This book certainly may be a picture of a love affair between God and His people.*

***HOWEVER .... Why can't it be a poetic play describing the love of a man for a woman and of a woman for a man. I think it is.***

2. How does the book start? (SS 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does the book end? (SS 8:14) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The words of the young woman **begin** ("kiss me") & **end** the poem ("come to me").*

The Shulamite woman was a real person from a real place called Shulem or Shunam on this map: 10 miles from Nazareth 21 miles from Sea of Galilee at the foot of Mt. Moreh.



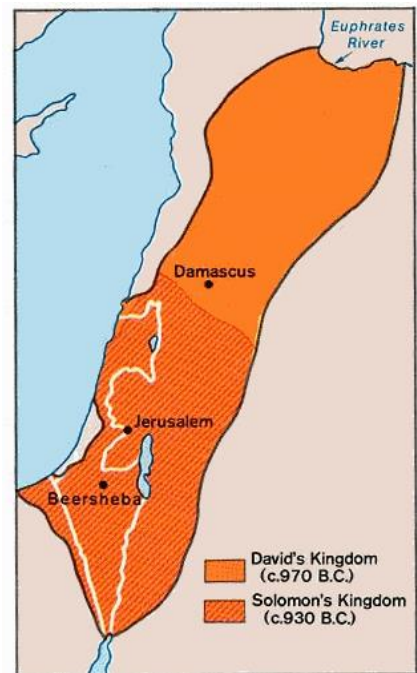
Some historical things happened there which put it on the map for us.

4. Match the historical event in/near Shulem with the Bible verse where it is mentioned:
- a. Gideon defeated the Midianites.      \_\_\_ 1 Kings 1:4
  - b. King Saul was killed here.            \_\_\_ Luke 7:11-17
  - c. Jesus raised a widow's son            \_\_\_ 1 Samuel 31:1
  - d. King David's nurse's hometown.      \_\_\_ Judges 7:1
  - e. Elisha raised a son to life            \_\_\_ 2 Kings 4:8-37

The girl had dark skin probably from working outside, possible in a vineyard run by her family. Chances are, King Solomon owned the vineyard and all the land around it. See the map. King Solomon's kingdom was huge; he controlled everything due to the heavy taxes he charged the people.

It appears that King Solomon did some traveling (if he actually went on these trips).

5. Where did he go to the south?
- a. 2 Chr. 8:17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2 Chr. 8:17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 1 Kings 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where did he go to the north?
- a. 2 Chr. 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2 Chr. 8:3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 2 Chr. 8:6 \_\_\_\_\_



These trips north could have taken him right through Shulem (where Shulamite woman lived).

# An Old Testament Glance

## The Poetry Books – Song of Solomon, Pt. 2

<b>Written</b>	970 – 950 B.C.	<b>Period*</b>	Timeless	<b>Author</b>	Solomon
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2. \*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

Song of Songs 1:1 – 5:1	The Beginning of Love
B. Song of Songs 1:1 – 3:5	D. Falling in Love
E. Song of Songs 3:6 – 5:1	F. United in Love
Song of Songs 5:2 – 8:14	The Broadening of Love
B. Song of Songs 5:2 – 7:10	D. Struggling in Love
E. Song of Songs 7:11 – 8:14	F. Growing in Love

*In the first section, they are falling in love (1:1 – 3:5).*

1. What does the woman want in the relationship?

- a. 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 1:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. 1:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. 2:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

*You will notice that she wants to be with him; she wants affection from him. The word "love" is used about 7 times in this section.*

2. What is the woman concerned about?

- a. 1:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

*Every woman wants to look good for her man.*

3. What did the man focus on? What was driving him?

- a. 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

4. He finally catches on. What does he say twice in 2:10-14?

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*Since she wants to be with him & since he is overcome with her beauty:*

5. What caution does the woman share twice? (2:7 & 3:5)

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Check out the "uniting of their love" (3:6 – 5:1) with your own personal study.

**Falling in love** is obviously **the beginning of love**. Let's move on to the "Broadening of Their Love" (5:2 – 8:14).

6. If they are now married (starting at 5:2), what do the following phrases suggest?
- a. I sleep but my heart is awake (5:2)
  - b. How can I defile them? (5:3)
  - c. My beloved had turned away & is gone (5:6)

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7. Look what the man said in 6:8-9. What does this suggest about his fidelity?

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*Just like in all of our marriages, there are rocky times, unrealistic expectations, and major mistakes. Unfortunately, this hard stuff will start growth in the marriage if we are committed to sticking with it and not splitting.*

8. Do you see any growth in their relationship (a growing of their love)?
- a. What two words are repeated in 7:11-12?

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- b. What do the words in 8:3 tell us about possible growth?

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- c. Explain how you see commitment in the relationship? (8:6)

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- d. How strong is true love between a committed & faithful couple? (8:7)

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- e. Explain how the woman is equally valuable to the man? (8:12)

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- f. She may have a job of her own or she may take care of him. Explain how you see that in (8:12)

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*I know my wife wants this growth in our marriage; we men drag our feet. The wife of King Solomon suggested that we "make haste". (8:14)*