

God's Masterwork, Volume Three
Poets, Prophets, and Promises — A Survey of Job–Daniel
Song of Solomon: Poem of Faithful Love
A SURVEY OF SONG OF SOLOMON



The Heart of the Matter

This lyric poem in dialogue has been the victim of some of the most ingenious interpretations imaginable. It is probable that Solomon would be stunned to hear some of them himself! It seems best that we allow Solomon's song simply to say what it says rather than attempting to force upon these eight chapters some strange, fanciful, or allegorical twist. It is an intimate, tender, romantic expression of physical love between a man and a woman—first, prior to their marriage . . . then, after the wedding. If anything other than this is to be safely seen here, it's an analogy related to Christ and His devoted love for His bride, the church.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Introductory Essentials

To start, let's answer a few essential questions. Who wrote Song of Solomon? When was it written? Why has it been preserved? How should it be interpreted?

2. A Survey of the Long Song

The title of the song is found in 1:1. Then Solomon described his days of courtship (1:2–3:5), the day of his wedding (3:6–5:1), and his life after marriage to his beloved (5:2–8:14).

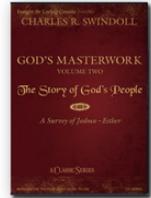


Starting Your Journey

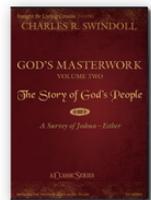
Three personal applications come to mind. First, reaching the deepest level of love takes commitment. Second, understanding the different expressions of love takes patience. And third, becoming the best kind of lover takes time.



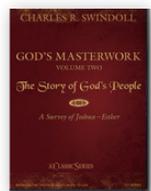
Tools for Digging Deeper



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SONG OF SOLOMON

	The Courtship	The Wedding	The Maturing Marriage		
	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:2–3:5	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 3:6–5:1	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 5:2–8:14		
Emphasis	Bride muses about her beloved	Groom speaks tenderly to his bride	Wife longs for and describes her loving husband	Husband speaks of his wife in intimate terms	Both partners declare a permanent seal on their love
Chief Speaker	The Bride (“Darling”)	The Groom (“Beloved”)	Wife (“Darling”)	Husband (“Beloved”)	Duet
Theme	The joy and intimacy of love within the committed marriage relationship				
Key Verse	8:7				
Christ in Song of Solomon	Foreshadows the bridegroom relationship of Christ with His church				

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