Song of Solomon - Outline

Author: Traditionally attributed to Solomon because of the reference to him (1:1). However, there are many who believe it was compiled by others and attributed to Solomon.[1]

Date: Solomon reigned from 971 to 931 BC. Most believe that it was probably written later in his life.[2] If it was compiled, it might have it origins during or after the Babylonian exile.

Occasion: Some believe that it was not written from personal experience, due to Solomon's 700 wives and 300 concubines, but is a picture of God's design for marriage.

Summary: It presents in poetic form, a look at the courtship, marriage, and honeymoon of a couple which displays "joy, passion, intimacy, and authentic love."[3] Many apply this book allegorically to Christ, the Birdegroom, and the Church, the Bride, which is all well and good. Additionally, a person should also read the book for what it is, a series of love poems between and man and woman who are to be married and their anticipated joys of the marriage union and its consummation.

Group[4]	C	V	Description
The Young Shulamite Bride and Jerusalem's Daughters	1	1	Introduction
		2-4a	*Bride:* Expresses love for the Bridegroom
		4b	*Chorus:* Others rejoice with them in their love
		5-7	*Bride:* Gives the reason for her appearance; Asks where the Bridegroom pastures his flocks
Solomon, the Lover, Speaks		8-10	*Bridegroom:* Tells her to follow the trail of his flocks; Speaks of her beauty
		11	*Chorus:* Offers to make jewelry for the bride to adorn her
		12-14	*Bride:* Speaks of the fragrance of communing with the Bridegroom
		15	*Bridegroom:* Speaks of her beauty
		16-17	*Bride:* Luxuriates in their loving embrace
The Bride's Admiration	2	1	*Bride:* Compares her beauty with nature
		2	*Bridegroom:* Compares her beauty with nature
		3-6	*Bride:* Describes the Bridegroom's appearance and intimate care for her
		7	*Bridegroom:* Cares for her rest
		8-13	*Bride:* Anticipates the arrival of the Bridegroom to her chamber
		14	*Bridegroom:* His desire to be near the Bride
		15	*Chorus:* An appeal to get rid of those who would tempt them away from each other
		16-17	*Bride:* A call to the Bridegroom to relish in their love
The Bride's Troubled Dream	3	1-4	*Bride:* Seeking after her souls desire
		5	*Bridegroom:* Seeks rest for his bride

1 (Galan et al. 99–100; Fee and Stuart 161–165)
2 (Galan et al. 100)
3 (Galan et al. 100)
4 (*NASB*) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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Group	C	V	Description
Solomon's Wedding Day		6-11	*Chorus:* Solomon's Wedding Entrance
Solomon's Love Expressed	4	1-15	*Bridegroom:* Solomon's love for his bride
		16	*Bride:* Her invitation for Solomon to come to her
The Torment of Separation	5	1	*Bridegroom:* Solomon responds to his brides invitation to come to her
		2-8	*Bride:* A dream of separation from her bridegroom
		9	*Chorus:* Response to the brides request
Admiration by the Bride		10-16	*Bride:* Her description of her bridegroom
Mutual Delight in Each Other	6	1	*Chorus:* Offers to help look for the Bridegroom after the Bride's description of Him
		2-3	*Bride:* Declaration of mutual affection for each other
		4-12	*Bridegroom:* the Bride's beauty overwhelms the Bridegroom and takes her away
		13a	*Chorus:* calls the Bride to return
		13b	*Bridegroom:* Speaks of how the Bride moves gracefully, like a dancer
Admiration by the Bridegroom	7	1-9a	*Bridegroom:* Speaks of the Bride's beauty (continuation of 6:13b)
The Union of Love		9b-13	*Bride:* Beckons the Bridegroom to come away with her (continues in 8:1-3)
The Lovers Speak	8	1-3	*Bride:* The Bride's desire for the Bridegroom (continuation of 7:10-13) [see footnote[5]]
		4	*Bridegroom:* Concern for the Bride's rest
		5a	*Chorus:* Rhetorical question of the Bridegroom
		5b-7	*Bride:* Awakens the Bridegroom to a new kind of Love
		8-9	*Chorus:* Family planned the Bride's future in her youth: whether chaste or promiscuous
		10-12	*Bride:* Confirms her chastity and faithfulness and her dowry
		13	*Bridegroom:* Asks for the vow of marriage
		14	*Bride:* Don't Delay! Marry Me!

5 (Walvoord and Zuck) on Song of Solomon 8:1-4.
"In these verses the beloved revealed a growing desire for greater intimacy with her husband-lover and rejoiced in the multifaceted nature of their relationship.
"In the ancient Near East public displays of affection were frowned on except in the case of certain family members. Thus the beloved wished that her husband **were… like a brother** to her so that it would be acceptable to display her affection for him at any time."

Key Words: Old Testament, Wisdom, Song of Solomon, Outlines, Poetry, Love, Marriage, Relationship, Sex

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