



THE SONG OF SOLOMON  
by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Theories of Interpretation

1. Allegorical
2. Typical
3. Literal

### B. The Form of the Song of Solomon

### C. Jewish Attitudes Toward the Song of Solomon

### D. The Story Behind the Song of Solomon

1. The Three Main Characters View
2. The Two Main Characters View

### E. The Divisions

1. The Five Idylls
2. The Thirteen Reflections

AUTHOR AND TITLE - 1:1

THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS SOLOMON'S

## I. COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE - 1:2 - 5:1

### A. The First Idyll: The Wedding Day Reflections - 1:2 - 2:7

#### 1. The First Reflection: Shulamit in the Palace - 1:2-8

##### a. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 1:2-4a

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth,  
For your love is better than wine. (v. 2)  
To the smell, your ointments are good,  
Like poured out oil is your name,  
On account of this the virgins love you. (v. 3)*

*Draw me—After you let us run.  
The king has brought me into his chamber. (v. 4a)*

##### b. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 1:4b

*We will be glad and rejoice in you,  
We will bring to remembrance your love more than wine,  
Uprightly do they love you.*

##### c. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 1:5-6

*I am black but lovely,  
Daughters of Jerusalem;  
As the tents of Kedar,  
As the tent-curtains of Solomon. (v. 5)*

*Do not look at me  
That I am blackish,  
That the sun scorched me;  
The sons of my mother were incensed against me;  
They placed me as a keeper of vineyards:  
My vineyard, even mine, I have not kept. (v. 6)*

##### d. Shulamit to Solomon - 1:7

*Tell me, you who my soul loves,  
Where do you shepherd,  
Where do you cause it to rest at noon,  
For why should I be as a veiled one  
By the flocks of your friends?*

e. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 1:8

*If you yourself do not know  
Most beautiful of women,  
Go forth by the footsteps of the flock  
And shepherd your kids by the tent of the shepherd.*

2. The Second Reflection: At the Banquet Table - 1:9-14

a. Solomon to Shulamit - 1:9-11

*To the mares among the chariots of Pharaoh  
I have compared you, my love; (v. 9)*

*Beautiful are your chains in ornaments,  
Your neck with stings of jewels, (v. 10)*

*Ornaments of gold we will make for you  
With studs of silver. (v. 11)*

b. Shulamit to Solomon - 1:12-14

*While the king was at his banquet table,  
My nard gave off its fragrance; (v. 12)*

*A bundle of myrrh is my love to me  
Which lies between my breasts, (v. 13)*

*A cluster of cypripedium is my love to me  
In the vineyards of Ein Gedi. (v. 14)*

3. The Third Reflection: In the Bridal Chamber - 1:15 - 2:7

a. Solomon to Shulamit - 1:15

*Behold you are beautiful my love,  
Behold you are beautiful:  
Your eyes are as doves.*

b. Shulamit to Solomon - 1:16 - 2:1

*Behold, you are beautiful my love,  
Yea, pleasant.  
Yea, our couch is luxuriously green, (v. 16)*

*The beams of our house are cedar,  
Our rafters are cypresses. (v. 17)*

*I am the autumn crocus of the Sharon,  
The lily of the valley. (v. 1)*

c. Solomon to Shulamit - 2:2

*As a lily among thorns  
So is my love among the daughters.*

d. Shulamit to Solomon - 2:3-6

*As the apple tree is among the trees of the forest  
So is my love among the sons:  
In his shade I took delight, and I sat down,  
And his fruit was sweet to my taste. (v. 3)*

*He brought me into the house of wine,  
His banner over me is love. (v. 4)*

*Sustain me with raisin cakes!  
Refresh me with apples!  
For I am love sick! (v. 5)*

*His left hand is under my head,  
And his right hand embraces me. (v. 6)*

e. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 2:7

*I adjure you,  
O Daughters of Jerusalem,  
By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field,  
That you do not arouse or stir up love  
Until it is pleased.*

## B. The Second Idyll: The Courtship Days Reflections - 2:8 - 3:5

### 1. The Fourth Reflection: A Springtime Visit - 2:8-17

#### a. Shulamit About Solomon - 2:8-9

*The voice of my beloved!  
Behold he comes,  
Leaping upon the mountains,  
Bounding on the hills. (v. 8)*

*My beloved is likened to a gazelle  
Or a young one among the harts.  
Behold he stands behind our wall;  
He is looking through the windows,  
He peers through the lattices. (v. 9)*

#### b. Solomon to Shulamit - 2:10-14

*My love answered and said to me,  
Rise thee up my love,  
My beautiful one,  
And go thee forth. (v. 10)*

*For behold the winter is past,  
The rain is over and it is gone. (v. 11)*

*The flowers have appeared in the land;  
The time of singing has arrived,  
And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. (v. 12)*

*The fig tree ripens her figs,  
And the vines are in blossom;  
They give fragrance.  
Rise thee up my love,  
My beautiful one,  
And go thee forth. (v. 13)*

*My dove  
In the clefts of the rock,  
In the hiding place of the cliff;  
Let me see your countenance,  
Let me hear your voice;  
Because your voice is sweet,  
And your countenance is beautiful. (v. 14)*

c. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 2:15-16

*Catch for us foxes,  
Little foxes,  
The spoilers of the vineyards. (v. 15)*

*My lover is mine and I am his,  
The shepherd among the lilies. (v. 16)*

d. Shulamit to Solomon - 2:17

*Until the day cools  
And the shadows flee away,  
Turn my love  
And be thou like a gazelle,  
Or a young one of the harts,  
Upon the mountains of separation. (v. 17)*

2. The Fifth Reflection: A Dream of Separation (Shulamit) - 3:1-5

*Upon my bed night after night,  
I sought whom my soul loved;  
I sought him,  
But I did not find him. (v. 1)*

*I will rise up,  
And I will go around the city,  
In the markets and in the streets,  
I will seek him whom my soul loves.  
I sought him,  
But I did not find him. (v. 2)*

*The watchmen  
That go around the city  
Found me:  
Did you see whom my soul loves? (v. 3)*

*Scarcely had I passed from them  
When I found whom my soul loves,  
I seized him,  
And did not let him go,  
Until that I brought him into the house of my mother,  
And into the chambers of the one who gave me birth. (v. 4)*

*I adjure you,  
O Daughters of Jerusalem,  
By the gazelles and by the hinds of the field,  
That you do not arouse or stir up love,  
Until it is pleased. (v. 5)*

### C. The Third Idyll: Marital Union Reflections - 3:6 - 5:1

#### 1. The Sixth Reflection: The Wedding Procession (The Daughters of Jerusalem) - 3:6-11

*Who is this one coming up from the wilderness,  
Like pillars of smoke perfumed of myrrh and frankincense  
From all the scented powders of the merchants? (v. 6)*

*Behold the travel-couch of Solomon:  
Sixty mighty men are around it  
From the mighty men of Israel; (v. 7)*

*All of them are handlers of sword,  
Expert in war;  
Each one has his sword on his thigh,  
Against fear in the nights. (v. 8)*

*A bed of state King Solomon made for himself,  
From the trees of Lebanon: (v. 9)*

*Its pillars are made of silver,  
Its support of gold,  
Its cushion of purple,  
Its interior adorned from love  
By the Daughters of Jerusalem. (v. 10)*

*Go ye forth and look ye,  
O Daughters of Jerusalem,  
At King Solomon,  
With the crown with which his mother crowned him  
On the day of his wedding,  
And on the day of the gladness of his heart. (v. 11)*

2. The Seventh Reflection: The Wedding Night - 4:1 - 5:1

a. Solomon to Shulamit - 4:1-15

*Behold you are beautiful my love,  
Behold you are beautiful;  
Your eyes are doves behind your veil;  
Your hair is as a flock of goats  
Reposed downwards from Mount Gilead. (v. 1)*

*Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep,  
Which come up from the washing;  
That all of them have twins,  
And a lost one there is not among them. (v. 2)*

*As a thread of scarlet are your lips,  
And your mouth is beautiful;  
As a piece of pomegranate are your temples,  
Behind your veil. (v. 3)*

*As the Tower of David  
Your neck is built in terraces;  
There one thousand shields are hung upon it,  
All the armor of the mighty men. (v. 4)*

*Your two breasts are two fawns,  
Twins of a gazelle,  
The ones feeding among the lilies. (v. 5)*

*Until the day will cool,  
And the shadows flee away,  
I will get me to the mountain of myrrh,  
And unto the hill of frankincense. (v. 6)*

*All of you is beautiful my love,  
And there is no blemish in you. (v. 7)*

*With me from Lebanon, my bride,  
With me from Lebanon you will come;*

*Journey down from the top of Amana,  
From the top of Senir and Hermon,*

*From the dens of lions,  
From the mountains of the leopards (v. 8)*

*You have ravished my heart, my sister-bride,  
You have ravished my heart,  
With one of your glances,  
With one little chain on your neck. (v. 9)*

*How beautiful is your love, my sister-bride.  
How better is your love than wine,  
And the smell of your oils than spices. (v. 10)*

*Your lips drip honeycomb, my bride,  
Honey and milk are under your tongue;  
And the smell of your garments,  
As the smell of Lebanon. (v. 11)*

*A locked garden is my sister-bride;  
A locked spring,  
A fountain sealed. (v. 12)*

*Your shoots are an orchard or pomegranates  
With choice fruits,  
Camphire with nard plants. (v. 13)*

*Nard and saffron  
Calamus and cinnamon,  
With all the trees of frankincense,  
Myrrh and aloes with all chief spices. (v. 14)*

*A fountain of gardens,  
A well of living waters,  
And streams from Lebanon. (v. 15)*

b. Shulamit to Solomon - 4:16

*Awake thou North (wind)!  
And come thou South (wind)!  
Cause my garden to breathe out its fragrance,  
Let its spices be wafted about;  
Let my love come into his garden,  
And let him eat its choice fruits.*

c. Solomon to Shulamit - 5:1a

*I came to my garden, my sister-bride,  
I gathered my myrrh with my spices,  
I ate my honeycomb with my honey,  
I drank my wine with my milk.*

d. Daughters of Jerusalem - 5:1b

*Eat friends,  
Drink and be ye drunk, O lovers.*

II. SEXUAL ADJUSTMENTS IN MARRIAGE - 5:2 - 8:14

A. The Fourth Idyll: A Dream of Love's Refusal Reflections 5:2 - 6:9

1. The Eighth Reflection: Shulamit's Troubled Dream - 5:2 - 6:3

a. Shulamit Speaking - 5:2-8

*I was sleeping,  
But my heart kept waking;  
The voice of my lover, knocking:  
Open for me my sister, my love,  
My dove, my perfect one;  
For my head is filled with dew,  
My locks with drips of the night. (v. 2)*

*I have put off my undergarment,  
How shall I dress it (again)?  
I have washed my feet,  
How shall I soil them (again)? (v. 3)*

*My lover sent forth his hand through the hole,  
And my feelings were moved for him. (v. 4)*

*I arose to open for my lover;  
And my hand dripped with myrrh,  
And my fingers with liquid myrrh. (v. 5)*

*I opened for my lover,  
But my lover was turned away, gone. (v. 6a)*

*My soul went out as he spoke:  
I sought him but did not find him,  
I called him but he did not answer me. (v. 6b)*

*The watchmen found me,  
They who go around the city,  
They smote me,  
They wounded me,  
They lifted up my upper garment from upon me,  
The watchmen of the walls. (v. 7)*

*I adjure you, Daughters of Jerusalem,  
If you find my lover,  
What shall you tell him?  
That I am love sick. (v. 8)*

b. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 5:9

*What is your love from (another) lover,  
The beautiful one among women?  
What is your lover from (another) lover,  
That you adjure us thus?*

c. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 5:10-16

*My lover is dazzling white and red (ruddy),  
Distinguished by a banner among ten thousand. (v. 10)*

*His head is precious fine gold,  
His locks are hill upon hill  
Black as the raven. (v. 11)*

*His eyes are like doves,  
Beside streams of water;  
Washed with milk,  
Sitting in fullness. (v. 12)*

*His cheeks are a bed of balsam,  
Towers of spicy plants.  
His lips are lilies,  
Dripping liquid myrrh. (v. 13)*

*His hands are cylinders of gold,  
Filled with topaz.  
His abdomen is carved ivory,  
Covered with sapphires. (v. 14)*

*His legs are pillars of marble,  
Set upon bases of fine gold.  
His aspect is like Lebanon,  
Chosen like cedars. (v. 15)*

*His palate is most sweetnesses,  
And all of him is lovelinesses;  
This is my lover and this is my friend,  
O Daughters of Jerusalem. (v. 16)*

d. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:1

*Where is your lover gone,  
The beautiful one among women?  
Where has your lover turned,  
And we shall seek him with you?*

e. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:2-3

*My lover is gone down to his garden,  
To the beds of balsam;  
To feed in the gardens,  
And to pluck lilies. (v. 2)*

*I am my lover's,  
And my lover is mine,  
The shepherd among the lilies. (v. 3)*

2. The Ninth Reflection: The Return of Solomon (Solomon to Shulamit) - 6:4-9

*You are beautiful my love as Tirzah,  
Comely as Jerusalem,  
Awesome as a bannered host. (v. 4)*

*Turn away your eyes from before me,  
For they have overcome me.  
Your hair is as the flock of goats  
Reposed downwards from Mount Gilead. (v. 5)*

*Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep,  
Which come up from the washing:  
That all of them have twins,  
And a lost one there is not among them. (v. 6)*

*As a piece of pomegranate are your temples  
Behind your veil. (v. 7)*

*There are sixty queens,  
And eighty concubines,  
And virgins without number. (v. 8)*

*One is she,  
My dove, my perfect one;  
One is she of her mother,  
She is the choice one of the one who bore her;  
The daughters saw her,  
And they called her blessed;  
Queens and concubines,  
And they praised her. (v. 9)*

## B. The Fifth Idyll: Vacation in the Country Reflections - 6:10 - 8:14

### 1. The Tenth Reflection: The Dance of the Mahanaim - 6:10 - 7:10

#### a. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:10

*Who is this, the one looking like the dawn,  
Beautiful as the full-white moon,  
Pure as the warm sun,  
Awesome as a banner host?*

#### b. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:11-12

*Unto the nut garden I went down,  
To see the shrubs of the valley brook,  
To see the budding of the vine,  
And the pomegranates flowering. (v. 11)*

*I did not know my soul lifted me up,  
Set me (among) the chariots of my princely people. (v. 12)*

#### c. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:13a

*Return, Return, O Shulamit,  
Return, Return, and we will gaze on you.*

#### d. Shulamit to the Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:13b

*Why would you gaze on the Shulamit?*

#### e. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 6:13c

*As the Dance of the Mahanaim.*

f. Solomon to Shulamit - 7:1-9a

*How beautiful are your feet in sandals,  
O prince's daughter;*

*The curves (vibrations) of your thighs are like jewels,  
The work of the hands of an artist. (v. 1)*

*Your navel is a rounded basin,  
Without the lack of mingled wine.  
Your belly is a heap of wheat,  
Set about with lilies. (v. 2)*

*Your two breasts  
Are like two fawns,  
Twins of a gazelle. (v. 3)*

*Your neck is like the tower of ivory.  
Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon,  
By the gates of Bat Rabbim.  
Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon,  
Looking towards Damascus. (v. 4)*

*Your head upon you is like Carmel,  
And the flowing locks of your head like purple;  
A king is captive in the tresses. (v. 5)*

*How you are beautiful,  
And how you are pleasant,  
O love, in the delights. (v. 6)*

*This your stature is likened to a palm tree,  
And your breasts to clusters. (v. 7)*

*I said:  
I will go up into the palm tree,  
I will take hold in its branches,  
And let your breasts be as clusters of the vine,  
And the smell of your nose like apples. (v. 8)*

*And your palate as the good wine. (v. 9a)*

g. Shulamit to Solomon - 7:9b-10

*Going down for my lover smoothly,  
Moving the lips of the sleeping. (v. 9b)  
I am my lover's  
And upon me is his desire. (v. 10)*

2. The Eleventh Reflection:

Shulamit's Desire to Visit Home (Shulamit to Solomon) - 7:11 - 8:4

*Come my lover,  
Let us go out to the country,  
Let us lodge in the villages. (v. 11)*

*Let us rise early to the vineyards,  
Let us see if the vines have budded,  
The vine blossoms have opened,  
The pomegranates are in flower.  
There will I give my loves to you. (v. 12)*

*The mandrakes are giving fragrance,  
And over our doors are all kinds of excellent fruit:  
New and old  
I kept for you, my lover. (v. 13)*

*Who would give you as a brother to me,  
Sucking the breast of my mother;  
I would find you outside;  
I would kiss you,  
Also, no one would despise me; (v. 1)*

*I would lead you,  
I would bring you into the house of my mother;  
You could teach me,  
I would cause you to drink spiced wine  
From the juice of my pomegranates. (v. 2)*

*His left hand is under my head,  
And his right hand embraces me. (v. 3)*

*I Adjure you,  
O Daughters of Jerusalem,  
Why should you arouse,  
And why should you stir up love  
Until it will be pleased? (v. 4)*

3. The Twelfth Reflection: The Journey to the Country - 8:5-7

a. The Daughters of Jerusalem - 8:5a

*Who is this the one coming from the wilderness,  
Leaning upon her beloved?*

b. Solomon to Shulamit - 8:5b

*Under the apple (tree) I awakened you;  
There your mother was in travail with you,  
There she was in travail, there she bore you.*

c. Shulamit to Solomon - 8:6-7

*Set me as a seal (signet ring) upon your heart  
As a seal (signet ring) upon your arm;  
For strong as death is love,  
Hard as Sheol is jealousy,  
Her flames are flashes of fire,  
A most vehement flame of Jehovah. (v. 6)*

*Many waters are not able to quench the love,  
And rivers cannot overflow it;  
If a man will give all the substance of his house for love,  
He will surely be despised. (v. 7)*

4. The Thirteenth Reflection: The Homecoming of Shulamit - 8:8-14

a. Shulamit to the Brothers - 8:8

*We have a little sister,  
And she has no breasts;  
What shall we do for our sister,  
In the day she will be spoken for.*

b. The Brothers to Shulamit - 8:9

*If she be a wall,  
We will build upon her a battlement of silver;  
And if she be a door,  
We will block upon her boards of cedar.*

c. Shulamit to Solomon - 8:10-12

*I am a wall,  
And my breasts like towers;  
Then I was in his eyes,  
As one finding peace. (v. 10)*

*Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hermon,  
He gave the vineyard to the keepers,  
That each one should bring forth its fruit  
One thousand pieces of silver. (v. 11)*

*My vineyard, even mine, is before me;  
The one thousand for you, O Solomon,  
And two hundred to the ones keeping its fruit. (v. 12)*

d. Solomon to Shulamit - 8:13

*O thou that dwellest in the gardens,  
Friends are listening for your voice,  
Cause me to hear it!*

e. Shulamit to Solomon - 8:14

*Flee my lover,  
And be thou like a gazelle,  
Or to a young one of the harts,  
On the mountains of spices.*