

## The Song of Solomon

# 32

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we read the **Song of Solomon** (also called **Song of Songs** and **Canticles**). This book is the fifth of the Bible’s “wisdom” books. The Hebrew name for this book is “Solomon’s Song of Songs.” The term “song of songs” means the greatest of songs, just as the titles “God of gods” (**Psalms 136:2**), “King of kings” and “Lord of lords” (**1 Timothy 6:15**) describe God as superior to all.

The very first verse of the book identifies the author as Solomon, and he is mentioned seven times throughout the book (**1:1,5; 3:7,9,11; 8:11-12**). The Hebrew text, however, could mean that the book was written *by* Solomon, or *for* Solomon, or just *about* Solomon. The jury is still out on this issue, but **1 Kings 4:32** does tell us that Solomon wrote 1,005 songs. The **Song of Songs** may be one of them.

Much has been argued about the purpose of the **Song of Solomon**. – its reason for inclusion in the Old Testament canon. Is it just a love song? Or is it an allegory? And how should it be interpreted in the light of the rest of the Bible (particularly since the New Testament makes no mention of this book)?

What we need to understand is that the book, first and foremost, is a celebration of love. But it also has four distinct levels of meaning:

- It is a poem about romantic love (see **Song of Solomon 1:2**)
- It is an allegory of God’s love for Israel (**Jeremiah 31:3**)
- It is an allegory of Christ’s love for his Church (**Ephesians 5:25-27**)
- It is an allegory depicting your relationship with God (**1 John 4:19**)

The book is written in the form of poetic declaration and response. Three parties speak constantly throughout the book – the Lover (the man), the Beloved (the woman) and the Friends – each responding to what the other has said.

With this in mind, pull up a comfortable chair, and let’s read the **Song of Songs** in one sitting. Read it slowly enough to enjoy the poetry and detect the different levels of meaning.

# Memory Verse

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Romans 16:25-27 (or a portion)

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is his Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!