

“LOVER AND BELOVED”

The Book of Song of Songs

Who wrote The Song of Songs?

The introductory verse attributes The Song of Songs to Solomon. Some scholars suggest that an anonymous poet may have written these poems and simply attributed them to Solomon.

How did The Song of Songs get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Song of Songs means "the greatest of songs."

When did these events take place?

This book was probably written sometime after 538 B.C.

For more about The Song of Songs:

See page 673 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

When you fall in love, everything changes. Suddenly, a lot of the things you normally think about or do no longer seem so important. When you are in love with someone, you don't really care about what's on TV or about spending a lot of time with your same old group of friends. Even noticing what the weather is like or what you are going to eat for lunch or dinner doesn't really matter, unless, of course, you are sharing this time with the one you love.

In this new relationship, everything about the one you love seems to matter; how they feel; how they look; how they smell; how they sound. Even the notes and letters they write you become treasured keepsakes. Writing a love letter is like bearing your soul. You choose words that clearly reveal your passion and express the longing you have to be together. Reading a love letter is the next best thing to holding the person you love in your arms, even if they are far away. A love letter is so personal that you keep it private. It is so intimate that it exposes how vulnerable you've become because of the love you share.

Because of this intensity, what better way is there than in a love letter to reveal how Christ feels about us. The Book of The Song of Songs does exactly that. Christ is the Lover and we, the Church, are the beloved. When you read this collection of poems this way, it's easy to see the depth of Christ's longing to be one with us. But The Song of Songs means even more in the context of our Catholic faith and tradition. Throughout the book, the passion and desire in new love grows into commitment and lasting love representing the blessings of a life-long marriage. In the verses of The Song of Songs, God reveals to us how important love is to marriage and how the sanctity of this union can bless you for a lifetime.

Catholics treasure The Song of Songs in yet another important way. Many verses from this book of the Bible are often chosen for Marian feast days. This is a further indication of the importance of this beautiful book of the Bible in establishing a relationship to the Blessed Virgin, the ultimate expression and representation of love in the world.

Interesting Fact: Forty-nine of the words that appear in The Song of Songs are not found anywhere else in the Old Testament.

Bonus Point: What 12 Century Saint wrote a beautiful sermon on The Song of Songs?