

## The Song of Solomon

*This is part of an ongoing series of short articles designed to help us understand what scripture is and what is **in** each book of scripture. Previous articles can be found at [www.openarms-communityofchrist.org](http://www.openarms-communityofchrist.org).*

The Song of Solomon is a book that was not included in Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible. However, it is found in all other translations, including the NRSV, which is the version that Community of Christ considers to be the most accurate contemporary translation.

The Song of Solomon is a series of love poems spoken primarily by two speakers, a man and a woman. While it is a dramatic book, it is **not** a drama as we would understand drama today. Instead, it is a series of dialogues between the two.

It is not a long book, only eight chapters long, but in the chapters, the man and woman express their love for each other. Most of the lines are attributed to the woman, but the interaction between the two presents a mood of love and devotion, reflected in poems of desire, admiration, and boasting.

Many scholars believe that these songs were originally oral compositions used in weddings, and that they were assembled as a "book" of the Bible because they focus on important values in loving relationships, i.e., mutuality and fidelity in love.

Others have found another level of meaning in the book, seeing it as a representation of the love between God and God's people.

The book cannot be dated with any certainty, even though Solomon's name is attributed to it. But it may significantly predate his reign, since the closest comparisons for the Song are love poems from ancient Egypt.