

# Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

THE OLD TESTAMENT \* Week 29 \* Opening Prayer: From the Marriage Rite, BCP 425

- I. Describe Solomon:
  - A. 1 Kings 11:1-4.
  - B. Song of Solomon written at the beginning of his reign and Ecclesiastes at the end.
    1. S.o.S. 3:11
    2. Ecclesiastes 1-2
- II. Song of Solomon/Song of Songs/Canticles/Songs = Drama/Opera
  - A. The Players:
    1. The Beloved = She/the wife/the Shulammitte (6:13)
    2. Friends/Chorus
    3. Lover = He/Solomon
  - B. The Situation = Several “visitations” between the husband and wife (3:11)
    1. 1:2-4
    - 2.
    3. 4:9; 8:1 –
    4. 5:2-6 –
  - C. Interpretations:
    1. Pornography. S.o.S. is NOT “required” in Sunday lectionary. Neither are 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Obadiah, Nahum, 2 & 3 John, or Jude.
    2. Picture of marriage (BCP 426)
    3. Spiritual experience of only a few contemplative Monastics –BCP 926
    4. Allegory of God’s relationship with Israel/the Church
    5. Picture of one aspect of God’s love for each of us.
      - a) Revelation 19 and 21.
      - b) Ephesians 5:25-32.
      - c) BCP 423.
    6. All of the above, except for #1! NOT pornography!
  - D. Our response and responsibility?

III. Ecclesiastes/The Preacher – “*Ecclesia*” = “the assembly/gathering/Church.”  
“Ecclesiastical” = “anything having to do with the Church.”

A. Situation:

1. 1:1-14 --

2. 2:1-11 –

B. Solomon’s conclusions

1. 12:1 –

2. 12:13 –

C. Our response and responsibility:

1. It’s never too late to come home.

2. Let’s pray for those, we know, whose lives are “meaningless and chasing after the wind.”

**Closing prayer: #58. *For Guidance***

**Preparation for next week: Read 2 Kings**