



The Song of Songs, also known as the Song of Solomon or the Canticle of Canticles is a collection of beautiful love songs. It explains human intimacy in stark contrast to the values adopted by today's society.

The book can be understood in various ways, but in its simplest form it is a story about a beautiful maiden, her shepherd lover, and King Solomon. The maiden is forced to live in the palace after being chosen to be one of the King's wives. Yet, she thinks only of her shepherd lover.



The relationship between the maiden and her lover is based on a deep mutual admiration. The ladies of the palace try to tell her that her lover is in no way special, but she singles him out among 10,000 men.

In the end, the shepherd appears and expresses his admiration for his maiden. She delivers some beautiful and touching lines about the power of love and its fierce intensity.

The book unmistakably draws the reader's attention to the fact that there is indeed a strong physical attraction between young boys and girls. The book of Genesis explains it best: "God created them male and female, and He saw that it was good".

The Song of Songs points out that this physical attraction is very good provided it is mutual and results in courtship and marriage. It is best not to play around with the intense emotion of love unless we understand it sufficiently and are mature enough to handle it.

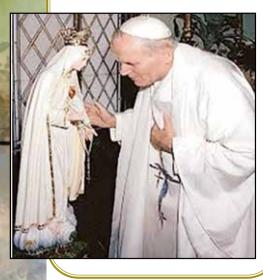
# **Word of God**

The Song of Solomon 8: 6 – 7

Close your heart to every love but mine; hold no one in your arms but me. Love is as powerful as death; passion is as strong as death itself. It bursts into flame and burns like a raging fire. Water cannot put it out; no flood can drown it. But if any tried to buy love with their wealth, contempt is all they would get.

#### Insight Pope John Paul II Attacked

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and was critically wounded while he was in an open car at Vatican's St. Peter's Square. The assailant, 23-yearold Turkish citizen Mehmet Ali Agca fired shots, one of which hit John Paul II in the abdomen. The Pope was rushed to a hospital where he underwent over five hours of surgery. He was critical for a few days but survived. By forgiving Mehmet Ali Agca the longest serving pope in recent history and the most traveled one showed that love is more powerful than hate.



### **Notes**



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY EXPLAINED: A Commentary on John Paul II's Gospel of the Body by Christopher West. If Pope John Paul II's theology of the body is a "theological time bomb set to go off" (George Weigel), this book lights the fuse. With clarity and precision, Christopher West unpacks the pope's weighty talks and translates them into a much more accessible language. Theology of the Body Explained makes the perfect companion to the Pope's text.

#### my TASK this week

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## Home

**The Song of Songs Project presents the first in a series of videos:** The Song of Songs - Words and Music: King Solomon. This is Chapter 1, featuring the original music by King Solomon as encrypted in the Ta'ameiHaMiqra (Biblical trope). Listen to The Song of Songs - https://bit.ly/2xOiiiH