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# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

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SALVATION IS  
A LOVE AFFAIR.

WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE  
*He first loved us.*

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DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## GOD'S LOVE SONG



Dr. J. Vernon McGee  
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from our **Song of Solomon Bible Companion**. **Download** this one-lesson preview and look for the complete booklet coming soon.

There are some who feel Song of Solomon should not be in the Bible. If you're going through the Word of God for the first time, you may be puzzled when you come to this little book that's so different from the others. Abused by those who don't understand it, even misunderstood and misinterpreted by some Christians, few know what to do with it. Most everyone will just ignore it.

At first, you might think this book is a story. But it's not—it's a song. This author, Solomon, was quite a songwriter. First Kings 4:32 tells us he "spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one



thousand and five.” If you add up all the proverbs and songs in this book, as well as in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, you come up with a lot less—which implies we only have a sampling of all his work. But since we have the content the Spirit of God wanted us to have, we for sure have the best.

No other book is going to draw you closer to Jesus Christ than this one—or be more personal. Solomon’s vivid, striking, and bold language paints us a glorious picture of our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Really? This is a picture of our relationship with Christ?* Yes. Early church fathers, Origen and Jerome, called Solomon’s Song an allegory—let’s call it an allegory of the church. Its romantic language imagines God speaking to His people in poetic songs. This is holy ground we’re standing on. Solomon’s Song gives us insight into four realms of love.

First, it teaches the glory of wedded love—of marital bliss. Marriage is established by God; it is sacred. Only with Him can it work out with joy. We see the heart of a satisfied husband and a devoted wife. While common today is talk of sex, this book speaks of love.

Next, Solomon’s Song shows us Jehovah’s love for Israel. That’s not new of course; the prophets mention God’s “husband-like” love for His people all the time. But this song gives us a picture of a beautiful, happy marriage.

Third, Solomon reveals a beautiful look at Christ’s love for the church. God uses human affection to convey His soul’s great love to our dull minds and our dead hearts. Our distorted affections and diseased spirits are quickened by the wonderful love Jesus has for us today.



Lastly, this little book invites you into a marvelous relationship with Jesus as you’ve likely never known before. But it’s here waiting for us. We love Him because He first loved us. Solomon’s Song will break the alabaster box of ointment, and its fragrance will fill our lives and spread to others.

Too many today think the Christian life is a mixture of a little psychology ... a little common sense ... a little salesmanship—with some Bible verses as spiritual icing. But that won’t help us or save us or comfort us. That lukewarm condition that exists in the church today only leads to arrogance and a cool affinity for each other. Only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will stir a holy passion in us—for Him and for His people. We all need a burning hot, living, loving passion for Jesus Christ Himself.

What follows is a song about the day when a sun-kissed girl tends her sheep and a handsome shepherd appears and falls in love with her. He calls her a “lily among thorns.” He only has eyes for her. There’s nothing quite like young love that blossoms into marital bliss. Their exclusive, personal relationship deepens and grows over time. She says to her man, “My beloved is mine, and I am his” (2:16). The structure of the rest of the song is like a conversation. First, the Shulamite bride and the daughters of Jerusalem speak. Then later, the bridegroom and the bride talk and even the bride’s family has a word.

MY BELOVED IS MINE, AND

*I am his.*

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:16



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One of these days Jesus Himself, the lover of our souls, will call us out of this world. He will be like Solomon here calling, *O my dove, come out from your protected clefts of the rock, from the crannies of the cliff, and let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.*

The Lord has kept us safe in the cleft of the rock until the storm passes over, but now He wants to be the Lover of our souls.

Salvation is a love affair. We love Him because He first loved us. This overview just hints at this beautiful story that will now unfold.

## MY TURN

- 1 Why do you think God included a book like Song of Solomon in the Bible if He knew so many people would struggle to understand it?
- 2 How could reading a book about a married couple draw everyone, married or single, closer to Jesus?
- 3 Very few places recognize God is the author and designer of marriage. How should knowing this change the way we think and feel about marriage, whether we are married or not?
- 4 Does the picture of God as a faithful husband to Old Testament Israel make you think more or less fondly of God? Why or why not?
- 5 Do you struggle to love God's people? Could the Holy Spirit be showing you a better way to do that in this book?
- 6 What do you think was God's purpose behind revealing so much of Himself to us in the way of stories?
- 7 Many of us find that following Jesus means waiting. We wait for Him in our lives today, and we wait for His return. How can the example of the bride waiting for her husband to return in Song of Solomon encourage us?



## REACHING FRENCH AFRICA WITH THE GOSPEL



Bashar Abdo  
Endure International

When you think of Africa, you don't usually think of those who speak French. Yet, 29 countries speak it and 21 consider French their official language. **Last year, seeing the massive need for the truth of the Word of God to be shared in areas controlled by Islam, Endure International proposed we take THRU the BIBLE TV programming to all the French-speaking African nations** (see map).



In October 2022, Endure launched an African-French television program. Our vision is to use this program to equip God's church, build up believers for the work of the ministry, and to see Jesus Christ reign supreme over the whole continent!

**THRU the BIBLE-French** (or *Toute La Bible*) broadcasts over two satellite networks, EMCI, and Dieu TV, as well as via YouTube, Facebook, and other social media outlets. We are only in the first year of the 5-year journey and there is already tremendous demand for it from the viewers. **We communicate with thousands of hungry souls and continue to witness the power of God's Word in action as we hear countless testimonies from our viewers about the work of the Holy Spirit in touching their hearts and meeting their deepest spiritual needs through this program.**

**As you read a sample of these testimonies below**  
(and on the back cover), **please pray:**

- **For God’s transforming power to continue to reshape the hearts and souls of these viewers** and that the power of God’s Word would cause an awakening and revival as people surrender their hearts, souls, and minds to the gospel.
- For the Holy Spirit to empower His people to defeat the false and satanic teachings by the blood of the Lamb and the power of their testimonies! **Pray God would shatter the chains of evil oppression in these regions and release His people from the worship of evil and falsehood.**
- **Pray that God would continue to draw people to Himself** as they come face to face with the absolute truth through God’s Word.
- **Please pray God’s Word would strengthen the weary and weak** and build up believers as they share the gospel with friends and neighbors.
- **Pray God would continue the incredible work** He has started in French-speaking Africa. The need is massive and the people are hungry!

**While seeking to equip the church in Africa, we continue to receive hundreds of messages from pastors and ministers who use the program as a theological education tool to allow them to study the Word of God so that they can, in turn, teach it clearly to their congregations.**

*“Good morning, my beloved ones. I’m writing to you from Guinea (West Africa). I am Faya, one of the pastors of the Lumière des Nations churches. **I am very blessed by your Thru the Bible program. Every time I listen to you, I feel edified.** Thank you for your good work. May the Lord bless you abundantly.”*

*“Hello. **Your program is a great blessing for me and helps me to come closer to God and to grow in the faith and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.** I am a translator/interpreter in an evangelical mission in Benin. Thank you very much, may God sustain us.”*

*“Hello, my brothers, I am so blessed through this broadcast. **Every day the Lord answers all my questions through you to such an extent that I have decided to make an in-depth study of your broadcasts, which enrich me deeply.** May the love for the Lord become evident in my life. Remain blessed in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.”*





## PRAYING FOR SAFETY AND SALVATION IN UZBEKISTAN

*“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* –Hebrews 13:5

*“I carry my radio receiver in my bag wherever I go. Carrying a Bible can be risky and cumbersome, making the radio a practical choice.”*

That’s the good news we hear from a listener in Uzbekistan. Here’s more of his story:

*“Whether I’m at home working or on the move, I always have the radio on, and it provides me with great encouragement. I combine listening to your programs with reading the Bible, bringing me great joy. I have begun to tell others about this program. Please pray for my safety and their salvation.”*

Believers in Uzbekistan are among the most persecuted in the world. There are approximately 25,000 Christians in dozens of unregistered churches facing persecution, arrest, and torture from targeted attacks by government-controlled media and police. Together let’s thank

God for this gentleman and all those who choose faith in Jesus despite the risk.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for those in Uzbekistan who secretly listen to Your Word on THRU the BIBLE. We pray many more will hear it and be saved. As You build Your church in this hostile land, protect our brothers and sisters who face persecution. Give each of them Your peace and remind them of Your promise to never leave or forsake them. In the precious name of Jesus, amen.*

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY)  
TO SIGN UP.**



# WHY STUDY ECCLESIASTES?

Join in the studies  
on THRU the BIBLE  
FEBRUARY 5-20, 2024  
or anytime online, by podcast,  
or by mobile app.

Everywhere you look, people are trying to be happy without God. We experiment in a million different ways. The book of Ecclesiastes shows the absurdity of those experiments. Old Testament Solomon, King David's son, tried every field of endeavor and pleasure known to man, and his conclusion was, "It's all vanity."

**"VANITY" = EMPTY, PURPOSELESS**

*"Even if we possess the whole world and all the things that men consider necessary to make their hearts content, we learn we cannot be satisfied without Jesus Christ."* —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

"THE WORLD CANNOT SATISFY YOUR HEART BECAUSE YOUR HEART IS TOO LARGE FOR THE WORLD."

*He has put eternity in their hearts.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Circle these phrases in your Bible:

- "VANITY"—37x
- "UNDER THE SUN"—29x

**ECCLESIASTES IS THE DRAMATIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SOLOMON'S LIFE WHEN HE WAS AWAY FROM GOD.** He experiments in seeking satisfaction in the following:

**SCIENCE**—the laws of nature (1:4-11)

**EGOISM**—excessive self-interest (3:16—4:16)

**WISDOM AND PHILOSOPHY** (1:12-18)

**RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY** (5:1-8)

**PLEASURE** (2:1-11)

**THE PURSUIT OF WEALTH** (5:9—6:12)

**MATERIALISM**—living for now (2:12-26)

**MORALITY**—the "good life" (7:1—12:12)

**FATALISM**—we are slaves to destiny (3:1-15)

**RESULT OF EXPERIMENT:** Even if we possess the whole world and all the things that men consider necessary to make their hearts content, nothing satisfies us other than knowing Jesus Christ.





## Beloved

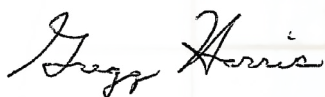
Almost every day, Dr. McGee ends our study with, “May God richly bless you, *my beloved*.” We are learning now in our book study of the Song of Solomon just what “beloved” means: **A beautiful picture of God’s love—His affection and His commitment to His own.**

Dr. McGee closed the study every day with this reminder that we are “God’s beloved.”

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated “beloved” is related to the word *agape*. You likely know that word describes God’s love. **More than human affection, “beloved” encompasses an esteem for others that comes from recognizing their worth as children of God.** It’s like saying, “You, my friends, you who are so dearly loved by God,” you are beloved.

I can’t think of a better way to describe the way we feel about you, our THRU the BIBLE family. You are dearly loved by God. You, my friends, are the beloved. **Let’s together take that message to anyone in the world who will listen and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Grateful for your partnership  
in taking God’s whole Word  
to the whole world,



Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President



# WHY STUDY SONG OF SOLOMON?

Join in the studies  
on THRU the BIBLE  
FEBRUARY 21—MARCH 8, 2024  
or anytime online, by podcast,  
or by mobile app.

Throughout the ages, people can't get enough of "silly love songs." But Solomon's love song to his wife is a timeless, profound, love letter picturing God's love for us. Dr. McGee tells us, "Salvation is a love affair—we love Him because He first loved us. That is the story this little book is telling."

*"God uses the very best of human love to arouse us to the wonderful love He has for us. This love song can lead you into a marvelous, wonderful relationship with the Lord Jesus which you probably have never known before. My friend, may I invite you to the knowledge of the Word of God and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?"* –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

MANY WATERS CANNOT *quench love,*  
NOR CAN THE FLOODS *drown it.*

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:7

## THE SONG OF SOLOMON IS LIKE A FRAGILE FLOWER THAT REQUIRES DELICATE HANDLING.

It's a picture of:



### THE GLORY OF WEDDED LOVE

The heart of a satisfied husband and a devoted wife



### THE LOVE OF GOD FOR ISRAEL



### JESUS CHRIST'S COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH



### THE SWEET FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN JESUS CHRIST & THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER





I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

## GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE BUS IN CONGO

As we heard about the new television program broadcasting **THRU the BIBLE** in African-French (pages 6-7), here are three stories from our brothers and sisters in French-speaking Congo:

*“Thank you so much, I’m used to following you every day. **I keep growing, and I’m falling even more in love with this wonderful Lord who is Jesus Christ.**”*

*“My family and I were attacked and mugged last week by separatists. They killed and burned people and houses. They shot at close range in our houses. I had just followed your program, and I was praying. Then I heard violent noise at the neighbors’ and then close to us. I took my little sister in my arms and said, **‘Lord, we have decided to follow You and with You we will find victory. We will cover ourselves in Your cloud of glory!’** And then a man opened the door. We were in front of him, but then he went out. Outside it was a massacre, more than 25 people had died.”*

*“Hello, beloved. This program has blessed me very richly from the very beginning. I never stop following you and I always receive marvelous revelations. May God fill you more and more with His wisdom. **Pray for me and for the conversion of my husband and my children, that they will put into practice the glorious Word of God.** Thank you!”*



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