

The Martin Bucer Institute for Biblical Studies

Special Session: The Song of Solomon

Lecture #1: Song made up of Songs?

Peter J. Leithart

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I. Title: “Song of Songs, which is to Solomon.”

1. Lecture #1: Song of Songs, ie, a collection of Songs
2. Lecture #2: Song of Songs, ie, superlative Song
3. Which is to Solomon
4. Flame of Yah.

II. Introduction: Approaches to the Song.

A. Allegory.

1. Jewish allegorists: Rashi and the Targum.

B. Political: Luther.

C. Sexual.

D. “New allegorists” (Stephen Moore).

III. Structure.

A. Signs of disunity/signs of unity.

B. Narrative unity?

C. Formal structures: various proposals.

1. Dorsey:

A.1:2-2:7: seven speeches; Solomon by name; vineyard; brothers; apple tree; left

B. 2:8-17: spring; flowers and vineyards; refrain regarding lover

C. 3:1-5: search; refrain: lover

D. 3:6-5:1: wedding day

C'. 5:2-7:10: search; ends with refrain

B'. 7:11-8:4: invitation to the country: renewal of spring; refrain: lover

A'. 8:5-14: seven speeches; Sol by name; vineyard; brothers; apple tree; left arm

2. R. L. Alden:

A 1:1-4a 'take me away'

B 1:4b friends speak

C 1:5-7 'my own vineyard'

D 1:8-14 'breasts', 'silver', 'we will make'

E 1:15-22 'house'

F 2:3-7 'his left arm', 'daughters of Jerusalem...so desires', 'apple', 'love'

G 2:8-13 'fragrance', 'come my darling', 'blossoming'

H 2:14-15 'vineyards', 'show me'

I 2:16-17 'my lover is mine'

Ja 3:1-5 'the watchman found me'

Jb 3:6-11 description of carriage, 'gold', 'Lebanon', 'daughters of Jerusalem'

Jc 4:1-7 description of the girl, 'your eyes...hair...teeth'

K 4:8-15 'myrrh', 'spice', 'honey', 'honeycomb', 'wine', 'milk'

L 4:16 **'into his garden'**

L' 5:1a **'into my garden'**

K' 5:1bc 'myrrh', 'spice', 'honey', 'honeycomb', 'wine', 'milk'

J'a 5:2-9 'the watchman found me'

J'b 5:10-6:1 'gold', 'Lebanon', 'daughters of Jerusalem'

J'c 6:4-11 description of the girl, 'your eyes...hair...teeth'

I' 6:2-3 'my lover is mine'

H' 6:13-7:9a [10a] 'vines', 'wine', 'that we may gaze on you'

G' 7:9b-13 [10b-14] 'fragrance', 'come my darling', 'blossom'

F' 8:1-5 'his left arm', 'daughters of Jerusalem...so desires', 'apple', 'love'

E' 8:6-7 'house'

D' 8:8-9 'breasts', 'silver', 'we will build'

C' 8:10-12 'my own vineyard'

B' 8:13 'friends'

A' 8:14 'come away'

3. Richard Davidson:

A. 1:2-2:7 Mutual love

B. 2:8-17 Coming and going

C. 3:1-5 Dream I: Lost and Found

D. 3:6-11 Praise of Groom, I

E. 4:1-7 Praise of Bride, I

F. 4:8-15 Praise of Bride, II

G. 4:16 Invitation by bride

G'. 5:1 Acceptance of invitation

C'. 5:2-8 Dream II: Found and Lost

D'. 5:9-6:3 Praise of Groom, II

E'. 6:4-12 Praise of Bride, III

F'. 6:13-7:9 Praise of Bride, IV

B'. 7:10-8:2 Going and coming

A'. 8:3-14 Mutual Love