

## Monday Night Discipleship: Week 18

### Overview:

1. Introduction to The General Principles of Interpretation Part 3
2. Longman Chapter 19 discussion:
  - a. Content: What Is Song of Songs About?
  - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Song of Songs and When?
  - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Song of Songs?
  - d. Connections: How Does Song of Songs Connect to the Gospel?

### Introduction to The General Principles of Interpretation Part 3

1. Grow in your Bible reading-
  - a. In order to understand the context of individual passages, it is helpful for one to \_\_\_\_\_ through the entire Bible regularly.
  - b. Dynamically Equivalent Translation-
  - c. Reading Plans-
2. Listen to faithful teaching and preaching -
  - a. As mentioned in a previous session, “Good Biblical interpretation is better \_\_\_\_\_ [...] than taught.”<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Listening Recommendations (faithful teaching and preaching)-
    - i. [www.truthforlife.org](http://www.truthforlife.org) Alistair Begg
    - ii. [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org) John Piper and many like-minded preachers.
    - iii. <https://hbcharlesjr.com/resource-library/media-format/video/> H.B. Charles Jr.
    - iv. <https://idcraleigh.com/sermons/> Tony Merida and many other like-minded preachers

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<sup>1</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 95.

3. Don't just affirm, but, apply faithful interpretation-
  - a. The Problem of Inconsistent Exegesis-
  
  - b. The Result of Inconsistent Exegesis-
  
  - c. "An unfaithful interpreter also can create a spiritual codependency - a situation in which people feel they must come to the pastor to understand the text because they are never able to see on their own the things he emphasizes in his teaching. These poor, starving infants who should have been fed on the pure milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2) stare with gaunt eyes at the pulpit each week, hoping that manna will fall from heaven."<sup>2</sup>
  
4. Humbly receive feedback -
  - a. When we ask for honest \_\_\_\_\_ from trusted friends and colleagues, we are giving ourselves the chance to grow in faithful communication of God's Word.
    - i. Negative example:
  
  
    - ii. Positive example:
  
5. Build a theological library and use it
  - a. Plummer- A "diligent student of the Bible will make it a priority to purchase books to aid in his or her study of Scriptures."
  
  - b. Study Bibles: the *ESV Study Bible* from Crossway and the *Zondervan NIV Study Bible*. These two Bibles present a broad consensus of faithful scholarship.

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<sup>2</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 114.

6. Serve the Church (share what you are learning) -
  - a. Plummer “In the spiritual life, you are either a stagnant \_\_\_\_\_ or a flowing \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - b. Equipping you to serve-

Longman Chapter 19 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Song of Songs About?
  - a. Title:
  - b. Literary Devices-
    - i. Alliteration- this is whenever the author intentionally repeats the same \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of a group of words in close successions.
    - ii. Imagery- this is whenever the author intentionally uses descriptive language in order to create a vivid \_\_\_\_\_ for readers.
    - iii. Metaphor- this is whenever the author intentionally uses figures of speech to describe a separate \_\_\_\_\_.
    - iv. Personification- this is whenever the author intentionally uses figures of speech that treat non-human things with \_\_\_\_\_ qualities.
    - v. Simile- this is whenever the author intentionally uses figures of speech that describe the likeness of two things, employing “\_\_\_\_\_” or “as”.
    - vi. Symbolism- this is whenever the author intentionally uses phrases or specific words to \_\_\_\_\_ other objects, qualities, or ideas.

# The Song of Solomon Illustrated

(For our literalist friends.)



"How beautiful you are, my darling,  
 How beautiful you are!  
 ...Your eyes are like doves behind  
 your veil...  
 ...Your hair is like a flock of goats...  
 ...Your teeth are like a flock of  
 newly shorn ewes...  
 ...Your lips are like a scarlet  
 thread...  
 ...Your temples are like a slice  
 of pomegranate...  
 ...Your neck is like the  
 tower of David... built  
 with rows of stones  
 on which are hung a  
 thousand shields...  
 ...Your two breasts are  
 like two fawns,  
 twins of a gazelle  
 Which feed among the  
 lilies...  
 ...Your lips, my bride,  
 drip honey... honey and  
 milk are under your tongue,  
 And the fragrance of your  
 garments is like the  
 fragrance of Lebanon...  
 ...Your navel is a round goblet...  
 your belly is like  
 a heap of wheat...

...your nose is like the  
 tower of Lebanon,  
 which faces toward  
 Damascus..."

...from  
 Song of Solomon  
 Chapters  
 four and  
 seven.

- c. Interpretive Approaches-
  - i. Allegorical Interpretation-
  - ii. Dramatic Interpretation-

iii. Compilation Interpretation-

d. Outline:

i. Introduction: Love is Anticipated (1:1-2:7)-

ii. Love is Protected and Desired (2:8-3:5) -

iii. Love is Celebrated: The Wedding Day (3:6-5:1)-

iv. Love is Affirmed (5:2-8:4) -

v. Conclusion: Mutual love (8:5-14)

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Song of Songs and When?

a. Author: Jewish tradition- King Solomon

b. Date: If it was Solomon, it is believed to be written in the 10th century BC.

## 3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Song of Songs?

Wisdom literature genre

## 4. Connections: How Does Song of Songs Connect to the Gospel?

Covenant with God-

**R.E.A.P.** Song of Songs 3:1-11

<p>On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not. <sup>2</sup>I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but found him not. <sup>3</sup>The watchmen found me as they went about in the city. “Have you seen him whom my soul loves?” <sup>4</sup>Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me. <sup>5</sup>I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.</p>	<p><sup>6</sup>What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant? <sup>7</sup>Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are sixty mighty men, some of the mighty men of Israel, <sup>8</sup>all of them wearing swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh, against terror by night. <sup>9</sup>King Solomon made himself a carriage from the wood of Lebanon. <sup>10</sup>He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple; its interior was inlaid with love by the daughters of Jerusalem. <sup>11</sup>Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look upon King Solomon, with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart.<sup>3</sup></p>
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<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Song of Songs 3:1-11.  
All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

1. **Read** aloud together
  
2. **Explain** by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a. God:
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Man:
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Christ:
  
3. **Ask**- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. **Pray**- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.