

7. Outlining the Song

I outline the Song of Solomon in this fashion:

I. The joys of togetherness....chapters 1-2

The underlying proposition is the concept that man and wife together constitute a unique unit...and that all life is seen with different eyes when that unity is truly "one"...when they are, in fact, together.

II. Life "in the garden"...chapters 3-5:1

Love makes much of life that is otherwise unfavorable liveable. We are not spared all difficulties but are given triumph over them.

III. The Durability of Love...chapters 5:2--chapter 8:7

Love, as they say in popular music, "will keep us together" and the truth is that it will do a lot towards making a smooth path for a man and woman.

IV. The Sanctity of Love chapters 8:8-14

A concluding song of the lastingness and desireability of love.

This outlining system will not make everyone happy but it is a general skeleton for the hanging of our hats. The problem in outlining this book is similar to that coming with the outlining of Ecclesiastes

8. Our view of the book:

I view the book as a treatment of the sort of conditions that should exist between a man and his wife, in love in the will and under the providence of God. I will augment this later in a few excursus developments. It is argued that this is a sensual view and that the Bible would not devote so much space to a view that merely showed physical gratification. But when the subject is seen as that of persons living agreeably together, it would be hard to think that any amount of space was "too much." Marriage, love, sex, etc., in my mind are part of the creative order (all in existence before the fall) and may be held enthusiastically in accord with God's holiness. It would be more surprising to me if such matters were not addressed in Scripture.

B. Translation Helps

Following are some parsings, exegetical-syntactical suggestions on the book in a verse by verse sequence. They are not complete but should be helpful, particularly to those who Hebrew is "dim with age." Page references at to BDB. Other matters will be clear in themselves, I hope.