

C. Analysis of the Song of Solomon

There are many methods of Bible study. For simple exposition a verse by verse study is good so long as an overall theme and a unity in the book is observed. This teacher is attracted most to the inductive methods as developed by Traina, PROFITABLE BIBLE STUDY and his pupil, Jensen, INDEPENDENT BIBLE STUDY. There are several other writers in this field but the idea of an inductive study is that of discerning the teaching of a passage (etc.) through a full induction or examination of all aspects. It is minute on one hand but comprehensive on the other. There is a nice, but hopelessly short, descriptive chapter in Vos: METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY (Bible Study Methods).

Actually we do not have time for such a detailed study in a course such as this...not a good situation but one that must be faced realistically. So on the next several pages I am giving you the "fruit" of my study, for what it is, in the form of the analytical charts. The purpose of the chart is to show the development of the material in keeping with a common theme that summarizes the major ideas as you see them. As much as is possible all the Scripture is entered into the chart to show how this development occurs. Reading this paragraph over I have a feeling that it makes almost no sense! But I am not going to redo it...or try it again. Just believe me that the chart approach allows one to dramatically portray the Scriptural ideals.

My chart development follows the outline I have suggested on page 23. It may be a bit fanciful but draws on the concept that the writer is portraying a desired and realistic picture of the emotional life that should exist between a couple under the providence of God. The expressive nature of the language must be seen in this light.

I might say, in passing, that regardless of the method of interpretation used, the analysis of the book is not easy. - It is a book of intimacies no matter what level is used for reading, and a book of excesses no matter how hard one prunes it back.

So, onto the charts...if you don't understand them now you probably won't understand them later. How's that for optimism?