



HALF TRUTHS

GOSPEL CLARITY IN A NOISY WORLD



Summer Sermon Series



SONG OF SOLOMON

DATING. MARRIAGE. SEX. ROMANCE. GOD.

I give warning and advice to everyone who is not yet free of the vexations of flesh and blood and who has not withdrawn from the desire for corporeal nature that he completely abstain from reading this book and what is said about it. Indeed, they say that the Hebrews observe the rule that unless some one has attained a perfect and mature age, he is not even permitted to hold this book in his hands.

~ Origin (185-254)

The books of scripture-history and prophecy are very much like one another, but this Song of Solomon's is very much unlike the songs of his father David; here is not the name of God in it; it is never quoted in the New Testament; we find not in it any expressions of natural religion or pious devotion, no, nor is it introduced by vision, or any of the marks of immediate revelation. It seems as hard as any part of scripture to be made a savour of life unto life, nay,

and to those who come to the reading of it with carnal minds and corrupt affections, it is in danger of being made a savour of death unto death; it is a flower out of which they extract poison; and therefore the Jewish doctors advised their young people not to read it till they were thirty years old, lest by the abuse of that which is most pure and sacred - the flames of lust should be kindled with fire from heaven, which is intended for the altar only.

~ Puritan Commentator Matthew Henry

No man in Israel has ever contested that the Song of Solomon defiles the hands. For in the entire world there is nothing to equal the day on which the Song of Solomon was give to Israel. All the Writings are holy, but the Song of Songs is most holy...

~ Rabbi Aqiba (90 AD)

The Literal Approach

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...

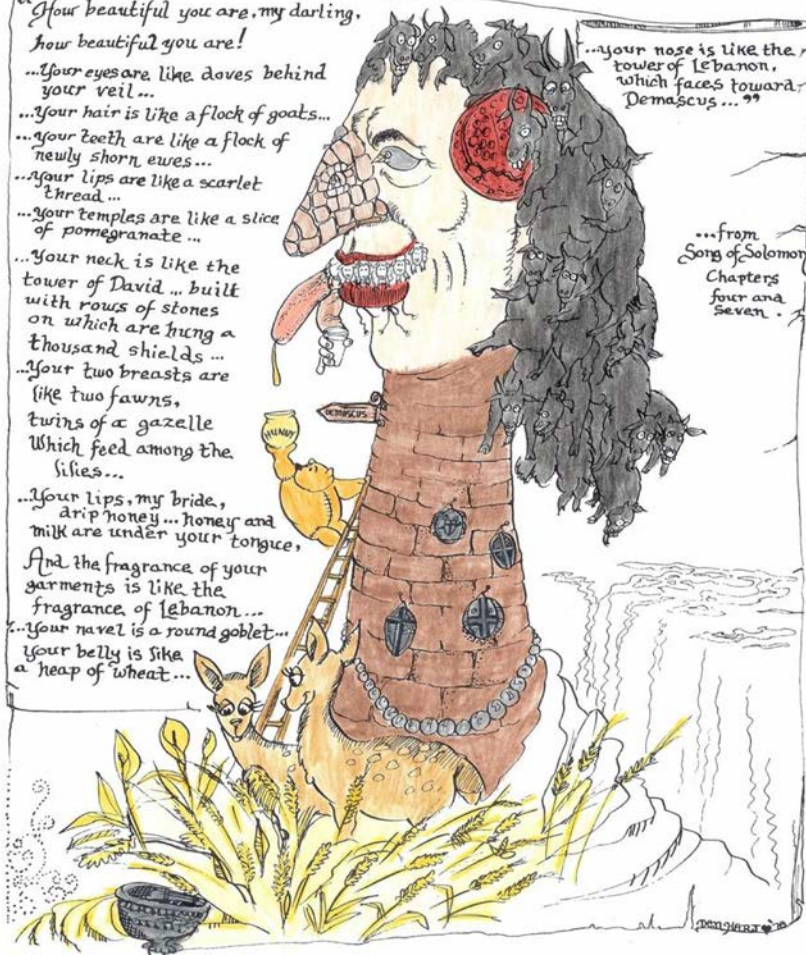
...Your lips, my bride,
are like honey... honey and
milk are under your tongue,

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.



The Allegorical Approach

The Allegorical Approach

EROS & ALLEGORY

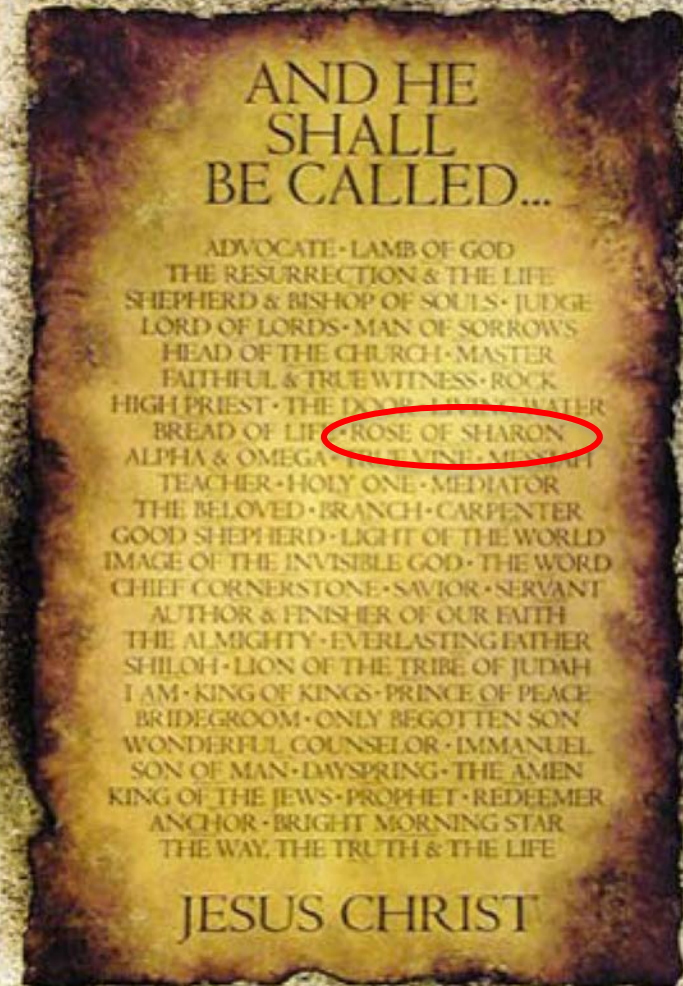
medieval exegesis of the
SONG OF SONGS



BY DENYS TURNER

The Typological Approach

The Typological Approach



Trike's approach:

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YES!!

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Literal – *tells a story to follow*

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YES!!

Literal – tells a story to follow

Allegorical – A story with purpose

Trike's approach:

YES!!

Literal – *tells a story to follow*

Allegorical – *A story with purpose*

Typological – *A story, ultimately, that
leads us to Jesus!*

The
Literal
Approach

**THE
STORY**

What's the story in Song of Solomon?

Song of Solomon is a poetic love story involving the attraction, dating, purity, passion, wedding, wedding night, marriage relationship and sexual passion between King Solomon (most likely) and “the Shulammite”.

The story line of the song follows pretty much chronologically through their attraction, dating, wedding, and sexual union.

Basic Story line of Song of Solomon:

I. Courtship (1:1-3:5)

II. Wedding (3:6-5:1)

III. Marriage Maturation (5:2-8:7)

IV. Conclusion – The beauty and danger of love (8:8-14)

She is INTERESTED!!

Song of Solomon 1:1-4a

¹Solomon's Song of Songs.

²Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
for your love is more delightful than wine.

³Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;
your name is like perfume poured out.

No wonder the maidens love you!

⁴Take me away with you—let us hurry!
Let the king bring me into his chambers.

Her friends confirm the choice

Song of Solomon 1:4b

We rejoice and delight in you;
we will praise your love more than wine.

But, I am only a simple peasant girl

Song of Solomon 1:4c

How right they are to adore you!

Reflection and Self-Examination

Song of Solomon 1:5-6

⁵Dark am I, yet lovely,

O daughters of Jerusalem,
dark like the tents of Kedar,
like the tent curtains of Solomon.

⁶Do not stare at me because I am dark,
because I am darkened by the sun.

My mother's sons were angry with me
and made me take care of the vineyards;
my own vineyard I have neglected.

Where can I hang out with him so he'll notice?

Song of Solomon 1:7

⁷Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock
and where you rest your sheep at midday.

Why should I be like a veiled woman
beside the flocks of your friends?

Here's some intel, girlfriend!

Song of Solomon 1:8

⁸If you do not know, most beautiful of women,
follow the tracks of the sheep,
and graze your goats
by the tents of the shepherds

They meet! He speaks to her!!

Song of Solomon 1:9-11

- ⁹I liken you, my darling, to a mare
among Pharaoh's chariot horses
- ¹⁰Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings,
your neck with strings of jewels.
- ¹¹We will make you earrings of gold,
studded with silver.

**Her perception changes of herself
upon being loved as she is**

Song of Solomon 2:1

**¹“I am a rose of Sharon,
a lily of the valleys.”**

He has made her his S.O.B.

Song of Solomon 2:2

**²“Like a lily among thorns
is my darling among the young women.”**



The Allegorical Approach

Allegorical Approach

Ezekiel 16:1-8

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices ³and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem: Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

Allegorical Approach

Ezekiel 16:1-8

⁴On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths. ⁵No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

Allegorical Approach

Ezekiel 16:1-8

⁶“ Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, “Live!” ⁷I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew up and developed and became the most beautiful of jewels. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, you who were naked and bare.

Allegorical Approach

Ezekiel 16:1-8

8“ ‘Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.’”





You are the apple of my eye

Psalm 17:6-8

⁶I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

⁷Show me the wonders of your great love,
you who save by your right hand
those who take refuge in you from their foes.

⁸Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.



THE GOSPEL THE GOSPEL WREST

The Typological Approach

Reflection and Self-Examination

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Ephesians 2:1-5

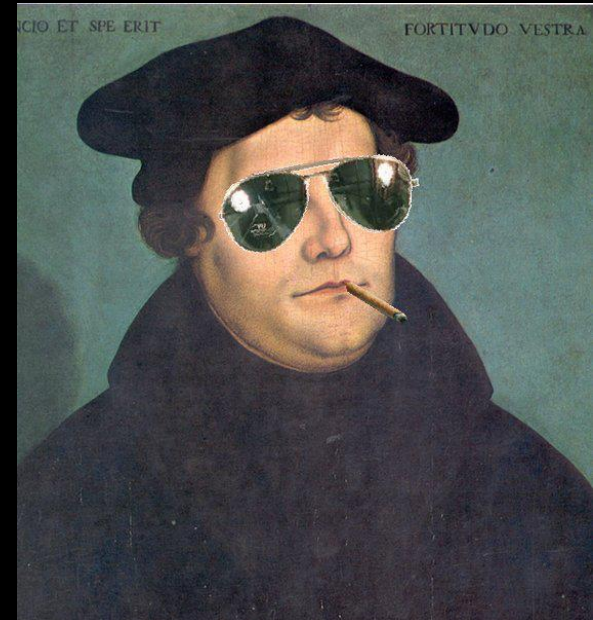
¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved.



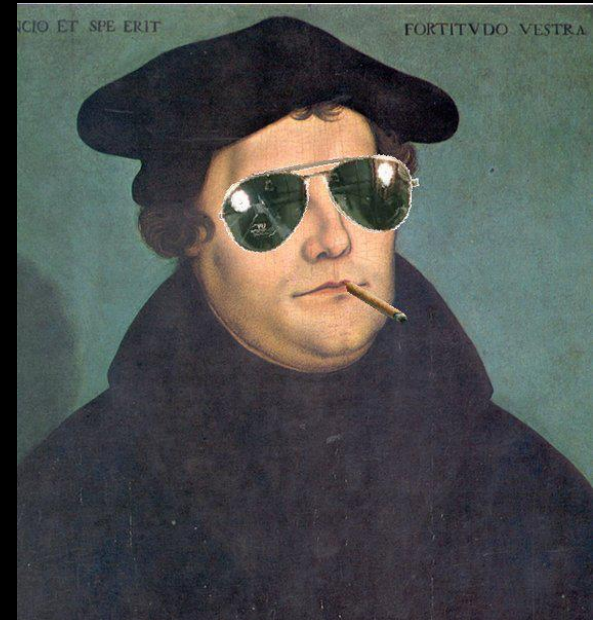
SIMUL
JUSTUS
ET
PECCATOR

ROMANS 4:6-8

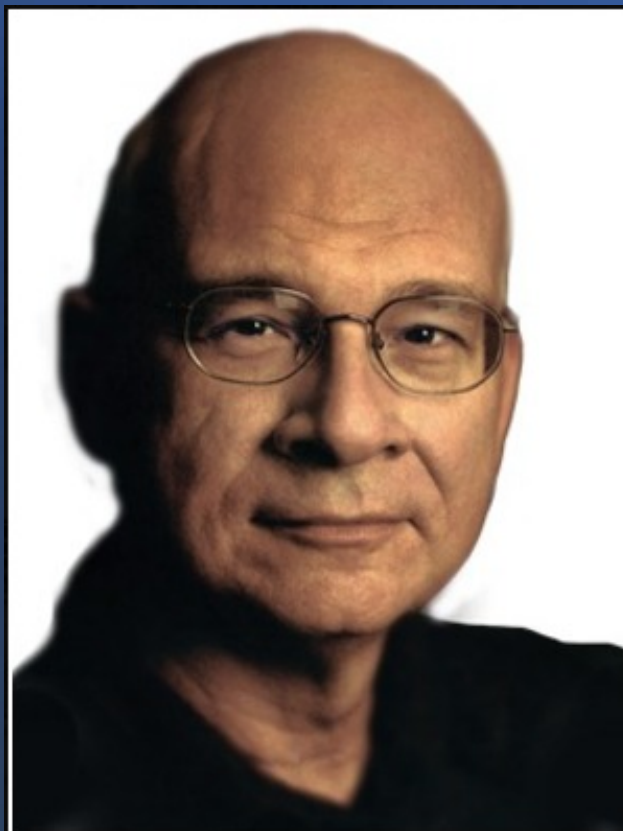
In short, our righteousness is called (in plain language) the forgiveness of our sins. Or, as it says here: “sins not counted,” “sins covered,” “sins not to be seen.” Here stand the clear plain words: All the saints are sinners and remain sinners. But they are holy because God in His grace neither sees nor counts these sins, but forgets, forgives, and covers them. There is thus no distinction between the saints and the non-saints.



They are sinners alike and all sin daily, only that the sins of the holy are not counted but covered; and the sins of the unholy are not covered but counted. One would have a healing dressing on and is bandaged; the other wound is open and undressed. Nevertheless, both of them are truly wounded, truly sinners, concerning which we in our books in other places have abundantly bore witness.



~ Martin Luther, *Introduction to Psalm 32*.



The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.

— *Timothy Keller* —

Dark am I,
yet lovely.



Marriage as an Illustration

Ephesians 5:25-28

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Marriage as an Illustration

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.

The Typological Approach

Revelation 19:6-7

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:
“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”

Dark am I,
yet lovely.



Gospel Application

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Do you struggle more with being “dark” or by the fact that Jesus Christ deeply and fully loves you and offers you complete forgiveness in Him?

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Do you struggle more with being “dark” or by the fact that Jesus Christ deeply and fully loves you and offers you complete forgiveness in Him?

Do you allow others to do the same?