

Bible in a Year #25- Song of Songs

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Pastor Derrick M. Hammond

BIBLE IN A YEAR-Song of Songs

Title and Author

1. Author: **Solomon**. Title: Taken from verse one. Similar thought as to “King of **Kings**, Lord of **Lords**”
2. Considered an intense, erotic passionate **love song**. The love is human love between **a man** and **a woman**.
2. No other book has been read so differently from one time to another
 - a. Early church embraced Hellenistic thinking and **sexual abstinence**.
 - b. Christians today find sexuality **natural** and **sensible**, but still element of Hellenism.

Literary Analysis

Drama

1. Many translations today add rubrics to indicate the speakers (Two-character or Three-characters)
2. Problems: Can't assign passages to specific **characters**, no obvious plot structure but a continued theme.

Erotic Anthology

1. Relatively recent parallels drawn between the Songs and both ancient and modern love poetry.
2. Considered an **anthology** of about 30 or so different poems. Still a challenge of common phrases.

Historical Approaches

Allegorical Approach

1. The early church and Jewish rabbis completely allegorized its characters and imagery.
 - a. Jews saw the Lover as **God** and Beloved as the **nation of Israel** (Song of Songs 1:2-4)
 - b. Christians saw Lover as **Jesus Christ** and Beloved as the **Church** (Song of Songs 1:13)
2. Completely ignores the **physical-human** references and focuses solely on the **spirit realm**.

Typographical Approach

1. Theologians came to acknowledge the **sensual terms** while still holding to a **connection** to God.
2. Suggests King Solomon typified **Jesus Christ** and the bride typified the **Church**.
3. Sensual elements acknowledged and then practically **ignored**. Not wrong, just false motive.

Natural Approach

1. Takes Songs at face value; poem about the **physical relationship** between a married man and woman.
2. Celebrates **sexuality** while anchoring it in higher values:
 - a. **Chastity** (4:2; 8:8-9); **Surrender** (4:16); **Mutual Desire** (7:10); **Committed Love** (8:6-7)

Theological Message

1. Song of Songs is a canonical corrective to the **perversion** of sexuality.
 - a. **Idolatry**. Sexuality is made into an idol, so people seek to fill voids with sexual relations.
 - b. **Harlotry**. Sexuality is made vile or **distasteful**, even within the context of **marriage**.
2. The garden imagery reminds us of **Garden of Eden** (Songs 2:3, Gen. 2:25; 3:7)
3. Relationship between a man and a wife also reflects that of Christ and Church (Eph. 5:22-33).
 - a. Thus the intimacy of marriage pictures the intimacy of **God's love for us**.
 - b. So not inappropriate reflection as long as primary reference to **human sexuality** not repressed.

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