



MINI-SCHOOLS OF DISCIPLESHIP

ST MARY BREDIN CHURCH

Song of Songs – The Divine Romance // Peter Ould Session I // 08 May 2017

Song of Songs – Basic Concepts

Title

Author

Literary Style

Characters

Purpose

Shape of the Book

“Let her treasures be not silks or gems but manuscripts of the holy scriptures; and in these let her think less of gilding, and Babylonian parchment, and arabesque patterns, than of correctness and accurate punctuation. Let her begin by learning the psalter, and then let her gather rules of life out of the proverbs of Solomon. From the Preacher let her gain the habit of despising the world and its vanities. Let her follow the example set in Job of virtue and of patience. Then let her pass on to the gospels never to be laid aside when once they have been taken in hand. Let her also drink in with a willing heart the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. As soon as she has enriched the storehouse of her mind with these treasures, let her commit to memory the prophets, the heptateuch, the books of Kings and of Chronicles, the rolls also of Ezra and Esther. When she has done all these she may safely read the Song of Songs but not before: for, were she to read it at the beginning, she would fail to perceive that, though it is written in fleshly words, it is a marriage song of a spiritual bridal.”

Jerome, Letter 107 (To Laeta), 12

A - 1:2-4 – Opening Inclusio – “The Woman’s Pursuit”

B - 1:5-6 – “Dark but Beautiful” – State of the Soul – Keeper of the Vineyard

1:7-8 – “The Invitation” – She – ‘Where are you’, He – ‘Follow my path and see’

C - 1:9-11 – “Beautiful Mare” – Mare – On heat – Men attracted – *They* – ‘We will help you prepare’

D - 1:12-14 – “Fragrances” – Myrrh between breasts

E - 1:15-17 – “Outdoor Love” – Mutual love – First mention of a shared home – ‘OUR couch ...
OUR house’

F - 2:1-7 – “Flowers and Trees” – She delights in Him – Fruit (raisins, apple, shade of his tree)
[Do not awaken...](#)

2:8-17 – “Poem of Spring”

G - 3:1-5 – “Seeking and Not Finding”
[Do not awaken...](#)

3:6-11 – “Wedding Procession”

H - 4:1-7 – “The Beauty of the Woman” – ‘You are beautiful’
[Ends with Him declaring her perfect](#)

A* - 4:8-9 – “The Invitation” – ‘Come with me from Lebanon’ – Echoes the Inclusio

H' - 4:9-5:1 – “The Garden of Love” – ‘How beautiful is your love’

Ends with consummation of love

G' - 5:2 – 6:3 – “Fruitless Search”

I am my beloved's....

6:4-10 – “Love Song Under the Banner”

F' - 6:11-12 – “The Nutgrove”- She is the fruit of the bushes beneath the nut trees (pomegranate)

6:13 – 7:10 – “Dancing Shulammitte” – Physical descriptions of Her by Him

I am my beloved's....

E' - 7:11-13 – “Willing Surrender”

8:1-4 – “Part of the Family” – ‘house of my mother’

“Do not awaken...”

D' - 8:5-7 – “Set me as a Seal” – She is laid on his heart

Under the apple tree I awakened you....

C' - 8:8-10 – “Protect the Sister”

B' - 8:11-12 : "The Vineyard"

A' - 8:13-14 – Closing Inclusion

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all: but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.