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Many English Renaissance texts offer readings of the Song of Songs, by both well-known authors, such as Shakespeare, and the long neglected (William Baldwin, Robert Aylett, Abiezer Coppe and Lawrence Clarkson). This new study looks at the different traditions they represent, and most notably the balance in the tension of the Song of Songs as oral and written, carnal and spiritual. The introduction presents a historical and theoretical discussion of Canticles, using a Rabbinic model for juxtaposing orality and textuality; the author goes on to argue that from the time of ancient Sumer through medieval England motifs found in the Song of Songs are simultaneously sexual and spiritual just as they are likewise oral and textual. By attempting to recover oral approaches to any text, we encounter a series of forces that act to balance an open, oral, and sexual understanding of the erotic biblical text against a more closed, textual and spiritual reading. This balance is then traced through works by Baldwin, Spenser, Aylett, Coppe, Clarkson and Milton. NOAM FLINKER is currently Chairperson at the Department of English, University of Haifa. In Lamentations, well-known theologian Harvey Cox draws on a wide array of sources including poetry, novels, films, paintings, and photography to offer a contemporary theological reading of Lamentations which is provocative and sure to stir numerous theological reflections and responses. The biblical book of Song of Songs has historically been seen as a book pointing to Christ's love for the church and has been interpreted in allegorical ways. Author Stephanie Paulsell suggests that the Song can still have profound meaning for us, teaching us "to love not only what we can see shining on the surface but also those depths of the other which are out of our reach." "In the Song of Songs the son of David, King in Jerusalem, overcomes hostility and alienation to renew intimacy between himself and his Bride. This most sublime Song sings of a love sure as the seal of Yahweh, a flashing flame of fire many waters could never quench. The noble King in the Song points us to the one who so loved his Bride that not even death could keep him from her, and the Song's setting--a lush garden and the city of Zion rejoicing at the wedding of her King--hints at the way that day will see the curse on the ground rolled back for the renewal of edenic life in the presence of the Lord."--Back cover. She wants faith, hope, and love. She wants help and healing. She wants to hear and be heard, to see and be seen. She wants things set right. She wants to know what is true—not partly true, or sometimes true, or almost true. She wants to see Truth itself, face-to-face. But here, now, these things are all cloudy. Hope is tinged with hurt. Faith is shaded by doubt. Lesser, broken things masquerade as love. How does she find something permanent when the world around her is always changing, when not even she can stay the same? And if she finds it, how does she hold on? She Reads Truth tells the stories of two women who discovered, through very different lives and circumstances, that only God and His Word remain unchanged as the world around them shifted and slipped away. Infused with biblical application and Scripture, this book is not just about two characters in two stories, but about one Hero and one Story. Every image points to the bigger picture—that God and His Word are true. Not because of anything we do, but because of who He is. Not once, not occasionally, but right now and all the time. Sometimes it takes everything moving to notice the thing that doesn't move. Sometimes it takes telling two very different stories to notice how the Truth was exactly the same in both of them. For anyone searching for a solid foundation to cling to, She Reads Truth is a rich and honest Bible-filled journey to finally find permanent in a world that's passing away. In this unique treatment of the Song of Solomon, Pastor Johnson unearths the mysteries of love, sex and marriage as the Creator intended them to be understood and enjoyed."--Tony Evans, senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. (Practical Life) This volume provides the reader with not only the medieval Latin on facing pages, but also a historical background of the work, the era and Nicholas of Lyra himself. This volume should appeal to scholars interested in medieval biblical commentaries and the language and context of the 15th century. I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.... —from the Song of Songs Did you know that God loves you with a passion—and He wrote a love song to help you experience that love in a personal way? Tucked away in the pages of Scripture is one of the most fascinating and most misunderstood books of the Bible: the Song of Songs. Although the Song of Songs details a passionate, earthly love story, it is intended to illuminate the best love story, the intense love God has for us, His beloved. In He Calls You Beautiful, Bible teacher Dee Brestin explores this love song from God to reveal transformative truths for each of us, whether married, single, or widowed. With rich contemporary illustrations and insight from

biblical scholars, Dee shows how God uses poetry and exquisite images to illuminate the intimacy that Jesus longs to have with you. God calls you to know His love not only in your head but also in your heart. He sings over you a song of love, a song of salvation, a song of hope. A Song of songs. Includes an in-depth Bible study for use individually or in a group setting. Is this really in the Bible? This book is written to be a companion novel to the recently published "The Kiss of God" (www.thekissofGod.com) to provide a provocative and very-Biblical image of God that is accessible to anyone, anywhere. In fact, the group the project has in mind were not necessarily the Bible-belt Church-goers-but rather the spiritually-minded 'Oprah-moms'-- those who are longing for a real experience of God in their lives. The overall project began back in 2000 as an in-depth Bible study into a little known and even lesser understood book deep in the heart of the Old Testament: The Song of Songs of Solomon. The result of the early in-depth effort has been very surprising. People-real people like you and me-- are becoming re-aware of the intense pursuing love of God. Generally, when people speak about God outside of church, they use adjectives like good, distant, angry, holy, just- or some might suggest opposing adjectives such as unjust, judgmental, sexist, warmongering or even indifferent. But according to the Song of Songs, appropriate and kosher adjectives of God would include impassioned, amorous, romantic, and even love-sick (in the highest possible sense). This novella was virtually penned in a single wonderfully inspired evening-and in our minds it truly captures visually, emotionally and humanly the very heart of God toward his wayward insecure bride. It is not a direct translation-though we would suggest that it captures the essence of the Song of Songs with great integrity. A creative free translation of the Biblical Song of Songs is included in the back of this book with multiple footnotes for the interest of Pastors, Priests, Rabbis and other scholars. Some may find this dramatic rendition of the Biblical book scandalous-- others will find it wonderfully provocative. But we are writing primarily to those who come to the book relationally beat-up, marginalized, victimized, and lonely. We have those in mind who struggle with identity and some degree of self-loathing. You may find in this book the healing love that your heart has been rabidly looking for in all of the wrong places. Welcome to The Song of Songs Novella. The ESV Study Bible was created to help people understand the Bible in a deeper way. Combining the best and most recent evangelical Christian scholarship with the highly regarded ESV text, it is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published. The ESV Study Bible features more than 2,750 pages of extensive, accessible Bible resources, including completely new notes, full-color maps, illustrations, charts, timelines, and articles created by an outstanding team of 93 evangelical Christian scholars and teachers. In addition to the 757,000 words of the ESV Bible itself, the notes and resources of the ESV Study Bible comprise an additional 1.1 million words of insightful explanation and teaching-equivalent to a 20-volume Bible resource library all contained in one volume. (Please note this edition does not come with free access to the Online ESV Study Bible resources.) A debut poetry collection from a writer whose vivid verse explores the connections and relationships that make us human Sometimes I like to feel sexy. Sometimes I don't. Sometimes I like to be very plain. Invisible almost, hiding in plain sight. I want to hide and to be found. In the spirit of the biblical Song of Solomon, Sylvie Baumgartel's Song of Songs takes the subjects of love and worship, and brings them to the desperate, wild spaces of domestic life. With a voice at once precise and oneiric, Baumgartel explores the landscapes of sex and desire, power and submission, in this groundbreaking book-length poem that forces us to question the bounds of devotion. An ambitious and vivid debut, Song of Songs is a work of breathtaking honesty, couched in language few of us are brave enough to speak aloud. Die Sammlung von 18 Essays verortet das Hohelied in seinem geschichtlichen Kontext und erörtert Probleme der Rezeptionsgeschichte. Im Gegensatz zu früheren Sammlungen findet - neben dem ägyptischen und altorientalischen Material - die griechische Liebeslyrik hier breite Berücksichtigung. Im Rahmen der Rezeptionsgeschichte wird die Bedeutung des Hohenlieds in der byzantinischen und der mittelalterlichen Welt sowie in der romantischen und neugriechischen Literatur bestimmt. Durch den interdisziplinären Zugang zum biblischen Text werden neue Pfade der Interpretation beschritten. The Song of Solomon, as its Hebrew title indicates, is "the best of songs." In it we hear the passionate melody of romantic love. But whose love is described? Is it a couple's love for each other, God's love for Israel or Christ's love for the church? This Old Testament book has fascinated and perplexed interpreters for centuries. They have felt uncomfortable--even embarrassed--when confronted with its strange and erotic imagery."The Song is a celebration of the nature of humanity---male and female created in God's image for mutual support and enjoyment. There is nothing here of the aggressive male and the reluctant or victimized female. They are one in their desires because their desires are God-given." So writes Lloyd Carr in this introduction and commentary to the Song of Solomon. With his own unique style, Carr skillfully explains the meaning of this ancient love story in a way that can be clearly grasped and applied for Christians living in today's world. The Song of Songs is a profoundly mysterious poem. It is both deeply spiritual and dangerously sensual. It has puzzled and delighted readers and scholars for hundreds of years, being translated more than any other part of the Bible. Christopher Kelly takes a new approach, uncovering a miraculously complex structure in the Song. Understanding this structure is the key to the Song's lock, opening the door on a true love story. It is the searing narrative of one vulnerable girl's devotion and her sexual and spiritual growth into a woman. Her forbidden passion for the boy, her 'king, ' forces her to arrange a series of secret trysts that grow riskier and riskier as the poem progresses. The Song has the timeless qualities of Romeo and Juliet, with all the excitement and jeopardy such love entails. It also manages to speak to modern issues such as sex, spirituality and feminism. Enjoy the Song again for the first time. Although the Song of Songs, a brief book in the old Testament, contains no explicit mention of God, the passionate love poetry became for Bernard a springboard into a major exposition of Scripture and an illuminated allegory of the spiritual life. Simply said, this gentle Saint found God incarnate in every word. This volume containing excerpts from each of Bernard's 86 sermons, joins the Paraclete Christian Classics Series, a highly acclaimed series devoted to making the great writers of the faith accessible to today's readers. Offering a fascinating glimpse of Christian theology, these writings encourage us to open ourselves to a new experience of love--the transforming and all-fulfilling embrace of God. Contemplation on Song of Songs by Pope Shenouda describing quest of soul to Jesus Christ in love. An essential history of the greatest love poem ever written The Song of Songs has been embraced for centuries as the ultimate song of love. But the kind of love readers have found in this ancient poem is strikingly varied. Ilana Pardes invites us to explore the dramatic shift from readings of the Song as a poem on divine love to celebrations of its exuberant account of human love. With a refreshingly nuanced approach, she reveals how allegorical and literal interpretations are inextricably intertwined in the Song's tumultuous life. The body in all its aspects—pleasure and pain, even erotic fervor—is key to many allegorical commentaries. And although the literal, sensual Song thrives in modernity, allegory has not disappeared. New modes of allegory have emerged in modern settings, from the literary and the scholarly to the communal. Offering rare insights into the story of this remarkable poem, Pardes traces a diverse line of passionate readers. She looks at Jewish and Christian interpreters of late antiquity who were engaged in disputes over the Song's allegorical meaning, at medieval Hebrew poets who introduced it into the opulent world of courtly banquets, and at kabbalists who used it as a springboard to the celestial spheres. She shows how feminist critics have marveled at the Song's egalitarian representation of courtship, and how it became a song of America for Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, and Toni Morrison. Throughout these explorations of the Song's reception, Pardes highlights the unparalleled beauty of its audacious language of love. This verse-by-verse commentary offers a fresh reading of an intriguing book of the Old Testament. This Introduction attempts to offer a different model for the discipline from that currently represented. It seeks to describe the form and function of the Hebrew Bible in its role as sacred scripture for Israel. It argues the case that the biblical literature has not been correctly understood or interpreted because its role as religious literature has not been correctly assessed. Iain Duguid's Tyndale Old Testament Commentary explains how the Song of Songs is designed to show us an idealized picture of married love. It also convicts us of how far short of this perfection we fall, both as humans and as lovers, and drives us repeatedly into the arms of our true heavenly husband, Jesus Christ. Breathtaking and beautiful, the sweetest song of all ages unveils the Shulamite journey in the form of an anointed allegory. It becomes a journey that not only describes the divine parable penned by Solomon, but also a journey that longing lovers of Jesus will find as their very own. Love will always find a language to express itself. The inspired Song of Songs is a work of art. It is a melody sung from the heart of Jesus Christ for his longing bride. Its storyline is full of symbols and subtle art forms which, without interpretation, are often missed or overlooked. The Passion Translation expresses this storyline in a way that will help you encounter the heart of God in greater measure. The Holy Spirit has hidden within the Song of Songs an amazing story--a story of how Jesus makes his bride beautiful and holy by casting out her fear with perfect love. This sent-from-heaven revelation is waiting to be received with all its intensity and power to unlock the deepest places of our hearts. The only piece of erotic literature in the Bible, this book was regarded by earlier devotees as an allegory of God's love for his people. Taking the form of a poem, the song tells of two lovers praising each other's bodies. The text is introduced by A.S. Byatt Originally published in 1913, this volume contains the complete text of the Old Testament's Song of Songs in English translation, together with a detailed introduction regarding its themes and structural elements. Aimed at the general reader, the introduction condenses much of the previous literature regarding the Song of Songs into an accessible and readable form. Detailed notes are provided throughout. This book will be of value to anyone with an interest in biblical studies, theology and the Old Testament. This book is a history of love and the challenge love offers to the laws and customs of its times and places, as told through poetry from the Song of Songs to John Milton's Paradise Lost. It is also an account of the critical reception afforded to such literature, and the ways in which criticism has attempted to stifle this challenge. Bryson and Movsesian argue that the poetry they explore celebrates and reinvents the love the troubadour poets of the eleventh and twelfth centuries called fin'amor: love as an end in itself, mutual and freely

chosen even in the face of social, religious, or political retribution. Neither eros nor agape, neither exclusively of the body, nor solely of the spirit, this love is a middle path. Alongside this tradition has grown a critical movement that employs a 'hermeneutics of suspicion', in Paul Ricoeur's phrase, to claim that passionate love poetry is not what it seems, and should be properly understood as worship of God, subordination to Empire, or an entanglement with the structures of language itself – in short, the very things it resists. The book engages with some of the seminal literature of the Western canon, including the Bible, the poetry of Ovid, and works by English authors such as William Shakespeare and John Donne, and with criticism that stretches from the earliest readings of the Song of Songs to contemporary academic literature. Lively and enjoyable in its style, it attempts to restore a sense of pleasure to the reading of poetry, and to puncture critical insistence that literature must be outwitted. It will be of value to professional, graduate, and advanced undergraduate scholars of literature, and to the educated general reader interested in treatments of love in poetry throughout history. We live in a world where sexuality is ruined by sin, its beauty obscured by our brokenness. We need a divine vision for the way love was meant to be, with a gospel that offers forgiveness for sin and grace to live in the way that God has made us to be. In the Song of Songs, we encounter a love story that is part of the greatest love story ever told. Philip Ryken walks through this biblical love poem verse by verse, reflecting on what the Bible says about God's design for love, intimacy, and sexuality and offering insights into not only human relationships but also our relationship to God himself—learning more about the One who has loved us with an everlasting love. Jenson focuses on the overt sense of the book as an erotic love poem in order to discover how this evocative poetry solicits a theological reading. The NIV Application Commentary Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs. Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs have always presented particular challenges to their readers, especially if those readers are seeking to understand them as part of Christian Scripture. Ecclesiastes regularly challenges the reader as to grammar and syntax. The interpretation even of words which occur frequently in the book is often unclear and a matter of dispute, partly because there is frequent word-play in the course of the argument. The argument is itself complex and sometimes puzzling and has often provoked the charge of inconsistency or outright self-contradiction. When considered in the larger context of the OT, Ecclesiastes stands out as an unusual book, whose connection with the main stream of biblical tradition seems tenuous. We find ourselves apparently reading about the meaninglessness of life and the certainty of death in a universe in which God is certainly present but is distant and somewhat uninvolved. When considered in the context of the NT, the dissonance between Ecclesiastes and its scriptural context seems even greater; for if there is one thing that we do not find in this book, it is the joy of resurrection. Perhaps this is one reason why Ecclesiastes is seldom read or preached on in modern churches. The Song of Songs (also known as the Song of Solomon) has been read, historically, by Christians, in two primary ways---as a text which concerns the love and sexual intimacy of human beings and as a text which uses the language of human love and intimacy to speak of something else---the relationship between Christ and the church. Christians have often felt that they must choose between these options---that a text about human love and sexual intimacy could not be at the same time a spiritual text. It is one of the challenges of reading the Song to explore how far this is necessarily true and how far Christian readers have been influenced in their reading more by Platonism and Gnosticism than by biblical thinking about the nature of the human being and of human sexuality. Another challenge is to discover whether the Song is really one 'song' at all, or simply a haphazard collection of shorter poems cast together because of their common theme of love; and still another is to gain clarity on what, precisely, is the connection between the Song and Solomon. This commentary sets out to wrestle honestly with all the challenges of reading these biblical books---the challenges of reading the texts in themselves, and the challenges of reading them as intrinsic parts of Christian Scripture. Using the standard structure of the NIVAC series, it explores their 'original meaning,' the 'bridging contexts' that enable their journey to the present, and their 'contemporary significance.' In the course of the exploration, these books are seen to be deeply relevant in what they have to say both to the contemporary church and the contemporary culture. The Song of Songs is a love poem attributable to Solomon and the first of the Hebrew Megilloth. Originally these scrolls were read in connection with the different feasts and fasts of the Jews, in the case of the Song of Songs, it was read at Passover time. This commentary takes a line, it was at one time the consistent evangelical line but that has changed with many in recent years taking the Song to be a book dealing with marriage and sexuality. This opinion appears to be gaining less favour of late so it is time for a modern commentary which takes this viewpoint into account, but which re-establishes the line that the Song of Songs is primarily an exposition of the spiritual relationship between Christ and the believer. Whilst it was written before the time of the incarnation it is Jesus himself who explains that the Old Testament scriptures are 'they which testify of me' (John 5:39). It is not denied that we can learn from the Song at a human level since Paul set the relationship between husband and wife in the context of the relationship between Christ and the church. At the heart of the Song is a beautiful relationship for us to explore. A tender Jewish tale follows the story of a young boy named Shimek who finds himself falling in love with Buzie, the daughter of his deceased brother, and due to shyness can only express his feelings through quoting the Bible. 15,000 first printing. Tom Gledhill offers an introduction and commentary on the Song of Songs. He shows how this fascinating text not only celebrates human sexuality but also points to its divine author. For pastors, Sunday-school teachers, small group leaders and Bible readers, here is a clear and refreshing perspective on one of the most striking books in the Bible. "The Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible makes a most welcome contribution to the church, the academic world, and the general public at large. By enlisting a wide range of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox theologians who differ on much, but who agree on the truth of the Nicene Creed, the series also represents ecumenical activity of the very best kind. It is always a daunting challenge to expound the church's sacred book both simply and deeply, but this impressive line-up of authors is very well-situated for the attempt." -- Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame. One in an ongoing series of esteemed and popular Bible commentary volumes based on the New International Version text. One of the most beautiful and mysterious books of the Bible is laid open for all to understand in this unparalleled work by Dr. Craig Glickman. With apparent ease, Glickman unveils the mysteries of the Song of Solomon in a popular-read format. But the surface simplicity is backed up by a lifetime of study and scholarship, three special appendices, and interpretive notes that validate his interpretation. Also included is a fresh translation of the Song published in this book for the first time. Initial readers of this book offer resounding praise. This book is "the most fascinating book I have ever read about the Song," says Dr. Henry Cloud. Old Testament scholars praise it as an academic breakthrough: "clear, cogent, and convincing," says Dr. Eugene Merrill; "a valuable contribution to our translation and understanding of the Song," says Ed Blum, general editor of the HCSB translation. Dr. Paul Meier sums it up in these words, "Craig weaves thousands of years of wisdom together to paint a vivid word picture of emotional and sexual intimacy." *Scrolls of Love* is a book of unions. Edited by a Christian and a Jew who are united by a shared passion for the Bible and a common literary hermeneutic, this volume joins two biblical scrolls and gathers around them a diverse community of interpreters. Respectful of traditional biblical scholarship, the collection of essays moves beyond it; alert to contemporary trends, the volume returns venerable interpretive tradition to center stage. Most significantly, it is interfaith, bringing together two communities that have read their Bibles in isolation from one another, in ignorance of the richness of the others traditions. It is said that a person can be so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use. What a false statement! We are told in Revelation 11:19 of a time when the temple of God will open in heaven and that the ark of His covenant will be seen in His temple. At that time the whole earth will be affected. The Song of Songs instructs us how to achieve this worthy goal. May we all be so heavenly minded that we become useful on earth! In addition to a careful analysis of text, form, and structure, Keel focuses on the metaphorical and symbolic language of this scholarly work, making full use of parallels from Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, and providing readers with the full symbolism of ancient Near Eastern art. More than 160 illustrations and photos help illuminate the interpretation. Relationships are a wonderful, mysterious, often elusive, sometimes painful part of the human experience. The most intimate of all human relationships, according to the Bible, is that between a husband and a wife. It is no surprise, therefore, that there is a book of the Bible, the Song of Songs, that focuses on this relationship. What is surprising is how little attention is given to the Song of Songs by scholars, by the church, and by readers of the Bible. With this volume Tremper Longman III unpacks for modern people what this ancient love poem says about the male-female relationship -- and, by analogy, about God's love for his people. Longman's superb study begins with a thorough introduction to the Song of Songs and its background. Longman discusses the book's title, authorship, date, literary style, language, structure, cultural milieu, and theological content. He also canvasses the long history of interpretation of the Song of Songs, a history too often characterized by repression of the text. In the commentary itself, Longman structures the Song of Songs according to its twenty-three poetic units and explains its message verse by verse. The exposition is made clearer by Longman's adoption of an anthropological approach to the text and by his frequent comparisons of the Song of Songs with other ancient Near Eastern literature. Learned yet highly accessible, innovative yet fully informed by past scholarship, this commentary shows the beautiful Song of Songs to be a timeless celebration of human love and sexuality.