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ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

SUPPLEMENT 17

THE SONG OF SONGS A Philological Analysis of the Hebrew Book שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים

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Testament exegesis. He taught us in Warmond about the Bible and biblical spirituality and our friendship continued to inspire us even after his early death in 1968.

This English version of my thesis has come about because we enlisted the help of Helen and Mervyn Richardson; Helen translated the Dutch text and Mervyn provided assistance in getting it stored on our computer. Working together with them has brought us great pleasure.

There are some occasions where this English version differs from the text of my original thesis. New insights led me to make some adjustments. Some additions were possible and desirable as a result of recent publications. In particular this concerned the position of the woman and the harem in the ancient Near East, which was kindly brought to my attention by Professor Johannes de Moor, to whom I am very grateful.

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When I said above that *we* had had great pleasure in preparing the English translation of my book the pronoun was intended to include my husband. During the entire gestation period of my thesis he was indispensable in discussing matters with me and the support he offered me was vital. He has been and is of crucial importance to the work I have undertaken.

CONTENTS

Foreword	v
Contents	vii
Abbreviations	ix

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Literature	3
1.1.1 Interpretation through the ages	4
1.1.2 Drama, wedding song, love poetry	6
1.1.3 Literary characteristics	8
1.1.4 The language of שיר השירים	9
1.1.5 Date of origin and authorship of שיר השירים	11
1.2 Outline of the study	13
1.2.1 Preliminary remarks	13
1.2.2 The methodology followed in the philological analysis	14

CHAPTER 2
PHILOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE HEBREW BOOK שיר השירים

2.1 שיר השירים 1.1-4	19
Intermezzo 1: דדים	23
Intermezzo 2: שמן	30
2.2 שיר השירים 1.5-2.7	51
Intermezzo 3: אשישות	107
2.3 שיר השירים 2.8-17	119
2.4 שיר השירים 3.1-5	145
Intermezzo 4: בית אמי	152
2.5 שיר השירים 3.6-11	157
2.6 שיר השירים 4.1-7	175
Intermezzo 5: גלה and צמה	177
Intermezzo 6: שלט and מנן	197
2.7 שיר השירים 4.8-5.1	213
Intermezzo 7: אחתי כלה	248
2.8 שיר השירים 5.2-8	253
Intermezzo 8: ראש	258

2.9 שיר השירים 5.9-6.3	285
Intermezzo 9: אָבן	291
2.10 שיר השירים 6.4-12	319
2.11 שיר השירים 7.1-6	353
2.12 שיר השירים 7.7-8.4	387
2.13 שיר השירים 8.5-14	425

CHAPTER 3
CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Significant results of this study	469
3.2 The literary composition of שיר השירים	479
3.3 Topics for further research	496
Appendix: The Genesis Apocryphon from cave 1 at Qumran, column XX lines 1-8	499
Bibliography	509
Indices: biblical passages	523
authors	537

ABBREVIATIONS

BIBLICAL BOOKS

Hebrew Bible

Gn	Genesis	Nah	Nahum
Ex	Exodus	Hab	Habakkuk
Lv	Leviticus	Zeph	Zephaniah
Nu	Numbers	Hg	Haggai
Dt	Deuteronomy	Zech	Zechariah
Jos	Joshua	Mal	Malachi
Jdg	Judges	Ps	Psalms
1Sm	1 Samuel	Pr	Proverbs
2Sm	2 Samuel	Job	Job
1Kg	1 Kings	SofS	The Song of Songs
2Kg	2 Kings	Rt	Ruth
Is	Isaiah	Lam	Lamentations
Jer	Jeremiah	Qoh	Qohelet / Ecclesiastes
Ez	Ezekiel	Esth	Esther
Hos	Hosea	Dn	Daniel
Jl	Joel	Ezr	Ezra
Am	Amos	Neh	Nehemiah
Ob	Obadiah	1Ch	1Chronicles
Jon	Jonah	2Ch	2Chronicles
Mi	Micah		

Apocrypha

Jud	Judith	Sir	Sirach / Ecclesiasticus
1Mak	1Makkabees		

New Testament

Mc	Marc	Lk	Luke
Matt	Matthew	Joh	John
Acts	Acts		

GENERAL

speaker(s)

A	daughters of Jerusalem (chorus)	E	female protagonist + beloved shepherd
B	female protagonist	F	guards
C	attendant	G	King Solomon
D	beloved shepherd	H	brothers of the female protagonist