

## Review

1. Background to the Song
2. Your homework from last week—any lessons learned?
3. The web site is up! [www.mattblackmon.com/sos.htm](http://www.mattblackmon.com/sos.htm) (not much there yet but notes)

## Understanding Hebrew Poetry

1. The hallmark of Hebrew poetry: parallelism

Pattern:

<b>a-b-c    a'-b'-c'</b>	<b>a-b-c    c'-b'-a'</b>
Psalm 19:1-2	Genesis 9:6
a:     The heavens	a:     whoever sheds
b:             tell of	b:             the blood
c:                     God's glory	c:                     of a human
a':     the sky	c':                     by human
b':             proclaims	b':             that person's blood
c':                     his handiwork	a':     will be shed

*Many* other patterns are possible....  
 This can apply to phrases, paragraphs, books, etc....

2. Often repeated in the New Testament (especially when the speakers are Hebrew)
3. Chiasmic structures: Two sets of units that match in inverted structure. The center point (the pivot) often has the main point.

PART ONE  
 PART TWO  
 PART THREE  
**CENTER (MAIN POINT OF EMPHASIS)**  
 PART THREE INVERTED  
 PART TWO INVERTED  
 PART ONE INVERTED

A  
       B  
           C  
                   D  
                   C'  
           B'  
 A'

## *The Structure of the Song of Solomon<sup>1</sup>*

- A: Opening words of mutual love and desire (1:2-2:7)
- B: The young man's invitation to the young woman to join him in the countryside (2:8-17)
- C: The young woman's nighttime search for the young man (3:1-5)
- D: Their wedding day (3:6-5:1)
- C': The young woman's nighttime search for the young man, and their speeches of admiration and longing (5:2-7:11)
- B': The young woman's invitation to the young man to join her in the countryside (7:12-8:4)
- A': Closing words of mutual love and desire (8:5-14)

### *Opening Words of Mutual Love and Desire (Song 1:2-2:7 )*

A: The young woman's long speech: She wants to be with the young man in his home (1:2-7)

B: The young man's words of admiration for his beloved (1:8-11)

C: The young woman's short speech of admiration and desire (1:12-14)

D: The young man's exclamation (1:15)

C': The young woman's short speech of admiration and desire (1:16-17)

B': The young man's words of admiration for his beloved (2:1-2)

A: The young woman's long speech describing union with the young man in his home (2:3-7)

---

<sup>1</sup> Literary structure here is from Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*.

## *What are Some Lessons Learned?*

### *Homework*

*Scripture Homework:* Re-read Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7 using the literary structure on page 2 as a guide.

Write some words of admiration and praise for the person you love.

Following the example of the exclamation of Song 1:15, write out your own exclamation based on the words of admiration and praise.

Read Song of Solomon 2:8-17.

*Relationship Homework:* How do you express your admiration and praise for your partner? Do you value doing that? Why or why not?

How can you better express admiration and praise. Write down three practical examples:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why is love such an important emphasis over feelings or emotions?

What are some other ways that you can express love in your relationship?