

FALL FEN

Hebrews 6:4-6



“It is no exaggeration to designate the passage we now consider as one of the most controversial in the book of Hebrews – indeed, one of the most disputed in the entire New Testament.”

**It would not be surprising, therefore,
if some readers of this commentary
have come first to this spot
in the volume to see where I stand . . .**

**Buist Fanning, *The NIV Application
Commentary, Hebrews***

Hebrews 6 ⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age

⁶and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.



**Are we willing to sharpen our pencils,
pull out our commentaries
and do the hard work of
understanding?**



The Big Picture



The Big Picture

Extraordinary commitment in
persecution



The Big Picture

Extraordinary commitment in
persecution

Beginning to waiver, may turn back



The Big Picture

Extraordinary commitment in
persecution

Beginning to waiver, may turn back
Source of endurance → Christ



The Big Picture

Extraordinary commitment in
persecution

Beginning to waiver, may turn back

Source of endurance → Christ

They must know Him better



21For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me, Yet what shall I chose? I do not know! . . .

23I am torn... I desire to depart and be with Christ . . .

Phil. 1:21-23



**Strategies and disciplines gave Paul
support and guidance, but
Jesus gave Paul joy!**



**Some rules for understanding
confusing passages.**



**Don't impose your views on Scripture!
Allow Scripture to impose
it's message
on you!**



**Don't impose your views on Scripture!
Allow Scripture to impose
it's message
on you!
Easier said than done!**



**Assume usual, literal
meaning of the words**

**Assume usual, literal
Meaning of the words
Like Hot and Cold**

**Assume usual, literal
Meaning of the words
Like Hot and Cold
As understood when written**

**Assume usual, literal
meaning of the words,
but be aware of the genre
of the book you are reading!**

"THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS OF SOLOMON..."

HEBREW IDIOM:
 "HOLY OF HOLIES"
 "KING OF KINGS"
THE GREATEST SONG

MAYBE **AUTHOR?** MAYBE NOT



- ✓ HIS NAME MIGHT BE THE AUTHOR.
- ✓ MAIN VOICE IS A WOMAN.
- ✓ MAIN VOICE ISN'T SOLOMON.
- ✓ SOLOMON'S MENTIONED, BUT NEVER SPEAKS.
- ✓ SOLOMON HAD 700+ WIVES! (1 KINGS 11:3-9)

"OF SOLOMON" = IN THE WISDOM TRADITION OF SOLOMON
 SOLOMON WAS KNOWN FOR WISDOM, POETRY, AND A LOVE OF LEARNING. (SEE 1 KINGS 4:29-34)
 POEMS THAT EXPLORE JOKE AND DESIRE

the Song of Songs

1:2-7 INTRODUCTION



THEME ONE

INTENSE DESIRE: SEEKING AND FINDING

FINDING, EMBRACING

SEPARATE, SEEKING

THEME TWO

REMEMBER: HEBREW METAPHORS ARE NOT PRIMARILY VISUAL!

THE JOY OF PHYSICAL ATTRACTION

YOUR EYES ARE LIKE DOVES...
 YOUR HAIR, LIKE A FLOCK OF GOATS...
 YOUR TEETH, LIKE LAMPS...
 YOUR NECK IS A TOWER.
 YOUR LIPS DRIP HONEY...



8:6-14 CONCLUSION

LOVE ... IS AS STRONG AS DEATH,
 ITS PASSIONS ARE AS SEVERE AS THE GRAVE.
 ITS FLAMES ARE OF FIRE, A DIVINE FLAME.
 MANY WATERS CANNOT EXTINGUISH LOVE,
 RIVERS CANNOT SWEEP IT AWAY.
 IF ONE WERE TO GIVE ALL THE WEALTH
 OF ONE'S HOUSE FOR LOVE,
 HE WOULD BE UTTERLY SCORNED. (8:6-7)

THE POWER AND INTENSITY OF LOVE?
 (BEAUTIFUL & LIFE-GIVING ... OR ... DANGEROUS & DESTRUCTIVE)

THE HUMAN LONGING TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN

TRANSCENDENT, MYSTERIOUS, AND A GIFT FROM GOD



(OPEN) ENDING
 ...A LOT LIKE LOVE...

WHAT IS LOVE POETRY DOING IN THE BIBLE?

THREE MAIN INTERPRETATIONS THROUGH HISTORY:

1 JEWISH TRADITION
 AN ALLEGORY OF ISRAEL AND GOD

2 CHRISTIAN TRADITION
 AN ALLEGORY OF THE CHURCH AND CHRIST
 (SEE 1 PETER 2:2-3)

3 COLLECTION OF ANCIENT POETRY
 THAT REFLECTS ON THE DIVINE GIFT OF LOVE

A KEY FEATURE
 GARDEN MARKET FONDS
the Garden of Eden
 (GENESIS 1-2)

MAN AND WOMAN NAKED AND VULNERABLE, YET INFUSED AND SAFE
 VISION OF A RELATIONSHIP UNTAINTED BY SIN
 THE SONG HIBS OUT HERE...



Eyes like doves.
Hair like flock of goats.
Teeth = lamps.
Neck = tower
Lips drip honey.

Look at the context



Look at the context
Layers of context:

Look at the context
Layers of context:
The sentence, paragraph, the letter,

Look at the context

Layers of context:

**The sentence, paragraph, the letter,
his other letters,**



Look at the context

Layers of context:

**The sentence, paragraph, the letter,
his other letters,
the entire bible.**

Who are we talking about?

Who are we talking about?

Been enlightened – 4

Tasted the heavenly gift – 4

Shared in the Holy Spirit – 4

Tasted goodness of God's word – 5

and powers of age to come – 5



**What about “fallen away?”
What does that mean?**

