

I read 100% of the textbook and listened to the audio recording.

Song 6 includes echoes of the man's praises of his wife previously declared in chapter 4 further deepening the reader's understanding of his love. The relationship of the woman and man has grown more intimate both in Longman and Bickle's perspective. Longman also expresses the difficulty in understanding the ambiguous ending in 6:11-12.

Before diving into one of the most difficult verses of the book, Longman studies the man's second wasf which includes some new metaphors in comparison to his first. The man compares his wife to Tirzah and Jerusalem which may seem odd as they were once "bitter enemies" but their mention emphasizes the woman's beauty and power (Longman, 179). The man expresses the effect his deep love has on him including feeling unsettled and fearful as he recognizes how perfect and unique his wife is. Moving to 6:11-12, discerning the speaker is only half the battle as the interpretation of the nut grove and the clear translation of 6:12 is highly uncertain. It is clear that these verses express a desire for intimate union and "strong passion, most likely of the woman for the man" (Longman, 187).

Bickle stresses the Bride's spiritual maturity as she's described as "awesome as an army with banners" in 6:4 and as his "perfect one" in 6:9. His Bride stands victorious on the other side of the dark night of the soul. She has proved herself dedicated, and he also shares his dedication to her as he elevates her in his heavenly courts "redeemed and crowned with glory" into eternity!

God, I pray for greater dedication and the same teeth to chew and receive your Word. Increase my desire to dig and to pray through Scripture, especially the difficult passages, like Longman and Pope.