

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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From the  
Odes of Solomon

Three settings for unaccompanied mixed choir

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From the  
**Odes of Solomon**

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From Odes 1 & 3 of the Odes of Solomon      Duration 5'

From Ode 14 of the Odes of Solomon      Duration 5'

From Ode 17 of the Odes of Solomon      Duration 5' 30"

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*From the Odes of Solomon* was first performed in concert by the Ars Brunensis Chorus on June 2, 2002, at the Husov Sbor, Brno. Recorded on June 1, 2002, at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, Brno - Husovice, Czech Republic. Roman Valek conducted the Ars Brunensis Chorus, Dan Kalousek choirmaster, Frantisek Poul recording engineer, and Annegret Lange producer. Released on CD by Capstone Records.

For information about the composer, visit: [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

**BURKE & BAGLEY**

[www.burkeandbagley.com](http://www.burkeandbagley.com)

1824 North 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98103-6116  
Tel: 206.632.4487

Email: [office@burkeandbagley.com](mailto:office@burkeandbagley.com)

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From the

# Odes of Solomon

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The Odes of Solomon are believed to have been written around the year 100 A.D., and include strong parallels to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Scholars have debated whether the Odes should be considered Jewish, Christian or Gnostic, and whether they were first written in Greek, Hebrew or Syriac. Early Christian writings refer to and quote from them. An old Syriac manuscript containing the text of most of the Odes was discovered in 1909 by the English scholar J. Rendel Harris, and other partial texts in various languages have also been found. There are 42 Odes. Some fragments are still missing from Odes I and III, and no part of Ode II has yet been found.

I have selected text from four of the Odes of Solomon which I found particularly compelling. The anonymous translation I have used comes from The Gnostic Society Library.

Greg Bartholomew  
October 7, 2000  
Seattle

## From Ode I

The Lord is on my head like a crown  
And I shall not be without him.

## From Ode III

I clothe his limbs, his own limbs,  
and hang from them. He loves me.

How would I know how to love the Lord  
if he did not love me?  
And who can tell us about love?  
Only one who is loved.

I love the beloved, and my soul loves him.  
I am where he reposes,  
and I will be no stranger to him,  
because he is not petty, my high merciful Lord.

I have gone to join him  
for the lover has found his beloved.

## From Ode XIV

As the eyes of a son to his father,  
so my eyes turn to you, O Lord, at all times,  
for with you are my consolation and joy.

Do not turn your mercy from me, O Lord,  
nor your kindness,  
but stretch out your right hand,  
and be my guide to the end.

Care for me, save me from evil,  
and let your gentleness and love be with me.  
Teach me to sing of truth,  
that I may engender fruit in you.

Open the harp of your holy spirit  
so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

From your sea of mercy, help me,  
help me in my hour of need.

## From Ode XVII

I was crowned by God, by a crown alive.  
And my Lord justified me.

I was freed from myself and uncondemned.  
The chains fell from my wrists.

The thought of truth drove me.  
I walked to it and did not wander off.

He glorified me by kindness  
and lifted my thought to truth.  
I opened closed doors, shattered bars of iron.  
My own shackles melted.

Nothing appeared closed  
because I was the door to everything.

I freed slaves,  
left no man in bonds.

I spread my knowledge and love,  
and sowed my fruits in hearts  
and transformed them.

I blessed them. They lived.  
I gathered them and saved them.

They became the limbs of my body  
and I was their head.

--anonymous translation excerpted from the  
Gnostic Society Library  
([www.webcom.com/~gnosis/library/odes.htm](http://www.webcom.com/~gnosis/library/odes.htm))

# From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my first music teacher, Mary Christine Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

♩ = 96

Descant

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano for rehearsal only

*mp*

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

*mp*

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

*mp*

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

*mp*

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

*mp*

The Lord is on my head like a crown.

♩ = 96

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8

D

S

A

T

B

Pno

And I shall not be with - out Him.

And I shall not be with - out Him.

And I shall not be with - out Him.

I shall not, shall not be with - out Him.

And I shall not be with - out Him.

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

15 **A**

S *p* I, I clothe His limbs,

A *p* I, I clothe His limbs, his own, *mp*

T *p* I, I clothe His limbs, I clothe His limbs, His own, *mp*

B *p* I, I clothe His limbs, I clothe His limbs, His own, *mp* His *mp*

Pno **A**

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22 *mp* *p* His own limbs, I clothe His

A *mp* *p* His own limbs, I clothe His *mp* I clothe His limbs, *p*

T *mp* *p* His own limbs, I clothe His *p*

B *mp* *p* own, His own limbs, I clothe His *p*

Pno

30

S  
limbs, I hang from

A  
limbs, and hang, I hang from

T  
limbs, and hang, I hang from

B  
limbs, and hang, I hang, and hang from

Pno

Perusal Copy

36

S  
them. He loves me.

A  
them. He loves me.

T  
them. He loves me.

B  
them. He loves me.

Pno

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

**B** ♩ = 120

S *mp*  
How would I know how to love the Lord

A *mp*  
How would I know how to love the Lord

T *mf*  
How would I know how to love the Lord if

B *mf*  
How would I know?

**B** ♩ = 120

Pno

Perusal Copy

49

S *mp*  
if He did not love me?

A *mp* *mf*  
if He did not love me? And who?

T  
He did not love me?

B *mp* *mf*  
How would I know how to love the Lord? And

Pno

56

S *mp* How would I know how to

A *mf* And who can tell us a - bout love? If

T *mp* How would I know how to

B who can tell us a - bout love? If He

Pno

Perusal Copy

62

S *mf* love the Lord? And who can tell us a - bout love?

A *mf* He did not love me? And who can tell us a - bout love?

T *mf* love the Lord? And who can tell us a - bout love?

B *mf* did not love me? A - bout love?

Pno

## From Odes I &amp; III of the Odes of Solomon

68  $\text{♩} = 96$  *mp*  $\text{D}$   $\text{♩} = 120$

S  
On - ly one who is loved.

A  
On - ly one who is loved. I love the be - lov - ed and my soul\_ loves

T  
On - ly one who is loved.

B  
On - ly one who is loved.

Pno  $\text{♩} = 96$   $\text{D}$   $\text{♩} = 120$

Perusal Copy

74

S  
I \_\_\_\_\_ am where\_\_\_\_\_

A  
Him. I am where\_\_\_\_\_ He re - pos - es.

T  
I love the be - lov - ed and my soul\_ loves Him.

B  
I love the be - lov - ed and my soul\_ loves Him.

Pno

**E**

79 *mf*

S he re - pos - es.

A *mf* I am where He re - pos - es. *mp* And I will be no\_\_

T *mf* I am where He re - pos - es. *mp* And I will be no\_\_

B *mf* I am where He re - pos - es. *mp* And I\_\_

Pno

**E**

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85 *mf*

S And I will be no stran - ger\_\_ to Him\_\_

A \_\_ stran - er\_\_ to Him,\_\_ no\_\_ stran - ger\_\_ to Him\_\_

T \_\_ stran - er\_\_ to Him,\_\_ no stran - ger\_\_ to Him\_\_

B \_\_ will\_\_ be\_\_ no\_\_ stran - ger\_\_ to Him\_\_

Pno

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

91 **F** *mp* He \_\_\_\_\_

S be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

A be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

T be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

B be - cause He is not pet - ty, my high mer - ci - ful Lord.

Pno

99 *mf* **G** *mp*

S I have gone. I've found

A *p* Love has found

T *p* For the lov - er has found his be-

B *p* *mf* I have gone to join Him, for the lov - er has found his be-

Pno

105

S *mf* love... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

A *mp* love... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

T *mp* lov - ed... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

B *mp* lov - ed... I have gone to join Him, *mf* my high mer - ci - ful Lord. *f*

Pno

Perusal Copy

112

**H**  $\text{♩} = 96$  *mp* The Lord... is on my head like a crown.

A *mp* The Lord... is on my head like a crown.

T *mp* The Lord... is on my head like a crown.

B *mp* The Lord... is on my head like a crown.

Pno **H**  $\text{♩} = 96$

From Odes I & III of the Odes of Solomon

120

S  
And I shall not be with - out

A  
And I shall not be with - out

T  
I shall not, shall not be with - out

B  
And I shall not be, I shall not be with - out

Pno

Perusal Copy

126

S  
Him. He loves me.

A  
Him. He loves me.

T  
Him. He loves me.

B  
Him. He loves me.

Pno

# From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my father, Fletcher Lavallee Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

$\text{♩} = 54$  Gently

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

*mp*

As the eyes of a son to his fa - ther, so my eyes turn to you, O

Piano for rehearsal only

$\text{♩} = 54$  Gently

4

S

A

T

B

Pno

Lord, at all times, for with you are my con - so - la - tion and joy.

Do not turn...

*mp*

**A**

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

7

S Do not turn your mer - cy from me, O Lord,

A Do not turn your mer - cy, Do not turn your mer - cy from me, O Lord,

T O Lord, O Lord,

B O Lord, O Lord, O

Pno

Perusal Copy

11

S nor your kind - ness

A Do not turn your mer - cy from me,

T Do not turn your mer - cy from me, O

B Lord, from me, O

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

**B**

14

S Do not turn your mer - cy from me, But stretch out your right hand, and

A *mp* nor your kind - ness, *mp* But stretch out your right hand, and

T Lord, Lord. But stretch out your right hand and

B Lord, Lord. But stretch out your right hand and

Pno

Perusal Copy

18

S be my guide to the end. Care for me. Save me from e - vil. Care for

A be my guide to the end. Care for me. Save me from e - vil. Care for

T be my guide to the end. Care for me. Care for me. Save\_ me from e - vil.

B be my guide to the end. Care for me. Care for me. Save\_ me from e - vil.

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

24

S me. Save me Save me from e-vil, and let your gen-tle-ness and love be—

A me. Save me Save me from e-vil, and let your gen-tle-ness and love be

T Care for me. Care for me.

B Care for me. Care for me.

Pno

Perusal Copy

29

S with me.

A with me.

T And let your gen-tle-ness and love be— with me.

B And let your gen-tle-ness and love be with me.

Pno

**C** Più allegro (♩ = 72)

33

S Teach me to sing.

A Teach me, \_\_\_\_\_ Teach me to sing.

T Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ to sing.

B Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ to sing.

Pno Più allegro (♩ = 72)

Perusal Copy

37 **Con moto** (♩ = 54)

S Teach me to sing of truth,

A Teach me to sing of truth,

T Teach me to sing of truth that I

B Teach me to sing of truth. Teach me to sing of truth that I

Pno **Con moto** (♩ = 54)

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

47

S Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ to sing \_\_\_\_\_

A Teach me, \_\_\_\_\_ to sing.

T may en - gen - der fruit in you. \_\_\_\_\_ Teach me to sing \_\_\_\_\_

B may en - gen - der fruit in you. \_\_\_\_\_ Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ to sing \_\_\_\_\_

Pno

Perusal Copy

55

rit. **D** Tempo I (♩ = 54)

S \_\_\_\_\_ of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

A Teach me to sing of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

T \_\_\_\_\_ of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

B \_\_\_\_\_ of truth. O - pen, o - pen,

Pno

rit. **D** Tempo I (♩ = 54)

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

61  $\text{♩} = 54$

S  
o - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit.

A  
o - - - pen, so I may praise

T  
o - - - pen. so I may

B  
o - - - pen, so I may praise you,

Pno

Perusal Copy

67 *mp*

S  
so I may praise you, praise you, Lord

A  
you, so I may praise you, praise you, Lord,

T  
praise you, so I may praise, praise you, Lord,

B  
so I may praise, so I may praise you, Lord,

Pno

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

**E** ♩ = 54

76

**S** *mf* O pen, o pen, o - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit

**A** *mf* O - pen, o pen, o - - - pen, o - pen so I may praise you,

**T** *mf* O - pen, o - pen, o - - - pen, o - pen so I may praise you,

**B** *mf* O - pen, o - pen, o - - - pen, o - pen

**Pno** *mf*

**E** ♩ = 54

80

**S** *mf* so I may praise you, Lord, so I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes.

**A** *mf* so I may praise you, Lord, So I may praise you,

**T** *mf* so I may praise you, Lord So I may praise you, Lord, with all its

**B** *mf* so I may praise you, Lord So I may praise you,

**Pno** *mf*

Perusal Copy

From Ode XIV of the Odes of Solomon

F

83

S So I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes. From your sea of

A Lord. O - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit. From your sea of

T notes. So I may praise you, Lord, with all its notes. From your sea of

B Lord. O - pen the harp of your ho - ly spi - rit. From your sea of

Pno

F

87

S mer - cy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me,

A mer - cy, help me. help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

T mer - cy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

B mer - cy, help me, help me in my hour of need. Help me, help me.

Pno

93

S *mp* Help me in my hour of need. *mf* Help me in my hour of

A *mp* Help me. *mf* Help me in my hour of

T *mp* Help me in my hour of need. *mf* Help me in my hour of

B *mp* Help me. *mf* Help me in my hour of

Pno

Perusal Copy

96

S *ppp* need.

A *ppp* need.

T *ppp* need. *p* *Relaxed, as a memory* As the eyes of a son to his fa - ther.

B *p* need. *ppp*

Pno

# From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

Dedicated to my sister, Annie Bartholomew

Greg Bartholomew

♩ = 60

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mp*  
I was crowned by God, I was crowned by God,

Bass *mp*  
I was crowned by God,

Piano

♩ = 60

Perusal Copy

4

S *mp*  
I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

A *mp*  
I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

T *mp*  
I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

B *mp*  
I was crowned by God, by a crown a - live.

Pno

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

7

S and my Lord just - i - fied me.

A and my Lord just - i - fied me.

T and my Lord just - i - fied me.

B and my Lord just - i - fied me.

Pno

Perusal Copy

12

A *mf* = 72

S I was freed from my - self,

A and un - con - demned.

T *mf* I was freed from my - self,

B and un - con - demned. I was freed.

Pno

A = 72

16

S I was freed from my - self, The chains fell from my

A and un - con - demned.

T I was freed from my self. The chains fell from my

B and un - con - demned.

Pno

Perusal Copy

19

S wrists.

A The chains fell from my wrists. *mp* The thought of truth drove me. The

T wrists.

B The chains fell from my wrists. *mp* The thought of truth drove me.

Pno

**B**

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

23

S *rallentando* *mf* *poco accel.*  
The thought of truth—

A *poco accel.* *mf*  
thought of truth drove me. The thought of truth

T *mf*  
The thought of truth drove me. The thought of truth. The

B *mf*  
The thought of truth drove me. The

Pno *poco accel.* *rallentando* *poco accel.*

Perusal Copy

27

S *poco rall.* *a tempo*  
drove me...

A *a tempo*  
drove me...

T *a tempo*  
thought of truth.

B *mf* *a tempo*  
thought of truth. The thought of truth drove me. I

Pno *a tempo*

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

30 *poco accel.* *mf* *poco rall.* *a tempo*

S I walked to it and did not wan-der off.

A I walked to it. and did not wan-der off.

T I walked to it. And did not wan-der off.

B walked to it, and did not wan-der off.

Pno *poco accel.* *poco rall.* *a tempo*

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34 **D**

S I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness and

A I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness, and

T I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness, and

B I walked to it and did not wan-der off. He glo-ri-fied me by kind-ness, and

Pno **D**

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

39

S lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

A lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

T lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

B lift-ed my thoughts to truth. I o-pened closed doors, shat-tered bars of

Pno

Perusal Copy

43

S i - ron. My own shack - les melt - ed.

A i - ron. My own shack - les melt - ed.

T i - ron. The thought of truth. My own shack - les melt - ed.

B i - ron. My own shack - les melt - ed.

Pno

48 **E**

S

A

T

B

Pno

No - thing ap - peared closed be - cause I was the door to ev - 'ry - thing. —

No - thing ap - peared closed be - cause

Perusal Copy

51 **F**

S

A

T

B

Pno

I freed

I wasthe door to ev - 'ry - thing.

No - thing ap - peared closed be - cause I wasthe door to ev - 'ry - thing.

No - thing ap - peared closed be - cause I wasthe door to ev - 'ry - thing.

**F**

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

55

S  
slaves, left no man in bonds.

A  
I freed slaves, left no man in

T

B

Pno

Perusal Copy

58

S  
My own shack-les melt-ed...

A  
bonds. My own shack-les melt-ed...

T  
I freed slaves, left no man in bonds.

B  
I freed slaves, left no man in bonds. I

Pno

G

62

S  
My own shack-les melt- ed. —

A

T  
My own shack-les melt ed. — I spread my know - ledge

B  
freed — slaves, left noman in bonds. I spread my know - ledge

Pno

G

67

S  
I spread my know ledge — and love, know ledge — and love,

A  
I spread my know ledge — and love, know ledge — and love,

T  
— and love. I spread my know ledge — and love,

B  
— and love. I spread my know ledge — and love,

Pno

72

S and sowed my fruit in hearts and trans - formed them.

A and trans - formed them.

T and sowed my fruit in hearts and trans - formed them.

B I sowed my fruit in hearts, and trans - formed them.

Pno

Perusal Copy

77

S I blessed them. They lived. I ga - thered them and saved them. **H**

A I blessed them. They lived. I ga - thered them and *mp*

T I blessed them. They lived. I ga - thered them and *mp*

B I blessed them. They lived. **H**

Pno

82

S

A

T

B

Pno

saved\_ them.

saved\_ them.

They be-came the limbs of my bo-dy\_

They be-came the limbs of my bo-dy\_

Perusal Copy

87

S

A

T

B

Pno

They be - came the limbs of my

They be-came the limbs of my bo-dy. They be - came the limbs of my

They be - came limbs of my

They be - came limbs of my

From Ode XVII of the Odes of Solomon

91

*subito p* *cresc.* *f.*

S bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

A bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

T bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

B bo - dy, and I was their head. I was their head.

Pno

Perusal Copy

96 **I** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 48

S I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

A I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

T I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

B I was crowned by God. I was crowned by God.

Pno **I** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 48