



Song of Songs

Session 2: What About Solomon?

1. The “plot” or theme of *Song of Songs* seems to have something to do with forbidden love. What do you think?

2. What does “hapax legomenon” have to do with the difficulty of interpreting this book?

3. What are some of the disadvantages in interpretation for those of us reading the *Song of Songs* in something other than Hebrew?

4. Discuss the “shaky territory” Dr. Wolfe points out in identifying King Solomon’s role in *Song of Songs*.

-- For background, look up the verses where *ra'yati* calls or refers to *dodi* with a royal “pet name:” 1.4, 5, 12; 3.7, 9, 11; 8.11, 12. Do you think she is actually speaking to *THE* King Solomon or not? Why?

-- How do you think the “king” references in 1.1, 4, 12; 3.7-11; and 7.5 function in the book?

5. When interpreting the *Song of Songs*, how might the “King” and “Prince” language be seen as a temptation?

6. When might the book have been written? Do you think it matters?

7. What are the implications of this session’s material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

EXTENDED STUDY: Go through and make note of all the places in the *Song of Songs* that have the footnote “meaning of Heb uncertain.” Make a list of the words. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is probably the most helpful translation to use for this exercise. Once you’ve made your list, go to the same passages in a variety of Bibles and compare how the words are translated across several other English translations.

