

Ruth, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and Esther

Song of Songs – Part 1

Interpreting the Text:

1. What did you learn from the video discussion? Did anything surprise you?
2. Does it change your understanding of this text in any way to translate the ascription “The Song of Songs, which is to Solomon” vs. “The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s?” If so, how? Are there other names that you know this text by?
3. Do you find the allegorical interpretation of this poem compelling? Why or why not? What are the allegorical interpretations you are familiar with (e.g. Christ and the Church)?
4. How does the strong use of imagery and rich descriptions of sensory information compare to other books of the Bible? How does this technique feature in this poem?

Applying the Text:

1. Have you ever wondered why this text is in the Bible? How have you seen this text used in worship or Bible study? What explanations have you heard for its purpose as scripture?
2. Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you an observer of the two lovers, or do you imagine yourself as one of them? How does this change throughout the book?