

Challenge

*Is the Song of Songs About Jesus
and the Church?*

Many Christians today consider the Song of Solomon is about celebrating marital intimacy. This interpretation can't be demonstrated.

A close reading of the book shows there is no clear storyline.



There is no chronology in the book.

e.g. The lovers engage in sexual intimacy (Song 1:4, 13, 17; 2:4–6; 3:4) prior to the wedding night (Song 4:1–5:1).



Most scholars see the book as a collection of love poetry, because of its similarity to ancient poetry – especially Egyptian love poetry

The prominent view of the book in Judaism of the first few centuries AD was that it was an allegory about God's love for Israel & Jerusalem.

This interpretation influenced early Christian writers to see the book as an allegory for Christ's love for his bride, the "Church".



This is the prominent view of the book today among Protestant Christians.

However, this interpretation cannot be justified if the Bible is to interpret itself.



Here are the tests:

Challenge

(1) Does any NT writer quote from the Song of Solomon?

(2) Does a New Testament writer teach that the Song of Solomon is about Jesus and his Bride?



The answers:

Challenge

(1) No

(2) No



If Song of Solomon is an allegory of Christ's love for his *ekklesia*, then the NT writers would have drawn from it directly.

The book is never quoted in the NT.



There are bridal references in the NT, but these are not related to the book.

There are marriage references to Jesus and his *ekklesia* in the NT, but these are not related to the book.



The NT writers' decision not to use Song of Solomon means we **cannot** presume that the book is about Christ's love for his *ekklesia*.

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So, the challenge is for you to come to grips with this information

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