

Is it enough to read this book as a simple expression of mutual admiration and desire between the two parties, then extending that from the two young lovers to God's relationship with His people? Should we dig deeply into each metaphor and each phrase looking for hidden or symbolic meaning?

Song of Songs chapter 4

The bride's features are compared to doves, goats, sheep, pomegranates, a tower, gazelles, and fawns; does any of this sound flattering to you? Yet, what does the bridegroom declare about his bride in verse 7?

Imagine yourself as the author, who was a young wealthy king. Might you have simply insisted "I am the king and want (demand) to have you as my wife" Would you have tried to woo a woman with such flowery, overstated language?

What should we think about the bride being described as a locked garden?

Song of Songs chapter 7

Again the king/bridegroom provides an elaborate flowery description of his lover. Who is he talking to? Has he made any requests or demands of her? [1-9]

How does the bride respond to all this attention? [10, and 11-13]

Song of Songs chapter 8

This chapter is nearly all in the voice of the bride; does she respond to the bridegroom in a manner comparable to his words to her? Does she make requests or demands of him?

The wall and door spoken of here [8-10] may be related to the locked garden (from chapter 4) and the vineyard of verse 12. What is all this about, and how might it apply to our relationship to God?

What have we learned about God from this book? What have learned about our relationship with Him?