

Bible Challenge 2018

Week 25b: June 17-23

Outline

Song of Solomon 1-2: The Shepherd Girl and her Beau

Song of Solomon 3-4: Solomon appears and entices the Shepherd Girl

Song of Solomon 5-7: The Shepherd Girl's faithfulness to her Beau

Song of Solomon 8: The Shepherd Girl is returned to her family

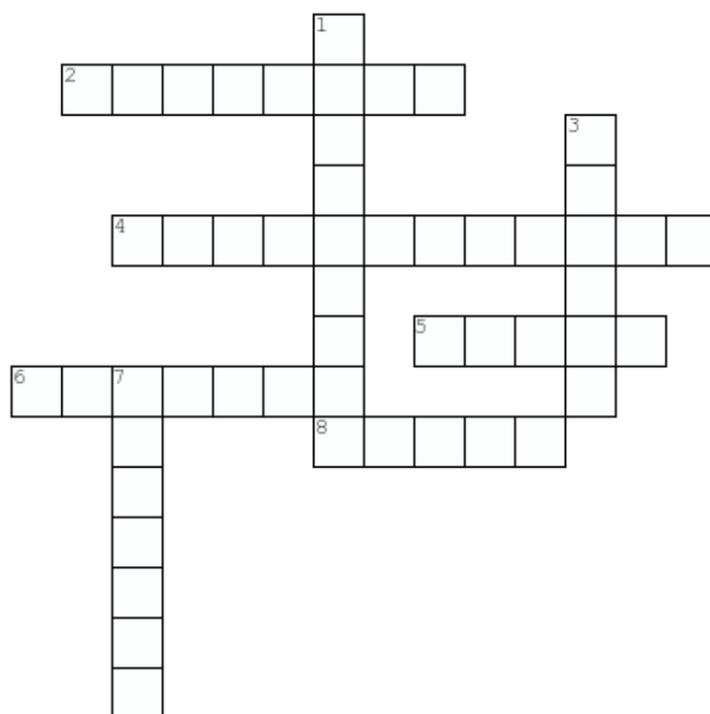
Oh my, what does one say about the Song of Solomon? Do we say that it is an erotic love poem? Do we say that Jewish tradition restricted the reading of this book until one was married *and* thirty years old? Do we say that it is often treated as an allegory of God's love for Israel (Jewish perspective) or as an allegory of Christ's love for his church? Do we say that the Puritans wrote thousands of pages outlining detailed explanations of the allegory they saw within this book?

Should I say that I am in the minority when it comes to Bible scholars and do not treat this as an allegory, but as a love poem by Solomon that surrounds a romantic attraction he had to a shepherd girl? True, that still means we can learn things about God and his relationship to us from these words, but its focus is on the virtue of faithfulness to one's love.

Should I say that when I used to teach an Old Testament Survey to 8th and 9th graders in Florida, I did not jump over this book and we spent two class periods discussing it. I presented it as ancient literature, but it still brought about a lot of red faces in the classroom as we read sections of it.

I'll not say much more on this book other than to read it. Okay, perhaps I will say this as well, read it with your spouse if you are married...make it a date night...and I won't say anything more than that.

Week 25b: Song of Solomon



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Across

2. Most commentators (Jewish and Christian) treat this book as an _____ (hint: a kind of literature).
4. The story really revolves around the faithfulness of this person (2 words).
5. 'Your hair is like a flock of _____.'
6. King Solomon is depicted as traveling in a carriage made from the wood of this place.
8. 'love is strong as _____.'

Down

1. 'Come oh _____, blow on my garden and let its spices flow.'
3. This was how old Jewish tradition says you have to be to read this book.
7. 'I am my beloved's and my _____ is mine.'