

2. Some of the problems in the study (beyond the previous items)

a. The subject matter....

This intimate, personal language is quite beyond the understanding of our age unless it is associated with lewd, promiscuous, fleshly acts. Since there are not the course of life for a believer the frank discussion of the book had caused many to look for more acceptable meanings.

b. The parties...

The number of persons speaking, who is talking where, etc., is something of a problem. Some scholars see anything from two to five speakers. Some make the Jerusalem choir a chief part of the action. I favor two main speakers with a personification in the choir. This is not the most popular view. You will discover that most scholars like three speakers. But there is no count in the book and so we must work by deduction. Do not depend too much on the Hebrew pronouns for help...they do not always serve reliably.

c. The internal direction....

d. The historical background...

e. The Name of God.

3. A very brief note on concepts of origin.

4. Another very brief note on interpretative schools...We will have some reports on this and we dare not say too much on our own.

5. A third brief note on the use of the Song in the church

6. And a final brief note on the bibliographic data