

The Book of Song of Solomon

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STORY.

- A. Act One---The Shulamite Cinderella (6:13).
1. Solomon had a vineyard in the hill country of Ephraim, just outside the little town of Shunam, about fifty miles north of Jerusalem (8:11).
 2. This vineyard was rented out to a family of sharecroppers consisting of a mother, two sons, and two daughters. The oldest of these girls was the Shulamite, and the youngest, her little sister (1:6; 6:13; 8:8, 11).
 3. The Shulamite was the Cinderella of the family, having great natural beauty, but unnoticed by the world (1:8).
 4. Her brothers made her work very hard tending the vineyards, so that she had little opportunity to care for her personal appearance (1:6).
 - a. She pruned the vines (1:6).
 - b. She set traps for the little foxes (2:15).
 - c. She also kept the flocks (1:8).
 5. From being out in the open so often, she became sunburned (1:6).
- B. Act Two--The Mysterious Stranger.
1. One day a mysterious, handsome stranger comes to the vineyard and soon wins the heart of the Shulamite girl. Unknown to her, he is really Solomon, disguised as a lowly shepherd (1:7).
 2. She asks about his flocks (1:7).
 3. He answers evasively, but is very definite concerning his love for her (1:8-10).
 4. He leaves her, but promises he will someday return to her (2:16-17).
 5. During his absence she dreams of him on two occasions.
 - a. First dream--that they are already married and that one night she awakens to find him missing from her bed. She quickly dresses and goes out looking for him (3:1-2).
 - b. Second dream--that her beloved has returned and besought her to open the door and let him in. But she refuses for she is unwilling to reclothe herself and soil her feet going to the door. Soon, however, her heart smites her for this shabby action and she leaps for the door. But alas, he has gone! (5:2-6) The bride then began her frantic search for the lover she had so carelessly ignored. During her search the guards of the city mistreated her, and the watchman on the wall tore off her veil. She then pleaded with the women of Jerusalem to aid her in finding her lover and informing him of her love for him (5:7-8). Suddenly and joyfully she discovers his whereabouts (6:1-3).
 6. These then, are her two dreams concerning the mysterious shepherd lover of the Shulamite girl. But why did he leave her? Where did he go? Would he ever return?
- C. Act Three--The Mighty Monarch.
1. One day the little town of Shunam receives some electrifying news. King Solomon himself is approaching their city. But the lovesick and lonely maiden is not interested, and takes no further notice until word is brought to her that the powerful potentate himself desires to see her.
 2. She is puzzled until she is brought into his presence, where she recognizes him as her beloved shepherd. He then gently explains to her that although he has already gathered sixty wives, eighty concubines, and unnumbered virgins, that she will be his choice bride and true love (6:8-10). He invites her to come with him and promises to care for her little sister (4:8; 8:8-9).
 3. The bride is then placed in the king's chariot, made from the wood of Lebanon, with silver posts, a golden canopy, and purple seating (3:9-10).
 4. Together they ride off to the royal palace in Jerusalem, accompanied by sixty mighty swordsmen and experienced body guards (3:7-8).

II. THE BRIDE OF THE STORY (AS DESCRIBED BY THE BRIDEGROOM).

- A. She was the most beautiful girl in the world (1:8).
- B. She was like a bouquet of flowers in a garden (1:14).
- C. Her eyes were as soft as doves (1:15).
- D. She was as a lily among the thorns as compared to his other wives (2:2).
- E. Her hair fell across her face like flocks of goats which frisked across the slopes of Gilead (4:1).
- F. Her teeth were as white as sheep's wool (4:2).
- G. Her lips were like a thread of scarlet (4:3) and made of honey (4:11).
- H. Her neck was as stately as the Tower of David (4:4).
- I. Her bosom was as twin fawns of a gazelle, feeding among the lilies (4:5).
- J. She was like a lovely orchard, bearing precious fruit (4:12-13).
- K. She was as a garden fountain, a well of living water, refreshing as the streams from the Lebanon mountains (4:15).
- L. Her thighs were like jewels, the work of the most skilled of craftsmen (7:1).
- M. Her navel was as lovely as a goblet filled with wine (7:2).
- N. Her waist was like a heap of wheat set about with lilies (7:2).

- O. Her nose was shapely like the Tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus (7:4).
- P. He was completely overcome by a single glance of her beautiful eyes (4:9).

III. THE BRIDEGROOM OF THE STORY (AS DESCRIBED BY THE BRIDE).

- A. He was as swift as a young gazelle leaping and bounding over the hills (2:8-9).
- B. He was ruddy and handsome, the fairest of ten thousand (5:10).
- C. His head was as purest gold, covered by wavy, raven hair (5:11).
- D. His eyes were as doves beside the water brooks, deep and quiet (5:12).
- E. His cheeks were like sweetly scented beds of spice (5:13).
- F. His lips were as perfumed lilies and his breath like myrrh (5:13).
- G. His arms were as round bars of gold set with topaz (5:14).
- H. His body was bright ivory encrusted with jewels (5:14).
- I. His legs were pillars of marble set in sockets of finest gold, like cedars of Lebanon (5:15).