

Episode #406 – Song of Solomon 2: The Country Girl Kidnapped!

I. The “Song of Solomon” is written in the form of a drama in five acts. It tells a story about a love triangle between a country girl, her country boy lover to whom she is betrothed, and Solomon, who tries to steal her away from him. In it we see an example of the kind of love and loyalty we should have toward God, and of the kind of love He has for us.

II. Beginning Act 1. Song of Solomon 1:1-8. The Country Girl Kidnapped!

- A. V.1. The greatest of all songs (we will see what this means) for Solomon. A rebuke to Solomon for polygamy, showing him what he is missing.
- B. V.2. We see that this is in the form of a play script, but with only the dialogue, no stage direction. This makes it somewhat difficult to figure out what is going on. We will attempt to gather everything from what is said. Solomon is returning to Jerusalem from one of his many weddings. Along the way he saw and fell for an Israelite country girl, whom he has taken into his train. She is betrothed (engaged to be married) to a country boy who is a shepherd, and has no desire to marry Solomon. Someone offers the Shulamite wine to calm her down. She would rather have her beloved’s kisses.
- C. V.3. She remembers fondly her beloved. She is confident Solomon’s ladies in waiting would love him if they saw him, just as she does.
- D. V.4. She wishes her beloved would come and they could flee from Solomon together. Solomon has taken her into his inner chambers. Some of the court ladies are sympathetic and rejoice in such love. They are upright to do so.
- E. V.5. Some of Solomon’s ladies from Jerusalem look down on her because she is black. Tents of Kedar were always black. Solomon’s curtains were lovely.
- F. V.6. She is “black” because she has been out in the sun (“black” means suntanned). Her brothers (“mother’s sons” in a society with polygamy probably means NOT half-brothers) were angry with her and made her keeper of the vineyards (she had to be outside). This was unkind. She had her own vineyard, but couldn’t keep it.
- G. V.7. She wishes she knew where her beloved is keeping his sheep (and wishes to send word to him).
- H. V.8. The court ladies ironically suggest that she go where the shepherds are.

III. Song of Solomon 1:9-11. The First Encounter Between the Girl and Solomon

- A. V.9. Solomon enters and speaks to the Shulamite. He compares her to a mare or filly in Pharaoh’s chariots. (Remember that Solomon got chariots from Egypt.)
- B. V.10. He praises her loveliness in all the gold and jewels he has given her. He is tempting her with the lust of the eyes (I John 2:16).
- C. V.11. His courtiers promise more rich decorations if she will marry Solomon.

IV. Conclusion: Solomon, returning to Jerusalem from one of his many weddings, happens to meet a country girl and falls for her beauty, taking her into his caravan. She is not happy, however, for she is betrothed to a country boy, and longs for him. She resists Solomon’s advances, and longs only for her shepherd. Are we as loyal to our heavenly Lover as she?