

## Episode #4-08 Song of Solomon 4: The Courtship

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. Last time, we saw that Solomon had seen the country girl and fallen for her, taking her into his train as he is heading back for Jerusalem. Her shepherd hears of what has happened to her and follows Solomon’s caravan, somehow attaining an interview with her. She swears her loyalty to him in spite of Solomon’s advances, and they praise each other.

III. Finishing Act 1. Song of Solomon 2:5-7. The Girl and the Court Ladies Again.

- A. V.5. Overcome by love-sickness, she asks for grape-cakes and apples (or the Hebrew might mean oranges?) to refresh herself.
- B. V.6. She imagines resting in his embrace.
- C. V.7. The court ladies try to excite her passions for Solomon, but she charges them not to do so. She charges by the wild animals. Not until love pleases! End Act 1.

IV. Beginning Act 2. Song of Solomon 2:8-14. Love in the Springtime.

- A. V.8. She tells a story. The past spring she was in her house, and heard her beloved’s voice outside. She romantically describes his coming as leaping upon the mountains and hills.
- B. V.9. He is like a gazelle or a young deer. Then he stands behind their wall. He is looking into the windows through the lattice to try to catch a glimpse of her.
- C. V.10. He calls to her to rise up and come out and come away with him.
- D. V.11. They have been separated by the winter rains, but now these are gone.
- E. V.12. The flowers are appearing on the land, the birds are singing, and the turtledove has migrated back to the land from its winter home.
- F. V.13. The figs are ripening on the trees, the grape blossoms are sending forth a lovely smell, also signs of spring. Thus he urges her again to arise and come away with him. He probably knows that she loves all these things, and uses them to entice her.
- G. V.14. He describes her like a dove hiding among the rocks. She is shyly standing partially hidden by the stairs or a wall or some such thing. He wants to hear her sweet voice and see her beautiful face.

V. Song of Solomon 2:15-17. The Opposition of Her Brothers.

- A. V.15. Her brothers (or half-brothers) step in. They are in charge since her father is dead. The bridal price has already come in, and all that happens now is that the dowry she receives is to go out. They fear scandal if their little sister is to go gallivanting around the countryside with her young lover. Thus, they refuse to let her go, and send her instead on an errand to catch the little foxes who are spoiling their grapes.
- B. V.16. She sadly goes about her task as her beloved returns to his sheep among the lilies. We would imagine forlorn music playing at this point. She comforts herself that they are legally bound, and so will be married someday.
- C. V.17. She send him word to come to her before morning, calling upon him to be like a swift gazelle or young deer to come to her across the mountains of Bether (meaning Separation).

VI. Song of Solomon 3:1-5. The Date.

- A. V.1. That night she waited on her couch for him to come to her whom her soul (emotions and desires) loved so well, but though she waited long, he did not come. Perhaps her brothers had managed to foil their intended meeting.
- B. V.2. She finally gets up and goes around the city looking for him. She searches the streets and the broad ways, but still cannot find him.
- C. V.3. The city watchmen discover her, perhaps wondering what she is doing wandering the city at night. She asks them if they have seen her beloved.
- D. V.4. She had scarcely left them when she finally found her beloved. She held unto him and would not let him go. She brought him to her mother's house and into her mother's chamber.
  - 1. She made her mother her accomplice. If there was one place her brothers wouldn't intrude, it was into their mother's chamber.
  - 2. She also made her mother her chaperone. Her brothers were not the only ones who cared about her reputation. She may be in love, but she still cares about purity, and is not willing to be in a compromising situation alone with her beloved at night. A lesson for today!
- E. V.5. She ends by repeating her charge to the court-ladies not to try to stir up her passions for Solomon, for her love is pleased to wait for her shepherd boy. End Act 2.

VII. Conclusion: The Song of Solomon presents to us a picture of the kind of love that God always intended between a man and woman. She is faithful to her love, and not interested in a "better offer." If only Israel had been as faithful to their God! They do not allow opposition to push them into doing things the wrong way. Even though they want to be together, they are interested in purity, reputation, and doing the right thing. These are all lessons that young people, and really all people, in our society could use to learn today.