

Episode #4-09 Song of Solomon 5: The Return of Solomon

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. She remained loyal to her shepherd boy lover, and recalled to the court ladies events from their courtship.

III. Beginning Act 3. Song of Solomon 3:6-11. Solomon’s Courtly Procession Arrives Back at Jerusalem.

- A. V.6. A citizen of Jerusalem sees a cloud of dust like a pillar of smoke coming up from the wilderness, and wonders who it is who is coming to the city? A great odor of perfume accompanies the procession.
- B. V.7. Another Jerusalemite spots the litter or sedan chair of Solomon. Sixty of Israel’s most valiant men are around it, accompanying the king.
- C. V.8. These mighty men all bear swords, at which they are experts, wearing them on their thighs to guard the king from danger in the nights.
- D. V.9. A third Jerusalemite notices Solomon’s palanquin, made of the wood of Lebanon (the forest in northern Israel and Syria. Much of the temple wood was from here).
- E. V.10. The support poles are of silver, its support is of gold, and its seat is of purple cloth, checkered with love for the king by the daughters of Jerusalem.
- F. V.11. A fourth Jerusalemite calls on the citizens to go out and meet the caravan. He is wearing a new crown, with which his mother crowned him on his latest wedding day. Notice what no one comments on: the new queen being brought to her new home. Every bride should be noticed in her own bridal procession, but Solomon has made a new bride as special as a new cow!

IV. Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1. The Girl and the Shepherd Meet in Jerusalem.

- A. V.1. The shepherd gains an interview with her again in Jerusalem. He praises her beauty. Her eyes are white like a dove behind her veil. Her hair is like goats springing down.
- B. V.2. As a shepherd boy, his comparisons come from nature and sheep.
- C. V.3. He compares her lips to scarlet thread, praises her mouth and her cheeks.
- D. V.4. He compares her neck to the tower of David. He saw this in Jerusalem.
- E. V.5. He praises her breasts, comparing them to deer.
- F. V.6. She replies. She implores her shepherd to stay with her until morning.
- G. V.7. He praises her once again. He sees no defilement in her.
- H. V.8. He is confident that she will escape eventually, and be able to come with him. He calls her his “betrothed” (not his spouse). He gives these names to Jerusalem and Solomon’s royal house. Lebanon is a forest. Amanah (Support) is a mountainous area from which a river flows. Shenir (Snow Mountain) is the Amorite name for Mount Hermon (A Sanctuary). The lions and leopards would be the king and his men.

V. Conclusion: Conclusion: Solomon’s shameless polygamy has removed the specialness of marriage, wifehood, and queenship from Israel. Do we value marriage and the glory of being a wife? The girl’s shepherd betrothed risks himself to come to her and praises her. Do we long for our Shepherd Lord to come to us the same way?