

## Episode #411 Song of Solomon 7: The Tempter Arrives

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 took the country girl back to Jerusalem. She remained loyal to her shepherd boy lover and the vows she had taken to him. Last time, she had just related a dream wherein her worst nightmare was her beloved coming to her and her forgetting her care for him until it was too late and she missed him.

III. Continuing Act 4. Song of Solomon 5:8-16. The Girl Describes Her Shepherd to the Court Ladies.

- A. V.8. She charges the court ladies, if they find her shepherd, to tell him she is love-sick
- B. V.9. They wonder if her beloved can be so special? She did not seem to think so in her dream. These are probably some of the less sympathetic court ladies.
- C. V.10. He is one in ten thousand. Hebrew “signalized as by a banner.”
- D. V.11. She describes his body parts. Gold symbolized excellency and beauty. His hair is wavy or curly. Jet black was a highly prized color.
- E. V.12. Compares his eyes to deep blue or grey doves bathing in milk. Set like jewels.
- F. V.13. Compares his cheeks growing a beard to a bed growing spices. His lips she compares to the crown imperial lily of a deep red color. Myrrh is a perfume.
- G. V.14. Compares his fingers to golden cylinders, his nails to inlaid gems. His skin is like white ivory overlaid with a blue tunic like sapphire.
- H. V.15. His legs on his feet are like marble columns on golden bases. His entire aspect is like the forest of Lebanon, beautiful and majestic with the finest cedars.
- I. V.16. She finishes with his sweet voice, sums him up as fervently desired by her, her beloved and her friend. Surely the daughters of Jerusalem must be impressed by this passionate description! Could we describe our Beloved Lord Jesus Christ and explain why He means so much to us if we were challenged like this?
- J. C.6.V.1. The court ladies seem impressed. They wonder where he has gone?
- K. V.2. She responds vaguely that he has returned to his fields and shepherding. She probably doubts their motives, and does not want to give away his location.
- L. V.3. She repeats her dedication, and that he feeds his sheep among lilies.

IV. Song of Solomon 6:4-7:10. The Showdown With Solomon.

- A. V.4. Solomon enters the scene to tempt her once again. Tirzah (Delightful) was a pleasant city that later became capital of the northern kingdom for a time. Jerusalem was at the height of its beauty during Solomon’s reign. “Awesome” means “awe-inspiring” as an army marching with their banners.
- B. V.5. He acts like he can’t stand her gaze anymore. It has taken him by storm. He compares her hair to goats leaping down from the mountains of Gilead.
- C. V.6. He uses similar language to her shepherd (4:3), “flocks” not “ewes.”
- D. V.7. Again, these words are similar to what her shepherd said. This is not impossible if these were common phrases of endearment at the time.
- E. V.8. Solomon admits that he has 60 queens and 80 concubines already, and he might yet marry virgins without number! (We know he got to 700 and 300).

F. V.9. But she, he says, is unique. Complete nonsense and flattery, of course, but some girls would be taken in by it. He says the queens and concubines praise her. Perhaps he is suggesting he might make her the highest queen, with her child as the heir to the throne? If so, this must be his trump card that he figured would win her heart for certain. He probably does not believe that she is really this loyal, and is just holding out for more. By saying this, he tempts her with the “pride of life,” I John 2:16.

G. V.10. The words Solomon suggests for the other queens praising her.

V. Conclusion: The Shulamite describes her beloved in glowing detail when called upon to do so. Can we describe our Lord with the same passionate fervor? The tempter comes to her. Having already tempted her with the lust of the eyes (1:10-11), he now tempts her with the pride of life. Would we stand up to the enemy’s temptations? If he promised us riches and the world, would we trade in our Lord for them, or would we stay loyal? That is a question we all need to answer for ourselves.