

Episode #412 Song of Solomon 8: The Showdown

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 described in glowing detail her beloved shepherd. Then, Solomon came to her as the tempter, seeking to pull her away from him. He implies that she might become the greatest of all the queens if she marries him.

III. Continuing Act 4. Song of Solomon 6:4-7:10. The Showdown With Solomon.

- A. V.11. She refers back to when they met. She had innocently gone into a garden to examine the nuts, grapevines, and pomegranates. She had had no idea that the king was there, or that she might meet Solomon in the garden.
- B. V.12. Before she realized it, she had come upon the chariots of the noble people of her land (the meaning of “Ammi-nadib”).
- C. V.13. Having explained that her meeting with Solomon was a mistake, she tries to leave the room. However, Solomon calls her back, saying he wants to gaze on her. She wonders what he wants to see by gazing on the Shulamite? This is where we get our only name for her. Shulamite = “The Perfect” or “The Peaceful.” He says what he wants to see is like the view of Mahanaim, apparently an overlook with an extremely beautiful view.
- D. C.7.V.1. He again flatters her. Shoes = sandals. Prince’s daughter = noble maiden. He describes her thighs as like the work of “hands of steadiness” (for a skilled workman). Now he is tempting her with the “lust of the flesh,” I John 2:16.
- E. V.2. He praises her navel like a goblet with spiced wine, her belly like a heap of wheat set about with lilies. He is outdoing himself in flattering her.
- F. V.3. This is the same poetic figure for breasts that we saw her shepherd use. Probably a typical one for the time.
- G. V.4. He compares her neck to an ivory tower. Her eyes are like the fishpools of Heshbon (Stronghold,) a city east of Jordan where Sihon king of the Amorites had his capital. The gate of Bath-rabbim (Daughter of Multitudes) was apparently by these fishpools. No doubt Solomon has been there. It is doubtful that any of us would flatter a woman by comparing her nose to a tower, but this apparently was fine at the time. Lebanon was in Phoenicia, west of Syria, whose capital was Damascus.
- H. V.5. He compares her head to the beautiful Mount Carmel (Garden-Land). He compares her hair to purple cloth, the royal color. He is “captivated by the ringlets.”
- I. V.6. He is speaking of love abstractly, not of her as his “love.” He calls love fair and charming among delightful things, trying to stir her up to desire him.
- J. V.7. He compares her to a palm tree, and her breasts to clusters of grapes.
- K. V.8. He wishes to go to the palm tree and take hold of its boughs (meaning her). Her breasts will be like clusters of grapes and her smell like apples (anticipating making love to her).
- L. V.9. He compares her palate to the best wine. She interrupts. This wine is for her beloved, and goes down for him.

M. V.10. She is forced to play her last card. She belongs to her beloved, since they have consummated their relationship. His desire is towards her, and she wants to return it and go to him.

N. Solomon has probably exited in great anger, and she is left to wait in nervous anticipation. She has refused the king. What will happen to her now?

IV. Conclusion: King Solomon, the clever tempter, tries to win the Shulamite girl with the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and the lust of the flesh. Yet when tempted, this simple country girl is not swayed. Why does she not fall, like the first queen of the human race, Eve, did before her? Answer: her love for her shepherd. Love is the way to overcome temptation. Do we love our beloved Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, so much that no temptation the tempter might bring could ever sway us?