

Episode #414 – Song of Solomon 10: The Lord’s Fire

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, our heroine had at last been released from captivity in Solomon’s court and allowed to go back home with her beloved shepherd, who was now her husband. She, the happy bride, returns home on the arm of her beloved. Now, in her words, we learn the theme of the book and the great lesson that makes this the Song of songs.

III. Song of Solomon 8:5-7. The Lovers Return Home.

- A. V.6. She urges him to set her like a signet ring upon her heart (like a wedding ring.) Love is as strong as death (never letting go.) Jealousy is inexorable as the grave. This is one of the themes of the book.
 - 1. “Jealousy” here means the desire for marital exclusivity.
 - 2. Love is again like fire. The “most vehement flame” is Hebrew *shalhebeth-yah*, or “flames of Yah” (short for Yahweh.) This is the one place the Lord’s name appears in this book. Love is from God, I John 4:7-8.
 - 3. Love and the desire for marital exclusivity is the LORD’s fire, and Solomon has extinguished it! In the same way, Solomon would soon extinguish God’s exclusivity, when he made idols for his many foreign wives.
- B. V.7. Earthly powers cannot quench love. Solomon had offered all the considerable substance of his house in exchange for love, and it was utterly despised. This is the meaning of the name of this book.
 - 1. This might have been a very stirring song, if we had the music. Yet what the title means is that LOVE is the Song of songs.
 - 2. Love between a man and a woman is a picture of love between God and His people. His love truly is the greatest of all songs!

IV. Song of Solomon 8:8-12. The Shulamite and Her Brothers.

- A. V.8. Going back in time to before she hit puberty. Her brothers, finding themselves in charge of their little sister at their father’s death, wonder what to do to care for her.
- B. V.9. If she is a wall (keeping trespassers out) they will enrich her. Women wore a horn on their heads over which the veil was hung. If she is a door (letting anyone in) they will shut her up with plain boards. A nice way to put it on her, when training her in purity is now supposed to be their job!
- C. V.10. She was told of this arrangement, and now, returning triumphant, she proclaims herself the wall, and now a woman matured. She gives the reason she is a wall. She tells how she had found favor in his (Solomon’s) eyes.
- D. V.11. Solomon had a vineyard (harem?) at Baal-hamon (Lord of Abundance, perhaps for the many women there?) The keepers bring a thousand pieces of silver (the dowry for a bride of Solomon? And perhaps a reference to his thousand wives.) Or this could be a literal vineyard he offered her.
- E. V.12. Her vineyard (her shepherd) is hers alone, and she shares him with no other woman. Solomon may keep his thousand wives, and his keepers their two hundred (indicating polygamy among his nobles?)

V. Song of Solomon 8:13-14. The Shulamite and Her Shepherd Together.

- A. V.13. The shepherd speaks to his love, dwelling among the gardens, not the palaces of Jerusalem. His companions are listening to her voice, and he asks her to let him hear it. He wants more than to hear her speak, but to hear her speak of her love for him. If asked, could you speak of your love for your Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ?
- B. V.14. She lets him hear it, and owns him as her one and only beloved. He is to ever hurry to her side over the mountains of spices (delights), and no longer the mountains of Bether (separation). So the couple ends in wedded bliss; together at last in their beloved country life; settled together with the promised funds from her brothers; leaving Solomon, his wealth, and his wiles behind.

VI. Conclusion: In this section, we see the themes of the book. Love and the desire for marital exclusivity are a fire that the LORD Himself lights. All the substance of a man's house is despised next to love. Solomon had despised both marital exclusivity, and exclusivity in his worship of God. Let us ever keep our love unmixed, both when it comes to our spouses, and especially when it comes to our God. That is the great lesson of the Song of songs.