

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

OT Survey Lesson 304—Song of Solomon 1:1-3:5

Introduction: In this lesson we are able to see the struggle going on in the heart of Shulammitte as she faces the encouragement of Solomon and his court to become his wife and as she reflects upon the relationship she has with her beloved shepherd.

Lesson aim: To see what characteristics make a couple desire to be with one another.

Shulammitte and court ladies in the royal tent—1:2-8

1. For what does Shulammitte long? (v. 2) Why? What other features of her “beloved” does she mention? (v. 3) How does this cause the maidens to feel about him?
2. What does she urge him to do? (v.4) What occasion prompts this longing?
3. In contrast, what do the court ladies say about Solomon? (4b)
4. How does Shulammitte describe her appearance? (v. 5) What explanation does she offer for it? (v. 6)
5. What does she want to know about “her beloved”? (v. 7) She wants to know where he is so that she will not have to do what?

Solomon and Shulammitte in the Royal Tent—1:9-2:7

1. What does Solomon (or his royal attendants) urge her to do? (v. 8)
2. How does Solomon describe Shulammitte? (v. 9-10) What do the court ladies promise to do to enhance her beauty? (v. 11)
3. What experience does Shulammitte recall? (v. 12) What did it prompt her to say

about her “beloved”? (v. 13-14)

4. What does she envision him saying to her? (v. 1 5) How does she respond? (1:16-2:1) How does he counteract her modest view of herself? (2:2)
5. How did Shulammitte further describe her beloved? (2:3) What did she say he had done? (v. 4) This experience in her imagination causes her to do what? (2:5-6)
6. What does she urge the daughters of Jerusalem not to do? (2:7)

First Song of Shulammitte (Reminiscence of her Lover’s visit)—2:8-17

1. How does Shulammitte describe her beloved? (2:8-9) What appeals did he make for her to come with him? (2:10-13) What made Shulammitte attractive to him? (2:14)
2. What was the shepherd asked to do? (2:15) How did she feel about her beloved? (2:16) What does she urge him to do? (2:17)

In a dream Shulammitte seeks and finds her lover—3:1-5

1. What did Shulammitte dream that she was doing? (3:1) Was she successful at first? (3:2)
2. When she later found her beloved what did she do? (3:3-4)
3. This dream causes her again to say what to the daughters of Jerusalem? (3:5)