

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

OT Survey Lesson 305—Song of Solomon 3:6-6:3

Introduction: In this section we see Shulammitte being taken to the palace of Solomon where he continues his efforts to persuade her to marry him. She is able now to see the pomp and grandeur of Solomon's way of life and residence. Yet her feelings for her "beloved" are only magnified by these experiences; and her anxiety in being separated from him increases.

Lesson aim: To show that true love is not based on fame or fortune.

The royal procession entering Jerusalem—3:6-11

1. What do the people see coming up from the wilderness? (v. 6) Describe the mighty men that surround it? (v. 7-8)
2. Describe the sedan chair of Solomon who rides in the procession (v. 9-10).
3. What are the daughters of Jerusalem encouraged to do? (v. 11)
4. (Thought question) What impact would such an experience have on a woman like Shulammitte?

Solomon continues to encourage Shulammitte to marry him, 4:1-5:1

1. Read Solomon's lavish compliments to Shulammitte (v. 1-6) What is the nature of his appeal to her?
2. Compare the shepherd's speech to Shulammitte (v. 7-15) with Solomon's? Does it have similar appeals? Do you notice any differences in his approach? What terms does the shepherd use in addressing Shulammitte? What about her does he find attractive? Does he respect her moral purity?
3. How does the Shulammitte respond to the shepherd's tender language? (v. 16) How does the poem portray the shepherd's enjoyment of his true

love? (5:1) Is such a relationship encouraged by those who are aware of their relationship?

Second dream of Shulammitte and conversation which followed, 5:2-6:3

1. How does Shulammitte communicate the idea that she was dreaming? (5:2) What is her “beloved” imagined to be doing?
2. Does she immediately arise to receive him? (v. 3) Why not?
3. When Shulammitte changes her mind, what does she discover? (v. 4-6) How is she treated by those she meets in the streets? (v. 7)
4. What does this dream cause her to say to the daughters of Jerusalem? (v. 8)
5. What question do the daughters of Jerusalem ask? (v. 9) How does Shulammitte answer their question? (v. 10-16) What are her beloved’s features that make him attractive to her? Are her thoughts of him physical, spiritual, or both?
6. How do the daughters of Jerusalem respond to this description? (6:1) How does Shulammitte answer? (v. 2) Does she consider him available to all women who might seek his love? (6:3)