

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

OT Survey Lesson 306—Song of Solomon 6:4-8:14

Introduction: If our approach to this study is correct, then Shulammitte rejects the wealth and prestige of marriage to Solomon in order that she might marry her beloved shepherd. Consequently the song celebrates the power and beauty of true monogamous love.

Lesson aim: To show the power of true love over money, fame, or any other physical appeal.

Solomon's last effort in the palace to persuade Shulammitte to marry him—6:4-8:4

1. How does Solomon seek to win the love of Shulammitte (v. 4) What does he appeal to her to do? (v. 5) How does he further describe her appearance? (v. 6-7)
2. How many wives and concubines does Solomon have? (v. 8) Yet how does he regard Shulammitte? (v. 9) What did the queens and concubines say about her? (v. 10)
3. How does Shulammitte express the suddenness with which all of this has happened to her? (v. 11-12) Where does she now find herself?
4. Does it appear that Shulammitte stays in the palace with Solomon and his wives? (v. 13)
5. How do the ladies of the royal palace seek to persuade her to stay there? (7:1-5) How did they say the king felt about her?
6. How does Solomon make his last appeals for her to consent to a relationship with him? (7:6-9)
7. How does she respond to these overtures? (9b) What does she say that indicates to whom she is willing to give herself in marriage? (v. 10)
8. What does she imagine her shepherd saying to her? (v. 11-12) How does she respond to him? (7:13-8:3)

9. This series of thoughts causes her to say what to the daughters of Jerusalem? (8:4)

The Shepherd-lover and the Shulammite approaching their mountain home—8:5-7

1. How is Shulammite pictured now? (v. 5) Compare with 3:6.
2. How does the shepherd speak of her? (v. 5) What does he ask her to do? (v. 6) Why?
3. What things does the shepherd affirm about true love? (v. 7)

The Bride and her brothers—8:8-14

1. What question or riddle do some brothers propose? (v. 8) How do they answer their question? (v. 9) What do you think this means?
2. How does Shulammite describe herself in terms of this riddle or question? (v. 10) What did this enable her to become?
3. What made it possible for Solomon to first see her? (v. 11) What financial arrangement did he have with the tenants?
4. However, Shulammite said “her own vineyard” was at whose disposal? (v. 12) What would she give to Solomon and to the workers in the vineyard?
5. What appeal does the shepherd make? (v. 13) How does Shulammite respond to him? (v. 14) How does this answer compare with what she had said to Solomon and the ladies of his court?