

# PERTH BIBLE CLASS - JAN 2005 TO MARCH 2005

## BRIDES IN SCRIPTURE

### THE SHULAMITE – STUDY 8

READING – Song of Solomon Ch 1 v 15 : 2 v 2 : 4 v 1 v 7 : 5 v 1 – 16

**Study Headings** – The Character of the Bride  
The Complacency of the Bride  
The Claims of the Bride.

**General Notes** – Song of Solomon is last of five books of poetry.  
Last of three books written by Solomon.  
In Proverbs he writes as a father  
In Ecclesiastes he writes as a preacher  
In S of S he writes as a king

#### Interpretation of the book

1. Allegorical – No literal characters – a picture of Jehovah and Israel
2. Typological – No literal characters – a picture of Christ and the Church
3. Anthology of love songs but no link to specific individuals
4. Three Character interpretation – a shepherd boy with his Shulamite girlfriend who is wooed by King Solomon
5. Literal love song between King Solomon and the Shulamite

For the purposes of our study we will accept the later interpretation.

#### Overview of the Song by Harry Ironside.

“ King Solomon had a vineyard in the hill country of Ephraim about 50 miles north of Jerusalem 8 v 11. He let it out to keepers 8 v 11 consisting of a mother, two sons 1 v 6 and two daughters – the Shulamite 6 v 13 and a little sister 8 v 8. The Shulamite was the Cinderella of the family 1 v 5 naturally beautiful but unnoticed. Her brothers were likely half brothers 1 v 6. They made her work very hard tending the vineyards so that she had little opportunity to care for her personal appearance 1 v 6. She pruned the vines and set traps for the little foxes 2 v 15. She also kept the flocks 1 v 8. Being out in the open so much she became sunburned 1 v 5.

One day a handsome stranger came to the vineyard. It was Solomon disguised. He showed an interest in her, and she became embarrassed concerning her personal appearance 1 v 6. She took him for a shepherd and asked about his flocks 1 v 7. He answered evasively 1 v 8 but also spoke loving words to her 1 v 8 – 10 and promised rich gifts for the future 1 v 11. He won her heart and left with the promise that some day he would return. She dreamed of him at night and sometimes thought he was near 3 v 1. Finally he did return in all his kingly splendour to make her his bride 3 v 6 – 7.

#### The Character of the Bride

**Her Beauty** – “Thou art fair “ Ch 1 v 15 (x2) and 4 v 1 suggest that the Shulamite had a physical beauty but Solomon adds “all” in 4 v 7 to indicate that there were other non physical beauties that attracted him.

When the Lord Jesus moved here on earth it is clear that there was no external beauty to mark him “no beauty that we should desire him” Isa. 53 v 2. However it is clear that those who companied with Him or listened to Him did find beauties to attract them to Christ.

Peter writing of sisters but equally applicable to brethren says “whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning” but rather “ the hidden man of the heart .... the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price” 1 Peter 3 v 3.

**Her Purity** – “as a lily” 2 v 2 and “there is no spot in thee” 4 v 7.

The Lord Jesus was “a lamb without blemish and without spot”

How necessary for us today “wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word” Psa 119 v 9.

**Her Integrity** – “dove’s eyes” 1 v 15 and 4 v 1 “speech is comely” 4 v 3.

She replicates the beauty of Solomon and can say of him “His eyes are as the eyes of doves” 5 v 12. Good if the beauties of Christ could be reflected in our lives from day to day. In the matter of our speech Paul will exhort “let your speech be always with grace seasoned with salt” Col 4 v 6.

**Her Fertility** – “flock of goats” 4 v 1 “flock of sheep” “every one bear twins and none is barren among them” 4 v 2.

The Lord Jesus would speak of his death and the fruit that would be borne as a result of this “except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die ... if it die it bringeth forth much fruit” John 12 v 24.

For us he taught the principal of the vine and the branches “beareth fruit” “more fruit” and “much fruit” John 15 v 2 & 4.

## **The Complacency of the Bride**

“I sleep” “I have put off my coat” “I have washed my feet” ch 5 v 2 & 3

The bridegroom had been away and in his absence she slept and when he returns she hears his voice and also the knock but these are her responses. Only when she sees his hand v 4 does she rise v 5 but he has withdrawn himself v 6.

In the time between conversion and the return of the Lord Jesus it is possible that we also can go to sleep. Perhaps even the attitude of managing without him may be taken.

In Matt 25 the parable of the ten virgins we often think of those who were foolish but it is clear that while they waited for the bridegroom both wise and foolish “all slumbered and slept” v 5

Disciples were found sleeping on the mount of transfiguration Luke 9 and again in the garden Matt 26. We also note that believers at Ephesus “left thy first love “ Rev 2 v 4 and those at Laodicea were “neither cold nor hot” 3 v 15. How easy to become complacent.

## **The claims of the Bride**

Ch 5 v 10 “White” – His purity also deity “Ruddy” – his humanity

“chiefest” – the standard bearer or gathering centre

Matt 18 v 20 “where two or three are gathered together unto me”

Gen 49 v 10 “unto him shall the gathering of the people be”

Ch 5 v 11 – “His Head” – **Gold** – Pre-eminence

Matt 21 v 42 “ The head of the corner”

Eph 5 v 23 “Christ is the head of the church”

Ch 5 v 14 – “His hands” – **Gold** – Power

John 10 v 29 “no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand”

Ch 5 v 15 – “sockets” (His feet) – **Gold** – Pathway

Luke 9 v 51 “He stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem”

Psa 37 v 23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord”