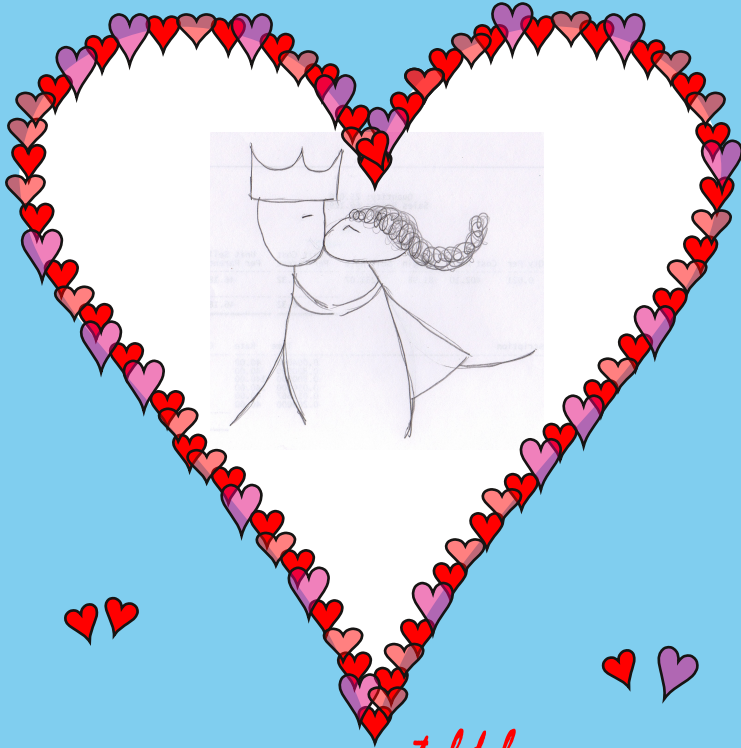


The Story of the



Song of Solomon



told by
Robert Prins

The Story of the Song of Solomon

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The Story of the Song of Solomon

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*To my beautiful wife, Sharon
I love you.*

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

EPHESIANS 5 v 25 - 28

***J*ntroduction**

The Song of Solomon can seem like a difficult book to understand. It is written as a song and a play all in one. It was probably one of the very first operas! One of the problems we have in reading the Song is that there are no stage directions, instruction or narration. All we have are the words that are being sung by who knows who. As a result, there are a lot of interpretations of the Song of Solomon and much confusion around it.

I have tried to look at the song to glean the story from it as we would if we were reading the script from a play or opera. If we can understand the story that is being sung and acted as we read it, then we will also be able to understand more of what the Song means to us in our relationships with our husbands and wives, and in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The key actors in this play are:

The Man (who I have called Solomon).

The Woman (who I have called Shulamith)

There are also the women of the court, a beautiful comment by God (in chapter 5 v 1), the city watchmen, and Shulamith's family.

I hope this story is one that captivates us all with the love of a man and a woman, and the perfect love of Christ for us.

*With love in our Lord,
Robert*

The Story of the Song of Solomon

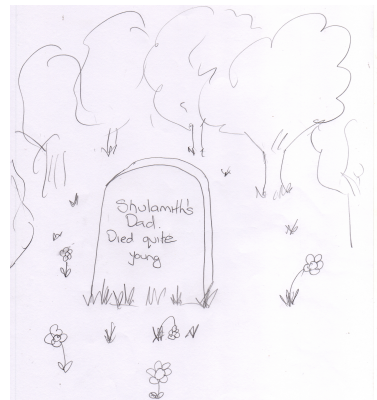
Shulamith's Early Years

Song 1

(Songs 1 v 1 – 8)

Shulamith's father died while he was quite young, and so Shulamith was brought up by her mother and brothers. (1 v 6, 8 v 2). She was the only daughter of her mother. (6 v 9).

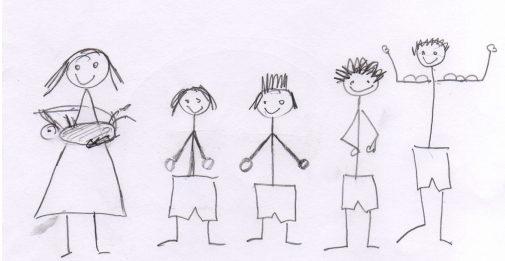
They lived on a piece of land in Baal Hamon leased from King Solomon. (8 v 11). On that land they grew a vineyard. (1 v 6).



SHULAMITH'S FATHER'S GRAVE

Though they were not so well off, they were determined to bring up Shulamith with the highest standards. They laid down strict rules for

THE STORY OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON



SHULAMITH, HER MOTHER AND BROTHERS

her – especially when it came to her relationships with then opposite sex. They had a saying they used as template for guiding her behaviour: “If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door

we will enclose her with panels of cedar.” (8 v 8 – 9). In other words, if she lived a life that was impenetrable to the seduction of alluring men, they would reward her with silver jewellery. But if she proved to be an open door to any man, they would lock her up.

As with any developing teenager, Shulamith tested the boundaries. Maybe she was caught chatting or flirting with some of the local boys, but whatever it was, she described the way her brothers treated her in her teenage years as almost opp
angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards. My own vineyard I have neglected.” (1 v 6).



They put her to work. Hard labour in the vineyards, away from the town. (1 v 6). Up before dawn, no

time to trim her nails or do her hair. The sun beat down on her all day, her hands grew hard, strong and dirty, her clothes were a pair of overalls rather than the dainty pink dresses all the girls in town were wearing, and her skin was tanned and maybe even burnt by the sun. Then as darkness fell she would head back home.

Yes, it kept her sexually pure, but she felt used by her brothers, unfairly treated. (1 v 6).

Solomon's Early Years

Solomon was conceived and born under an apple tree. (8 v 5). He was the son of King David and his mother was Bathsheba. Solomon was the son of David that had been promised who would build a house for the Lord.

At the end of David's life Solomon became king. Once he had established himself as king, Solomon built the temple of the Lord from the plans and materials left by David. Solomon travelled throughout his kingdom as he collected the revenue from his rented properties.



**BATHSHEBA WITH BABY SOLOMON
UNDER THE APPLE TREE**



COLLECTING THE DUES

On one occasion, while collecting his dues from a vineyard in Baal Hamon, he met a hardworking, young girl called Shulamith.

A Romance Begins

Songs 1 v 4 - 6

Even with her dirty hands, work clothes and sun-tanned features, there must have been an outstanding beauty about Shulamith. (1 v 5 – 6). Maybe it was because she was so good looking that her brothers became so protective of her. But before they could blink, Solomon and Shulamith had fallen in love.

The next thing she knew, in autumn that year, she found herself in the royal palace. (1 v 4 – 5).



**SHULAMITH'S FIRST TIME AT THE
PALACE**

A Day In The Palace

Songs 1 v 6 - 8

It only took a moment in the palace for her to realise that she didn't fit in. (1 v 6). All the women of the court kept staring down their noses at her. They all had the beautiful white skin of noble women, protected from the sun and the hard outdoor life. She felt so out of place. What was a simple, poor, sunburnt, country girl doing in a place like this?



SHULAMITH SURROUNDED BY THE PALACE WOMEN

Where was Solomon? In her desperation she called out, "Solomon, my love, where are you? (1 v 7). The women of the court answered her sarcastically, (1 v 8) and in the midst of their answer Solomon came for her.

A Rescue and a Banquet Song 2 Songs 1 v 9 - 2 v 7

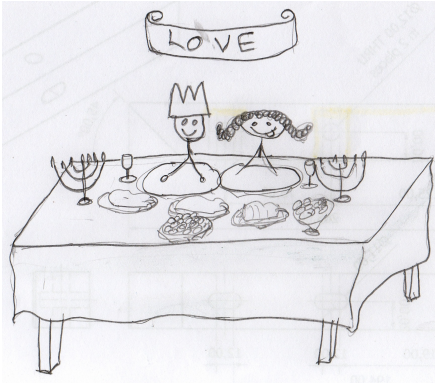
Solomon swept her out from the confines of the court and the stares of the women, into the palace grounds through the stables. As he did so he stilled her spirit with his presence and calming words. (1 v 9 – 11).

That evening on her first night in the palace, she dressed up in the finery she had been provided with, put on her best perfume, and dined with King Solomon. (1 v 12 – 14).



SHULAMITH AND SOLOMON OUT WALKING

On the following day Solomon and Shulamith went for a walk together. They strolled through fields and forest hand in hand, soaking up the beauty around them and the love they had for one another. (1 v 15 – 2 v 3). That evening Solomon put on a banquet. (2 v 4). It seemed everyone was there. This time the stares she got were not stares of distaste, but of admiration as she basked in the love and attention of King Solomon. (2 v 4). When she felt her knees were knocking with all the public attention, he supported and strengthen her. His love made her feel giddy with delight. (2 v 5 – 7).



Waiting

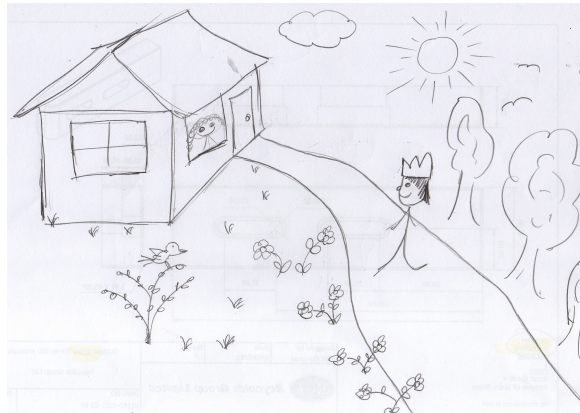
Song 3 Songs 2 v 8 - 17

All too soon, Shulamith was back home in the countryside. The time would come when Solomon would call for her again. She just had to wait. It would all happen in God's good time.

Winter passed, and then spring came. And then there he was! She glimpsed him outside the window. (2 v 8 – 9). He was at the door calling to her. “The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. ... Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me. Let's let nothing come between our relationship anymore.” (2 v 10 – 15).

Her reply was one that expressed her desire to hold him and claim him as hers. (2 v 16 – 17).

This was her moment. The preparations had been made. The wedding was imminent. Together they travelled back to Jerusalem.



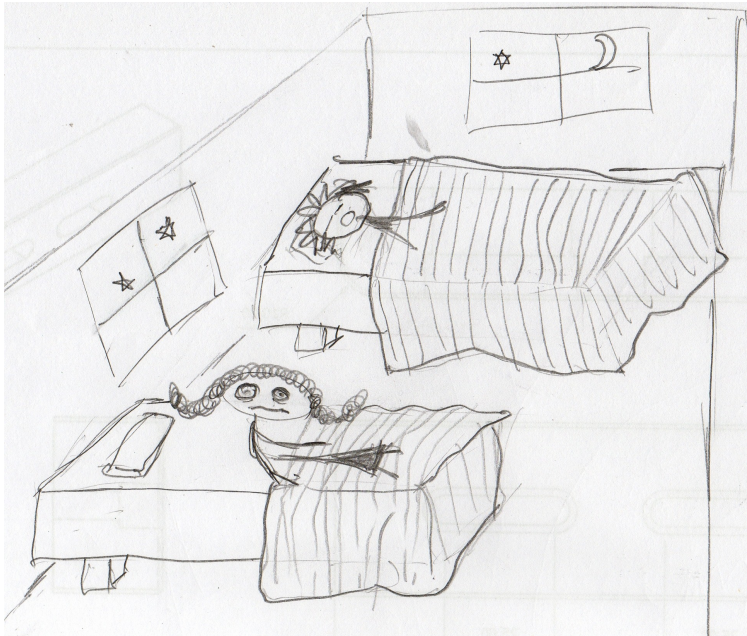
SOLOMON'S ARRIVAL AT THE COTTAGE

The Night Before the Wedding

*Song 4
Songs 3 v 1 - 5*

It was the night before the wedding. Solomon and Shulamith were both in Jerusalem. He was in the palace while she was staying in a house with her mother nearby. (3 v 4).

Shulamith couldn't sleep all night long. She tossed and turned. (3 v 1). She longed for Solomon to be with her and to comfort her like he had done in the past. But he was not there. The tugs on her heart strings grew so strong that she just had to get up and find him.



A RESTLESS NIGHT

THE STORY OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON

She ran out into the dark city streets trying to find the one her heart loved, not really knowing where to look. (3 v 2). The streets she thought she might have known were different in the dark.



LOST IN THE CITY AT NIGHT

Instead of finding Solomon, it was the city watchmen that found her. “Have you seen the one my heart loves?” she asked them. (3 v 3).

No sooner had she asked, then he came for her. He swept her away from the dangers of the city, and she took him back to the house where her mother was staying. (3 v 4). She held on to him and was comforted by his strong embrace.

As he left her that evening, she knew that he would come for her again. She must be patient. She slept.

The Wedding

Song 5 Songs 3 v 6 - 4 v 7

When she woke the next morning, it was the wedding day. From her window looking out into the desert, she saw what appeared to be a column of smoke coming toward her. (3 v 6). As it came nearer, she

realised that it was actually Solomon and his most noble warriors in a majestic wedding procession. (3 v 7 – 8).



SOLOMON ARRIVES FOR THE WEDDING

Solomon was in the midst of all his men in a glorious carriage of cedar, silver, gold, and purple, with beautiful mosaics of love decorating its interior. (3 v 9 – 10).

Solomon himself was dressed in his military uniform and wearing a wedding crown. (3 v 11).

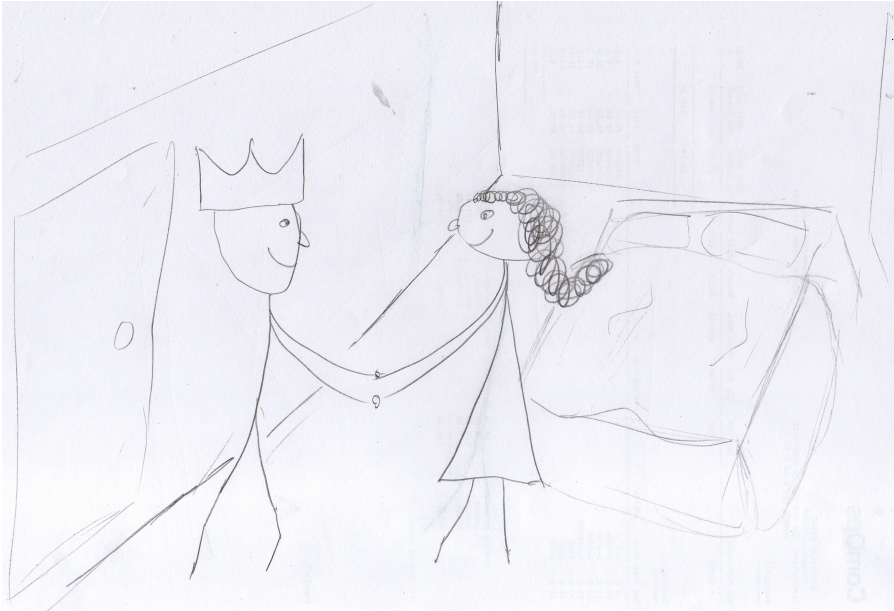
Shulamith was almost overwhelmed by the glory and strength shown by Solomon on the day of their wedding. It was Solomon's day of rejoicing. (3 v 11).

The Wedding Night

Songs 3 v 6 - 4 v 7

As night approached, Shulamith was eager to be alone with Solomon and to experience his kisses. She urged him to hurry to their room. (Songs 1 v 1 – 4).

For a young woman who has never been with a man, the first night together can be a nerve-racking experience. How do I look? Can I Please him? Will I live up to his expectations? This was especially so since she had just married the most powerful man in the world. But Solomon's loving praise-filled words put her at ease as he showed great delight in her body. His touch was gentle and patient. (4 v 1 – 7).

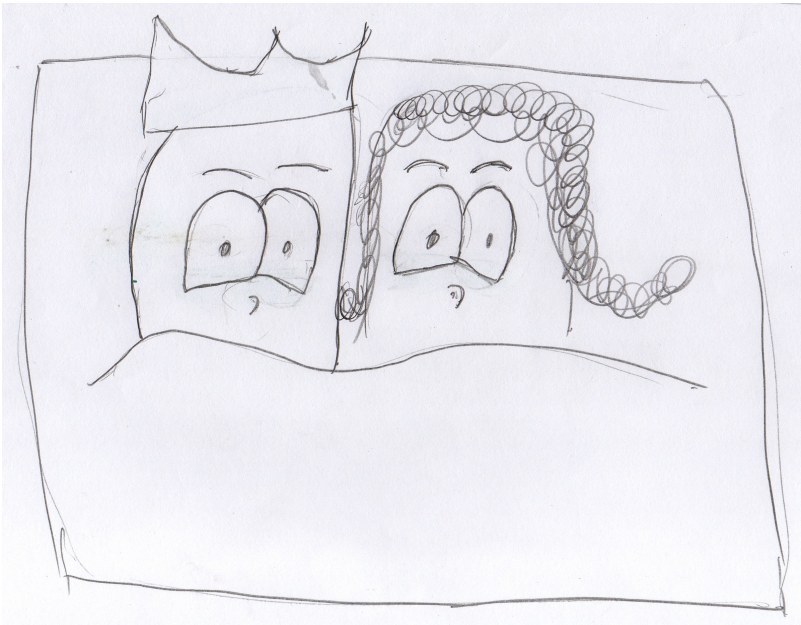


"YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, MY LOVE"

The Wedding Night **Continued**

Song 6
Songs 4 v 8 - 5 v 1

Shulamith was shyly quiet until Solomon's invitations, praise and the fullness of his love for her overflowed in her, and together, in a night of great passion, their marriage was consummated. (4 v 8 – 5 v 1).



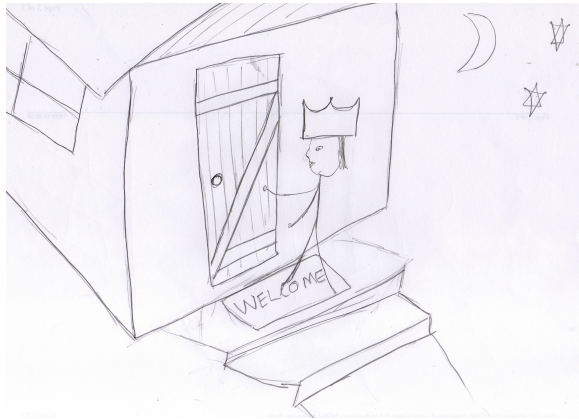
NO PHOTOS PLEASE!

Complacency

Song 7 Songs 5 v 2 - 6 v 10

No doubt Solomon and Shulamith enjoyed a beautiful honeymoon period filled with all the wonders of a young couple in love. The seasons rolled round and winter came again. As head of state, Solomon was often tied up with the country's affairs. The next scene in the story comes as Solomon worked late one night.

Shulamith had already washed, dressed herself in her night clothes, and put herself to bed. (5 v 3). As she drifted off into that time in between wake and dreams, she heard a knocking at the door. (5 v 2). It was him. He was late. She was tired, and it was cold out of bed.



SOLOMON ARRIVES HOME LATE

She would let him wait. Why should she get up and get cold and dirty just to let him in? (5 v 3).

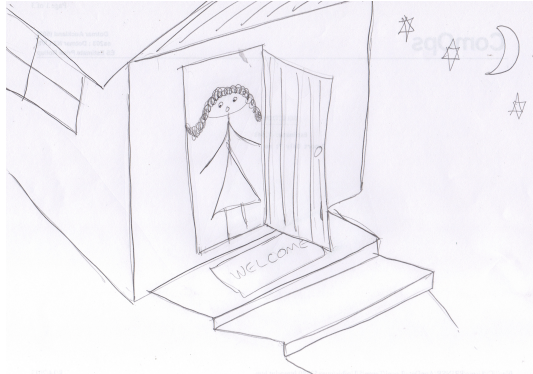
“Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one,” he called to her. (5 v 2).

She saw his hand come through the latch but he failed to undo the lock. (5 v 4). But when there was no response from her, he put a small gift just inside the door and left. (5 v 5).

Gone!

He had gone! She suddenly realised what she had done and what she had lost! Her heart was pounding. This time there was no hesitation. She jumped out of bed, threw open the door, but she was too late. (5 v 6).

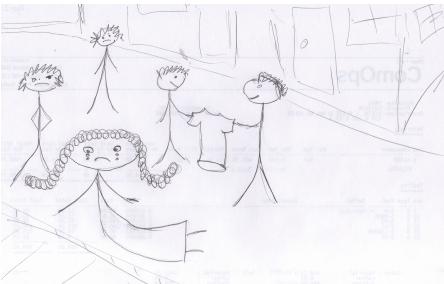
With her cloak wrapped around her, she left the warmth of her home to search for him. She ran, called and blindly raced through the city streets, but he was nowhere to be found.



HE'S GONE!

She was found, but it wasn't by him. The watchmen found her, and mistaking her for a prostitute, beat and bruised her and took away her cloak. (5 v 7).

Perhaps finally realising who she really was, they brought her back to the court of the women. In tears she pleaded for their help to find the one her heart loves. (5 v 8). Then



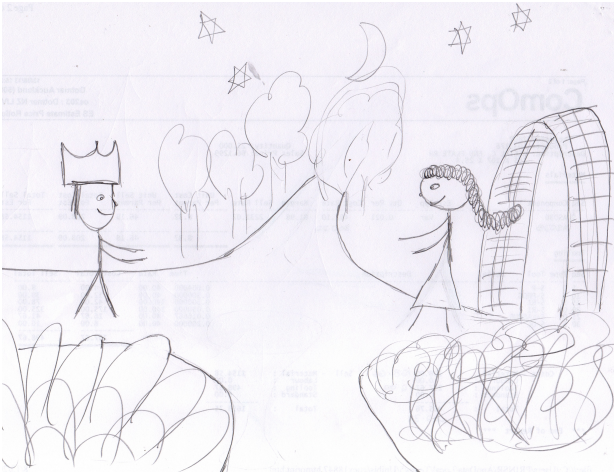
THE WATCHMEN

as they asked her to describe her love for him (5 v 9 – 16), and asked her where they should look, (6 v 1), she suddenly realised the one place she should have looked all along. He is in the garden! (6 v 2).

Reconciliation

As she paused at the gate to the garden in her search for him, he sensed her presence. He turned and saw her. It was as if he expected her to come. There were no words of anger on his lips. He spoke only words that would lift her up. He praised her beauty and her personality, but not in a sexual way. (6 v 4 – 9). He gave her his

gentle reassurance of his love.



IN THE GARDEN AT NIGHT

It had been a long night, a long search, and now a beautiful reunion. As she basked in the warmth of his love, the sun rose. (6 v 10).

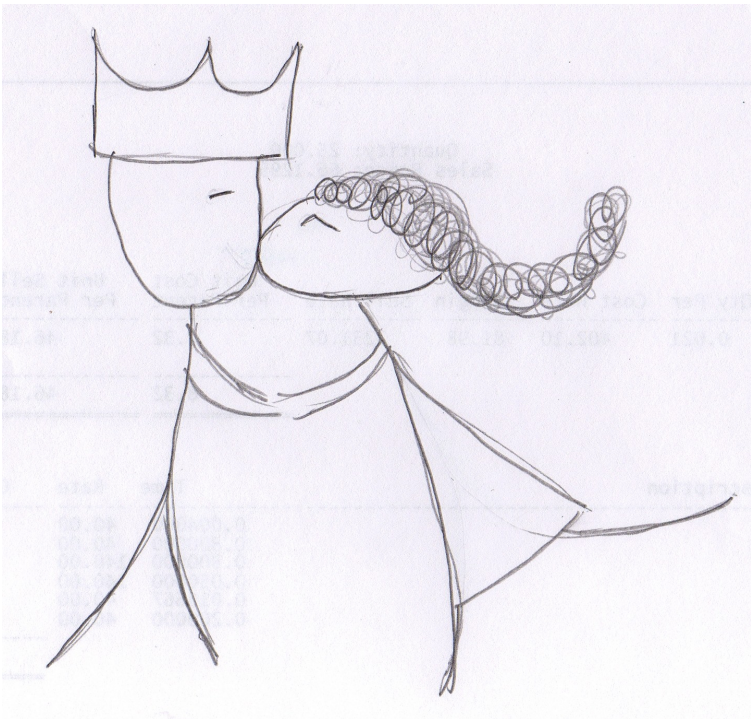
Before she knew it, she was sitting in Solomon's personal chariot, held close to the one she loved. Their love which had seemed as dark as the night for a moment, was now shining brightly like the sun.

On their way back to their room, they passed the court of the women. Having just asked them for their help, they all rejoiced with her, wanting to know all that had happened. (6 v 10).

Explanation

Song 8
Songs 6 v 11 - 13

Solomon and Shulamith gave the women of the court a brief outline of their reconciliation before the two of them playfully ran off to their private bedroom.



A LOVER'S KISS

Love Again

Song 9 Songs 6 v 11 - 13

The door is closed. Solomon and Shulamith are all alone. All the complacency and the wrongs of the past few hours have been forgiven. There is a new passion inside both of them. Their love is no longer old and tired, it is fresh and exciting.

I imagine them having run into the room, Solomon has shut the door, locked it, and with his back toward the door gazes lovingly at his beautiful wife. She dances a romantic dance of love for him.

His eyes begin at her feet and you can almost feel the excitement building as he lifts his eyes slowly up to her head and face, taking in her whole beautiful body, and then shifting his gaze and touch back to her breasts.

They kiss passionately and ... let's leave them there. (7 v 1 – 9).

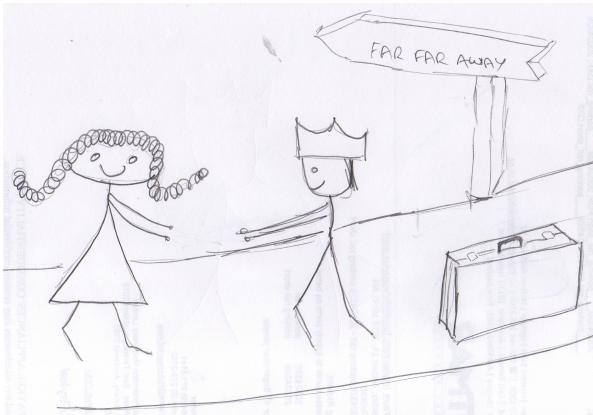


DO NOT DISTURB

Romantic Springtime Holiday

Song 10
Songs 7 v 10 - 8 v 4

When a beautiful relationship starts to go wrong, something needs to be done to revitalise it. Shulamith understood the importance of keeping love alive in their marriage, so she arranged a romantic holiday for the two of them.



SPRINGTIME HOLIDAY

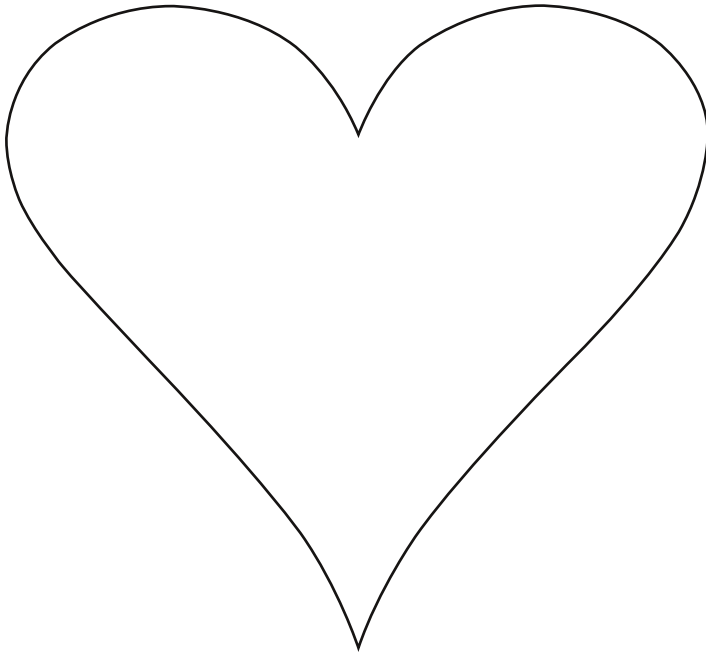
I can imagine her turning up at the office one lunch time with a romantic proposal for Solomon: "Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages ... There I will give you my love." (7 v 11 – 13).

It was an offer Solomon couldn't refuse. It was springtime when he had first invited her out to the countryside, and now she had arranged their second springtime weekend away. It was a time of love, talking and reminiscing as they strengthened their marriage bond. (8 v 1 – 4).

Commitment and Love

Song 11
Songs 8 v 5 - 7

On their return, Solomon and Shulamith reaffirmed their love and commitment to each other. (8 v 5 – 7).

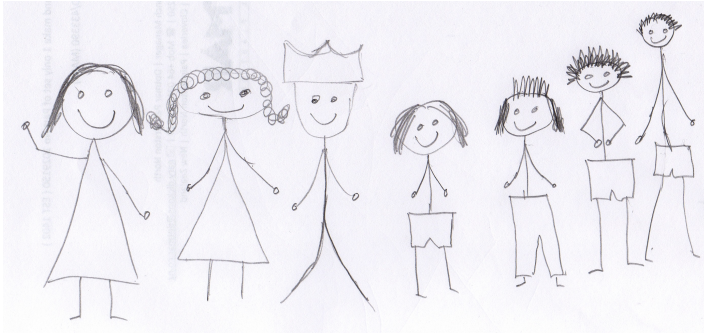


I GIVE YOU MY LOVE

Family Gathering

Song 12
Songs 8 v 8 - 14

In the final scene, perhaps their first wedding anniversary, Solomon and Shulamith have a family gathering with her mother and brothers. (5 v 8).



SULAMITH AND SOLOMON WITH HER MOTHER AND BROTHERS

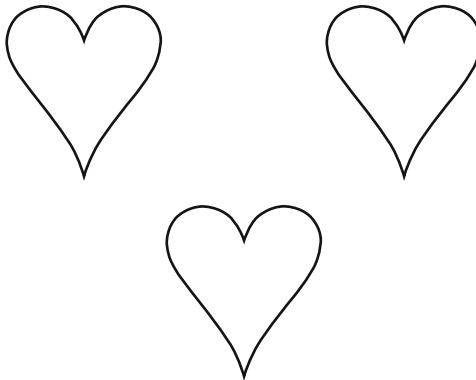
As families do, they talked about old times – the time when Shulamith was a young girl with no breasts, as her brothers described her, and how they had agreed to bring her up so that she would be pure and ready for her wedding day. (8 v 8 – 9).

She probably brought a shade of pink to the faces of her brothers when she proudly responded, “Now I am a wall and my breasts are like towers. Thus have I become in his eyes like one bringing contentment.” (8 v 10). Now that her own vineyard (her own body) was being taken care of, she was dedicating its fruit to Solomon. (8 v 12).

At the same time Shulamith also promised to reward her brothers for the way they had brought her up. (8 v 12).

Happily Ever After

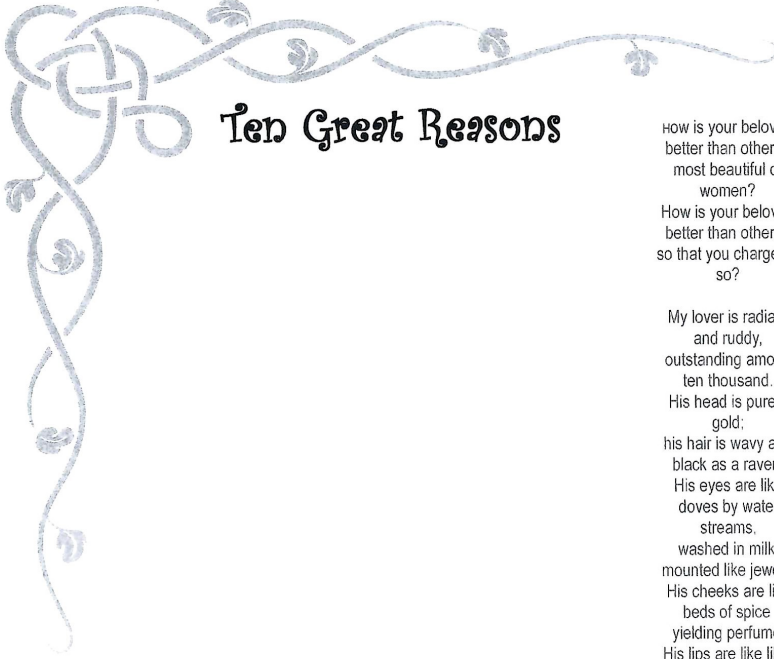
As night came and they retired to their room, Solomon expressed how he loved to hear her voice. (8 v 13). She responded by inviting to him to come away and be like a gazelle or a young stag in an evening of romance. (8 v 14).).



THE STORY OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON

As Shulamith described her lover to the women, she gave ten great reasons for her love.

Using the same principle, write down your ten great reasons for loving your spouse.



Ten Great Reasons

How is your beloved
better than others,
most beautiful of
women?

How is your beloved
better than others,
so that you charge us
so?

My lover is radiant
and ruddy,
outstanding among
ten thousand.

His head is purest
gold;

his hair is wavy and
black as a raven.

His eyes are like
doves by water
streams.

washed in milk,
mounted like jewels.

His cheeks are like
beds of spice
yielding perfume.

His lips are like lilies
dripping with myrrh.

His arms are rods of
gold

set with chrysolite.

His body is like
polished ivory
decorated with
sapphires.

His legs are pillars of
marble

set on bases of pure
gold.

His appearance is like
Lebanon,
choice as it's cedars.

His mouth is
sweetness itself;
he is altogether lovely.

This is my lover, this is
my friend,

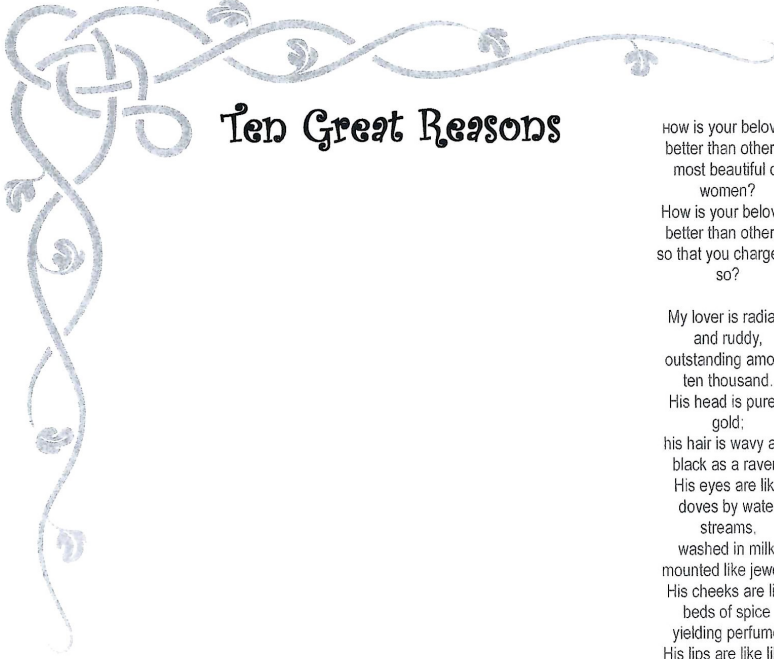
O daughters of
Jerusalem.

Songs 5 v 9 – 16.

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Songs 5 v 9 – 16.

Shulimith's Song

Verse 1

I am dark and sunburnt by the sun,
All the people stare at me
And I just want to run.
My mother's sons, they made me work
In the vineyards day and night,
I have no time for my own looks,
I must be a sight.

Chorus

But then he came for me, he believed in me,
He was everything I wanted him to be.
His words are loving, gentle kind,
Washing through my heart and mind;
I am his and he is mine
And in his love my life will shine.

Verse 2

All alone, the night before I wed
I tossed and turned and couldn't sleep
As I lay upon my bed.
Out into the streets I ran
To find the one I love
But I got lost and needed help,
Guidance from above.

Chorus

But then he came for me, he believed in me,
He was everything I wanted him to be.
His words are loving, gentle kind,
Washing through my heart and mind;
I am his and he is mine
And in his love my life will shine.

Verse 3

I was in bed when he knocked upon the door
I didn't want to face the cold,
Put my feet upon the floor;
But he was out, he was cold and wet
On the night I let him go.
He left a gift of love for me,
And then he had to go.

Chorus

But he had come for me, he believed in me,
He was everything I wanted him to be.
His words are loving, gentle kind,
Washing through my heart and mind;
I am his and he is mine
And in his love my life will shine.

Verse 4

I went to search for the one I'd lost;
Through the city streets I went
I had to pay the cost:
Beaten by the watchmen,
Then I called to friends for help.
I found him in the garden
He was waiting there for me.

Chorus

And he had stayed for me, he believed in me,
He was everything I wanted him to be.
His words are loving, gentle kind,
Washing through my heart and mind;
I am his and he is mine
And in his love my life will shine.

**A RECORDING AND CHORDS FOR SULAMITH'S SONG ARE AVAILABLE
AT: [HTTPS://THINKYTHINGS.COM/MUSIC/](https://thinkythings.com/music/)**

Other books by Robert Prins

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Thinky Things Volume 2
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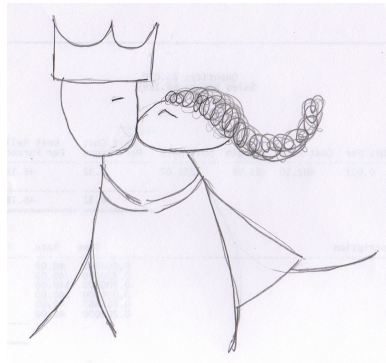
The Story of the Song of Solomon



This is the Song of Songs – the very best of Solomon's 1005 songs. It is the song written as he reached the climax of his spiritual journey in his amazing song of love.

On the surface it is the song of a couple in love, and so it is filled with inspiring lessons for our own relationships. He describes the picture of a beautiful, but plain, country girl, who blossoms under the love of the King.

But reading a little deeper, we can also see the depth of love Christ has for us, and how, with all our imperfections, his love develops our love to perfection. The love of the Bride for her King shows us the sort of love we should be showing both to Christ and to our spouse.



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