

# Rapture Prequels

## SOLOMON & THE SHULAMITE

The Song of Solomon is the record of a romance, early in the career of Solomon, before the vanity of his later years.

Solomon owned a vineyard at Baal-Hamon in the territory of Asher in Northern Israel. As was common in Bible times, he had leased the vineyard out to vinedressers. The vineyard was not producing: the keepers were not attending it, and the birds and wild animals were eating the grapes. Further, it seems that the tenants Solomon had leased the vineyard to were not willing to pay their "thousand shekels of silver."

Solomon, disguised as a shepherd, went to Baal-Hamon to inspect his vineyard. While there he met a beautiful Gentile girl working in the fields, called the Shulamite. He fell in love with her and she returned his love.

He had to return to Jerusalem, but before leaving he promised her he would return and make her his bride. Solomon kept his promise and carried her away to his palace, where they were married and became one. Although the new bride lived in the splendor of the palace, she longed for the beautiful hills and vineyards of Baal-Hamon, so Solomon took her back there for a visit.

**A king came in disguise as a shepherd, fell in love, left and returned revealed as king to take his bride home.** Sounds like a rapture prequel to me!

In the Song, Solomon leaves the Shulamite in his vineyard with the promise that he will return for her. One day, as she is working in the fields, she looks to the horizon and exclaims,

Song of Songs 3:6 Who is this coming out of the wilderness Like pillars of smoke,  
Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all the merchant's fragrant powders?  
Song of Songs 3:7 Behold, it is Solomon's couch, With sixty valiant men around it, Of the valiant of Israel.

Song of Songs 3:8 They all hold swords, Being expert in war. Every man has his sword on his thigh Because of fear in the night.

The Shulamite's betrothed was returning to her - not as the lowly shepherd when he came the first time, but as the mighty king surrounded by an army with drawn swords because the night is coming in which there is much danger.

Solomon catches up his bride and sweeps her away, back to Jerusalem, where she reigns as queen. At the conclusion of the Song of Solomon, when the Shulamite returns to Baal-Hamon with the king, she is so changed that no one recognizes her, as you read in 8:5,

Song of Songs 8:5 "Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved?"

Solomon and his bride eventually return together to Baal-Hamon to enjoy and express their love:

Song of Songs 7:11 Come, my beloved, Let us go forth to the field; Let us lodge in the villages.

Song of Songs 7:12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; Let us see if the vine has budded, Whether the grape blossoms are open, And the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.

Song of Songs 7:13 The mandrakes give off a fragrance, And at our gates are pleasant fruits, All manner, new and old, Which I have laid up for you, my beloved.

Jesus, even though wealthy and glorious as God in heaven and Creator of the universe, laid aside His wealth and glory to come to earth clothed as a man - God in human flesh. You see, Israel was God's vineyard, but she was not producing fruit, and her vinedressers - the religious leaders - were withholding the obedience that was rightfully owed to God. When Jesus came to Israel He was not recognized by the vinedressers; as you read in the Gospel of John,

John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Even though rejected by the Jews, Jesus would be received by others:

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Believers of all ages are like the Shulamite as they fall in love with Jesus.

Just like Solomon, Jesus had to leave the vineyard and return to His palace:

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Jesus promised His beloved He would return:

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Solomon returned for the Shulamite, taking her back to the palace under guard "because of fear in the night" it said in Song of Solomon 3:8. When Jesus returns for His Church, He will take her back to heaven - to the place He has prepared for her - prior to the fearful night that is coming upon the world. The Bible calls this terrible, dark time the Great Tribulation. You won't go through it; you will be caught away by Jesus in the Rapture:

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Once in the palace, the Shulamite was changed into Solomon's queen. At the Rapture, you will be changed - transformed into a glorious, heavenly body:

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

1 Corinthians 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Solomon and the Shulamite returned to Baal-Hamon. He was revealed in all his kingly glory, and the Shulamite was not even recognized for her glory. The Bible says that, at the conclusion of the seven year Great Tribulation, Jesus will return in all His glory, and that you will return with Him as His bride. From then on you will enjoy the love of Jesus in His kingdom of heaven on earth, and then on into eternity.

As the Song of Solomon ends, you read in its final verse,

Song of Songs 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag On the mountains of spices.

As the Bible ends, in the Revelation of Jesus Christ, you read,

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Your Lord is returning to take you to heaven, to transform you into glory. You are to live expecting His appearance any moment - as someone betrothed awaits the return of the Beloved.

