



A Love Story

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Way up in the North Country in the mountain district of Ephraim, there was a little village where King Solomon owned a vineyard, according to Song of Solomon 8:11. This vineyard had been rented out to an Ephraimite family. There were at least two brothers (Chap 1:6), and there were at least two girls (8:10). The oldest girl was the “ugly duckling” or the “Cinderella” of the family. Her brothers did not appreciate her and they gave her the hardest tasks. One of her jobs was to take care of the vines, which included trapping the foxes that ruin the vines. She also had to take care of the sheep, to find them pasture and water. Because of this she did not have time to adorn herself as most young girls did (1:6).

As she worked outside, the sun would beat down and burn her skin. In those days, dark skin was not something that was of great status. Those that were rich and lived in the palace stayed inside and had fair skin.

One day, as she was caring for the flock, she felt somebody looking at her, and sure enough there was a tall handsome shepherd. When she noticed him staring, she said something like this, “Don't look at me because the sun has scorched me and I'm ashamed.” But he replies, “I wasn't thinking that you were unpleasant to look at, as a matter of fact, I think you're quite lovely.” *“Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, there is no spot in you, you have dove's eyes.”* (Chap 4:1)

As you can imagine, this went a long way in winning her over, and little by little their friendship ripened into affection. The affection grew into love, and finally the shepherd had won the heart of this young shepherd girl. About this time, he says, “I have to leave to take my flocks to another place to graze. One day I'm coming back for you and I'm going to make you my bride.” And she believed him! Even though she had no idea where he came from and knew very little about him, she believed him. Even though no one else believed him, she did.

Day after day she waited for him to return and claim her as his bride. The days turned into weeks and the weeks turned into months and the months may have even turned into a year or two. By this time, the brothers were frustrated and they were convinced that she had been played for a fool. “He probably does this to every shepherd girl in every village. He's not coming back! He just said that to have your company while he was here.” The rest of the village would repeat the charge and there would be times when she would

wonder... will he come? There would be times when she would be alone with her sheep and she would almost think she could hear his voice, but she would turn and there would be nothing there.

Then one day, in the little humble village, a great cloud of dust could be seen coming down the road. The villager's began to gather and wondered, "What is the meaning of this parade that is coming?" As the parade neared, they discovered the chariot belonged to Solomon. As it came even closer, they saw that King Solomon himself was sitting in the chariot. The chariot came right into their village and stopped. As a matter of fact, it stopped right in front of the young girl's house! The royal riders came to the door and announced in front of everyone, "The king has sent for you." She blushed, saying, "Me? Are you sure?"

She made her way out to the King's chariot and as she looked inside, she discovered her shepherd lover was really King Solomon! She realized she had fallen in love with the King! He invited her to come and ride back to the palace and become his bride.



What a beautiful story! As I read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, to me there is **one** story. God is pursuing a bride for His Son! He looks everywhere! Solomon, history says, liked to disguise himself and walk among the people and among the things he would ask was "What do you think of your king?" Sometimes, what he heard wasn't so complimentary and other times it was good. Often his disguise would be a shepherd and he would visit people from every village. I like to think that there was a time that the King of Kings, not King Solomon, but the King of Kings, disguised himself as a man. Oh listen, he was still God, just like Solomon was still king. Disguising himself as a man, He came from heaven, all the way down to earth to fall in love with a bride. He says, "If you love me, I want to marry you. I am going to go and prepare a place for you and I will come back!" (John 14:3) The world looks at us and says, "You're crazy! He has been gone for over 2000 years. He's not coming back! Forget about him."

Can't you see the look on everyone's face when they discovered her lover was Solomon? Can't you imagine the shocked look on the world's face when they discover that the One we have been waiting for; Jesus, is none other than the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The world saw Him disguised as a shepherd in the body of a man. They saw Him as He went to the cross and He bled and He died. But when He comes back, He will not be a shepherd, He will come back as the Beautiful One of Heaven. If you could take just one look at Him and all that He is and realize... He's looking for you!

I want to ask you, have you ever received Him? Do you know what it is to know Christ as your personal Saviour? You are the reason He came! That is the real love story of this wonderful Song of Songs that is Solomon's.

"For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16