

GREAT LOVE STORIES OF THE BIBLE,  
SONG OF SOLOMON 2:4, & 8:6-7

"YOUNG AND IN LOVE---HOW MAGICAL THE PHRASE!  
HOW MAGICAL THE FACT! WHO HAS NOT YEARNED

OVER YOUNG LOVERS WHEN TO THEIR AMAZE

THEY FALL IN LOVE, AND FIND THEIR LOVE RETURNED,

AND THE LIGHTS BRIGHTEN, AND THEIR EYES ARE CLEAR

TO SEE GOD'S IMAGE IN THEIR COMMON CLAY.

IS IT THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES THEY HEAR?

IS IT THE PRELUDE TO THAT NOBLE PLAY

THE DRAMA OF JOINED LIVES?

THE BIBLE GIVES SOME OF THE MOST REALISTIC AND INTERESTING  
LOVE STORIES TO BE FOUND IN ALL LITERATURE.

I. REBEKKAH AND ISAAC, GEN. CH. 24

1. THE STORY OF THIS ROMANCE.

2. LEADING LESSONS

A. PLACE OF THIRD PARTY IN THIS IMPORTANT DECISION.

WE SEEM TO NEED A HAPPY MEDIUM BETWEEN THE EXTREME EASTERN  
AND WESTERN METHODS OF SELECTING A BRIDE; THE YOUNG PEOPLE  
WOULD DO WELL TO HEED THE ADVICE OF PARENTS AND ADULTS.

B. CHOOSE PARTNER FROM OWN PEOPLE, RACE, AND NATIONALITY.

THIS COULD BE EXTENDED TO OTHER COMPATIBILITIES:

APPROX. SAME SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, & ECONOMIC LEVEL;

SAME RELIGIOUS FAITH, OUTLOOK ON LIFE,

C. PRAY BEFORE MAKING THE DECISION, V. 12

D. THINGS ABOUT REBEKKAH THAT MADE HER DESIRABLE AS A BRIDE:

(1). ATTRACTIVE IN APPEARANCE, V. 16

(2). MORALLY PURE, V. 16

(3). KIND AND UNSELFISH IN SPIRIT, VS. 18, 19

(4). SHE SAW THE HAND OF GOD IN THE MATTER AND MADE A  
DEFINITE DECISION OF HER OWN WILL, V. 58.

II. JACOB AND RACHEL, GEN. CH. 29

1. THE STORY OF THE ROMANCE.

HERE WAS "LOVE FOR NAUGHT EXCEPT FOR LOVE'S SAKE ONLY"

2. LEADING LESSONS.

A. TROUBLE AND DISSAPPOINTMENT ALWAYS MEET GOD'S CHILDREN  
WHEN THEY ARE OUT OF THE PLACE OF BLESSING.

B. TRUE LOVE MAKES LABOR LIGHT AND SPEEDS TIME'S FLIGHT, V. 20.

C. GOD'S WORD RECORDS ACCURATELY HISTORICAL INSTANCES OF  
BIGAMY, BUT GOD NEVER APPROVES OR ENDORSES IT EITHER

IN THE O.T. OR IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

D. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RACHEL WAS A GOOD INFLUENCE IN JACOB'S  
LIFE THAT CHANGED HIM FROM A SUPPLANter TO A PRINCE WITH GOD.  
FROM "GUINEVERE"

I MADE THEM LAY THEIR HANDS IN MINE AND SWEAR  
TO RIDE ABRAD REDRESSING HUMAN WRONGS,

TO SPEAK NO SLANDER, NO, NOR LISTEN TO IT;

TO LEADRSWEET LIVES OF PUREST CHASTITY,

TO LOVE ONE MAIDEN ONLY, CLEAVE TO HER,

AND WORSHIP HER BY YEARS OF NOBLE DEEDS,

UNTIL THEY WON HER; FOR INDEED I KNEW

OF NO MORE SUBTLE MASTER UNDER HEAVEN,

NOT ONLY TO KEEP DOWN THE BASE IN MAN,

BUT TEACH HIGH THOUGHT, AND AMIABLE WORDS

AND COURTLINESS, AND THE DESIRE OF FAME,

AND LOVE OF TRUTH, AND ALL THAT MAKES A MAN." ALFRED TENNYSON.

### III. SAMSON AND DELILAH, JUDGES 16:4-21

#### 1. STORY OF THIS ROMANCE

#### 2. LEADING LESSONS

A. THE SEEDS OF MORAL CORRUPTION AND EVENTUAL DOWNFALL WERE OBVIOUSLY SOWN IN SAMSON'S CHARACTER BEFORE HE EVER MET DELILAH.

B. HE WAS PHYSICALLY STRONG BUT MORALLY WEAK.

C. DELILAH AND JEZEBEL STAND FOREVER AS EXAMPLES OF WICKED FEMININE TREACHERY.

D. CONSTANT VIGILANCE IS NECESSARY IN THE TEMPTATION TO THE LUST OF THE FLESH.

E. SAMSON COULD NEVER SAY OF DELILAH WHAT EVERY MAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY OF THE LADY HE LOVES:

I LOVE YOU,

NOT ONLY FOR WHAT YOU ARE,

BUT FOR WHAT I AM

WHEN I AM WITH YOU.

I LOVE YOU,

NOT ONLY FOR WHAT

YOU HAVE MADE OF YOURSELF,

BUT FOR WHAT

YOU ARE MAKING OF ME.

I LOVE YOU

FOR THE PART OF ME

THAT YOU BRING OUT;

I LOVE YOU

FOR PUTTING YOUR HAND

INTO MY HEAPED-UP HEART

AND PASSING OVER

ALL THE FOOLISH, WEAK THINGS

THAT YOU CAN'T HELP

DIMLY SEEING THERE,

AND FOR DRAWING OUT

INTO THE LIGHT

ALL THE BEAUTIFUL BELONGINGS

THAT NO ONE ELSE HAD LOOKED

QUITE FAR ENOUGH TO FIND.

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU

ARE HELPING ME TO MAKE

OF THE LUMBER OF MY LIFE

NOT A TAVERN

BUT A TEMPLE;

OUT OF THE WORKS

OF MY EVERY DAY

NOT A REPROACH

BUT A SONG.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

A.P. 5/15/55

#### IV. RUTH AND BOAZ, BOOK OF RUTH.

1. THE STORY OF THE ROMANCE
2. LEADING LESSONS

A. RUTH'S SHINING FAITHFULNESS, 1:16-17

B. RUTH'S WILLINGNESS TO WORK AS A GLEANER IN THE FIELDS,  
AND THE REWARDS OF HER LABOR, CH. 2:2, 8, 16

THIS IS WHERE HER LONELY SOUL FIRST MET BOAZ.

"SOMEWHERE THERE WAITETH IN THIS WORLD OF OURS

FOR ONE LONE SOUL, ANOTHER LONELY SOUL—

EACH CHASING EACH THROUGH ALL THE WEARY HOURS,

AND MEETING STRANGELY AT ONE SUDDEN GOAL;

THEN BLEND THEY—LIKE GREAT LEAVES WITH GOLDEN FLOWERS,

INTO ONE BEAUTIFUL AND PERFECT WHOLE—

AND LIFE'S LONG NIGHT IS ENDED, AND THE WAY

LIES OPEN ONWARD TO ETERNAL DAY." — EDWIN ARNOLD.

C. GOD REMEMBERED HER AND BLESSED HER AND RAISED HER UP  
FROM HER POVERTY AND WIDOWHOOD.

(1). SHE AND NAOMI TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING THE  
FIRST DATE WITH BOAZ!!

(2). SHE REMINDED HIM OF HIS RIGHTS AS KINSMAN REDEEMER, 3:9-1

(3). HER VIRTUOUS REPUTATION WAS HER GREATEST ASSET, V.11

(4). BOAZ BROUGHT THE PROPERTY OF NAOMI,

AND TOOK RUTH AS HIS WIFE.

(5). SHE BECAME THE GREAT GRANDMOTHER OF DAVID AND  
A MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL ANCESTRAL LINEAGE OF JESUS.

#### V. CHRIST AND HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH.

1. MANY INTERPRET THE SONG OF SOLOMON AS AN ALLEGORICAL  
DESCRIPTION OF THE LOVE BETWEEN CHRIST & THE CH.
2. CHRIST IS REFERRED TO AS THE BRIDEGROOM, MT. 25:1 & JN. 3:29.
3. THE CHURCH IS PICTURED AS THE BRIDE, REV. 21:2, 9; 22:17.
4. HOW CHRIST WOOS AND WINS HIS BRIDE.
  - A. HE FIRST LOVED US EVEN WHEN WE WERE UNLOVELY.
  - B. HE GAVE HIS LIFE ON THE CROSS AS A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS LOVE.
  - C. HE WOODED US THROUGH THE CONVICTING WORK OF THE H.S.
  - D. HE IS "THE LOVER OF MY SOUL"
5. LOVE BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE LIKE THE LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH. (EPH. 5:25-27)
6. THE WEDDING CEREMONY WILL BE AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND  
THE INAUGURATION OF THE ETERNAL ORDER, MT. 25 & REV. 21.
7. OUR DUTY IN THE MEANTIME
  - A. TO KEEP OURSELVES READY
  - B. TO WAIT FAITHFULLY
  - C. TO INVITE OTHERS. REV. 22:17

" I'm in love, deeply in love  
With the Lover of my soul,  
I will sing praise to my King,  
While the years of eternity roll  
His love is in my heart  
Never to depart;  
His blood has made me whole,  
I'm in love with Jesus,  
He's the Lover of my soul.