



# Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

January/February, 2015

## After the Love Is Restored

In 1979, Earth, Wind, and Fire had a song that reached #2 on the billboard charts. That song was “*After The Love Is Gone:*”

Somethin’ happened along the way,  
Yesterday was all we had,  
Somethin’ happened along the way,  
What used to be happy is sad.

The song was about lost love and all the inevitable sadness and pain when love is gone.

We have just the opposite in **Song of Solomon 6:11-13**. In fact, you could entitle this section, “After Love Is Restored.” In **Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3**, we see that Solomon and Abishag are reunited after a time of separation (6:2-3). Their relationship has been restored. They come together after a time of adversity in their relationship. They renew their vows to one another, “I am my beloved and my beloved is mine” (6:3).

After being reconciled, Solomon declares his admiration of Abishag (6:4-

10). He expresses why he is attracted to her. This is his second portrayal of Abishag. He points out the grandeur and beauty of his bride. He gives a full body view of his beloved Abishag.

In **Song of Solomon 6:11-13**, the couple is restored and their relationship is stronger than ever. It shows us what happens when love is restored.

This is the most difficult passage in Song of Solomon to interpret. There are a host of different interpretations for this text. I lost count of the different views of the meaning of the Hebrew words and their interpretation. I will now put forth the best explanation that I have of these verses.

### Solomon’s Departure Song of Solomon 6:11

This section begins with these words, “I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished and the pomegranates budded” (6:11). It

appears that Solomon is making an exploratory trip. The “garden” that he speaks of in this verse is most likely the royal gardens of Jerusalem. He would have descended from the city of Jerusalem into the verdant gardens of the king. He apparently went to examine a grove of walnut trees. There is no explicit evidence for them this far south in the Middle East. This describes then a grove of imported plants in the king’s garden.

It’s interesting that Solomon continues after the love is restored. He carries out his kingly duties. I believe that this gives us insight into restored relationships. Life goes on; you must move on. You don’t dwell on what happened in the past. You continue to live your lives and develop your relationship.

I also believe that it gives us insight after times of backsliding. When you return to the Lord, you continue to love and serve Him. You don’t dwell on the past failure. You don’t wallow in the guilt. You don’t sink under the weight of regret. You get on with serving the Lord.

## **Solomon’s Desire**

### **Song of Solomon 6:12**

Our text continues with these words, “Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib” (6:12). While Solomon was on this exploratory trip, he was overwhelmed with desire for Abishag. It came suddenly and unexpectedly. This desire came from the depths of his soul. He longs to get in a chariot and get back to his love Abishag.

I believe that this gives us insight into human relationships. It is possible to grow in love after times of difficulty. Adverse times can destroy relationships. Yet, they can also strengthen relationships. Through prayer, hard work, and communication, relationships can be restored and strengthened. There is hope for relationships even in the most difficult of situations.

I believe that this also gives us insight into our relationship to Jesus Christ. Jesus loves His people – even when they stray from Him. Even when our hearts grow cold and we become indifferent to Him, He loves His people. When we return to Him, He showers us with His love. He still desires to have fellowship with us even though we have backslidden. Our Savior’s love and desire is constant and unchanging.

## Solomon's Invitations

### Song of Solomon 6:13

Our text closes with these words, "Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies" (6:13). Solomon now returns to Abishag. It appears that Abishag is laboring under a sense of shame and discouragement for the time of difficulty and separation between Solomon and her. In this verse, Solomon quiets those fears and encourages her heart.

Notice that four times, he calls her to "return." Solomon has been gone for a time and when he comes back, he invites her to come to him. This is for her peace and for her encouragement. He wants her to know that the love has been restored – that her relationship with him is sound and secure.

He goes on to share what he sees – the majesty of Abishag. He compares her to two companies of armies. A marching army is majestic. However, two marching armies denote majesty and glory. He wants Abishag to know that he still loves her and she holds a special place in his heart.

This gives us insight into our human relationships. After love is

restored, we need to reassure others. We must labor to make sure people understand that we do care and that the relationship is sound and secure.

I believe this verse also gives us insight into our relationship to Jesus Christ. When you stray from the Lord and return to Him, He invites you to come – to return. He longs for you to seek Him. He wants you to know that your relationship is sound and secure.

At the same time, He wants you to know that He still loves you. He doesn't look at your sin and your failure. He doesn't remember your hardness of heart and backsliding. He sees you as His beloved child. He still looks at you as His blood bought, majestic child.

## World Prayer Plan

### March

- 1-Colombia-The Lost
- 2-Comoros Islands
- 3-Congo
- 4-Cook Islands
- 5-Costa Rica
- 6-Cote d'Ivoire
- 7-Cuba-The Church
- 8-Cuba-The Lost
- 9-Cuba-Collapse of Communism
- 10-Cyprus

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11-Czech Republic                | 12-Germany-The Church        |
| 12-Slovakia                      | 13-Germany-The Lost          |
| 13-Denmark                       | 14-Germany-Spiritual Warfare |
| 14-Djibouti                      | 15-Ghana                     |
| 15-Dominica                      | 16-Gibraltar                 |
| 16-Dominican Republic            | 17-Greece                    |
| 17-Ecuador                       | 18-Greenland                 |
| 18-Egypt-The Church              | 19-Grenada                   |
| 19-Egypt-The Lost                | 20-Guadeloupe                |
| 20-Egypt-Persecuted Believers    | 21-Guam                      |
| 21-El Salvador                   | 22-Guatemala                 |
| 22-Equatorial Guinea             | 23-Guinea                    |
| 23-Eritrea                       | 24-Guinea-Bissau             |
| 24-Estonia                       | 25-Guyana                    |
| 25-Ethiopia-The Church           | 26-Haiti                     |
| 26-Ethiopia-The Lost             | 27-Holy See (Vatican)        |
| 27-Ethiopia-Persecuted Believers | 28-Honduras                  |
| 28-Faeroe Islands                | 29-Hong Kong                 |
| 29-Falkland Islands              | 30-Hungary-The Church        |
| 30-Croatia-The Church            |                              |
| 31-Croatia-The Lost              |                              |

## **April**

- 1-Fiji
- 2-France-The Church
- 3-France-The Lost
- 4-France-Hardness To The Gospel
- 5-France-Missionaries
- 6-French Guiana
- 7-French Polynesia
- 8-Gabon
- 9-Gambia
- 10-Gaza Strip
- 11-Georgia

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