



Preoccupation with People or Occupation with Christ: Human Strength Compared to a Broom Tree; Blessing to Those with Trust & Confidence in God, Jer 17:5-7

4. Those who rely on the energy of their own flesh and blood, i.e., their human intellect, are cursed under the law of volitional responsibility and thus their "hearts have turned away from the Lord."
5. Couples who use human viewpoint to deal with interpersonal relationships will find that their romance and marriage will both become a curse.
6. The Shulammitte, functioning on divine viewpoint, is occupied with Christ. She is not occupied with either Solomon or herself. This is manifest by her occupation with her right man, the Shepherd Lover.

Jeremiah 17:6 - [NET] They [those who depend on human strength] will be like a shrub [broom tree] in the desert. They will not experience good things even when they happen. It will be as though they were growing in the desert, in a salt land where no one can live.

1. This describes Solomon. He was in a frantic search for happiness but found "all is vanity and striving after wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:14).
2. He could not experience good things even when they happened. He considered the Shulammitte as his perfect woman but he has destroyed his capacity for her by his salacious lifestyle.
3. Although his body resides in a luxurious palace his soul suffers as if a broom tree growing in the parched desert of the Sinai Peninsula. It grows to a height of around 12 feet but its small leaves provide sparse shade. Its long roots enable it to reach ground water during drought yet it remains stunted and starved.
4. Solomon's soul functions strictly on human viewpoint which is concentrated on a frantic search for happiness. The best he can do is survive but he has no meaningful impact outside of his own life of vanity which has become a source of great frustration.
5. Solomon has been frantically searching for his right woman without giving any attention to becoming the right person. The Shulammitte has become the right person and has been blessed by her right man who resides in her soul.

Jeremiah 17:7 - [NET] My blessing is on those people who trust in me, who put their confidence in me.

1. The Shulammitte trusted in the Lord and has confidence in Him. The Lord has provided her the Shepherd Lover as the means by which He will protect her in a crisis.
2. She is required to stand fast and apply doctrine until divine deliverance occurs. She has no idea how things will play out but she has confidence that whatever occurs is God's will.
3. Life is not fair! Whatever circumstance God does not remove He expects us to endure and to do so by means of doctrine applied to the situation without the intrusion of mental, verbal, or overt sins and without submission to lust patters.
4. The Shulammitte has the doctrine to maintain poise without betraying concern, a calm demeanor in the presence of potential danger, and savoir faire without being obtrusive.