AGAPE BIBLE COLLEGE
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SONG OF SOLOMON

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The Legacy Bible Outline Series is a study of the Bible using the text of the Bible itself. The series outlines books of the Bible in simple format, providing commentary only as needed to enhance understanding. Text-based questions are also included for every chapter.

We suggest you create a notebook for each book of the Bible. Insert the outlines in your notebooks and add your own study notes. Each time you study a book, you can easily append the outlines to continuously expand the materials.

The Legacy Bible Outline Series is designed so you can easily personalize it. The files for the series are in MS Word format to enable you to revise, input your own notes, change page numbers, and alter the layout as needed. You can also create your own outlines for other books of the Bible using this format.

The text of the King James Version is included in The Legacy Bible Outline Series to enable you to underline and make notes in the actual text as part of your study. Unlike a Bible which will eventually wear out, you can photocopy worn pages if they need to be replaced—which means you won’t lose your notes and underlining. Be sure to read the text in other versions of the Bible also, as different translations will greatly enhance your study.

You can print copies of the outlines for your students or--a more cost-effective method--copy the files to a flash drive and let each student print out their own outlines. If you want students to have only the study questions and not the outlines, then copy the questions to a separate file and print them out for distribution.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line…
(Isaiah 28:10, KJV)

...His word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones!...
(Isaiah 20:9, NLT)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction To The Song Of Solomon</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline Of The Song Of Solomon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 5</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 6</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 7</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of Solomon 8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study One: Biographical Study Of Solomon</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Two: Psalm 45</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Three: Composite Descriptions</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Four: The Church And The Song</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Five: Marriage And The Song</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Six: Jewish Marriage Customs</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Seven: Geographic Locations In The Song</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Eight: Senses In The Song</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Study Nine: Versions Of The Song</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION TO THE SONG OF SOLOMON

AUTHOR: Solomon. The Song of Solomon is sometimes called “canticles” which is Latin for a “series of songs.” The full name is “The Song of Songs which is Solomon's.” “Song of Songs” means “the best song.” The name comes from Song of Solomon chapter one, verse one.

TO WHOM: Israel and all believers.

PURPOSE: To show the relationship between Jesus and His people--Israel, the Church, and individual believers--as demonstrated by the marriage relationship. The purpose is to inspire meditation on, passion for, and intimacy with Christ.

KEY VERSE: I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. (Song of Solomon 6:3)

LIFE AND MINISTRY PRINCIPLE: The divine model of love between a man and his wife is the pattern for relationship between Christ and the Church and individual believers--His Bride.

MAIN CHARACTERS: The main characters are the Shulamite Bride; the Bridegroom who is spoken of as "the Beloved"; and the daughters of Jerusalem. It is helpful to use a code for each speaker in the margins of your Bible. Here is an example:

♀ Bride
♂ Bridegroom
DJ Daughters of Jerusalem

WHO THE CHARACTERS REPRESENT:

The Beloved Bridegroom: Solomon, the Beloved Bridegroom, is a type of King Jesus, yet not a perfect type as he committed sins while Christ was sinless. See Supplementary Study One for a Biographical Study of Solomon.

The Shulamite or Bride: In scriptures, a woman represents believers--whether male and female--for there is no male or female in Christ (Romans 7:1-4; Galatians 3:28). Carnal believers are “harlots.” The apostate church is called the “great harlot.” Proverbs is a contrast between the “strange” and “virtuous” woman. The Shulamite Bride in this Song represents believers who desire a more meaningful relationship with the King. The name is probably derived from the Bride's place of origin, Shunem, located a short distance north of Jezreel near the plain of Megiddo. Her name means “daughter of peace.”

The Daughters Of Jerusalem: Who are represented by the daughters of Jerusalem? They are clearly not the Bride, yet they are not far removed from her. They know where the Bridegroom makes his flock to rest at noon; they draw attention to the Bridegroom as he comes up from the
wilderness; they are appealed to by the Bride for help in finding her Beloved; and they are stirred by her description of his beauty. But we never find them completely occupied with passionately pursuing the Bridegroom. He is not "all in all" to them. They are more concerned with earthly things. They represent those who--if not actually saved are very near to being so, or--if saved--are more concerned about the things of this world than the things of God.

**Lesser characters:** Brothers and mother of the Bride and the watchmen.

**LEVELS OF INTERPRETATION:** In addition to being a chronicle of Solomon's experiences, the Song has four levels of interpretation:

1. It is an example of the relationship which should exist between a man and his wife.
2. It is an example of God's relationship with Israel.
3. It is an example of the relationship between Christ and the Church.
4. It is an example of the relationship between Christ and the individual believer.

It is not necessary to take a dogmatic view as to which way the Song should be interpreted, as all levels of interpretation are valid. For purposes of this study however, an extensive commentary is being prepared detailing this book from perspective 4: The relationship between Christ and the believer. This resource will be available in 2020--hence, the absence of extended commentary at present. In the meantime, study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each chapter and apply this to your relationship with the Lord.

**KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING:**

- Realize that the Song is a series of stanzas or songs of various lengths. It is an allegory: A story in which people, things, and events have symbolic meanings.

- Know who is doing the speaking in each verse. The book is written almost entirely from the first person point of view. Observe closely the gender, number, and subject matter. For example, "Let him kiss me" would obviously be the Bride speaking.

- Keep in mind that the book is written within the context of an oriental culture: Hence words like "bowels", etc., have different meaning (the bowels were considered to be the seat of emotions--like the heart is to us).

- Understand that events in the Old Testament are types or shadows reflecting greater spiritual truths and that all that is written in the Old Testament is for our spiritual benefit (Hebrews 10:1 and Romans 15:4).
-Remember that all scripture is inspired by God and profitable: 2 Timothy 3:16. The Song of Solomon is a treasure mine of profitable Scripture.

-Recognize that Jesus Christ is the center of all Scripture, the key to understanding the Song as well as the entirety of the Word of God:

  And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45)

-Remember that this is a spiritual revelation and, as such, must be received with the spirit:

  But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

-Realize that this revelation must be understood with a redeemed mind:

  And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. (Revelation 14:3)

-Use Psalms 45 as a key to understanding this Song. See Supplemental Study Two for an analysis of this chapter.
**OUTLINE:** This book is written in dialogue (conversational) format. The best outline for study is in terms of the dialogue. The characters and the order in which they speak may vary in different commentaries. For purposes of this study they are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTER</th>
<th>REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>1:2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite) to Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>1:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>1:8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters Of Jerusalem</td>
<td>1:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>1:12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>1:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>2:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>2:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite) to Daughters of Jerusalem</td>
<td>2:4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>2:8-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite) to the Beloved</td>
<td>2:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>3:1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>4:1-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>5:2-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of Jerusalem</td>
<td>5:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>5:10-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of Jerusalem</td>
<td>6:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>6:2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>6:4-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>6:11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of Jerusalem</td>
<td>6:13a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>6:13b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>7:1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>7:10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>8:1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite) to Daughters of Jerusalem</td>
<td>8:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of Jerusalem</td>
<td>8:5a to the word &quot;Beloved&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom (Beloved)</td>
<td>8:5b from the word &quot;I&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>8:6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride’s Brothers</td>
<td>8:8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Shulamite)</td>
<td>8:10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridegroom</td>
<td>8:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Beloved)</td>
<td>8:14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION:
1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is the book written?
3. What is the purpose of the book?
4. What is the key verse?
5. What is the life and ministry principle of this book?
6. List the main characters and who they represent.
7. Describe the different levels of interpretation of the Song.
8. List the keys to understanding the Song.
9. What is the format of in this book upon which the outline is based?
**OUTLINE OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON**

(This outline departs from the usual Roman numeral format of the Legacy Bible Outline series. It is outlined according to who is speaking.)

Song Of Solomon 1

1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.
3 Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.
4 Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.
5 I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.
6 Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept.
7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?
8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.
9 I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold.
11 We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.
12 While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.
13 A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts.
14 My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of En-gedi.
15 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.
16 Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.
17 The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir.
Outline 1:

VERSE 1:

INTRODUCTION
Solomon's Song of Songs.

VERSES 2-4

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--
For your love is better than wine.
Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name is ointment poured forth;
Therefore the virgins love you.
Draw me away!

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will run after you.

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
The king has brought me into his chambers.

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will be glad and rejoice in you.
We will remember your love more than wine.

VERSES 5-6

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
Rightly do they love you.
I am dark, but lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
Like the tents of Kedar,
Like the curtains of Solomon.
Do not look upon me, because I am dark,
Because the sun has tanned me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
They made me the keeper of the vineyards,
But my own vineyard I have not kept.
**VERSE 7**

THE SHULAMITE (Bride) TO HER BELOVED (Bridegroom)
Tell me, O you whom I love,
Where you feed your flock,
Where you make it rest at noon.
For why should I be as one who veils herself
By the flocks of your companions?

**VERSES 8-10**

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
If you do not know,
Oh fairest among women,
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,
And feed your little goats
Beside the shepherds' tents.
I have compared you, my love,
To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots.
Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
Your neck with chains of gold.

**VERSE 11**

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will make you ornaments of gold
With studs of silver.

**VERSES 12-14**

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
While the king is at his table,
My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.
A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me,
That lies all night between my breasts.
My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms
In the vineyards of Engedi.
VERSE 15

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
Behold, you are fair, my love!
Behold, you are fair!
You have dove's eyes.

VERSE 16-17

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
Behold, you are handsome, my beloved!
Yes, pleasant!
Also our bed is green.
The beams of our houses are cedar,
And our rafters of fir.

SAMPLE COMMENTARY

To understand the Song Of Solomon in terms of Christ's relationship to you as a believer, the meaning of every descriptive word must be analyzed as each has spiritual meaning. Following is an example drawn from verse 1 where the Bride states of her beloved: "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth."

The Cry For Intimacy

The Song opens with a cry for intimacy from the Bride-to-be: "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth." This is not speaking of light kisses given on the cheek or a butterfly kiss that you give to a casual acquaintance. This is a passionate spiritual desire for a kiss of intimacy. The cry for the kiss is the beginning of intimacy. She is not satisfied with the ordinary peck on the cheek or with experiencing the "kiss" of God only on Sunday morning in corporate worship.

Who Will You Kiss?

In the natural world, this kind of kissing occurs only in face-to-face relationships of intimacy. This is true in the spiritual world as well. Every person alive will kiss the Son of God in one of two ways:

- A kiss that will bring forgiveness and a new life of intimacy with God (SOS 1:2).
You will either kiss the true God or you will kiss--be intimate with and love--the idols of this world:

1 Kings. 19:18 "...Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal (a false idol), and every mouth that has not KISSED him."

Hosea 13:2: "And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves molten images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. Sacrifice to these, they say. Men KISS calves!"

Are you afraid to kiss Him because you have "bad breath" affected by the leeks and garlics of Egypt which is symbolic of partaking or "kissing in intimate relationship" the things of the world?

The Spiritual Meaning Of The Kiss

In the Bible, kissing is used as an expression of affection, a pledge of peace, a token of reconciliation, or a sign of acceptance. For a king to permit himself to be kissed was a great honor, but for him to kiss another with his mouth was the greatest honor. The Scriptures reveal that:

- The kiss is a token of brotherly affection in the family of God: Romans 16:16: "Greet one another with a holy KISS..." (See also 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; and 1 Peter 5:14.)

- The kiss is a token of a personal familial relationship: Genesis 27:26: "Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and KISS me, my son."

- The kiss is a token of submission and obedience: Psalm 2:12: KISS his feet, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

- The kiss is a token of intimate friendship: 1 Samuel 20:41: "And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they (Jonathan and David) KISSED one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded."

- The kiss expresses true worship: Luke 7:37-50: "And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And she stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and KISSED his feet, and anointed them with the ointment."
Spiritually, experiencing the "kiss" with your Savior is a token of your affection for Him, your familial relationship with Him, submission, obedience, intimacy with Him, and true worship.

**How To Experience The Kiss**

In the natural world, you become intimate with a person by first meeting them; then spending time with them; talking with them; understanding their work; listening to their stories; embracing their interests; and learning the titles that define their purposes in life. The same is true in the spiritual world. To experience the "kiss"--intimacy with God--you must:

- Meet Him through the born-again experience.
- Spend time with Him to get to know Him. Enjoy your relationship with Him. The first commandment is to love the Lord—not do spiritual warfare, intercede, and minister to others--although these are important parts of our calling. A loving relationship with God is the priority.
- Talk to Him in prayer--expressing your deep longings, emotions, etc. as you would with an intimate friend.
- Understand His work. In intimate friendships, you learn about the life-work of your friend. You learn about your Lord's work by observing His creation and how He is moving in the world.
- Learn His stories. Just as you come to know a friend through their stories, you will develop intimacy with your Lord through His stories as revealed in the Word of God.
- Embrace His interests--which, as reflected in His word, involves reaching the world with the message of salvation.
- Learn His names and titles. Each time God manifested Himself in a new way in the Bible, He revealed another name and/or title. Knowing the names and titles of God fosters spiritual intimacy with His person, His purpose, and His work in the world.

(As you see through this analysis of "kiss" from verse 1, each word in the Song has important spiritual meaning. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each chapter and ask God to show you how to apply this to your relationship with the Lord. You can compare your studies to our full commentary coming sometime in 2020.)
Study questions on chapter 1:

1. According to verse 1, what is the subject of this book?

2. Using verses 2-4, answer the following questions.
   - What does the Shulamite request as this passage opens?
   - How does she describe the love of her Beloved?
   - How does she describe her Beloved's name?
   - Why does she say he is loved by the virgins?
   - What final request does she make in this passage?
   - What do the daughters request and how did they say they would respond?
   - Where had the king brought the Shulamite?
   - In what will the daughters of Jerusalem rejoice?
   - What will the daughters of Jerusalem remember?
   - To what do the daughters of Jerusalem compare the love of the Beloved?

3. Using verses 5-6, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking in this passage?
   - How does the Shulamite describe herself?
   - What caused her to look this way?
   - What was the demeanor of her mother's sons towards her?
   - What had she been required to keep?
   - What had she not kept?

4. Using verse 7, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom is she speaking?
   - What questions does she ask?

5. Using verses 8-10, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking in this passage?
   - What terms does the Beloved use to refer to the Shulamite?
   - What does He tell the Shulamite to do in order to find Him?
   - To what does He compare the Shulamite?

6. Using verse 11, answer the following questions:
   - Who is speaking?
   - What do they plan to do?

7. Using verses 12-14, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking in this passage?
   - Where is the king seated?
   - What sends forth its fragrance?
   - How is the Beloved described symbolically in this passage?

8. Using verse 15, answer the following questions:
   - Who is speaking?
   - What is said regarding the Shulamite?
   - How does the Beloved describe the eyes of the Shulamite?

9. Using verses 16-17, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
-How does she describe her Beloved?
-How does she describe their bed?
-How does she describe the beams of their houses and their rafters?
10. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.
11. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
Song Of Solomon 2

1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.
2 As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.
3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.
5 Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love.
6 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.
7 I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.
8 The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.
9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.
10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;
13 The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.
15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.
16 My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.
17 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

Outline 2:

VERSE 1

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
I am the rose of Sharon,
And the lily of the valleys.

VERSE 2

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
Like a lily among thorns,
So is my love among the daughters.
VERSE 3

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods,
So is my beloved among the sons.
I sat down in his shade with great delight,
And his fruit was sweet to my taste.

VERSES 4-7

THE SHULAMITE (Bride) TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his banner over me was love.
Sustain me with cakes of raisins,
Refresh me with apples,
For I am lovesick.
His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.
I charge you, oh daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases.

VERSES 8-16

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
The voice of my beloved!
Behold, he comes
Leaping upon the mountains,
Skipping upon the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Behold, he stands behind our wall;
He is looking through the windows,
Gazing through the lattice.
My beloved spoke, and said to me:
"Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away.
For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth her green figs,
And the vines with the tender grapes
Give a good smell.
Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away!
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
In the secret places of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice is sweet,
And your face is lovely."
Catch us the foxes,
The little foxes that spoil the vines,
For our vines have tender grapes.
My beloved is mine, and I am his.
He feeds his flock among the lilies.

VERSE 17

THE SHULAMITE (Bride) TO HER BELOVED (Bridegroom)
Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
Turn, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
Upon the mountains of Bether.

Study questions on chapter 2:
1. Using verse 1, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - How does she describe herself?
2. Using verse 2, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - How does he describe the Shulamite?
3. Using verse 3, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - How does she describe her Beloved among the sons?
   - Where did she sit down and with what emotion?
   - What does she say regarding his fruit?
4. Using verses 4-7, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom is she speaking?
5. Using verses 8-15, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - What does she hear?
   - How is the Beloved coming?
   - To what does she compare her Beloved?
   - Where is he standing?
   - Where is he looking?
   - What appeal did her Beloved make when he spoke to her?
   - How is the present season described by the Beloved?
     - What is over?
     - What is appearing?
     - What is heard in the land?
     - What is bringing forth fruit?
   - What appeal is given in verse 14?
   - How is the Shulamite described in verse 14?
   - How is her voice described?
   - How is her face described?
   - What request is made and why?

6. Using verse 16, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - What does she say regarding her relationship to the Beloved?
   - Where does the Beloved feed his flock?

7. Using verse 17, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom is she speaking?
   - Summarize her statements.
   - To what does she compare her Beloved?

8. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.

9. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
Song Of Solomon 3

1 By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.
2 I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.
3 The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?
4 It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.
5 I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.
6 Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?
7 Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.
8 They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.
9 King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon.
10 He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.

Outline 3:

VERSES 1-5

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
By night on my bed I sought the one I love;
I sought him, but I did not find him.
"I will rise now," I said,
"And go about the city;
In the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love."
I sought him, but I did not find him.
The watchmen who go about the city found me;
I said, "Have you seen the one I love?"
Scarcely had I passed by them,
When I found the one I love.
I held him and would not let him go,
Until I had brought him to the house of my mother,
And into the chamber of her who conceived me.

THE SHULAMITE (Bride) TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
I charge you, oh daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases.

VERSES 6-11

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
Who is this coming out of the wilderness
Like pillars of smoke,
Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,
With all the merchant's fragrant powders?
Behold, it is Solomon's couch,
With sixty valiant men around it,
Of the valiant of Israel.
They all hold swords,
Being expert in war.
Every man has his sword on his thigh
Because of fear in the night.
Of the wood of Lebanon
Solomon the King Made himself a palanquin:
He made its pillars of silver,
Its support of gold,
Its seat of purple,
Its interior paved with love
By the daughters of Jerusalem.
Go forth, oh daughters of Zion,
And see King Solomon with the crown
With which his mother crowned him
On the day of his wedding,
The day of the gladness of his heart.
Study questions on chapter 3:

1. Using verses 1-5, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - When was she seeking her Beloved and what were the results?
   - Where did she decide to go in order to find her Beloved?
   - Who did she meet and what did she ask them?
   - What did she do when she found her Beloved?
   - Where did she take her Beloved?
   - What charge did she give to the Daughters of Jerusalem?

2. Using verses 6-11, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - What question is asked as this passage opens?
   - What does the Shulamite see coming out of the wilderness?
   - How many men surround what she sees and how are these men described?
   - What is the reason for these armed men?
   - Of what is Solomon's palanquin constructed?
   - Of what are its pillars made?
   - Of what are the supports made?
   - Describe the seat.
   - How does she describe the interior?
   - What does she appeal to the Daughters of Jerusalem to do?
   - From whom and when did Solomon receive the crown he is wearing?

3. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.

4. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
Song Of Solomon 4

1 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead.
2 Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them.
3 Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks.
4 Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.
5 Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies.
6 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense.
7 Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.
8 Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards.
9 Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck.
10 How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!
11 Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.
12 A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard,
14 Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:
15 A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.
16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.
Outline 4:

VERSES 1-15

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
Behold, you are fair, my love!
Behold, you are fair!
You have dove's eyes behind your veil.
Your hair is like a flock of goats,
Going down from Mount Gilead.
Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep
Which have come up from the washing,
Every one of which bears twins,
And none is barren among them.
Your lips are like a strand of scarlet,
And your mouth is lovely.
Your temples behind your veil
Are like a piece of pomegranate.
Your neck is like the tower of David,
Built for an armory,
On which hang a thousand bucklers,
All shields of mighty men.
Your two breasts are like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle,
Which feed among the lilies.
Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh
And to the hill of frankincense.
You are all fair, my love,
And there is no spot in you.
Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse,
With me from Lebanon.
Look from the top of Amana,
From the top of Senir and Hermon,
From the lions' dens,
From the mountains of the leopards.
You have ravished my heart,
My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart
With one look of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace.
How fair is your love,  
My sister, my spouse!  
How much better than wine is your love,  
And the scent of your perfumes  
Than all spices!  
Your lips, oh my spouse,  
Drip as the honeycomb;  
Honey and milk are under your tongue;  
And the fragrance of your garments  
Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.  
A garden enclosed  
Is my sister, my spouse,  
A spring shut up,  
A fountain sealed.  
Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates  
With pleasant fruits,  
Fragrant henna with spikenard,  
Spikenard and saffron,  
Calamus and cinnamon,  
With all trees of frankincense,  
Myrrh and aloes,  
With all the chief spices--  
A fountain of gardens,  
A well of living waters,  
And streams from Lebanon.

VERSES 16

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)  
Awake, oh north wind,  
And come, oh south!  
Blow upon my garden,  
That its spices may flow out.  
Let my beloved come to his garden  
And eat its pleasant fruits.
Study questions on chapter 4:
1. Using verses 1-15, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - How does the Beloved describe his Bride in the opening verses?
   - Summarize how the Beloved describes her:
     - Eyes.
     - Hair.
     - Teeth.
     - Lips.
     - Mouth.
     - Tongue.
     - Neck.
     - Breasts.
     - Garments.
   - Where did the Beloved say he would go in verse 6 and for how long?
   - How is the Bride described in verse 7?
   - What appeal does the Beloved make to His Bride? Where does he ask her to go?
   - How does the Beloved describe his own heart?
   - What endearing terms does he use for his Bride?
   - How is the Bride described in verse 12?
   - How are her fruits described?
   - How are her spices described?
   - What trees are in her garden?
   - Describe the sources of water in her garden.
2. Using verse 16, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking.
   - What does she tell the northern and southern winds to do?
   - For what purpose does she make this request?
   - What appeal does she make to her Beloved?
   - How is her garden described in this passage?
3. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.
4. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
Song Of Solomon 5

1 I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.
2 I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.
3 I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?
4 My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him.
5 I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock.
6 I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.
7 The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.
8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.
9 What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? what is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.
11 His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.
13 His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.
14 His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.
15 His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
16 His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.
Outline 5:

VERSE 1

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice;
I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey;
I have drunk my wine with my milk.

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom) TO HIS FRIENDS
Eat, oh friends!
Drink, yes, drink deeply,
Oh beloved ones!

VERSES 2-8

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
I sleep, but my heart is awake;
It is the voice of my beloved!
He knocks, saying,
"Open for me, my sister, my love,
My dove, my perfect one;
For my head is covered with dew,
My locks with the drops of the night."
I have taken off my robe;
How can I put it on again?
I have washed my feet;
How can I defile them?
My beloved put his hand
By the latch of the door,
And my heart yearned for him.
I arose to open for my beloved,
And my hands dripped with myrrh,
My fingers with liquid myrrh,
On the handles of the lock.
I opened for my beloved,
But my beloved had turned away and was gone.
My heart leaped up when he spoke.
I sought him, but I could not find him;
I called him, but he gave me no answer.
The watchmen who went about the city found me.  
They struck me, they wounded me;  
The keepers of the walls  
Took my veil away from me.  
I charge you, oh daughters of Jerusalem,  
If you find my beloved,  
That you tell him I am lovesick!

**VERSE 9**

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM  
What is your beloved  
More than another beloved,  
Oh fairest among women?  
What is your beloved  
More than another beloved,  
That you so charge us?

**VERSES 10-16**

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)  
My beloved is white and ruddy,  
Chief among ten thousand.  
His head is like the finest gold;  
His locks are wavy,  
And black as a raven.  
His eyes are like doves  
By the rivers of waters,  
Washed with milk,  
And fitly set.  
His cheeks are like a bed of spices,  
Banks of scented herbs.  
His lips are lilies,  
Dripping liquid myrrh.  
His hands are rods of gold  
Set with beryl.  
His body is carved ivory  
Inlaid with sapphires.  
His legs are pillars of marble  
Set on bases of fine gold.  
His countenance is like Lebanon,  
Excellent as the cedars.
His mouth is most sweet,
Yes, he is altogether lovely.
This is my beloved,
And this is my friend,
Oh daughters of Jerusalem!

**Study questions on chapter 5:**

1. Using verse 1, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - Where has he come?
   - What has he done?
   - What appeal does he make to his friends?

2. Using verses 2-8, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - What is she doing as this passage opens?
   - Who comes to the door?
   - What appeal does he make to her?
   - What is her response?
   - When she finally arises to open the door, what does she discover?
   - What happened when she went out in the city to find her Beloved?
   - What did she charge the Daughters of Jerusalem to tell her Beloved?

3. Using verse 9, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom are they speaking?
   - What questions do they ask?

4. Using verses 10-16, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - Summarize how the Bride describes her Beloved:
     - His complexion.
     - His rank among other men.
     - His head.
     - His hair.
     - His eyes.
     - His cheeks.
     - His lips.
     - His hands.
     - His body.
     - His legs.
     - His countenance.
     - His mouth.
   - Summarize her conclusion in verse 16. What relationship does she claim with her Beloved?
5. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.

6. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
Song Of Solomon 6

1 Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.
2 My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.
3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies.
4 Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.
5 Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.
6 Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them.
7 As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks.
8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.
9 My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.
10 Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?
11 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.
12 Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib.
13 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.

Outline 6:

VERSE 1

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
Where has your beloved gone,
Oh fairest among women?
Where has your beloved turned aside,
That we may seek him with you?

VERSES 2-3

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
My beloved has gone to his garden,
To the beds of spices,
To feed his flock in the gardens,
And to gather lilies.
I am my beloved's,
And my beloved is mine.
He feeds his flock among the lilies.

VERSES 4-10

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
Oh my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,
Lovely as Jerusalem,
Awesome as an army with banners!
Turn your eyes away from me,
For they have overcome me.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
Going down from Gilead.
Your teeth are like a flock of sheep
Which have come up from the washing;
Every one bears twins,
And none is barren among them.
Like a piece of pomegranate
Are your temples behind your veil.
There are sixty queens
And eighty concubines,
And virgins without number.
My dove, my perfect one,
Is the only one,
The only one of her mother,
The favorite of the one who bore her.
The daughters saw her
And called her blessed,
The queens and the concubines,
And they praised her.
Who is she who looks forth as the morning,
Fair as the moon,
Clear as the sun,
Awesome as an army with banners?

VERSES 11-12

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
I went down to the garden of nuts
To see the verdure of the valley,
To see whether the vine had budded
And the pomegranates had bloomed.
Before I was even aware,
My soul had made me
As the chariots of my noble people.

VERSE 13a

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
Return, return, oh Shulamite;
Return, return, that we may look upon you!

VERSE 13b
THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
What would you see in the Shulamite--
As it were, the dance of the two camps?

Study questions on chapter 6:
1. Using verse 1, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - What questions do they ask?
2. Using verses 2-3, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom is she speaking (see verse 1).
   - Where did she say her Beloved had gone and for what purpose?
   - What statement in this passage reflects her relationship with her Beloved?
3. Using verses 4-10, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - Who is he describing?
   - To what does he compare his Bride?
   - What does he say regarding his Bride's:
     - Eyes.
     - Hair.
     - Teeth.
     - Temples.
   - What terms of endearment does the Beloved use about his Bride?
   - What does he say regarding the Bride's mother?
   - What did the daughters say when they saw his Bride?
   - What did the queens and concubines say regarding the Bride?
4. Using verses 11-12, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - Where had she gone and for what purpose?
   - Before she was even aware, what happened to her?
   - To what does she compare herself?

5. Using verse 13, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking in verse 13a?
   - To whom are they speaking?
   - What appeal do they make?
   - What question is asked by the Shulamite in verse 13b?

6. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.

7. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1 How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.
2 Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.
3 Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins.
4 Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes like the fish pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim: thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.
5 Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries.
6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!
7 This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes.
8 I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;
9 And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.
10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.
11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.
12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.
13 The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

Outline 7:

VERSES 1-9

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
Oh prince's daughter!
The curves of your thighs are like jewels,
The work of the hands of a skillful workman.
Your navel is a rounded goblet;
It lacks no blended beverage.
Your waist is a heap of wheat
Set about with lilies.
Your two breasts are like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle.
Your neck is like an ivory tower,
Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon
By the gate of Bath Rabbim.
Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon
Which looks toward Damascus.
Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,
And the hair of your head is like purple;
A king is held captive by your tresses.
How fair and how pleasant you are,
Oh love, with your delights!
This stature of yours is like a palm tree,
And your breasts like its clusters.
I said, "I will go up to the palm tree,
I will take hold of its branches."
"Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
The fragrance of your breath like apples,
And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.

VERSES 10-13

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
The wine goes down smoothly for my beloved,
Moving gently the lips of sleepers.
I am my beloved's,
And his desire is toward me.
Come, my beloved,
Let us go forth to the field;
Let us lodge in the villages.
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.
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.
Study questions on chapter 7:

1. Using verses 1-9, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - About whom is he speaking?
   - How does he describe her:
     - Feet.
     - Thighs.
     - Naval.
     - Waist.
     - Neck.
     - Eyes.
     - Nose.
     - Head.
     - Hair.
     - Stature.
     - Breasts.
     - Breath.
     - Mouth.

2. Using verses 10-13, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom does she pledge her loyalty?
   - What does she say regarding her Beloved's desire?
   - What appeal does she make to her Beloved?
     - Where does she want to go?
     - For what purpose?
     - What does she pledge to do there?
     - What has she laid up for her Beloved?

3. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.

4. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1 O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! when I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised.
2 I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.
3 His left hand should be under my head, and his right hand should embrace me.
4 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please.
5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.
6 Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.
7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.
8 We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?
9 If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar.
10 I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour.
11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver.
12 My vineyard, which is mine, is before me: thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.
13 Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it.
14 Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

Outline 8:

VERSES 1-2

THE SHUMALITE
Oh, that you were like my brother,
Who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I should find you outside,
I would kiss you;
I would not be despised.
I would lead you and bring you
Into the house of my mother,
She who used to instruct me.
I would cause you to drink of spiced wine,
Of the juice of my pomegranate.

**VERSES 3-4**

THE SHUMALITE TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM

His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.
I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases.

**VERSE 5**

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM

Who is this coming up from the wilderness,
Leaning upon her beloved?

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)

I awakened you under the apple tree.
There your mother brought you forth;
There she who bore you brought you forth.

**VERSES 6-7**

THE SHULAMITE (Bride) TO HER BELOVED (Bridegroom)

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy as cruel as the grave;
Its flames are flames of fire,
A most vehement flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised.
VERSES 8-9

THE SHULAMITE'S (Bride's) BROTHERS
We have a little sister,
And she has no breasts.
What shall we do for our sister
In the day when she is spoken for?
If she is a wall,
We will build upon her
A battlement of silver;
And if she is a door,
We will enclose her
With boards of cedar.

VERSES 10-12

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
I am a wall,
And my breasts like towers;
Then I became in his eyes
As one who found peace.
Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon;
He leased the vineyard to keepers;
Everyone was to bring for its fruit
A thousand silver coins.
My own vineyard is before me.
You, oh Solomon, may have a thousand,
And those who tend its fruit two hundred.

VERSE 13

THE BELOVED (Bridegroom)
You who dwell in the gardens,
The companions listen for your voice--
Let me hear it!
VERSE 14

THE SHULAMITE (Bride)
Make haste, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
On the mountains of spices.

Study questions on chapter 8:
1. Using verses 1-2, answer the following questions.
   -Who is speaking?
   -What desires does she express?
   -Where does she desire to take her Beloved and what does she want to do once they are there?
2. Using verses 3-4, answer the following questions.
   -Who is speaking?
   -To whom is she speaking?
   -What does she say regarding her Beloved's left and right hands?
   -What charge does she give to the Daughters of Jerusalem?
3. Using verse 5, answer the following questions.
   -Who is speaking in 5a?
   -What question is asked in 5a?
   -What statements are made regarding the Shulamite in 5b and by whom?
4. Using verses 6-7, answer the following questions.
   -Who is speaking?
   -To whom is she speaking?
   -What is her request?
   -What does she say about love--its value and enduring nature?
   -What does she say about jealousy?
5. Using verses 8-9, answer the following questions.
   -Who is speaking?
   -About whom are they speaking?
   -What is their concern and question?
   -What options do they consider for the day in which she is spoken for?
6. Using verses 10-12, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - How does she describe herself?
   - How did she appear in the eyes of her Beloved?
   - What does she say about Solomon and his vineyards?
   - What does she say about her vineyard?
   - What does she say about Solomon’s vineyard?

7. Using verse 13, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom is he speaking?
   - What is his request?

8. Using verse 14, answer the following questions.
   - Who is speaking?
   - To whom is she speaking?
   - What is her appeal?
   - To what does she compare her Beloved?

9. Study the symbolic significance of the descriptive words used in each passage of this chapter and apply what you learn to your relationship with the Lord.

10. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY ONE
BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF SOLOMON

Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24). He was the King of Israel (1 Kings 1:32-37). His name means “prince of peace.” Interestingly, in the Song of Solomon, his name, "My Beloved," appears 33 times—once for each of the years of Jesus spent on earth. In this book, Solomon is a type of Christ, although Jesus Christ is greater because He did not fail as Solomon did (Matthew 6:29 and 12:42).

HIS NAME:

The name "Solomon" is related to the Hebrew "shalom" meaning "peace." Shalom means the kind of peace that results from being in harmony with God and with one's fellow man. Shalom implies wholeness. According to Samuel, Solomon's other name was "Jedidiah, "Beloved of Yahweh." (2 Samuel 12:24-25).

HIS BIRTH:

After David's adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah the Hittite, King David married Bathsheba. The child of their adulterous union died, but later on a son was born to them who would inherit the throne. They named him Solomon.

HIS INAUGURATION AND REIGN:

Solomon's accession to the throne, his prayer to God for wisdom, his great wealth, his building of the temple, his prayer of dedication for the temple and God's response, his successes, as well as his later failures—are recorded in 1 Kings 1-11 and 3:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:23-25; 2 Chronicles 1-9; and Ecclesiastes 2:4-6.

Solomon was an author and composer of over 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:29-34); an architect and administrator (1 Kings 4 and 6); a scientist, writer, and musician (1 Kings 4:29-34); and a diplomat and businessman (1 Kings 4-5). A record of his achievements is found in 1 Kings 6,1,38; 7:1; and Ecclesiastes 2:4-6.

God gave Solomon:
- Wisdom and knowledge: 2 Chronicles 1:7-12; 9:1-8, 22-23.
- Discernment and strength: 1 Kings 4:29-34.
GOD'S APPEARANCES TO SOLOMON:

1 Kings 3:5-15
5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
6 Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.
7 "Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.
8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.
9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.
11 So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,
12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.
13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for — both riches and honor — so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.
14 And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."  (NIV)

1 Chronicles 1:7-12
7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
8 Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place.
9 Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth.
10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king,
12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."  (NIV)
1 Kings 9:1-9

1 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do,
2 the Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.
3 The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.
4 "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,
5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'
6 "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them,
7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.
8 And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'
9 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them — that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.'" (NIV)

In 1 Kings 11: God appeared again to Solomon, but was not pleased with him. The remainder of the chapter tells how Solomon was plagued by adversaries, internal rebellion, and frustration because of his compromises and sins.

1 Kings 11:9-13

9 The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.
10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.
11 So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.
12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen." (NIV)

HIS LATER YEARS:

Solomon's early years were followed by a decline and an extended time in his life when he was not walking with God:
For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. (1 Kings 11:4)

Solomon's decline started with compromises. His decline was due to:
- Union with an unbeliever: 1 Kings 8:11.
- Unaccountable for his actions: 1 Kings 9:19.
- Uncontrolled desires: 1 Kings 9:1,10; 2 Chronicles 8:6.
- Unwise alliances: 1 Kings 3:1.
- Unresolved conflicts: 1 Kings 9:10-14.
- Unholy involvement with idolatry: 1 Kings 11:4-8.

See Deuteronomy 17:14-17 for warnings regarding kings.

Towards the end of his life, Solomon apparently returned to close fellowship with God as reflected by the advice given in his declining years: 1 Kings 11:40-43 and Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:7.

THE WRITINGS OF SOLOMON:

Solomon wrote the majority of the book of Proverbs. The Book of Kings says that Solomon also wrote 1005 songs. Of all his songs, only the Song of Solomon survives. Most commentators consider the Song of Solomon to have been written early in his life. Ecclesiastes seems to have been written later in his life to recall how he had searched for meaning in life. His conclusion is that life only makes sense when God is at the center of all we undertake.

WHY WOULD GOD USE SOLOMON TO WRITE THIS SONG?

Solomon was given riches, power, and wisdom unlike any other king of Israel (1 Chronicles 29:25). Solomon was called to be a lover of God in the Spirit, but later in life he turned to the flesh. Why would God choose someone who multiplied wives and concubines and turned away from the Lord so dramatically during a portion of his life to write a portrait of intimacy between our Heavenly Bridegroom and the Bride of Christ? (1 Kings 11:3-4)

A key truth to be drawn from Solomon's life is that no matter how much you love God or how deep your level of intimacy with Him, compromise can lead to spiritual decline. This is why the Apostle Paul said: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Another important lesson is that no matter how far you stray from the Lord or how many times you fall, forgiveness and restoration are available if you will repent and return to the Lord: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8).
STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does the name Solomon mean?
2. Who were Solomon's parents and what were the circumstances of his birth?
4. Study the references that record God's appearances to Solomon.
   - What things are unique to the Chronicles account?
   - What things are unique to the Kings account?
   - What things are similar in both accounts?
5. Summarize what you learned about Solomon's spiritual decline.
6. What were the major writings of Solomon?
7. Why would God use a man like Solomon to write this Song?
8. What are two important lessons that may be learned from Solomon's life?
SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY TWO

PSALM 45

1 My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

3 Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.

4 And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

5 Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.

6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

8 All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

9 Kings’ daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

10 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father’s house;

11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

12 And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

13 The king’s daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

14 She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king’s palace.

16 Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

17 I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.
EXPOSITORY OUTLINE OF PSALM 45

I. My heart is inditing a good matter (1)
   A. I speak of the things which I have made touching the King.
   B. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

II. The King (2-8)
   A. His character:
      1. He is fairer than the children of men.
      2. Grace is poured into His lips.
      3. God has blessed Him forever.
   B. His conquests:
      1. The sword is on His thigh in glory and majesty.
      2. He rides prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness.
      3. Terrible (awe-inspiring) things are in His right hand.
      4. His arrows are sharp in the heart of His enemies; whereby the people fall.
   C. His royalty:
      1. His throne is for ever.
      2. The scepter of His kingdom is a right scepter.
   D. His rule: He loves righteousness and hates iniquity
   E. His anointing is:
      1. From God
      2. An anointing of gladness above all others.
   F. His clothing smells of:
      1. Myrrh.
      2. Aloes.
      3. Cassia.
   G. His courts: Are the ivory palaces, whereby they have made you glad.

III. The Bride (9-14)
   A. Her clothing is gold and fine needlework.
   B. Her commitment is:
      1. To forget her own people and her father's house.
      2. To worship the king:
         (a) Because He desires her.
         (b) Because He is her Lord.
   C. Her countenance: Gladness and rejoicing.
   D. Her coming glory (15-17)
      1. Her destination is the king's palace.
      2. Her offspring will be princes in the earth.
      3. Her name will be remembered in all generations.
QUESTIONS ON PSALM 45

1. Summarize Hebrews 1:8-9 which refers to this psalm.
2. What is the writer's purpose in this psalm? (1)
3. Read verses 2-8 about the King (representative of Jesus) and describe the following:
   - The character of the King.
   - The conquests of the King.
   - The royalty of the King.
   - The rule of the King.
   - The anointing of the King.
   - The clothing of the King.
   - The courts of the King.

   Study these descriptions for spiritual significance.

3. Read verses 9-14 and describe the Bride who is representative of the Bride of Christ—the Church and individual believers.
   - The clothing of the Bride.
   - The commitment of the Bride.
   - The countenance of the Bride.
   - The coming glory of the Bride.

   Study these descriptions for spiritual significance.
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY THREE
COMPOSITE DESCRIPTIONS

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIDEGROOM

These descriptions are natural parallels of the spiritual qualities of our Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Swift as a gazelle (animal like a deer) leaping over the hills: 2:9
- Ruddy and handsome, the fairest of ten thousand: 5:10
- His head was covered by wavy, dark hair, pure as gold: 5:11
- His eyes were deep and quiet, like doves beside brooks of water: 5:12
- His lips were like lilies and his breath like myrrh: 5:13
- His cheeks were like sweet beds of spice: 5:13
- His body was bright ivory with jewels: 5:14
- His arms were like round bars of gold set with topaz stones: 5:14
- His legs were like pillars of marble set in sockets of finest gold, like the cedar trees of Lebanon: 5:15

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIDE

These descriptions are natural parallels of the spiritual qualities of the Bride of Christ--the Church and individual believers:
- She was the most beautiful girl in the world: 1:8
- She was like a bouquet of flowers in a garden: 1:14
- Her eyes were like those of doves: 1:15
- She was like a lily among the thorns: 2:2
- Her hair fell across her face like flocks of goats which played across the slopes of Gilead: 4:1
- Her teeth were as white as sheep's wool: 4:2
- Her lips were like a thread of scarlet: 4:3
- Her lips were like honey: 4:11
- Her neck was as stately as the tower of David: 4:4
- Her bosom was like twin fawns feeding among the lilies: 4:5
- He was overcome by just a glance of her beautiful eyes: 4:9
- She was like a lovely orchard, bearing precious fruit: 4:13
- She was like a garden fountain, a well of living water, refreshing as the streams from the Lebanon mountains: 4:15
- Her thighs were like jewels, the work of the most skilled craftsmen: 7:1
- Her waist was like a heap of wheat set about with lilies: 7:2
- Her navel was as lovely as a goblet filled with wine: 7:2
- Her nose was like the Tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus: 7:4
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY FOUR
THE CHURCH AND THE SONG

Jesus, the Church, and individual believers are described by several symbolic figures in the New Testament.

- Jesus is the Great Shepherd and we are the sheep (John 10:1-18).
- He is the True Vine and we are the branches (John 15:1).
- We are "living stones" built into a house which is a habitation for God and Christ Jesus is our cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-7).
- He is a merchant who finds and buys a single pearl of great price--His Bride (Matthew 13:45).
- He is Great High Priest over the household of faith and we are His servants and ministering priests (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- He is the head of the Church and we are His body (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).
- We are Bride of Christ and Jesus the Bridegroom (Revelation 21:9).

The Bible uses the metaphor of marriage to illustrate the relationship between God and Israel and Jesus Christ and the Church (Hosea 2:14, 16, 19; 11:1; Isaiah 42:14; 62:4; 63:16; Jeremiah 3:19.) The Song of Solomon also reflects this symbolic picture.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

“I am jealous over you with godly jealousy, for I have betrothed to you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2)

Dallas Seminary theologian Chancellor and retired President, John W. Walvoord writes as follows:

"The use of the figure of a Bride to represent the church in her relationship to Christ has in mind the oriental pattern in which marriage is contemplated as having three major steps: (1) the legal marriage often consummated by the parents of the bride and the bridegroom in which the dowry is paid and the young couple are formally married in a legal sense; (2) subsequent to the legal marriage, the bridegroom according to the custom would go with his companions to the house of the bride to claim his bride for himself and to take her back to his own home; (3) the bridal procession would be followed by the marriage feast which would often last for many days as illustrated in the wedding at Cana (John 2)."
"Taking this figure as a spiritual picture of the relationship of Christ to His church, it is evident that for individual Christians, the marriage as far as its legal character is concerned is consummated at the moment an individual puts his trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In the case of the Christian, the dowry has already been paid in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and the Bride has been purchased and claimed in a legal way by the Bridegroom. The church is, therefore, already married to Christ as far as the technical relationship is concerned. The day will come, however, when the Bridegroom will come for His Bride and this is fulfilled in the rapture of the church. At that time the Bridegroom will claim His Bride and take her to His Father's house. This is the background of the statements in John 14:2-3 where Christ said: '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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.' This passage contemplates that Christ in the present age is preparing a place for His Bride. When this is complete and the Bride is ready, He will come to take the Bride to her heavenly home which will be accomplished by the rapture and translation of the church.

"The church which is made perfect by the grace of God will be delivered from the earthly scene and presented to the heavenly bridegroom on the occasion of the rapture of the church. The marriage union thus contemplated will result in the church being forever with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17), and it will fulfill Christ's declared purpose "that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). The Word of God pictures the relationship of Christ to His church as the most beautiful of love relationships in human experience and contemplates unbroken fellowship throughout all eternity as the church enjoys the immediate presence of their loving Lord.

"Further confirmation is given that this is an event fulfilled in heaven rather than on earth in the millennium is the declaration in Revelation 19:7-9, at the time of the return of Christ to the earth to set up His earthly kingdom. The church is pictured as already the wife of the Lamb and as already arrayed in fine linen. The marriage of the Lamb is declared to have already come and now the invitation is extended to those outside the church, the body of Christ, to participate in the marriage supper (Revelation 19:9) which seems to be a spiritual representation of the millennium or at least its inauguration. As the marriage feast is the final stage, it should be clear that the Lamb has already come for His Bride and claimed her previously in the rapture of the church. The marriage (Gr. gamos) is actually the entire ceremony subsequent to the coming of the bridegroom for the Bride. In this marriage ceremony is the marriage supper (Gr. deitnon) which is the meal or supper proper.”


A great feast planned by God for His people was described by the Prophet Isaiah nearly 700 years BC:
"On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (Isaiah 25:6-9)

The church as the Bride of Christ is not spoken of in the Old Testament, but Israel was called the "wife of Yahweh." The prophets describe God's nurture, courtship and betrothal of Israel (Ezekiel 16); their spiritual adultery; and their divorce from the Lord (the book of Hosea). In spite of this "divorce" under the Old Covenant, God promises to restore Israel as His Bride at the close of the age in which we now live (Jeremiah 31, and Romans 9-11).

Ray Stedman, in his commentary on Revelation, notes:

"It is a great honor to be invited to a wedding feast. It is a feast to which the entire human race is invited—but only a fraction of the human race will attend. The invitation is the gospel, and the gospel has gone out to all men and women everywhere, in every age of history. Some accept the invitation. Some reject it....The Spirit of God has been calling men and women throughout the centuries, from Old Testament times through our own New Testament era and on into the future, even in the tribulation period. The invitation goes out to everyone: 'Come to the marriage feast of the Lamb!' What a privilege that will be, to see the Bridegroom face to face, to be a member of His beloved Bride, to share in the intimacy of fellowship with the Lord Jesus!" (Ray C. Stedman, God's Final Word, Discovery House 1991).

When it was time for Isaac, Abraham's son, to be married, Abraham sent his trusted servant back to his native land to select a bride for his son. Genesis 24 is a picture of the way God would later send the Holy Spirit into the world to call out a Bride for His beloved Son. Scofield says:

"The entire chapter is highly typical. (1) Abraham, type of a certain king who would make a marriage for his son (Mt. 22:2, John 6:44); (2) the unnamed servant, type of the Holy Spirit, who does not "speak of himself" but takes the things of the Bridegroom to win the Bride (John 16:13,14); (3) the servant, type of the Spirit as enriching the Bride with the Bridegroom's gifts (Gal. 5:22, 1 Cor. 12:7-11); (4) the servant, type of the Spirit as bringing the Bride to the meeting with the Bridegroom (Acts 13:4, 16:6,7, Rom. 8:11, 1 Thess. 4:14-16); (5) Rebekah, type of the Church, the ecclesia, the "called out" virgin Bride of Christ (Gen. 24:16, 2 Cor. 11:2, Eph. 5:25-32); (6) Isaac, type of the Bridegroom, "whom not having seen" the Bride loves through the testimony of the unnamed servant (1 Peter 1:8); (7) Isaac, type of the Bridegroom who goes out to meet
and receive his Bride (Genesis 24:63, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16)." (Scofield Reference Bible notes)

A great marriage feast will be part of Christ's final return to earth. The this event was anticipated by the "Last Supper":

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:26-30)

The universality of God's invitation for all men everywhere to come to the marriage supper is given in Matthew 22:

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants,

The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:1-14)

The marriage supper of the Lamb is described in the book of Revelation:

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds
of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."
(Revelation 19:6-9)
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY FIVE
MARRIAGE AND THE SONG

Many modern Bible commentators view the Song of Solomon strictly from a sexual point of view, holding that the book simply provides guidelines for relationships between a husband and wife and nothing more. As explained in the Introduction of this study, however, the book actually has four levels of spiritual interpretation:

1. It is an example of the relationship which should exist between a man and his wife.
2. It is an example of God's relationship with Israel.
3. It is an example of the relationship between Christ and the Church.
4. It is an example of the relationship between Christ and the individual believer.

It is not necessary to take a dogmatic view as to which way it should be interpreted. While all levels of interpretation are valid, this study focuses on the book as describing the spiritual relationship between the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) and his Bride (individual believers).

Nevertheless, there are some tremendous guidelines regarding marriage in the Song of Solomon. The following summary is provided for those who wish to study the book from this perspective.

Reference | Guidelines For A Successful Relationship
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1:2-4 | Physical desires for your spouse are appropriate.
1:7 | It is important to know and accept your intended spouse as he/she is.
1:8 | It is better not to marry someone you cannot accept as they are.
2:7 | Refuse sexual involvement before marriage.
2:14-15 | Take time to resolve potential problems in your marriage.
3:5 | Sexual involvement before marriage compromises objectivity in important decisions.
4:1-7 | Learn the importance of verbal lovemaking, speaking words of love to each other.
5:1 | The Lord blesses the sexual relationship within marriage.
6:4-9 | Extol your mate's virtues above those of others.
7:10-13 | Set aside times to renew the romance in your marriage.
8:4 | Sexual involvement before marriage weakens a couple's ability to make sexual adjustments within marriage.
8:6-7 | Develop a strong, unbreakable commitment to each other.
8:8-9 | Get involved with the development of your children's sexual morality.
8:10-12 | Place a high value on purity.
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY SIX  
JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

The sequence of events that will unite us with our spiritual Bridegroom are mirrored in the natural analogy of Jewish marriage customs as reflected in the Song of Solomon.

THE SELECTION OF A BRIDE

In Jewish culture:
The groom's father makes and approves the choice of the bride.

Spiritual analogy:
Christ is the Bridegroom. The Church is the Bride. The Father makes and approves the choice. John the Baptist is a type of a best man, preparing the way for the Bridegroom (John 10:28).

THE GROOM'S PROMISE

In Jewish culture:
The groom makes a covenant or contract. A cup of wine is drunk to seal the covenant. The groom pays a bridal price to show He is serious. The groom declares that he will come to claim his bride soon.

Spiritual analogy:
God made a new covenant with Israel to replace one He made with Abraham. Jesus drank the cup of wine to symbolize the redemption of the Bride at the last supper. Jesus paid the price for us on the cross and has declared He will soon come to take His Bride, the Church, away with Him: Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew 26:27-29; 1 Corinthians 6:20; John 14:2-3.

THE GROOM PREPARES A PLACE FOR HIS BRIDE

In Jewish culture:
The groom prepares a bridal chamber where he and his bride will remain for seven days. He works on it until it meets the approval of his father, then the father gives him permission to go for his bride.

Spiritual analogy:
Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for us. The Father will let Jesus know when it is time to return for His Bride: Mark 13:32-33.
THE BRIDE WAITS

In Jewish culture:
While the bridegroom is building the new home, the bride waits. She wears a veil during this time, showing she belongs only to the groom. She prepares for her wedding by making things for the new home. She was ready at all times, because she didn't know when the bridegroom would return for her.

Spiritual analogy:
We must commit ourselves only to Christ while we wait for His return. We must prepare ourselves spiritually for our new home. We must be ready at all times because we do not know when our Bridegroom will return for us: 2 Corinthians 11:2; Luke 19:13; 1 Corinthians 13:1; Luke 12:40.

THE BRIDESMAIDS

In Jewish culture:
The bridesmaids were unmarried friends who attended the bride and provided light for the groom to come and fetch his bride at night.

Spiritual analogy:
We prepare the Bride by our ministry to believers. We must be sure not to run out of the oil of the Holy Spirit as we wait the Bridegroom's return: Matthew 25:1-13.

THE BRIDEGROOM COMES

In Jewish culture:
The groom's men would run ahead of him and shout that he was coming. The groom would claim his bride and they would return to his father's house to party with the friends waiting there for them.

Spiritual analogy:
We should "run ahead of Him" and shout that He is coming soon! When the times comes, Jesus will come to claim His Bride. We will return to the Father’s house where loved ones who have gone before will be waiting for us and the party begin: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
BRIDAL CHAMBER

In Jewish culture:
The bride and groom enter the bridal chamber where the marriage is consummated. Afterwards, the guests all party for seven days.

Spiritual analogy:
We will enter the heavenly bridal chamber to consummate our relationship with Jesus. Some compare those 7 days in the chamber to the 7 year tribulation occurring on earth during which we will be in Heaven: John 3:29; Revelation 19:7-8.

MARRIED LIFE BEGINS

In Jewish culture:
The new couple goes to the father's home to begin married life.

Spiritual analogy:
We will go to the Father's house for the marriage supper, then we will reign with Christ in His Kingdom in the new earth: Revelation 20:16.
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY SEVEN GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS IN THE SONG


2:17 Mountains of Bether: A hilly district on the east side of the Jordan valley (2 Samuel 2:29), not far from Mahanaim (Song of Solomon 6:13). Used symbolically for mountains of "separation," dividing the Beloved from the Bride for a time.

4:1 Mt. Gilead: The high pastures on the east of the Jordan River. Speaks of spiritual rest and nourishment.

4:8 Lebanon, Amana, Senir, and Hermon: The mountain ranges west of Damascus. Symbolic of the high places of service and difficulty.

6:4 Tirzah: A small town in the hill country of Israel north of Shechem. The capital of Israel for the period between kings Solmon and Omri. The name means "charming"

6:4 Jerusalem: Capitol city of Israel. The name means "right foundations".

6:13 Mahanaim: A well-known sacred dance, taking its name from the locality in which it originated. Some believe "Mahanaim" to be an ordinary designation for "the Angels" or "Angelic Hosts." A dance of special grace and beauty. (Genesis 32:2; Joshua 21:38).

7:4 Heshbon: A town on a hill near Mt. Pisgah, east of the north end of the Dead Sea. The clear beautiful pools are reflective of how our lives should be.

7:4 Tower of Lebanon: A tower facing Damascus, an enemy city. Symbolic of being alert for enemy attack.

7:4 Damascus: The Syrian capital and symbolic of the enemy.

7:4 Bath Rabbim: The gate looking toward Rabbath-Ammon on the north side of the city of Jerusalem. The name means "daughter of many".

7:5 Carmel: A hill jutting into the Mediterranean which overlooks the present-day Haifa. A symbol of divine revelation: Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

8:11 Baal-Hamon: A vineyard located on the warm and fertile plains. Symbolic of Jesus the vine, believers as branches.
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY EIGHT
SENSES IN THE SONG

All of the five physical senses are evident in the Song, symbolic of how we should be sensitive to our bridegroom with our whole being.

**Taste**
His fruit is sweet to the taste 2:3
The taste is like choice fruits 4:16
Eating honeycomb and honey 5:1
Mouth as the best wine 7:9

**Smell**
Pleasing fragrance of perfumes 1:3
Perfume spreading fragrance 1:12
Perfumed with myrrh and incense 3:6
The fragrance of perfume 4:10
The fragrance of garments 4:11

**Touch**
Caresses (love) more delightful than wine 1:2
Left arm under the head, right arm embraces 2:6 and 8:3
Holding Him and not letting go 3:4

**Hearing**
Let me hear your voice 2:14
Listen...He is knocking 5:2
Let me hear your voice 8:13

**Sight**
Do not stare at me because I am dark 1:6
Show me your face 2:14
You have stolen my heart with one glance 4:9
Turn your eyes from me 6:5
Come back, that we may gaze on you 6:13
SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY NINE
VERSIONS OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON

AMERICAN STANDARD

Song of Solomon 1

1:1 The Song of songs, which is Solomon's.
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth; For thy love is better than wine.
3 Thine oils have a goodly fragrance; Thy name is (as) oil poured forth; Therefore do the virgins love thee.
4 Draw me; we will run after thee: The king hath brought me into his chambers; We will be glad and rejoice in thee; We will make mention of thy love more than of wine: Rightly do they love thee.
5 I am black, but comely, Oh ye daughters of Jerusalem, As the tents of Kedar, As the curtains of Solomon.
6 Look not upon me, because I am swarthy, Because the sun hath scorched me. My mother's sons were incensed against me; They made me keeper of the vineyards; (But) mine own vineyard have I not kept.
7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, Where thou feedest (thy flock), Where thou makest (it) to rest at noon: For why should I be as one that is veiled Beside the flocks of thy companions?
8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, And feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.
9 I have compared thee, O my love, To a steed in Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Thy cheeks are comely with plaits (of hair), Thy neck with strings of jewels.
11 We will make thee plaits of gold With studs of silver.
12 While the king sat at his table, My spikenard sent forth its fragrance.
13 My beloved is unto me (as) a bundle of myrrh, That lieth betwixt my breasts.
14 My beloved is unto me (as) a cluster of henna-flowers In the vineyards of En-gedi.
15 Behold, thou art fair, my love; Behold thou art fair; Thine eyes are (as) doves.
16 Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: Also our couch is green.
17 The beams of our house are cedars, (And) our rafters are firs.

Song of Solomon 2

2:1 I am a rose of Sharon, A lily of the valleys.
2 As a lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.
3 As the apple-tree among the trees of the wood, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.
4 He brought me to the banqueting-house, And his banner over me was love.
5 Stay ye me with raisins, refresh me with apples; For I am sick from love.
6 His left hand (is) under my head, And his right hand doth embrace me.
7 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the roes, or by the hinds of the field, That ye stir not up, nor awake (my) love, Until he please.
8 The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh, Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills.
9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: Behold, he standeth behind our wall; He looketh in at the windows; He glanceth through the lattice.
10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
11 For, lo, the winter is past; The rain is over and gone;
12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of the singing (of birds) is come, And the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land;
13 The fig-tree ripeneth her green figs, And the vines are in blossom; They give forth their fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, In the covert of the steep place, Let me see thy countenance, Let me hear thy voice; For sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.
15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, That spoil the vineyards; For our vineyards are in blossom.
16 My beloved is mine, and I am his: He feedeth (his flock) among the lilies.
17 Until the day be cool, and the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart Upon the mountains of Bethel.

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. 
2 (I said), I will rise now, and go about the city; In the streets and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. 
3 The watchmen that go about the city found me; (To whom I said), Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? 
4 It was but a little that I passed from them, When I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, Until I had brought him into my mother's house, And into the chamber of her that conceived me.
5 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the roes, or by the hinds of the field, That ye stir not up, nor awake (my) love, Until he please.
6 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness Like pillars of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all powders of the merchant? 
7 Behold, it is the litter of Solomon; Threescore mighty men are about it, Of the mighty men of Israel. 
8 They all handle the sword, (and) are expert in war: Every man hath his sword upon his thigh, Because of fear in the night. 
9 King Solomon made himself a palanquin Of the wood of Lebanon.
10 He made the pillars thereof of silver, The bottom thereof of gold, the seat of it of purple, The midst thereof being paved with love, From the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon, With the crown wherewith his mother hath crowned him In the day of his espousals, And in the day of the gladness of his heart.

**Song of Solomon 4**

4:1 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; Thine eyes are (as) doves behind thy veil. Thy hair is as a flock of goats, That lie along the side of mount Gilead.
2 Thy teeth are like a flock (of ewes) that are (newly) shorn, Which are come up from the washing, Whereof every one hath twins, And none is bereaved among them.
3 Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, And thy mouth is comely. Thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate Behind thy veil.
4 Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armory, Whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, All the shields of the mighty men.
5 Thy two breasts are like two fawns That are twins of a roe, Which feed among the lilies.
6 Until the day be cool, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, And to the hill of frankincense.
7 Thou art all fair, my love; And there is no spot in thee.
8 Come with me from Lebanon, (my) bride, With me from Lebanon: Look from the top of Amana, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions’ dens, From the mountains of the leopards.
9 Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, (my) bride; Thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, With one chain of thy neck.
10 How fair is thy love, my sister, (my) bride! How much better is thy love than wine! And the fragrance of thine oils than all manner of spices!
11 Thy lips, O (my) bride, drop (as) the honeycomb: Honey and milk are under thy tongue; And the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.
12 A garden shut up is my sister, (my) bride; A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Thy shoots are an orchard of pomegranates, with precious fruits; Henna with spikenard plants,
14 Spikenard and saffron, Calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; Myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices.
15 (Thou art) a fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And flowing streams from Lebanon.
16 Awake, O north wind; And come, thou south; Blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, And eat his precious fruits.

**Song of Solomon 5**

5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, (my) bride: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends; Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.
2 I was asleep, but my heart waked: It is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, (saying), Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled; For my head is filled with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.
3 I have put off my garment; How shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?
4 My beloved put in his hand by the hole (of the door), And my heart was moved for him.
5 I rose up to open to my beloved; And my hands droppeth with myrrh, And my fingers with liquid myrrh, Upon the handles of the bolt.
6 I opened to my beloved; But my beloved had withdrawn himself, (and) was gone. My soul had failed me when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.
7 The watchmen that go about the city found me, They smote me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls took away my mantle from me.
8 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If ye find my beloved, That ye tell him, that I am sick from love.
9 What is thy beloved more than (another) beloved, O thou fairest among women? What is thy beloved more than (another) beloved, That thou dost so adjure us?
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, The chiefest among ten thousand.
11 His head is (as) the most fine gold; His locks are bushy, (and) black as a raven.
12 His eyes are like doves beside the water-brooks, Washed with milk, (and) fitly set.
13 His cheeks are as a bed of spices, (As) banks of sweet herbs: His lips are (as) lilies, dropping liquid myrrh.
14 His hands are (as) rings of gold set with beryl: His body is (as) ivory work overlaid (with) sapphires.
15 His legs are (as) pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: His aspect is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
16 His mouth is most sweet; Yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? Whither hath thy beloved turned him, That we may seek him with thee?
2 My beloved is gone down to his garden, To the beds of spices, To feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.
3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine; He feedeth (his flock) among the lilies,
4 Thou art fair, O my love, as Tirzah, Comely as Jerusalem, Terrible as an army with banners.
5 Turn away thine eyes from me, For they have overcome me. Thy hair is as a flock of goats, That lie along the side of Gilead.
6 Thy teeth are like a flock of ewes, Which are come up from the washing; Whereof every one hath twins, And none is bereaved among them.
7 Thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate Behind thy veil.
8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, And virgins without number.
9 My dove, my undefiled, is (but) one; She is the only one of her mother; She is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and called her blessed; (Yea), the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.
10 Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, Clear as the sun, Terrible as an army with banners?
11 I went down into the garden of nuts, To see the green plants of the valley, To see whether the vine budded, (And) the pomegranates were in flower.
12 Before I was aware, my soul set me (Among) the chariots of my princely people.
13 Return, return, O Shulammite; Return, return, that we may look upon thee. Why will ye look upon the Shulammite, As upon the dance of Mahanaim?

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 How beautiful are thy feet in sandals, O prince's daughter! Thy rounded thighs are like jewels, The work of the hands of a skilful workman.
2 Thy body is (like) a round goblet, (Wherein) no mingled wine is wanting: Thy waist is (like) a heap of wheat Set about with lilies.
3 Thy two breasts are like two fawns That are twins of a roe.
4 Thy neck is like the tower of ivory; Thine eyes (as) the pools in Heshbon, By the gate of Bath-rabbim; Thy nose is like the tower of Lebanon Which looketh toward Damascus.
5 Thy head upon thee is like Carmel, And the hair of thy head like purple; The king is held captive in the tresses (thereof).
6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!
7 This thy stature is like to a palm-tree, And thy breasts to its clusters.
8 I said, I will climb up into the palm-tree, I will take hold of the branches thereof: Let thy breasts be as clusters of the vine, And the smell of thy breath like apples,
9 And thy mouth like the best wine, That goeth down smoothly for my beloved, Gliding through the lips of those that are asleep.
10 I am my beloved's; And his desire is toward me.
11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; Let us lodge in the villages.
12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine hath budded, (And) its blossom is open, (And) the pomegranates are in flower: There will I give thee my love.
13 The mandrakes give forth fragrance; And at our doors are all manner of precious fruits, new and old, Which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 Oh that thou wert as my brother, That sucked the breasts of my mother! (When) I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; Yea, and none would despise me.
2 I would lead thee, (and) bring thee into my mother's house, Who would instruct me; I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine, Of the juice of my pomegranate.
3 His left hand (should be) under my head, And his right hand should embrace me.
4 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, That ye stir not up, nor awake (my) love, Until he please.
5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved? Under the apple-tree I awakened thee: There thy mother was in travail with thee, There was she in travail that brought thee forth.
6 Set me as a seal upon thy heart, As a seal upon thine arm: For love is strong as death; Jealousy is cruel as Sheol; The flashes thereof are flashes of fire, A very flame of Jehovah.
7 Many waters cannot quench love, Neither can floods drown it: If a man would give all the substance of his house for love, He would utterly be contemned.
8 We have a little sister, And she hath no breasts: What shall we do for our sister In the day when she shall be spoken for?
9 If she be a wall, We will build upon her a turret of silver: And if she be a door, We will inclose her with boards of cedar.
10 I am a wall, and my breasts like the towers (thereof) Then was I in his eyes as one that found peace.
11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; He let out the vineyard unto keepers; Every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand (pieces) of silver.
12 My vineyard, which is mine, is before me: Thou, O Solomon, shalt have the thousand, And those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.
13 Thou that dwellest in the gardens, The companions hearken for thy voice: Cause me to hear it.
14 Make haste, my beloved, And be thou like to a roe or to a young hart Upon the mountains of spices.
AMPLIFIED

Song of Solomon 1

1:1 THE SONG of songs [the most excellent of them all] which is Solomon's. [1 Kings 4:32.]
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! [she cries. Then, realizing that Solomon has arrived and has heard her speech, she turns to him and adds] For your love is better than wine!
3[And she continues] The odor of your ointments is fragrant; your name is like perfume poured out. Therefore do the maidens love you.
4 Draw me! We will run after you! The king brings me into his apartments! We will be glad and rejoice in you! We will recall [when we were favored with] your love, more fragrant than wine. The upright [are not offended at your choice, but sincerely] love you.
5 I am so black; but [you are] lovely and pleasant [the ladies assured her]. O you daughters of Jerusalem, [I am as dark] as the tents of [the Bedouin tribe] Kedar, like the [beautiful] curtains of Solomon!
6[Please] do not look at me, [she said, for] I am swarthy. [I have worked out] in the sun and it has left its mark upon me. My stepbrothers were angry with me, and they made me keeper of the vineyards; but my own vineyard [my complexion] I have not kept.
7[Addressing her shepherd, she said] Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon. For why should I [as I think of you] be as a veiled one straying beside the flocks of your companions? [Ps 23:1,2.]
8 If you do not know [where your lover is], O you fairest among women, run along, follow the tracks of the flock, and [amuse yourself by] pasturing your kids beside the shepherds' tents.
9 O my love [he said as he saw her], you remind me of my [favorite] mare in the chariot spans of Pharaoh.
10 Your cheeks are comely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels.
11 We will make for you chains and ornaments of gold, studded with silver.
12 While the king sits at his table [she said], my spikenard [my absent lover] sends forth [his] fragrance [over me].
13 My beloved [shepherd] is to me like a [scent] bag of myrrh that lies in my bosom.
14 My beloved [shepherd] is to me a cluster of henna flowers in the vineyards of En-gedi [famed for its fragrant shrubs].
15 Behold, you are beautiful, my love! Behold, you are beautiful! You have doves' eyes.
16[She cried] Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved [shepherd], yes, delightful! Our arbor and couch are green and leafy.
17 The beams of our house are cedars, and our rafters and panels are cypresses or pines.
Song of Solomon 2

2:1 [SHE SAID] I am only a little rose or autumn crocus of the plain of Sharon, or a [humble] lily of the valleys [that grows in deep and difficult places].
2 But Solomon replied, Like the lily among thorns, so are you, my love, among the daughters.
3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved [shepherd] among the sons [cried the girl]! Under his shadow I delighted to sit, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love [for love waved as a protecting and comforting banner over my head when I was near him].
5 Sustain me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.
6 [I can feel] his left hand under my head and his right hand embraces me! [Deut 33:27; Matt 28:20.]
7 [He said] I charge you, O you daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the hinds of the field [which are free to follow their own instincts] that you not try to stir up or awaken [my] love until it pleases.
8 [Vividly she pictured it] The voice of my beloved [shepherd]! Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. [John 10:27.]
9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young hart. Behold, he stands behind the wall of our house, he looks in through the windows, he glances through the lattice.
10 My beloved speaks and says to me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
11 For, behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing [of birds] has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
13 The fig tree puts forth and ripens her green figs, and the vines are in blossom and give forth their fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
14 [So I went with him, and when we were climbing the rocky steps up the hillside, my beloved shepherd said to me] O my dove, [while you are here] in the seclusion of the clefts in the solid rock, in the sheltered and secret place of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.
15 [My heart was touched and I fervently sang to him my desire] Take for us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards [of our love], for our vineyards are in blossom.
16 [She said distinctly] My beloved is mine and I am his! He pastures his flocks among the lilies. [Matt 10:32; Acts 4:12.]
17 [Then, longingly addressing her absent shepherd, she cried] Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, return hastily, O my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young hart as you cover the mountains [which separate us].

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 IN THE night I dreamed that I sought the one whom I love. [She said] I looked for him but could not find him. [Isa 26:9.]
2 So I decided to go out into the city, into the streets and broad ways [which are so confusing to a country girl], and seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but I could not find him.
3 The watchmen who go about the city found me, to whom I said, Have you seen him whom my soul loves?
4 I had gone but a little way past them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother’s house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me. [Rom 8:35; 1 Peter 2:25.]
5 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the hinds of the field that you stir not up nor awaken love until it pleases.
6 Who or what is this [she asked] that comes gliding out of the wilderness like stately pillars of smoke perfumed with myrrh, frankincense, and all the fragrant powders of the merchant?
7 [Someone answered] Behold, it is the traveling litter (the bridal car) of Solomon. sixty mighty men are around it, of the mighty men of Israel.
8 They all handle the sword and are expert in war; every man has his sword upon his thigh, that fear be not excited in the night.
9 King Solomon made himself a car or a palanquin from the [cedar] wood of Lebanon.
10 He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple, the inside of it lovingly and intricately wrought in needlework by the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, O you daughters of Zion, and gaze upon King Solomon wearing the crown with which his mother [Bathsheba] crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of his gladness of heart.

Song of Solomon 4

4:1 HOW FAIR you are, my love [he said], how very fair! Your eyes behind your veil [remind me] of those of a dove; your hair [makes me think of the black, wavy fleece] of a flock of [the Arabian] goats which one sees trailing down Mount Gilead [beyond the Jordan on the frontiers of the desert].
2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes which have come up from the washing, of which all are in pairs, and none is missing among them.
3 Your lips are like a thread of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.
4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an arsenal, whereon hang a thousand bucklers, all of them shields of warriors.
5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twins of a gazelle that feed among the lilies.
6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, [in my thoughts] I will get to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense [to him whom my soul adores].
7 [He exclaimed] O my love, how beautiful you are! There is no flaw in you! [John 14:18; Eph 5:27.]
8 Come away with me from Lebanon, my [promised] bride, come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the top of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards. [2 Cor 11:2,3.]
9 You have ravished my heart and given me courage, my sister, my [promised] bride; you have ravished my heart and given me courage with one look from your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.
10 How beautiful is your love, my sister, my [promised] bride! How much better is your love than wine! And the fragrance of your ointments than all spices! [John 15:9; Rom 8:35.]
11 Your lips, O my [promised] bride, drop honey as the honeycomb; honey and milk are under your tongue. And the odor of your garments is like the odor of Lebanon.
12 A garden enclosed and barred is my sister, my [promised] bride--a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates or a paradise with precious fruits, henna with spikenard plants, [John 15:5; Eph 5:9.]
14 Spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh, and aloes, with all the chief spices.
15 You are a fountain [springing up] in a garden, a well of living waters, and flowing streams from Lebanon. [John 4:10; 7:37,38.]
16[You have called me a garden, she said] Oh, I pray that the [cold] north wind and the [soft] south wind may blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out [in abundance for you in whom my soul delights]. Let my beloved come into his garden and eat its choicest fruits.

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 I HAVE come into my garden, my sister, my [promised] bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my balsam and spice [from your sweet words I have gathered the richest perfumes and spices]. I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends [feast on, O revelers of the palace; you can never make my lover disloyal to me]! Drink, yes, drink abundantly of love, O precious one [for now I know you are mine, irrevocably mine!]
With his confident words still thrilling her heart, through the lattice she saw her shepherd turn away and disappear into the night. [John 16:33.]
2 I went to sleep, but my heart stayed awake. [I dreamed that I heard] the voice of my beloved as he knocked [at the door of my mother's cottage]. Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my spotless one [he said], for I am wet with the [heavy] night dew; my hair is covered with it. [Job 11:13-15.]
3[But weary from a day in the vineyards, I had already sought my rest] I had put off my garment-- how could I [again] put it on? I had washed my feet--how could I [again] soil them? [Isa 32:9; Heb 3:15.]
4 My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my heart was moved for him.
5 I rose up to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, and my fingers with liquid [sweet-scented] myrrh, [which he had left] upon the handles of the bolt.
6 I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had turned away and withdrawn himself, and was gone! My soul went forth [to him] when he spoke, but it failed me [and now he was gone]! I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.
7 The watchmen who go about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil and my mantle from me.
8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him that I am sick from love [simply sick to be with him]. [Ps 63:1.]
9 What is your beloved more than another beloved, O you fairest among women [taunted the ladies]? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you should give us such a charge? [John 10:26.]

10[She said] My beloved is fair and ruddy, the chief among ten thousand! [Ps 45:2; John 1:14.]
11 His head is [as precious as] the finest gold; his locks are curly and bushy and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are like doves beside the water brooks, bathed in milk and fitly set.
13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices or balsam, like banks of sweet herbs yielding fragrance. His lips are like bloodred anemones or lilies distilling liquid [sweet-scented] myrrh.
14 His hands are like rods of gold set with [nails of] beryl or topaz. His body is a figure of bright ivory overlaid with [veins of] sapphires.
15 His legs are like strong and steady pillars of marble set upon bases of fine gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, excellent, stately, and majestic as the cedars.
16 His voice and speech are exceedingly sweet; yes, he is altogether lovely [the whole of him delights and is precious]. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem! [Ps 92:15; Col 1:15.]

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 WHERE HAS your beloved gone, O you fairest among women? [Again the ladies showed their interest in the remarkable person whom the Shulammite had championed with such unstinted praise; they too wanted to know him, they insisted.] Where is your beloved hiding himself? For we would seek him with you.
2[She replied] My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens and to gather lilies.
3 I am my beloved's [garden] and my beloved is mine! He feeds among the lilies [which grow there].
4[He said] You are as beautiful as Tirzah [capital of the northern kingdom's first king], my love, and as comely as Jerusalem, [but you are] as terrible as a bannered host!
5 Turn away your [flashing] eyes from me, for they have overcome me! Your hair is like a flock of goats trailing down from Mount Gilead.
6 Your teeth are like a flock of ewes coming from their washing, of which all are in pairs, and not one of them is missing.
7 Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.
8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number;
9 But my dove, my undefiled and perfect one, stands alone [above them all]; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed and happy, yes, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her. [Col 2:8,9.]
10[The ladies asked] Who is this that looks forth like the dawn, fair as the moon, clear and pure as the sun, and terrible as a bannered host?
11[The Shulammite replied] I went down into the nut orchard [one day] to look at the green plants of the valley, to see whether the grapevine had budded and the pomegranates were in flower.
12 Before I was aware [of what was happening], my desire [to roam about] had brought me into the area of the princes of my people [the king's retinue].
13[I began to flee, but they called to me] Return, return, O Shulammite; return, return, that we may look upon you! [I replied] What is there for you to see in the [poor little] Shulammite? [And they answered] As upon a dance before two armies or a dance of Mahanaim.

Song of Solomon 7

7:1[THEN HER companions began noticing and commenting on the attractiveness of her person] How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O queenly maiden! Your rounded limbs are like jeweled chains, the work of a master hand.
2 Your body is like a round goblet in which no mixed wine is wanting. Your abdomen is like a heap of wheat set about with lilies.
3 Your two breasts are like two fawns, the twins of a gazelle.
4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory, your eyes like the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon which looks toward Damascus.
5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel, and the hair of your head like purple. [Then seeing the king watching the girl in absorbed admiration, the speaker added] The king is held captive by its tresses.
6[The king came forward, saying] How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights!
7 Your stature is like that of a palm tree, and your bosom like its clusters [of dates, declared the king].
8 I resolve that I will climb the palm tree; I will grasp its branches. Let your breasts be like clusters of the grapevine, and the scent of your breath like apples,
9 And your kisses like the best wine--[then the Shulammite interrupted] that goes down smoothly and sweetly for my beloved [shepherd, kisses] gliding over his lips while he sleeps!
10[She proudly said] I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me! [John 10:28.]
11[She said] Come, my beloved! Let us go forth into the field, let us lodge in the villages. [Luke 14:33.]
12 Let us go out early to the vineyards and see whether the vines have budded, whether the grape blossoms have opened, and whether the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.
13 The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and over our doors are all manner of choice fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for you, O my beloved!

Song of Solomon 8

8:1[LOOKING FORWARD to the shepherd's arrival, the eager girl pictures their meeting and says] Oh, that you were like my brother, who nursed from the breasts of my mother! If I should find you without, I would kiss you, yes, and none would despise me [for it]. [Ps 143:6.]
2 I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother, who would instruct me. I would cause you to drink spiced wine and of the juice of my pomegranates.
3[Then musingly she added] Oh, that his left hand were under my head and that his right hand embraced me! [Ex 19:4; Deut 33:27.]

4 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you never [again attempt to] stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

5 Who is this who comes up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved? [And as they sighted the home of her childhood, the bride said] Under the apple tree I awakened you; there your mother gave you birth, there she was in travail and bore you.

6 Set me like a seal upon your heart, like a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy is as hard and cruel as Sheol (the place of the dead). Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame [the very flame of the Lord]! [Deut 4:24; Isa 49:16; 1 Cor 10:22.]

7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man would offer all the goods of his house for love, he would be utterly scorned and despised.

8[Gathered with her family and the wedding guests in her mother's cottage, the bride said to her stepbrothers, When I was a little girl, you said] We have a little sister and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for in marriage?

9 If she is a wall [discreet and womanly], we will build upon her a turret [a dowry] of silver; but if she is a door [bold and flirtatious], we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

10[Well] I am a wall [with battlements], and my breasts are like the towers of it. Then was I in [the king's] eyes as one [to be respected and to be allowed] to find peace.

11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard to keepers; everyone was to bring him a thousand pieces of silver for its fruit.

12 You, O Solomon, can have your thousand [pieces of silver], and those who tend the fruit of it two hundred; but my vineyard, which is mine [with all its radiant joy], is before me!

13 O you who dwell in the gardens, your companions have been listening to your voice--now cause me to hear it.

14[Joyfully the radiant bride turned to him, the one altogether lovely, the chief among ten thousand to her soul, and with unconcealed eagerness to begin her life of sweet companionship with him, she answered] Make haste, my beloved, and come quickly, like a gazelle or a young hart [and take me to our waiting home] upon the mountains of spices!
**DARBY**

**Song of Solomon 1**

1:1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth; For thy love is better than wine.
3 Thine ointments savour sweetly; Thy name is an ointment poured forth: Therefore do the virgins love thee.
4 Draw me, we will run after thee! — The king hath brought me into his chambers — We will be glad and rejoice in thee, We will remember thy love more than wine. They love thee uprightly.
5 I am black, but comely, daughters of Jerusalem, As the tents of Kedar, As the curtains of Solomon.
6 Look not upon me, because I am black; Because the sun hath looked upon me. My mother's children were angry with me: They made me keeper of the vineyards; Mine own vineyard have I not kept.
7 Tell me, thou whom my soul loveth, Where thou feedest [thy flock], Where thou makest it to rest at noon; For why should I be as one veiled Beside the flocks of thy companions?
8 If thou know not, thou fairest among women, Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, And feed thy kids beside the shepherds' booths.
9 I compare thee, my love, To a steed in Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Thy cheeks are comely with bead-rows, Thy neck with ornamental chains.
11 We will make thee bead-rows of gold With studs of silver.
12 While the king is at his table, My spikenard sendeth forth its fragrance.
13 A bundle of myrrh is my beloved unto me; He shall pass the night between my breasts.
14 My beloved is unto me a cluster of henna-flowers In the vineyards of Engedi.
15 Behold, thou art fair, my love; Behold, thou art fair: thine eyes are doves.
16 Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant; Also our bed is green.
17 The beams of our houses are cedars, Our rafters are cypresses.

**Song of Solomon 2**

2:1 I am a narcissus of Sharon, A lily of the valleys.
2 As the lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.
3 As the apple-tree among the trees of the wood, So is my beloved among the sons: In his shadow have I rapture and sit down; And his fruit is sweet to my taste.
4 He hath brought me to the house of wine, And his banner over me is love.
5 Sustain ye me with raisin-cakes, Refresh me with apples; For I am sick of love.
6 His left hand is under my head, And his right hand doth embrace me.
7 I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles, or by the hinds of the field, That ye stir not up, nor awake [my] love, till he please.
8 The voice of my beloved! Behold, he cometh Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills.
9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young hart. Behold, he standeth behind our wall, He looketh in through the windows, Glancing through the lattice.
10 My beloved spake and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
11 For behold, the winter is past, The rain is over, it is gone:
12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing is come, And the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land;
13 The fig-tree melloweth her winter figs, And the vines in bloom give forth [their] fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away!
14 My dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the covert of the precipice, Let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; For sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.
15 Take us the foxes, The little foxes, that spoil the vineyards; For our vineyards are in bloom.
16 My beloved is mine, and I am his; He feedeth [his flock] among the lilies,
17 Until the day dawn, and the shadows flee away. Turn, my beloved: be thou like a gazelle or a young hart, Upon the mountains of Bether.

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 On my bed, in the nights, I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.
2 I will rise now, and go about the city; In the streets and in the broadways, Will I seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.
3 The watchmen that go about the city found me: Have ye seen him whom my soul loveth?
4 Scarcely had I passed from them, When I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, Until I had brought him into my mother's house, And into the chamber of her that conceived me.
5 I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles, or by the hinds of the field, That ye stir not up, nor awake [my] love, till he please.
6 Who is this, [she] that cometh up from the wilderness Like pillars of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all powders of the merchant?.
7 Behold his couch, Solomon's own: Threescore mighty men are about it, Of the mighty of Israel.
8 They all hold the sword, Experts in war; Each hath his sword upon his thigh Because of alarm in the nights.
9 King Solomon made himself a palanquin Of the wood of Lebanon.
10 Its pillars he made of silver, Its support of gold, Its seat of purple; The midst thereof was paved [with] love By the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, daughters of Zion, And behold king Solomon With the crown wherewith his mother crowned him In the day of his espousals, And in the day of the gladness of his heart.
Song of Solomon 4

4:1 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; Thine eyes are doves behind thy veil; Thy hair is as a flock of goats, On the slopes of mount Gilead.
2 Thy teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep, Which go up from the washing; Which have all borne twins, And none is barren among them.
3 Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, And thy speech is comely; As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples Behind thy veil.
4 Thy neck is like the tower of David, Built for an armoury: A thousand bucklers hang thereon, All shields of mighty men.
5 Thy two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, Which feed among the lilies.
6 Until the day dawn, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, And to the hill of frankincense.
7 Thou art all fair, my love; And there is no spot in thee.
8 [Come] with me, from Lebanon, [my] spouse, With me from Lebanon. — Come, look from the top of Amanah, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards.
9 Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, [my] spouse; Thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, With one chain of thy neck.
10 How fair is thy love, my sister, [my] spouse! How much better is thy love than wine! And the fragrance of thine ointments than all spices!
11 Thy lips, [my] spouse, drop [as] the honeycomb; Honey and milk are under thy tongue; And the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.
12 A garden enclosed is my sister, [my] spouse; A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Thy shoots are a paradise of pomegranates, with precious fruits; Henna with spikenard plants;
14 Spikenard and saffron; Calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; Myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:
15 A fountain in the gardens, A well of living waters, Which stream from Lebanon.
16 Awake, north wind, and come, [thou] south; Blow upon my garden, [that] the spices thereof may flow forth. Let my beloved come into his garden, And eat its precious fruits.

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, [my] spouse; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, beloved ones!
2 I slept, but my heart was awake. The voice of my beloved! he knocketh: Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, mine undefiled; For my head is filled with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.
3 I have put off my tunic, how should I put it on? I have washed my feet, how should I pollute them?
4 My beloved put in his hand by the hole [of the door]; And my bowels yearned for him.
5 I rose up to open to my beloved; And my hands dropped with myrrh, And my fingers with liquid myrrh, Upon the handles of the lock.
6 I opened to my beloved; But my beloved had withdrawn himself; he was gone: My soul went forth when he spoke. I sought him, but I found him not; I called him, but he gave me no answer.
7 The watchmen that went about the city found me; They smote me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.
8 I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, If ye find my beloved, What will ye tell him? — That I am sick of love.
9 What is thy beloved more than [another] beloved, Thou fairest among women? What is thy beloved more than [another] beloved, That thou dost so charge us?
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, The chiefest among ten thousand.
11 His head is [as] the finest gold; His locks are flowing, black as the raven;
12 His eyes are like doves by the water-brooks, Washed with milk, fitly set;
13 His cheeks are as a bed of spices, raised beds of sweet plants; His lips lilies, dropping liquid myrrh.
14 His hands gold rings, set with the chrysolite; His belly is bright ivory, overlaid [with] sapphires;
15 His legs, pillars of marble, set upon bases of fine gold: His bearing as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars;
16 His mouth is most sweet: Yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, yea, this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

**Song of Solomon 6**

6:1 Whither is thy beloved gone, Thou fairest among women? Whither is thy beloved turned aside? And we will seek him with thee.
2 My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, To feed in the gardens and to gather lilies.
3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: He feedeth [his flock] among the lilies.
4 Thou art fair, my love, as Tirzah, Comely as Jerusalem, Terrible as troops with banners:
5 Turn away thine eyes from me, For they overcome me. Thy hair is as a flock of goats On the slopes of Gilead.
6 Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep Which go up from the washing; Which have all borne twins, And none is barren among them.
7 As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples, Behind thy veil.
8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, And virgins without number:
9 My dove, mine undefiled, is but one; She is the only one of her mother, She is the choice one of her that bore her. The daughters saw her, and they called her blessed; The queens and the concubines, and they praised her.
10 Who is she that looketh forth as the dawn, Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, Terrible as troops with banners?
11 I went down into the garden of nuts, To see the verdure of the valley, To see whether the vine budded, Whether the pomegranates blossomed.
12 Before I was aware, My soul set me upon the chariots of my willing people.
13 Return, return, O Shulamite; Return, return, that we may look upon thee. — What would ye look upon in the Shulamite? — As it were the dance of two camps.

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 How beautiful are thy footsteps in sandals, O prince's daughter! The roundings of thy thighs are like jewels, The work of the hands of an artist.
2 Thy navel is a round goblet, [which] wanteth not mixed wine; Thy belly a heap of wheat, set about with lilies;
3 Thy two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle;
4 Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; Thine eyes, [like] the pools in Heshbon, By the gate of Bath-rabbim; Thy nose like the tower of Lebanon, Which looketh toward Damascus;
5 Thy head upon thee is like Carmel, And the locks of thy head like purple; The king is fettered by [thy] ringlets!
6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, [my] love, in delights!
7 This thy stature is like to a palm-tree, And thy breasts to grape clusters.
8 I said, I will go up to the palm-tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof; And thy breasts shall indeed be like clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of thy nose like apples,
9 And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine, That goeth down smoothly for my beloved, And stealth over the lips of them that are asleep.
10 I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me.
11— Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the fields; Let us lodge in the villages.
12 We will go up early to the vineyards, We will see if the vine hath budded, [If] the blossom is opening, And the pomegranates are in bloom: There will I give thee my loves.
13 The mandrakes yield fragrance; And at our gates are all choice fruits, new and old: I have laid them up for thee, my beloved.

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 Oh that thou wert as my brother, That sucked the breasts of my mother! Should I find thee without, I would kiss thee; And they would not despise me.
2 I would lead thee, bring thee into my mother's house; Thou wouldest instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine, Of the juice of my pomegranate.
3 His left hand would be under my head, And his right hand embrace me.
4 I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, Why should ye stir up, why awake [my] love, till he please?
5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved? I awoke thee under the apple-tree: There thy mother brought thee forth; There she brought thee forth [that] bore thee.
6 Set me as a seal upon thy heart, As a seal upon thine arm: For love is strong as death; Jealousy is cruel as Sheol: The flashes thereof are flashes of fire, Flames of Jah.
7 Many waters cannot quench love, Neither do the floods drown it: Even if a man gave all the substance of his house for love, It would utterly be contempted.
8 We have a little sister, And she hath no breasts: What shall we do for our sister In the day when she shall be spoken for? —
9 If she be a wall, We will build upon her a turret of silver; And if she be a door, We will enclose her with boards of cedar.
10 I am a wall, and my breasts like towers; Then was I in his eyes as one that findeth peace.
11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon: He let out the vineyard unto keepers; Every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand silver-pieces.
12 My vineyard, which is mine, is before me: The thousand [silver-pieces] be to thee, Solomon; And to the keepers of its fruit, two hundred.
13 Thou that dwellest in the gardens, The companions hearken to thy voice: Let me hear [it].
14 Haste, my beloved, And be thou like a gazelle or a young hart, Upon the mountains of spices.
KING JAMES

Song Of Solomon 1

1:1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.
3 Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.
4 Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.
5 I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.
6 Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept.
7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?
8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.
9 I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold.
11 We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.
12 While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.
13 A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts.
14 My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of En-gedi.
15 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.
16 Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.
17 The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir.

Song of Solomon 2

2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.
2 As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.
3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.
5 Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love.
6 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.
7 I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.
8 The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.
9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.
10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;
13 The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.
15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.
16 My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.
17 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.
2 I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.
3 The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?
4 It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.
5 I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.
6 Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?
7 Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.
8 They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.
9 King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon.
10 He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.
Song of Solomon 4

4:1 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead.
2 Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them.
3 Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks.
4 Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.
5 Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies.
6 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense.
7 Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.
8 Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards.
9 Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck.
10 How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!
11 Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.
12 A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:
15 A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.
16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.
2 I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.
3 I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?
4 My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him.
5 I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock.
6 I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.
7 The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.
8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.
9 What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? what is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.
11 His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.
13 His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.
14 His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.
15 His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
16 His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.
2 My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.
3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies.
4 Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.
5 Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.
6 Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them.
7 As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks.
8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.
9 My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.
10 Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?
11 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.
12 Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib.
13 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.

**Song of Solomon 7**

7:1 How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.  
2 Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.  
3 Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins.  
4 Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes like the fishpools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim: thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.  
5 Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries.  
6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!  
7 This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes.  
8 I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;  
9 And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.  
10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.  
11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.  
12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.  
13 The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

**Song of Solomon 8**

8:1 O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! when I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised.  
2 I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.  
3 His left hand should be under my head, and his right hand should embrace me.  
4 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please.  
5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.  
6 Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.  
7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.
8 We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?
9 If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar.
10 I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour.
11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver.
12 My vineyard, which is mine, is before me: thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.
13 Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it.
14 Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.
Song of Solomon 1

1:1 *The Young Shulammite and Jerusalem’s Daughters*

The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

2 "May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.
3 "Your oils have a pleasing fragrance, Your name is like purified oil; Therefore the maidens love you.
4 "Draw me after you and let us run together! The king has brought me into his chambers."
"We will rejoice in you and be glad; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you."
5 "I am black but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon.
6 "Do not stare at me because I am swarthy, For the sun has burned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; They made me caretaker of the vineyards, But I have not taken care of my own vineyard.
7 "Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, Where do you pasture your flock, Where do you make it lie down at noon? For why should I be like one who veils herself Beside the flocks of your companions?"

8 *Solomon, the Lover, Speaks*

"If you yourself do not know, Most beautiful among women, Go forth on the trail of the flock And pasture your young goats By the tents of the shepherds.
9 "To me, my darling, you are like My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh.
10 "Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, Your neck with strings of beads."
11 "We will make for you ornaments of gold With beads of silver."
12 "While the king was at his table, My perfume gave forth its fragrance.
13 "My beloved is to me a pouch of myrrh Which lies all night between my breasts.
14 "My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms In the vineyards of Engedi."
15 "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves."
16 "How handsome you are, my beloved, And so pleasant! Indeed, our couch is luxuriant!
17 "The beams of our houses are cedars, Our rafters, cypresses.
Song of Solomon 2

2:1 *The Bride’s Admiration*

"I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys."
2 "Like a lily among the thorns, So is my darling among the maidens."
3 "Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, So is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.
4 "He has brought me to his banquet hall, And his banner over me is love.
5 "Sustain me with raisin cakes, Refresh me with apples, Because I am lovesick.
6 "Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me."
7 "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, That you do not arouse or awaken my love Until she please.s"
8 "Listen! My beloved! Behold, he is coming, Climbing on the mountains, Leaping on the hills!
9 "My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he is standing behind our wall, He is looking through the windows, He is peering through the lattice.
10 'My beloved responded and said to me,' Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along.
11 'For behold, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone.
12 'The flowers have already appeared in the land; The time has arrived for pruning the vines, And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land.
13 'The fig tree has ripened its figs, And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along!'""
14 "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret place of the steep pathway, Let me see your form, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your form is lovely."
15 "Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, While our vineyards are in blossom."
16 "My beloved is mine, and I am his; He pastures his flock among the lilies.
17 "Until the cool of the day when the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle Or a young stag on the mountains of Bether."

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 *The Bride's Troubled Dream*

"On my bed night after night I sought him Whom my soul loves; I sought him but did not find him.
2 'I must arise now and go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I must seek him whom my soul loves.'I sought him but did not find him.
3 'The watchmen who make the rounds in the city found me, And I said, 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?"
4 "Scarcely had I left them When I found him whom my soul loves; I held on to him and would not let him go Until I had brought him to my mother's house, And into the room of her who conceived me."
5 "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, That you will not arouse or awaken my love Until she pleases."

6 Solomon's Wedding Day

"What is this coming up from the wilderness Like columns of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all scented powders of the merchant?
7 "Behold, it is the traveling couch of Solomon; Sixty mighty men around it, Of the mighty men of Israel.
8 "All of them are wielders of the sword, Expert in war; Each man has his sword at his side, Guarding against the terrors of the night.
9 "King Solomon has made for himself a sedan chair From the timber of Lebanon.
10 "He made its posts of silver, Its back of gold And its seat of purple fabric, With its interior lovingly fitted out By the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 "Go forth, O daughters of Zion, And gaze on King Solomon with the crown With which his mother has crowned him On the day of his wedding, And on the day of his gladness of heart."

Song of Solomon 4

4:1 Solomon's Love Expressed

"How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead.
2 "Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn ewes Which have come up from their washing, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.
3 "Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is lovely. Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.
4 "Your neck is like the tower of David, Built with rows of stones On which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields of the mighty men.
5 "Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle Which feed among the lilies.
6 "Until the cool of the day When the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense.
7 "You are altogether beautiful, my darling, And there is no blemish in you.
8 "Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, May you come with me from Lebanon. Journey down from the summit of Amana, From the summit of Senir and Hermon, From the dens of lions, From the mountains of leopards.
9 "You have made my heart beat faster, my sister, my bride; You have made my heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes, With a single strand of your necklace.
10 "How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, And the fragrance of your oils Than all kinds of spices!
"Your lips, my bride, drip honey; Honey and milk are under your tongue, And the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

A garden locked is my sister, my bride, A rock garden locked, a spring sealed up.

Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates With choice fruits, henna with nard plants,

Nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, With all the trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, along with all the finest spices.

You are a garden spring, A well of fresh water, And streams flowing from Lebanon."

"Awake, O north wind, And come, wind of the south; Make my garden breathe out fragrance, Let its spices be wafted abroad. May my beloved come into his garden And eat its choice fruits!"

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 The Torment of Separation

"I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh along with my balsam. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. Eat, friends; Drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers."

"I was asleep but my heart was awake. A voice! My beloved was knocking: 'Open to me, my sister, my darling, My dove, my perfect one! For my head is drenched with dew, My locks with the damp of the night.'"

"I have taken off my dress, How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet, How can I dirty them again?

"My beloved extended his hand through the opening, And my feelings were aroused for him."

"I arose to open to my beloved; And my hands dripped with myrrh, And my fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the bolt."

"I opened to my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and had gone! My heart went out to him as he spoke. I searched for him but I did not find him; I called him but he did not answer me.

"The watchmen who make the rounds in the city found me, They struck me and wounded me; The guardsmen of the walls took away my shawl from me.

"I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, As to what you will tell him: For I am lovesick."

What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That thus you adjure us?"

10 Admiration by the Bride

"My beloved is dazzling and ruddy, Outstanding among ten thousand.

"His head is like gold, pure gold; His locks are like clusters of dates And black as a raven.

"His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, And reposed in their setting.

"His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of sweet-scented herbs; His lips are lilies Dripping with liquid myrrh."
"His hands are rods of gold Set with beryl; His abdomen is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires.  
"His legs are pillars of alabaster Set on pedestals of pure gold; His appearance is like Lebanon  
Choice as the cedars.  
"His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my  
friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 Mutual Delight in Each Other

"Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved  
turned, That we may seek him with you?"
2 "My beloved has gone down to his garden, To the beds of balsam, To pasture his flock in the  
gardens And gather lilies.
3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine, He who pastures his flock among the lilies."
4 "You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, As lovely as Jerusalem, As awesome as an army  
with banners.
5 "Turn your eyes away from me, For they have confused me; Your hair is like a flock of goats  
That have descended from Gilead.
6 "Your teeth are like a flock of ewes Which have come up from their washing, All of which  
bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.
7 "Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.
8 "There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, And maidens without number;
9 But my dove, my perfect one, is unique: She is her mother's only daughter; She is the pure  
child of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed, The queens and the  
concubines also, and they praised her, saying,
10 'Who is this that grows like the dawn, As beautiful as the full moon, As pure as the sun, As  
awesome as an army with banners?'
11 "I went down to the orchard of nut trees To see the blossoms of the valley, To see whether the  
vine had budded Or the pomegranates had bloomed.
12 "Before I was aware, my soul set me Over the chariots of my noble people."
13 "Come back, come back, O Shulammite; Come back, come back, that we may gaze at you!"
14 "Why should you gaze at the Shulammite,  
As at the dance of the two companies?

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 Admiration by the Bridegroom

"How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince's daughter! The curves of your hips are like  
jewels, The work of the hands of an artist.
2 "Your navel is like a round goblet Which never lacks mixed wine; Your belly is like a heap of  
wheat Fenced about with lilies.
3 "Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle.
4 "Your neck is like a tower of ivory, Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon By the gate of Bath-rabbim; Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, Which faces toward Damascus.
5 "Your head crowns you like Carmel, And the flowing locks of your head are like purple threads; The king is captivated by your tresses.
6 "How beautiful and how delightful you are, My love, with all your charms!
7 "Your stature is like a palm tree, And your breasts are like its clusters.
8 "I said, 'I will climb the palm tree, I will take hold of its fruit stalks.' Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of your breath like apples,
9 And your mouth like the best wine!"" It goes down smoothly for my beloved, Flowing gently through the lips of those who fall asleep.

10 The Union of Love

"I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me.
11 "Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, Let us spend the night in the villages.
12 "Let us rise early and go to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded And its blossoms have opened, And whether the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.
13 "The mandrakes have given forth fragrance; And over our doors are all choice fruits, Both new and old, Which I have saved up for you, my beloved.

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 The Lovers Speak

"Oh that you were like a brother to me Who nursed at my mother's breasts. If I found you outdoors, I would kiss you; No one would despise me, either.
2 "I would lead you and bring you Into the house of my mother, who used to instruct me; I would give you spiced wine to drink from the juice of my pomegranates.
3 "Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me."
4 "I want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not arouse or awaken my love Until she pleases."
5 "Who is this coming up from the wilderness Leaning on her beloved?" " Beneath the apple tree I awakened you; There your mother was in labor with you, There she was in labor and gave you birth.
6 "Put me like a seal over your heart, Like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes are flashes of fire, The very flame of the Lord.
7 "Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, It would be utterly despised."
8 "We have a little sister, And she has no breasts; What shall we do for our sister On the day when she is spoken for?"
9 "If she is a wall, We will build on her a battlement of silver; But if she is a door, We will barricade her with planks of cedar."
10 "I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; Then I became in his eyes as one who finds peace.
11 "Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; He entrusted the vineyard to caretakers. Each one was to bring a thousand shekels of silver for its fruit.
12 "My very own vineyard is at my disposal; The thousand shekels are for you, Solomon, And two hundred are for those who take care of its fruit."
13 "O you who sit in the gardens, My companions are listening for your voice--Let me hear it!"
14 "Hurry, my beloved, And be like a gazelle or a young stag On the mountains of spices."
NEW INTERNATIONAL

Song of Solomon 1

1:1 Solomon's Song of Songs.
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth — for your love is more delightful than wine.
3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you!
4 Take me away with you — let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.
   We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine.
   How right they are to adore you!
5 Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon.
6 Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected.
7 Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?
8 If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.
9 I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh.
10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels.
11 We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.
12 While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.
13 My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.
14 My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.
15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.
16 How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant.
17 The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.

Song of Solomon 2

2:1 I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.
2 Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.
3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.
4 He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.
5 Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love.
6 His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me.
7 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.
8 Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills.
9 My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.
10 My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.
11 See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
12 Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.
13 The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."
14 My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.
15 Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.
16 My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.
17 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him.
2 I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him.
3 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?"
4 Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me.
5 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.
6 Who is this coming up from the desert like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant?
7 Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel,
8 All of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night.
9 King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon.
10 Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon wearing the crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.

Song of Solomon 4

4:1 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves.
Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.
2 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone.
3 Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.
4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.
5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.
6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.
7 All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.
8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards.
9 You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.
10 How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!
11 Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue.
The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon.
12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain.
13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard,
14 Nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices.
15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.
16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.
Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.
2 I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night."
3 I have taken off my robe — must I put it on again? I have washed my feet — must I soil them again?
4 My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him.
5 I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock.
6 I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.
7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!
8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you — if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love.
9 How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?
10 My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.
11 His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels.
13 His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. 14 His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires.
15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars.
16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 Where has your lover gone, most beautiful of women? Which way did your lover turn, that we may look for him with you?
2 My lover has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies.
3 I am my lover's and my lover is mine; he browses among the lilies.
4 You are beautiful, my darling, as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, majestic as troops with banners.
5 Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead.
6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is alone.
7 Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.
8 Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number;
9 But my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.
10 Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?
11 I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom.
12 Before I realized it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people.
13 Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you! Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?
Song of Solomon 7

7:1 How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands.
2 Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.
3 Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.
4 Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus.
5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses.
6 How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights!
7 Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit.
8 I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples,
9 And your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth.
10 I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.
11 Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages.
12 Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom — there I will give you my love.
13 The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover.

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother's breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me.
2 I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house — she who has taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates.
3 His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me.
4 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.
5 Who is this coming up from the desert leaning on her lover? Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labor gave you birth.
6 Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.
7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.
8 We have a young sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for?
9 If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.
10 I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment.
11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver.
12 But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.
13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!
14 Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.
NEW KING JAMES

Song of Solomon 1

1:1 Solomon's Love for a Shulamite Girl

The song of songs, which is Solomon's.
The Banquet

THE SHULAMITE
2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth — For your love is better than wine. 3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you. 4 Draw me away!

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will run after you.

THE SHULAMITE
The king has brought me into his chambers.

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will be glad and rejoice in you.
We will remember your love more than wine.

THE SHULAMITE
Rightly do they love you.
5 I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon. 6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark, Because the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards, But my own vineyard I have not kept.

THE SHULAMITE TO HER BELOVED
7 Tell me, O you whom I love, Where you feed your flock, Where you make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself By the flocks of your companions?

THE BELOVED
8 If you do not know, O fairest among women, Follow in the footsteps of the flock, And feed your little goats Beside the shepherds' tents. 9 I have compared you, my love, To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots. 10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, Your neck with chains of gold.

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
11 We will make you ornaments of gold With studs of silver.
THE SHULAMITE
12 While the king is at his table, My spikenard sends forth its fragrance. 13 A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, That lies all night between my breasts. 14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms In the vineyards of En Gedi.

THE BELOVED
15 Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes.

THE SHULAMITE
16 Behold, you are handsome, my beloved! Yes, pleasant! Also our bed is green. 17 The beams of our houses are cedar, And our rafters of fir.

Song of Solomon 2

2:1 A Country Girl in a Palace

I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys.

THE BELOVED
2 Like a lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.

THE SHULAMITE
3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.

THE SHULAMITE TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
4 He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love. 5 Sustain me with cakes of raisins, Refresh me with apples, For I am lovesick. 6 His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. 7 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.

The Beloved's Request

THE SHULAMITE
8 The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills. 9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice. 10 My beloved spoke, and said to me:"Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away. 11 For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. 12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land. 13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines with the tender grapes Give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!
"O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely."

HER BROTHERS
15 Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.

THE SHULAMITE
16 My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies.

TO HER BELOVED
17 Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether.

Song of Solomon 3
3:1 A Troubled Night

THE SHULAMITE
By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him. 2 "I will rise now," I said," And go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love."I sought him, but I did not find him. 3 The watchmen who go about the city found me; I said, "Have you seen the one I love?" 4 Scarcely had I passed by them, When I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go, Until I had brought him to the house of my mother, And into the chamber of her who conceived me. 5 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.

The Coming of Solomon

THE SHULAMITE
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? 7 Behold, it is Solomon's couch, With sixty valiant men around it, Of the valiant of Israel. 8 They all hold swords, Being expert in war. Every man has his sword on his thigh Because of fear in the night. 9 Of the wood of Lebanon Solomon the King Made himself a palanquin: 10 He made its pillars of silver, Its support of gold, Its seat of purple, Its interior paved with love By the daughters of Jerusalem. 11 Go forth, O daughters of Zion, And see King Solomon with the crown With which his mother crowned him On the day of his wedding, The day of the gladness of his heart.
Song of Solomon 4

4:1 The Bridegroom Praises the Bride

THE BELOVED
Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, Going down from Mount Gilead. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep which have come up from the washing, Every one of which bears twins, And none is barren among them. 3 Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil Are like a piece of pomegranate. 4 Your neck is like the tower of David, Built for an armory, On which hang a thousand bucklers, All shields of mighty men. 5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle, Which feed among the lilies. 6 Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense. 7 You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you. 8 Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, With me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards. 9 You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace. 10 How fair is your love, My sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices! 11 Your lips, O my spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk are under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments Is like the fragrance of Lebanon. 12 A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed. 13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates With pleasant fruits, Fragrant henna with spikenard, 14 Spikenard and saffron, Calamus and cinnamon, With all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, With all the chief spices 15 A fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And streams from Lebanon.

THE SHULAMITE
16 Awake, O north wind, And come, O south! Blow upon my garden, That its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden And eat its pleasant fruits.

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 The Bride Praises the Bridegroom

The Beloved
I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk.

(TO HIS FRIENDS)
Eat, O friends! Drink, yes, drink deeply, O beloved ones!

The Shulamite's Troubled Evening
THE SHULAMITE
2 I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying," Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night." 3 I have put it on my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them? 4 My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him. 5 I arose to open for my beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the lock. 6 I opened for my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. 7 The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls Took my veil away from me. 8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you tell him I am lovesick!

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
9 What is your beloved More than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved More than another beloved, That you so charge us?

THE SHULAMITE
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, Chief among ten thousand. 11 His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy, And black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves By the rivers of waters, Washed with milk, And fitly set. 13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices, Banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, Dripping liquid myrrh. 14 His hands are rods of gold Set with beryl. His body is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires. 15 His legs are pillars of marble Set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, Excellent as the cedars. 16 His mouth is most sweet, Yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, And this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 I Am My Beloved's

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, That we may seek him with you?

THE SHULAMITE
2 My beloved has gone to his garden, To the beds of spices, To feed his flock in the gardens, And to gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies.

Praise of the Shulamite's Beauty
THE BELOVED
4 O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, Lovely as Jerusalem, Awesome as an army with banners! 5 Turn your eyes away from me, For they have overcome me. Your hair is like a flock of goats Going down from Gilead. 6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep Which have come up from the washing; Every one bears twins, And none is barren among them. 7 Like a piece of pomegranate Are your temples behind your veil. 8 There are sixty queens And eighty concubines, And virgins without number. 9 My dove, my perfect one, Is the only one, The only one of her mother, The favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her And called her blessed, The queens and the concubines, and they praised her. 10 Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, Clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners?

THE SHULAMITE
11 I went down to the garden of nuts To see the verdure of the valley,To see whether the vine had budded And the pomegranates had bloomed. 12 Before I was even aware, My soul had made me As the chariots of my noble people.

THE BELOVED AND HIS FRIENDS
13 Return, return, O Shulamite; Return, return, that we may look upon you!

THE SHULAMITE
What would you see in the Shulamite — As it were, the dance of the two camps?

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 Expressions of Praise

THE BELOVED
How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince's daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, The work of the hands of a skillful workman. 2 Your navel is a rounded goblet; It lacks no blended beverage. Your waist is a heap of wheat Set about with lilies. 3 Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle. 4 Your neck is like an ivory tower, Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon By the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon Which looks toward Damascus. 5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel, And the hair of your head is like purple; A king is held captive by your tresses. 6 How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights! 7 This stature of yours is like a palm tree, And your breasts like its clusters. 8 I said, "I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches."Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine, The fragrance of your breath like apples, 9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.
THE SHULAMITE
The wine goes down smoothly for my beloved, Moving gently the lips of sleepers. 10 I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. 11 Come, my beloved, Let us go forth to the field; Let us lodge in the villages. 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. 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.

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 Lovers Reunited at Their Country Home

Oh, that you were like my brother, Who nursed at my mother's breasts! If I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised. 2 I would lead you and bring you Into the house of my mother, She who used to instruct me. I would cause you to drink of spiced wine, Of the juice of my pomegranate.

(TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM)
3 His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. 4 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, o not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.

Love Renewed in Lebanon

A RELATIVE
5 Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved? I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; There she who bore you brought you forth.

THE SHULAMITE TO HER BELOVED
6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.

THE SHULAMITE'S BROTHERS
8 We have a little sister, And she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister In the day when she is spoken for? 9 If she is a wall, We will build upon her A battlement of silver; And if she is a door, We will enclose her With boards of cedar.
THE SHULAMITE
10 I am a wall, And my breasts like towers; Then I became in his eyes As one who found peace.
11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon; He leased the vineyard to keepers; Everyone was to bring for its fruit A thousand silver coins.
(TO SOLOMON)
12 My own vineyard is before me. You, O Solomon, may have a thousand, And those who tend its fruit two hundred.

THE BELOVED
13 You who dwell in the gardens, The companions listen for your voice — Let me hear it!

THE SHULAMITE
14 Make haste, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag On the mountains of spices.
NEW LIVING

Song of Solomon 1

1:1 This is Solomon's song of songs, more wonderful than any other.

Young Woman:
2 "Kiss me again and again, for your love is sweeter than wine.
3 How fragrant your cologne, and how pleasing your name! No wonder all the young women love you!
4 Take me with you. Come, let's run! Bring me into your bedroom, O my king."

Young Women of Jerusalem:
"How happy we are for him! We praise his love even more than wine."

Young Woman:
5 "I am dark and beautiful, O women of Jerusalem, tanned as the dark tents of Kedar. Yes, even as the tents of Solomon!
6 "Don't look down on me, you fair city girls, just because my complexion is so dark. The sun has burned my skin. My brothers were angry with me and sent me out to tend the vineyards in the hot sun. Now see what it has done to me!
7 "Tell me, O my love, where are you leading your flock today? Where will you rest your sheep at noon? For why should I wander like a prostitute among the flocks of your companions?"

Young Man:
8 "If you don't know, O most beautiful woman, follow the trail of my flock to the shepherds' tents, and there feed your young goats.
9 What a lovely filly you are, my beloved one!
10 How lovely are your cheeks, with your earrings setting them a-fire! How stately is your neck, accented with a long string of jewels.
11 We will make earrings of gold for you and beads of silver."

Young Woman:
12 "The king is lying on his couch, enchanted by the fragrance of my perfume.
13 My lover is like a sachet of myrrh lying between my breasts.
14 He is like a bouquet of flowers in the gardens of En-gedi."

Young Man:
15 "How beautiful you are, my beloved, how beautiful! Your eyes are soft like doves."
Young Woman:
16 "What a lovely, pleasant sight you are, my love, as we lie here on the grass, 17 Shaded by cedar trees and spreading firs."

Song of Solomon 2

2:1 Young Woman: "I am the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley."

Young Man: 2 "Yes, compared to other women, my beloved is like a lily among thorns."

Young Woman: 3 "And compared to other youths, my lover is like the finest apple tree in the orchard. I am seated in his delightful shade, and his fruit is delicious to eat. 4 He brings me to the banquet hall, so everyone can see how much he loves me. 5 Oh, feed me with your love — your 'raisins' and your 'apples' — for I am utterly lovesick! 6 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me. 7 "Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the swift gazelles and the deer of the wild, not to awaken love until the time is right. 8 "Ah, I hear him — my lover! Here he comes, leaping on the mountains and bounding over the hills. 9 My lover is like a swift gazelle or a young deer. Look, there he is behind the wall! Now he is looking in through the window, gazing into the room. 10 "My lover said to me, 'Rise up, my beloved, my fair one, and come away. 11 For the winter is past, and the rain is over and gone. 12 The flowers are springing up, and the time of singing birds has come, even the cooing of turtle doves. 13 The fig trees are budding, and the grapevines are in blossom. How delicious they smell! Yes, spring is here! Arise, my beloved, my fair one, and come away.' "

Young Man: 14 "My dove is hiding behind some rocks, behind an outcrop on the cliff. Let me see you; let me hear your voice. For your voice is pleasant, and you are lovely."

Young Women of Jerusalem: 15 "Quick! Catch all the little foxes before they ruin the vineyard of your love, for the grapevines are all in blossom."

Young Woman: 16 "My lover is mine, and I am his. He feeds among the lilies! 17 Before the dawn comes and the shadows flee away, come back to me, my love. Run like a gazelle or a young stag on the rugged mountains."

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 Young Woman: "One night as I lay in bed, I yearned deeply for my lover, but he did not come. 2 So I said to myself, 'I will get up now and roam the city, searching for him in all its streets and squares.' But my search was in vain. 3 The watchmen stopped me as they made their rounds, and I said to
them, 'Have you seen him anywhere, this one I love so much?'

4 A little while later I found him and held him. I didn't let him go until I had brought him to my childhood home, into my mother's bedroom, where I had been conceived.

5 "Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the swift gazelles and the deer of the wild, not to awaken love until the time is right."

Young Women of Jerusalem:

6 "Who is this sweeping in from the deserts like a cloud of smoke along the ground? Who is it that smells of myrrh and frankincense and every other spice? 7 Look, it is Solomon's carriage, with sixty of Israel's mightiest men surrounding it. 8 They are all skilled swordsmen and experienced warriors. Each one wears a sword on his thigh, ready to defend the king against an attack during the night. 9 "King Solomon has built a carriage for himself from wood imported from Lebanon's forests. 10 Its posts are of silver, its canopy is gold, and its seat is upholstered in purple cloth. Its interior was a gift of love from the young women of Jerusalem."

Young Woman:

11 "Go out to look upon King Solomon, O young women of Jerusalem. See the crown with which his mother crowned him on his wedding day, the day of his gladness."

Song of Solomon 4

4:1 Young Man:

"How beautiful you are, my beloved, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are like doves. Your hair falls in waves, like a flock of goats frisking down the slopes of Gilead. 2 Your teeth are as white as sheep, newly shorn and washed. They are perfectly matched; not one is missing. 3 Your lips are like a ribbon of scarlet. Oh, how beautiful your mouth! Your cheeks behind your veil are like pomegranate halves — lovely and delicious. 4 Your neck is as stately as the tower of David, jeweled with the shields of a thousand heroes. 5 Your breasts are like twin fawns of a gazelle, feeding among the lilies. 6 Before the dawn comes and the shadows flee away, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense. 7 You are so beautiful, my beloved, so perfect in every part. 8 "Come with me from Lebanon, my bride. Come down from the top of Mount Amana, from Mount Senir and Mount Hermon, where lions have their dens and panthers prowl. 9 You have ravished my heart, my treasure, my bride. I am overcome by one glance of your eyes, by a single bead of your necklace. 10 How sweet is your love, my treasure, my bride! How much better it is than wine! Your perfume is more fragrant than the richest of spices. 11 Your lips, my bride, are as sweet as honey. Yes, honey and cream are under your tongue. The scent of your clothing is like that of the mountains and the cedars of Lebanon. 12 "You are like a private garden, my treasure, my bride! You are like a spring that no one else can drink from, a fountain of my own. 13 You are like a lovely orchard bearing precious fruit, with the rarest of perfumes: 14 Nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, myrrh and aloes, perfume from every incense tree, and every other lovely spice. 15 You are a garden fountain, a well of living water, as refreshing as the streams from the Lebanon mountains."
Young Woman:
16 "Awake, north wind! Come, south wind! Blow on my garden and waft its lovely perfume to my lover. Let him come into his garden and eat its choicest fruits."

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 Young Man:
"I am here in my garden, my treasure, my bride! I gather my myrrh with my spices and eat my honeycomb with my honey. I drink my wine with my milk."

Young Women of Jerusalem:
"Oh, lover and beloved, eat and drink! Yes, drink deeply of this love!"

Young Woman:
2 "One night as I was sleeping, my heart awakened in a dream. I heard the voice of my lover. He was knocking at my bedroom door. 'Open to me, my darling, my treasure, my lovely dove,' he said, 'for I have been out in the night. My head is soaked with dew, my hair with the wetness of the night.' 3 'But I said, 'I have taken off my robe. Should I get dressed again? I have washed my feet. Should I get them soiled?' 4 'My lover tried to unlatch the door, and my heart thrilled within me. 5 I jumped up to open it. My hands dripped with perfume, my fingers with lovely myrrh, as I pulled back the bolt. 6 I opened to my lover, but he was gone. I yearned for even his voice! I searched for him, but I couldn't find him anywhere. I called to him, but there was no reply. 7 The watchmen found me as they were making their rounds; they struck and wounded me. The watchman on the wall tore off my veil. 8 "Make this promise to me, O women of Jerusalem! If you find my beloved one, tell him that I am sick with love."

Young Women of Jerusalem:
9 "O woman of rare beauty, what is it about your loved one that brings you to tell us this?"

Young Woman:
10 "My lover is dark and dazzling, better than ten thousand others! 11 His head is the finest gold, and his hair is wavy and black. 12 His eyes are like doves beside brooks of water; they are set like jewels. 13 His cheeks are like sweetly scented beds of spices. His lips are like perfumed lilies. His breath is like myrrh. 14 His arms are like round bars of gold, set with chrysolite. His body is like bright ivory, aglow with sapphires. 15 His legs are like pillars of marble set in sockets of the finest gold, strong as the cedars of Lebanon. None can rival him. 16 His mouth is altogether sweet; he is lovely in every way. Such, O women of Jerusalem, is my lover, my friend."

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 Young Women of Jerusalem:
"O rarest of beautiful women, where has your lover gone? We will help you find him."
Young Woman:
2 "He has gone down to his garden, to his spice beds, to graze and to gather the lilies. 3 I am my lover's, and my lover is mine. He grazes among the lilies!"

Young Man:
4 "O my beloved, you are as beautiful as the lovely town of Tirzah. Yes, as beautiful as Jerusalem! You are as majestic as an army with banners! 5 Look away, for your eyes overcome me! Your hair falls in waves, like a flock of goats frisking down the slopes of Gilead. 6 Your teeth are as white as newly washed sheep. They are perfectly matched; not one is missing. 7 Your cheeks behind your veil are like pomegranate halves — lovely and delicious. 8 There may be sixty wives, all queens, and eighty concubines and unnumbered virgins available to me. 9 But I would still choose my dove, my perfect one, the only beloved daughter of her mother! The young women are delighted when they see her; even queens and concubines sing her praises! 10 'Who is this,' they ask, 'arising like the dawn, as fair as the moon, as bright as the sun, as majestic as an army with banners?' 11 "I went down into the grove of nut trees and out to the valley to see the new growth brought on by spring. I wanted to see whether the grapevines were budding yet, or whether the pomegranates were blossoming. 12 Before I realized it, I found myself in my princely bed with my beloved one."

Young Women of Jerusalem:
13 "Return, return to us, O maid of Shulam. Come back, come back, that we may see you once again."

Young Man:
"Why do you gaze so intently at this young woman of Shulam, as she moves so gracefully between two lines of dancers?"

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 Young Man:
"How beautiful are your sandaled feet, O queenly maiden. Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a skilled craftsman. 2 Your navel is as delicious as a goblet filled with wine. Your belly is lovely, like a heap of wheat set about with lilies. 3 Your breasts are like twin fawns of a gazelle. 4 Your neck is as stately as an ivory tower. Your eyes are like the sparkling pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is as fine as the tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus. 5 Your head is as majestic as Mount Carmel, and the sheen of your hair radiates royalty. A king is held captive in your queenly tresses. 6 "Oh, how delightful you are, my beloved; how pleasant for utter delight! 7 You are tall and slim like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters of dates. 8 I said, 'I will climb up into the palm tree and take hold of its branches.' Now may your breasts be like grape clusters, and the scent of your breath like apples. 9 May your kisses be as exciting as the best wine, smooth and sweet, flowing gently over lips and teeth."
Young Woman:
10 "I am my lover's, the one he desires. 11 Come, my love, let us go out into the fields and spend the night among the wild flowers. 12 Let us get up early and go out to the vineyards. Let us see whether the vines have budded, whether the blossoms have opened, and whether the pomegranates are in flower. And there I will give you my love. 13 There the mandrakes give forth their fragrance, and the rarest fruits are at our doors, the new as well as old, for I have stored them up for you, my lover."

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 Young Woman:
"Oh, if only you were my brother, who nursed at my mother's breast. Then I could kiss you no matter who was watching, and no one would criticize me. 2 I would bring you to my childhood home, and there you would teach me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, my sweet pomegranate wine. 3 Your left hand would be under my head and your right hand would embrace me. 4 "I want you to promise, O women of Jerusalem, not to awaken love until the time is right."

Young Women of Jerusalem:
5 "Who is this coming up from the desert, leaning on her lover?"

Young Woman:
"I aroused you under the apple tree, where your mother gave you birth, where in great pain she delivered you. 6 Place me like a seal over your heart, or like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, and its jealousy is as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love; neither can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with everything he owned, his offer would be utterly despised."

The Young Woman's Brothers:
8 "We have a little sister too young for breasts. What will we do if someone asks to marry her? 9 If she is chaste, we will strengthen and encourage her. But if she is promiscuous, we will shut her off from men."

Young Woman:
10 "I am chaste, and I am now full breasted. And my lover is content with me. 11 "Solomon has a vineyard at Baal-hamon, which he rents to some farmers there. Each of them pays one thousand pieces of silver for its use. 12 But as for my own vineyard, O Solomon, you can take my thousand pieces of silver. And I will give two hundred pieces of silver to those who care for its vines."
Young Man:
13 "O my beloved, lingering in the gardens, how wonderful that your companions can listen to your voice. Let me hear it, too!"

Young Woman:
14 "Come quickly, my love! Move like a swift gazelle or a young deer on the mountains of spices."
THE MESSAGE

Song of Solomon 1

1:1 The Song — best of all songs — Solomon's song!

2 The Woman
Kiss me — full on the mouth! Yes! For your love is better than wine,
3 headier than your aromatic oils. The syllables of your name murmur like a meadow brook. No wonder everyone loves to say your name!
4 Take me away with you! Let's run off together! An elopement with my King-Lover! We'll celebrate, we'll sing, we'll make great music. Yes! For your love is better than vintage wine. Everyone loves you — of course! And why not?
5 I am weathered but still elegant, oh, dear sisters in Jerusalem, Weather-darkened like Kedar desert tents, time-softened like Solomon's Temple hangings.
6 Don't look down on me because I'm dark, darkened by the sun's harsh rays. My brothers ridiculed me and sent me to work in the fields. They made me care for the face of the earth, but I had no time to care for my own face.
7 Tell me where you're working — I love you so much — Tell me where you're tending your flocks, where you let them rest at noontime. Why should I be the one left out, outside the orbit of your tender care?

8 The Man
If you can't find me, loveliest of all women, it's all right. Stay with your flocks. Lead your lambs to good pasture. Stay with your shepherd neighbors.
9 You remind me of Pharaoh's well-groomed and satiny mares.
10 Pendant earrings line the elegance of your cheeks; strands of jewels illumine the curve of your throat.
11 I'm making jewelry for you, gold and silver jewelry that will mark and accent your beauty.

12 The Woman
When my King-Lover lay down beside me, my fragrance filled the room.
13 His head resting between my breasts — the head of my lover was a sachet of sweet myrrh.
14 My beloved is a bouquet of wild flowers picked just for me from the fields of Engedi.

15 The Man
Oh, my dear friend! You're so beautiful! And your eyes so beautiful — like doves!

16 The Woman
And you, my dear lover — you're so handsome! And the bed we share is like a forest glen.
17 We enjoy a canopy of cedars enclosed by cypresses, fragrant and green.
Song of Solomon 2

2:1 I'm just a wildflower picked from the plains of Sharon, a lotus blossom from the valley pools.

2 The Man
A lotus blossoming in a swamp of weeds — that's my dear friend among the girls in the village.

3 The Woman
As an apricot tree stands out in the forest, my lover stands above the young men in town. All I want is to sit in his shade, to taste and savor his delicious love.

4 He took me home with him for a festive meal, but his eyes feasted on me!
5 Oh! Give me something refreshing to eat — and quickly! Apricots, raisins — anything. I'm about to faint with love!
6 His left hand cradles my head, and his right arm encircles my waist!
7 Oh, let me warn you, sisters in Jerusalem, by the gazelles, yes, by all the wild deer: Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe — and you're ready.
8 Look! Listen! There's my lover! Do you see him coming? Vaulting the mountains, leaping the hills.
9 My lover is like a gazelle, graceful; like a young stag, virile. Look at him there, on tiptoe at the gate, all ears, all eyes — ready!
10 My lover has arrived and he's speaking to me!

The Man
Get up, my dear friend, fair and beautiful lover — come to me!
11 Look around you: Winter is over; the winter rains are over, gone!
12 Spring flowers are in blossom all over. The whole world's a choir — and singing! Spring warblers are filling the forest with sweet arpeggios.
13 Lilacs are exuberantly purple and perfumed, and cherry trees fragrant with blossoms. Oh, get up, dear friend, my fair and beautiful lover — come to me!
14 Come, my shy and modest dove — leave your seclusion, come out in the open. Let me see your face, let me hear your voice. For your voice is soothing and your face is ravishing.

15 The Woman
Then you must protect me from the foxes, foxes on the prowl, Foxes who would like nothing better than to get into our flowering garden.
16 My lover is mine, and I am his. Nightly he strolls in our garden, Delighting in the flowers until dawn breathes its light and night slips away.
17 Turn to me, dear lover. Come like a gazelle. Leap like a wild stag on delectable mountains!

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 Restless in bed and sleepless through the night, I longed for my lover. I wanted him desperately. His absence was painful.
So I got up, went out and roved the city, hunting through streets and down alleys. I wanted my lover in the worst way! I looked high and low, and didn't find him.

And then the night watchmen found me as they patrolled the darkened city. "Have you seen my dear lost love?" I asked.

No sooner had I left them than I found him, found my dear lost love. I threw my arms around him and held him tight, wouldn't let him go until I had him home again, safe at home beside the fire.

Oh, let me warn you, sisters in Jerusalem, by the gazelles, yes, by all the wild deer: Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe and you're ready.

What's this I see, approaching from the desert, raising clouds of dust, Filling the air with sweet smells and pungent aromatics?

Look! It's Solomon's carriage, carried and guarded by sixty soldiers, sixty of Israel's finest, all of them armed to the teeth, trained for battle, ready for anything, anytime.

King Solomon once had a carriage built from fine-grained Lebanon cedar. He had it framed with silver and roofed with gold. The cushions were covered with a purple fabric, the interior lined with tooled leather.

Come and look, sisters in Jerusalem. Oh, sisters of Zion, don't miss this! My King-Lover, dressed and garlanded for his wedding, his heart full, bursting with joy!

Song of Solomon 4

The Man
You're so beautiful, my darling, so beautiful, and your dove eyes are veiled By your hair as it flows and shimmers, like a flock of goats in the distance streaming down a hillside in the sunshine.

Your smile is generous and full — expressive and strong and clean.

Your lips are jewel red, your mouth elegant and inviting, your veiled cheeks soft and radiant.

The smooth, lithe lines of your neck command notice — all heads turn in awe and admiration!

Your breasts are like fawns, twins of a gazelle, grazing among the first spring flowers.

The sweet, fragrant curves of your body, the soft, spiced contours of your flesh. Invite me, and I come. I stay until dawn breathes its light and night slips away.

You're beautiful from head to toe, my dear love, beautiful beyond compare, absolutely flawless.

Come with me from Lebanon, my bride. Leave Lebanon behind, and come. Leave your high mountain hideaway. Abandon your wilderness seclusion, Where you keep company with lions and panthers guard your safety.

You've captured my heart, dear friend. You looked at me, and I fell in love. One look my way and I was hopelessly in love!

How beautiful your love, dear, dear friend — far more pleasing than a fine, rare wine, your fragrance more exotic than select spices.

The kisses of your lips are honey, my love, every syllable you speak a delicacy to savor. Your clothes smell like the wild outdoors, the ozone scent of high mountains.

Dear lover and friend, you're a secret garden, a private and pure fountain.
13 Body and soul, you are paradise, a whole orchard of succulent fruits — Ripe apricots and peaches, oranges and pears; Nut trees and cinnamon, and all scented woods;
14 Mint and lavender, and all herbs aromatic;
15 A garden fountain, sparkling and splashing, fed by spring waters from the Lebanon mountains.

16 The Woman
Wake up, North Wind, get moving, South Wind! Breathe on my garden, fill the air with spice fragrance. Oh, let my lover enter his garden! Yes, let him eat the fine, ripe fruits.

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 The Man
I went to my garden, dear friend, best lover! breathed the sweet fragrance. I ate the fruit and honey, I drank the nectar and wine. Celebrate with me, friends! Raise your glasses — "To life! To love!"

2 The Woman
I was sound asleep, but in my dreams I was wide awake. Oh, listen! It's the sound of my lover knocking, calling!

The Man
"Let me in, dear companion, dearest friend, my dove, consummate lover! I'm soaked with the dampness of the night, drenched with dew, shivering and cold."

3 The Woman
"But I'm in my nightgown — do you expect me to get dressed? I'm bathed and in bed — do you want me to get dirty?"
4 But my lover wouldn't take no for an answer, and the longer he knocked, the more excited I became.
5 I got up to open the door to my lover, sweetly ready to receive him, Desiring and expectant as I turned the door handle.
6 But when I opened the door he was gone. My loved one had tired of waiting and left. And I died inside — oh, I felt so bad! I ran out looking for him But he was nowhere to be found. I called into the darkness — but no answer.
7 The night watchmen found me as they patrolled the streets of the city. They slapped and beat and bruised me, ripping off my clothes, These watchmen, who were supposed to be guarding the city.
8 I beg you, sisters in Jerusalem — if you find my lover, Please tell him I want him, that I'm heartsick with love for him.

9 The Chorus
What's so great about your lover, fair lady? What's so special about him that you beg for our help?

10 The Woman
My dear lover glows with health — red-blooded, radiant! He's one in a million. There's no one quite like him!
11 My golden one, pure and untarnished, with raven black curls tumbling across his shoulders.
12 His eyes are like doves, soft and bright, but deep-set, brimming with meaning, like wells of water.
13 His face is rugged, his beard smells like sage, His voice, his words, warm and reassuring.
14 Fine muscles ripple beneath his skin, quiet and beautiful. His torso is the work of a sculptor, hard and smooth as ivory.
15 He stands tall, like a cedar, strong and deep-rooted, A rugged mountain of a man, aromatic with wood and stone.
16 His words are kisses, his kisses words. Everything about him delights me, thrills me through and through! That's my lover, that's my man, ear Jerusalem sisters.

Song of Solomon 6
6:1 The Chorus
So where has this love of yours gone, fair one? Where on earth can he be? Can we help you look for him?

2 The Woman
Never mind. My lover is already on his way to his garden, to browse among the flowers, touching the colors and forms.
3 I am my lover's and my lover is mine. He caresses the sweet-smelling flowers.

4 The Man
Dear, dear friend and lover, you're as beautiful as Tirzah, city of delights, Lovely as Jerusalem, city of dreams, the ravishing visions of my ecstasy.
5 Your beauty is too much for me — I'm in over my head. I'm not used to this! I can't take it in. Your hair flows and shimmers like a flock of goats in the distance streaming down a hillside in the sunshine.
6 Your smile is generous and full — expressive and strong and clean.
7 Your veiled cheeks are soft and radiant.
8 There's no one like her on earth, never has been, never will be.
9 She's a woman beyond compare. My dove is perfection, Pure and innocent as the day she was born, and cradled in joy by her mother. Everyone who came by to see her exclaimed and admired her — All the fathers and mothers, the neighbors and friends, blessed and praised her:
10 "Has anyone ever seen anything like this — dawn-fresh, moon-lovely, sun-radiant, ravishing as the night sky with its galaxies of stars?"
One day I went strolling through the orchard, looking for signs of spring, Looking for buds about to burst into flower, anticipating readiness, ripeness.

Before I knew it my heart was raptured, carried away by lofty thoughts!

Dance, dance, dear Shulammite, Angel-Princess! Dance, and we'll feast our eyes on your grace! Everyone wants to see the Shulammite dance her victory dances of love and peace.

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 Shapely and graceful your sandaled feet, and queenly your movement — Your limbs are lithe and elegant, the work of a master artist.
2 Your body is a chalice, wine-filled. Your skin is silken and tawny like a field of wheat touched by the breeze.
3 Your breasts are like fawns, twins of a gazelle.
4 Your neck is carved ivory, curved and slender. Your eyes are wells of light, deep with mystery. Quintessentially feminine! Your profile turns all heads, commanding attention.
5 The feelings I get when I see the high mountain ranges — stirrings of desire, longings for the heights — Remind me of you, and I'm spoiled for anyone else!
6 Your beauty, within and without, is absolute, dear lover, close companion.
7 You are tall and supple, like the palm tree, and your full breasts are like sweet clusters of dates.
8 I say, "I'm going to climb that palm tree! I'm going to caress its fruit!" Oh yes! Your breasts will be clusters of sweet fruit to me, Your breath clean and cool like fresh mint,
9 Your tongue and lips like the best wine.

The Woman

Yes, and yours are, too — my love's kisses flow from his lips to mine.
10 I am my lover's. I'm all he wants. I'm all the world to him!
11 Come, dear lover — let's tramp through the countryside.
12 Let's sleep at some wayside inn, then rise early and listen to bird-song. Let's look for wild flowers in bloom, blackberry bushes blossoming white, Fruit trees festooned with cascading flowers. And there I'll give myself to you, my love to your love!
13 Love-apples drench us with fragrance, fertility surrounds, suffuses us, Fruits fresh and preserved that I've kept and saved just for you, my love.

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 I wish you'd been my twin brother, sharing with me the breasts of my mother, Playing outside in the street, kissing in plain view of everyone, and no one thinking anything of it.
2 I'd take you by the hand and bring you home where I was raised by my mother. You'd drink my wine and kiss my cheeks.
3 Imagine! His left hand cradling my head, his right arm around my waist!
4 Oh, let me warn you, sisters in Jerusalem: Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe — and you're ready.
5 The Chorus
Who is this I see coming up from the country, arm in arm with her lover?

The Man
I found you under the apricot tree, and woke you up to love. Your mother went into labor under that tree, and under that very tree she bore you.

6 The Woman
Hang my locket around your neck, wear my ring on your finger. Love is invincible facing danger and death. Passion laughs at the terrors of hell. The fire of love stops at nothing — it sweeps everything before it.
7 Flood waters can't drown love, torrents of rain can't put it out. Love can't be bought, love can't be sold — it's not to be found in the marketplace.
8 My brothers used to worry about me:
"Our little sister has no breasts. What shall we do with our little sister when men come asking for her?
9 She's a virgin and vulnerable, and we'll protect her. If they think she's a wall, we'll top it with barbed wire. If they think she's a door, we'll barricade it."
10 Dear brothers, I'm a walled-in virgin still, but my breasts are full — And when my lover sees me, he knows he'll soon be satisfied.

11 The Man

King Solomon may have vast vineyards in lush, fertile country, Where he hires others to work the ground. People pay anything to get in on that bounty.
12 But my vineyard is all mine, and I'm keeping it to myself. You can have your vast vineyards, of the gardens, my friends are with me listening. Let me hear your voice!

14 The Woman

Run to me, dear lover. Come like a gazelle. Leap like a wild stag on the spice mountains.
Song of Solomon 1

1:1 The Song of Songs, that [is] Solomon's.
2 Let him kiss me with kisses of his mouth, For better [are] thy loves than wine.
3 For fragrance [are] thy perfumes good. Perfume emptied out — thy name, Therefore have virgins loved thee!
4 Draw me: after thee we run, The king hath brought me into his inner chambers, We do joy and rejoice in thee, We mention thy loves more than wine, Uprightly they have loved thee!
5 Dark [am] I, and comely, daughters of Jerusalem, As tents of Kedar, as curtains of Solomon.
6 Fear me not, because I [am] very dark, Because the sun hath scorched me, The sons of my mother were angry with me, They made me keeper of the vineyards, My vineyard — my own — I have not kept.
7 Declare to me, thou whom my soul hath loved, Where thou delightest, Where thou liest down at noon, For why am I as one veiled, By the ranks of thy companions?
8 If thou knowest not, O fair among women, Get thee forth by the traces of the flock, And feed thy kids by the shepherds' dwellings!
9 To my joyous one in chariots of Pharaoh, I have compared thee, my friend,
10 Comely have been thy cheeks with garlands, Thy neck with chains.
11 Garlands of gold we do make for thee, With studs of silver!
12 While the king [is] in his circle, My spikenard hath given its fragrance.
13 A bundle of myrrh [is] my beloved to me, Between my breasts it lodgeth.
14 A cluster of cypress [is] my beloved to me, In the vineyards of En-Gedi!
15 Lo, thou [art] fair, my friend, Lo, thou [art] fair, thine eyes [are] doves!
16 Lo, thou [art] fair, my love, yea, pleasant. Yea, our couch [is] green,
17 The beams of our houses [are] cedars, Our rafters [are] firs, I [am] a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys!

Song of Solomon 2

2:1 As a lily among the thorns,
2 So [is] my friend among the daughters!
3 As a citron among trees of the forest, So [is] my beloved among the sons, In his shade I delighted, and sat down, And his fruit [is] sweet to my palate.
4 He hath brought me in unto a house of wine, And his banner over me [is] love,
5 Sustain me with grape-cakes, Support me with citrons, for I [am] sick with love.
6 His left hand [is] under my head, And his right doth embrace me.
7 I have adjured you, daughters of Jerusalem, By the roes or by the hinds of the field, Stir not up nor wake the love till she please!
8 The voice of my beloved! lo, this — he is coming, Leaping on the mountains, skipping on the hills.
9 My beloved [is] like to a roe, Or to a young one of the harts. Lo, this — he is standing behind
our wall, Looking from the windows, Blooming from the lattice.
10 My beloved hath answered and said to me, 'Rise up, my friend, my fair one, and come away,
11 For lo, the winter hath passed by, The rain hath passed away — it hath gone.
12 The flowers have appeared in the earth, The time of the singing hath come, And the voice of
the turtle was heard in our land,
13 The fig-tree hath ripened her green figs, And the sweet-smelling vines have given forth
fragrance, Rise, come, my friend, my fair one, yea, come away.
14 My dove, in clefts of the rock, In a secret place of the ascent, Cause me to see thine
appearance, Cause me to hear thy voice, For thy voice [is] sweet, and thy appearance comely.
15 Seize ye for us foxes, Little foxes — destroyers of vineyards, Even our sweet-smelling
vineyards.
16 My beloved [is] mine, and I [am] his, Who is delighting among the lilies,
17 Till the day doth break forth, And the shadows have fled away, Turn, be like, my beloved, To
a roe, or to a young one of the harts, On the mountains of separation!

Song of Solomon 3

3:1 On my couch by night, I sought him whom my soul hath loved; I sought him, and I found
him not!
2— Pray, let me rise, and go round the city, In the streets and in the broad places, I seek him
whom my soul hath loved! — I sought him, and I found him not.
3 The watchmen have found me, (Who are going round about the city), 'Him whom my soul
have loved saw ye?'
4 But a little I passed on from them, Till I found him whom my soul hath loved! I seized him,
and let him not go, Till I brought him in unto the house of my mother — And the chamber of her
that conceived me.
5 I have adjured you, daughters of Jerusalem, By the roes or by the hinds of the field, Stir not up
nor wake the love till she please!
6 Who [is] this coming up from the wilderness, Like palm-trees of smoke, Perfumed [with]
myrrh and frankincense, From every powder of the merchant?
7 Lo, his couch, that [is] Solomon's, Sixty mighty ones [are] around it, Of the mighty of Israel,
8 All of them holding sword, taught of battle, Each his sword by his thigh, for fear at night.
9 A palanquin king Solomon made for himself, Of the wood of Lebanon,
10 Its pillars he made of silver, Its bottom of gold, its seat of purple, Its midst lined [with] love,
By the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, and look, ye daughters of Zion, On king Solomon, with the crown, With which his
mother crowned him, In the day of his espousals, And in the day of the joy of his heart!

Song of Solomon 4

4:1 Lo, thou [art] fair, my friend, lo, thou [art] fair, Thine eyes [are] doves behind thy veil, Thy
hair as a row of the goats That have shone from mount Gilead,
2 Thy teeth as a row of the shorn ones That have come up from the washing, For all of them are forming twins, And a bereaved one is not among them.
3 As a thread of scarlet [are] thy lips, And thy speech [is] comely, As the work of the pomegranate [is] thy temple behind thy veil,
4 As the tower of David [is] thy neck, built for an armoury, The chief of the shields are hung on it, All shields of the mighty.
5 Thy two breasts [are] as two fawns, Twins of a roe, that are feeding among lilies.
6 Till the day doth break forth, And the shadows have fled away, I will get me unto the mountain of myrrh, And unto the hill of frankincense.
7 Thou [art] all fair, my friend, And a blemish there is not in thee. Come from Lebanon, O spouse,
8 Come from Lebanon, come thou in. Look from the top of Amana, From the top of Shenir and Hermon, From the habitations of lions, From the mountains of leopards.
9 Thou hast emboldened me, my sister-spouse, Emboldened me with one of thine eyes, With one chain of thy neck.
10 How wonderful have been thy loves, my sister-spouse, How much better have been thy loves than wine, And the fragrance of thy perfumes than all spices.
11 Thy lips drop honey, O spouse, Honey and milk [are] under thy tongue, And the fragrance of thy garments [Is] as the fragrance of Lebanon.
12 A garden shut up [is] my sister-spouse, A spring shut up — a fountain sealed.
13 Thy shoots a paradise of pomegranates, With precious fruits, Cypresses with nard — nard and saffron, Cane and cinnamon, With all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, with all chief spices.
15 A fount of gardens, a well of living waters, And flowings from Lebanon!
16 Awake, O north wind, and come, O south, Cause my garden to breathe forth, its spices let flow, Let my beloved come to his garden, And eat its pleasant fruits!

Song of Solomon 5

5:1 I have come in to my garden, my sister-spouse, I have plucked my myrrh with my spice, I have eaten my comb with my honey, I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends, drink, Yea, drink abundantly, O beloved ones!
2 I am sleeping, but my heart waketh: The sound of my beloved knocking! 'Open to me, my sister, my friend, My dove, my perfect one, For my head is filled [with] dew, My locks [with] drops of the night.'
3 I have put off my coat, how do I put it on? I have washed my feet, how do I defile them?
4 My beloved sent his hand from the net-work, And my bowels were moved for him.
5 I rose to open to my beloved, And my hands dropped myrrh, Yea, my fingers flowing myrrh, On the handles of the lock.
6 I opened to my beloved, But my beloved withdrew — he passed on, My soul went forth when he spake, I sought him, and found him not. I called him, and he answered me not.
7 The watchmen who go round about the city, Found me, smote me, wounded me, Keepers of the walls lifted up my veil from off me.
8 I have adjured you, daughters of Jerusalem, If ye find my beloved — What do ye tell him? that I [am] sick with love!
9 What [is] thy beloved above [any] beloved, O fair among women? What [is] thy beloved above [any] beloved, That thus thou hast adjured us?
10 My beloved [is] clear and ruddy, Conspicuous above a myriad!
11 His head [is] pure gold — fine gold, His locks flowing, dark as a raven,
12 His eyes as doves by streams of water, Washing in milk, sitting in fulness.
13 His cheeks as a bed of the spice, towers of perfumes. His lips [are] lilies, dropping flowing myrrh,
14 His hands rings of gold, set with beryl, His heart bright ivory, covered with sapphires,
15 His limbs pillars of marble, Founded on sockets of fine gold, His appearance as Lebanon,
16 His mouth is sweetness — and all of him desirable, This [is] my beloved, and this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!

Song of Solomon 6

6:1 Whither hath thy beloved gone, O fair among women? Whither hath thy beloved turned, And we seek him with thee?
2 My beloved went down to his garden, To the beds of the spice, To delight himself in the gardens, and to gather lilies.
3 I [am] my beloved's, and my beloved [is] mine, Who is delighting himself among the lilies.
4 Fair [art] thou, my friend, as Tirzah, Comely as Jerusalem, Awe-inspiring as bannered hosts.
5 Turn round thine eyes from before me, Because they have made me proud. Thy hair [is] as a row of the goats, That have shone from Gilead,
6 Thy teeth as a row of the lambs, That have come up from the washing, Because all of them are forming twins, And a bereaved one is not among them.
7 As the work of the pomegranate [is] thy temple behind thy veil.
8 Sixty are queens, and eighty concubines, And virgins without number.
9 One is my dove, my perfect one, One she [is] of her mother, The choice one she [is] of her that bare her, Daughters saw, and pronounce her happy, Queens and concubines, and they praise her.
10 Who [is] this that is looking forth as morning, Fair as the moon — clear as the sun, Awe-inspiring as bannered hosts?
11 Unto a garden of nuts I went down, To look on the buds of the valley, To see whither the vine had flourished, The pomegranates had blossomed —
12 I knew not my soul, It made me — chariots of my people Nadib.
13 Return, return, O Shulammith! Return, return, and we look upon thee. What do ye see in Shulammith?

Song of Solomon 7

7:1 As the chorus of 'Mahanaim.' How beautiful were thy feet with sandals, O daughter of Nadib. The turnings of thy sides [are] as ornaments, Work of the hands of an artificer.
2 Thy waist [is] a basin of roundness, It lacketh not the mixture, Thy body a heap of wheat, fenced with lilies,
3 Thy two breasts as two young ones, twins of a roe,
4 Thy neck as a tower of the ivory, Thine eyes pools in Heshbon, near the gate of Bath-Rabbim, Thy face as a tower of Lebanon looking to Damascus,
5 Thy head upon thee as Carmel, And the locks of thy head as purple, The king is bound with the flowings!
6 How fair and how pleasant hast thou been, O love, in delights.
7 This thy stature hath been like to a palm, And thy breasts to clusters.
8 I said, 'Let me go up on the palm, Let me lay hold on its boughs, Yea, let thy breasts be, I pray thee, as clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of thy face as citrons,
9 And thy palate as the good wine — ' Flowing to my beloved in uprightness, Strengthening the lips of the aged!
10 I [am] my beloved's, and on me [is] his desire.
11 Come, my beloved, we go forth to the field,
12 We lodge in the villages, we go early to the vineyards, We see if the vine hath flourished, The sweet smelling-flower hath opened. The pomegranates have blossomed, There do I give to thee my loves;
13 The mandrakes have given fragrance, And at our openings all pleasant things, New, yea, old, my beloved, I laid up for thee!

Song of Solomon 8

8:1 Who doth make thee as a brother to me, Sucking the breasts of my mother? I find thee without, I kiss thee, Yea, they do not despise me,
2 I lead thee, I bring thee in unto my mother's house, She doth teach me, I cause thee to drink of the perfumed wine, Of the juice of my pomegranate,
3 His left hand [is] under my head, And his right doth embrace me.
4 I have adjured you, daughters of Jerusalem, How ye stir up, And how ye wake the love till she please!
5 Who [is] this coming from the wilderness, Hasting herself for her beloved? Under the citron-tree I have waked thee, There did thy mother pledge thee, There she gave a pledge [that] bare thee.
6 Set me as a seal on thy heart, as a seal on thine arm, For strong as death is love, Sharp as Sheol is jealousy, Its burnings [are] burnings of fire, a flame of Jah!
7 Many waters are not able to quench the love, And floods do not wash it away. If one give all the wealth of his house for love, Treading down — they tread upon it.
8 We have a little sister, and breasts she hath not, What do we do for our sister, In the day that it is told of her?
9 If she is a wall, we build by her a palace of silver. And if she is a door, We fashion by her board-work of cedar.
10 I [am] a wall, and my breasts as towers, Then I have been in his eyes as one finding peace.
11 Solomon hath a vineyard in Baal-Hamon, He hath given the vineyard to keepers, Each bringeth for its fruit a thousand silverlings;
12 My vineyard — my own — is before me, The thousand [is] for thee, O Solomon. And the two hundred for those keeping its fruit. O dweller in gardens!
13 The companions are attending to thy voice, Cause me to hear. Flee, my beloved, and be like to a roe,
14 Or to a young one of the harts on mountains of spices!