

{22} Song of Solomon

Chapter 1

(1) The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

(2) Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: because your love *is* better than wine.

(3) Because of the aroma of your good perfume your name *is as* perfume poured forth, therefore the virgins love you.

(4) Draw me, we will run after you: the king has brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in you, we will remember your love more than wine: the upright love you.

(5) I *am* black, but beautiful, O you daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

(6) Do not look upon me, because I *am* black, because the sun has looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; *but* my own vineyard I have not kept.

(7) Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, where you feed, where you cause *your flock* to rest at noon: because why should I be as one who turns aside by the flocks of your companions?

(8) **If you do not know, O you fairest among women, go your way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed your young goats beside the shepherds' tents.**

(9) **I have compared you, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots.**

(10) **Your cheeks are beautiful with rows of jewels, your neck with chains of gold.**

(11) **We will make for you borders of gold with studs of silver.**

(12) While the king *sits* at his table, my perfume sends forth its smell.

(13) A bundle of myrrh *is* my well-beloved to me; he shall lie all night between my breasts.

* The song of songs is from Solomon himself. An attempt has been made here to distinguish between the words of Solomon's wife (4:6,9-12; 5:1) and Solomon himself, with Solomon's words in bold print. In some cases it is easy to tell which one is speaking, in other cases it is not as clear. Since the wife speaks the most in the text, where there is some question who is speaking, I have assumed the wife is doing the talking. Solomon had many wives {at the time Solomon wrote this he had sixty wives, eighty concubines, and many virgins -- see 6:8 -- later he would have 700 wives and 300 concubines - see I Ki. 11:3}. This particular wife is black (v. 1:5,6) and probably from Ethiopia or some other African country. Her name is given in 6:13 as "Shulamite" meaning "peaceful". The text also can be interpreted symbolically as an expression of God's love for His people. Many interpret "black" as being God's people in their sin apart from Him -- however, throughout scripture sin is always referred to as scarlet or crimson red {the color of blood}[Is. 1:18] - never as black!!

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(14) **My beloved is to me as a bouquet of henna flowers in the vineyards of En-gedi.**

(15) **Indeed, you *are* fair {beautiful}, my love; indeed, you *are* fair {beautiful}; you *have* doves' eyes.**

(16) **Indeed, you *are* fair {beautiful}, my beloved, yes, pleasant: also our bed is green.**

(17) **The beams of our house *are* cedar, and our rafters of fir.**

Chapter 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) Keep me with raisin cakes, comfort me with apples: because I *am* sick with love.

(6) His left hand *is* under my head, and his right hand embraces me.

(7) I charge you, O you daughters of Jerusalem, by the does, and by the deer of the field, that you not stir up, nor awake *my* love, until he pleases.

(8) The voice of my beloved! Look he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.

(9) My beloved is like a doe or a fawn: look, he stands behind our wall, he looks forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice.

(10) My beloved spoke, and said to me, **Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.**

(11) **Because, indeed, 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 turtle dove is heard in our land;**

(13) **The fig tree puts 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 are* in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; because your voice is sweet, and your face is beautiful.**

(15) Let us catch the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: because our vines *have* tender grapes.

(16) My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his: he feeds among the lilies.

(17) Until the day breaks, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be like a deer or a fawn upon the mountains of Bether.

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Chapter 3

(1) By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loves: I sought him, but I did not find him.

(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 loves: I sought him, but I did 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) *It was* but a little while that I passed from them, that 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.

(5) I charge you, O you daughters of Jerusalem, by the does, and by the deer of the field, that you not stir up, nor awake *my love*, until he pleases.

(6) Who *is* this who comes out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?

(7) Look at Solomon's bed; sixty valiant men *are* around it, of the most valiant of Israel.

(8) They all hold swords, *being* expert in war: every man *has* 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 its pillars *of* silver, its bottom *of* gold, its covering *of* purple, the middle of it being paved *with* love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.

(11) Go forth, O you daughters of Zion, and look at king Solomon with the crown with which his mother crowned him in the day of his weddings, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.

Chapter 4

(1) **Indeed, you *are* fair {beautiful}, my love; indeed, you *are* fair; you *have* doves' eyes within your locks: your hair *is* as a flock of goats, that appears from mount Gilead.**

(2) **Your teeth *are* like a flock of sheep that *are* evenly sheared, which came up from the washing; of which everyone bears twins, and none *is* barren among them.**

(3) **Your lips *are* like a thread of scarlet, and your speech *is* beautiful: your temples *are* like a piece of a pomegranate within your locks.**

(4) **Your neck *is* like the tower of David built for an armory, upon which there hang a thousand shields, all shields of mighty men.**

(5) **Your two breasts *are* like two fawns that *are* twins, which feed among the lilies.**

(6) **Until the day breaks, and the shadows flee away, I will go up to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense.**

(7) **You *are* without blemish, my love; *there is* no spot in you.**

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(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) **You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one of your eyes, with one chain of your neck.**

(10) **How fair your love is, my sister, my spouse! how much better is your love than wine! and the smell of your perfume than all spices!**

(11) **Your lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under your tongue; and the smell of your clothes is like the smell of Lebanon.**

(12) **My sister is an enclosed garden, my spouse; a spring closed up, a fountain sealed.**

(13) **Your 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, you south wind; blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat its pleasant fruits.**

Chapter 5

(1) **I have 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, yes, drink abundantly, O beloved.**

(2) **I sleep, but my heart awakes: it is the voice of my beloved that knocks, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: because 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 heart 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.**

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(6) I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had left, *and* was gone: my soul failed 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, that I *am* sick with love.

(9) Who *is* your beloved more than *another* beloved, O you fairest among women? who *is* your beloved more than *another* beloved, that you so charge us?

(10) My beloved *is* white and handsome, 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 appearance *is as* 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.

Chapter 6

(1) Where has your beloved gone, O you fairest among women? where has your beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with you.

(2) My beloved has 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 feeds among the lilies.

(4) **You *are* beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, beautiful as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.**

(5) **Turn away your eyes from me, because they have overcome me: your hair *is* as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.**

(6) **Your teeth *are* as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, of which everyone bears twins, and *there is* not one barren among them.**

(7) **As a piece of a pomegranate *are* your temples within your locks.**

(8) **There are sixty queens, and eighty 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 who bore her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; *yes*, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.**

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(10) **Who is she *who* looks 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 {peaceful};^a return, return, that we may look upon you. What will you see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies.**

Chapter 7

(1) **How beautiful are your feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of your thighs *are* like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.**

(2) **Your navel *is like* a round goblet, *which* lacks no liquor: your belly *is like* a heap of wheat set about with lilies.**

(3) **Your two breasts *are* like two young fawns *that are* twins.**

(4) Your neck *is* as a tower of ivory; your eyes *like* the fish pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bathrabbim: your nose *is* as the tower of Lebanon which looks toward Damascus.

(5) Your head upon you *is* like Carmel, and the hair of your head like purple; the king *is* held in the galleries.

(6) **How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, for delights!**

(7) **Your stature *is* like to a palm tree, and your breasts to clusters of grapes.**

(8) **I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches: now also your breasts will be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of your nose like apples;**

(9) **And the roof of your mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goes *down* sweetly, causing the lips of those who are asleep to speak.**

(10) *I am* my beloved's, and his desire *is* towards 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 flourishes, *whether* the tender grapes appear, *and* the pomegranates bud forth: there I will give you my love.

6:13a - Shulamite {השולמית} - peaceful {name of Solomon's wife}

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(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 you, O my beloved.

Chapter 8

(1) O that you *were* as my brother, who nursed the breasts of my mother! *when* I should find you outside, I would kiss you; yes, I should not be despised.

(2) I would lead you, *and* bring you into my mother's house, *who* would instruct me: I would cause you to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.

(3) His left hand *would be* under my head, and his right hand would embrace me.

(4) I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up, nor awake *my* love, until he pleases.

(5) **Who is this who comes up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised you up under the apple tree: there your mother brought you forth: there she brought you forth *who* gave birth to you.**

(6) **Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm: because love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: its coals *are* coals of fire, *which* have a most violent 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 be completely consumed.**

(8) We have a little sister, and she has no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?

(9) If she *was* a wall, we would build upon her a palace of silver: and if she *was* a door, we would enclose her with boards of cedar.

(10) I *am* a wall, and my breasts like towers: then I was in his eyes as one who had found favor.

(11) Solomon had a vineyard at Baalhamon; he let out the vineyard to keepers; everyone for its fruit was to bring a thousand *pieces* of silver.

(12) My vineyard, which *is* mine, *is* before me: you, O Solomon, *must have* a thousand, and those who keep its fruit two hundred.

(13) You who live in the gardens, the companions listen to your voice: cause me to hear *it*.

(14) Come quickly, my beloved, and be like a deer or a young fawn upon the mountains of spices.

