



# *Solomon & Delilah*

*3 "Lilies, Dripping with Myrrh"*

A romantic couple is shown in a close embrace, kissing. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are both looking at each other. The background is a soft, warm light. The woman has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a dark top. The man has dark hair and is wearing a dark shirt. The overall mood is intimate and affectionate.

# *Solomon's Song of Songs*

***“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—  
for your love is more delightful than wine.  
Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;  
your name is like perfume poured out.  
No wonder the young women love you!  
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.” 1:2-4***

## Symbols of the Song



1. **Myrrh: 40%** of  
**Biblical mentions in**  
**Song of Songs (7 of 17, #1)**

2. **Lilies: 40%** (8 of 19, #1)



c.f. 'Dodim': 52%  
(32 of 61), 140 X



3. **Doves: 15%** (7 of 46, #2)

4. **Garden: 12%** (8 of 66, #2)  
**/ Vineyard: 6%** (6 of 108, #7)



Try to find the \*Biblical\* meaning of these symbols



## Myrrh



*[the wise men] bowed down and worshiped [Jesus]  
...Then they opened their treasures and presented him  
with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. **Mt 2:11***

*Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,  
about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the  
two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of  
linen. **Jn 19:39-40***

**=> Myrrh represents death**

**The Song is not a Kingdom vision!**



A large pond filled with numerous pink lilies and green lily pads. The lilies are in various stages of bloom, some fully open and some as buds. The lily pads are large and round, floating on the water's surface. The background is a soft-focus view of the pond.

## Lilies



*“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” **Mt 6:28-29***

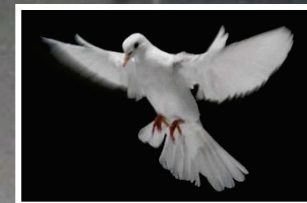
**(Jesus was minded to speak of Solomon when referencing lilies)**

**Scientific function of a flower is to attract by visual appearance**

**=> A lily represents physical beauty**



## Doves



**Transliteration:** Dove = Jonah!

*At that moment heaven was opened, and [John the Baptist] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on [Jesus]. **Mt 3:16***

*Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless- now calling to Egypt, now turning to Assyria. **Hos 7:11***

**Scriptural precedents are problematic: both good & bad**



## Doves: Positive



*When the dove returned to [Noah] in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. **Gen 8:11***

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. **Mt 3:16***

*And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah [Dove] onto dry land... Jonah [Dove] obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. **Jon 2:10; 3:3***

Dove at the baptism of the Natural Creation: Earth  
Dove at the baptism of the Spiritual Creation: Jesus  
Man whose experience defined baptism: “Dove”

**Baptism:  
New path**

## Doves: Negative



*Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless-  
now calling to Egypt, now turning to Assyria. Hos 7:11*

*The word of the LORD came  
to Jonah [Dove] son of  
Amittai... But Jonah ran away  
from the LORD and headed  
for Tarshish. Jon 1:1-3*

**The only prophet who disobeyed  
God's direct commands is 'Dove'**



**Ephraim makes new, foolish, allegiances  
Jonah takes off on a new path to escape God**



# Doves



## The Dove: New Path

### Positive

- Innocent, blameless
- A New road – baptism

### Negative

- Foolish, Naïve
- A New road – a bad one

Solomon's "New Path" turning from God to indulge himself / his wives , is a foolish one

## Vineyards

=> Where wine grows

=> **Wine = Blood**

*Mt 26:27-28*

=> **Blood = Life**

*Gen 9:4*

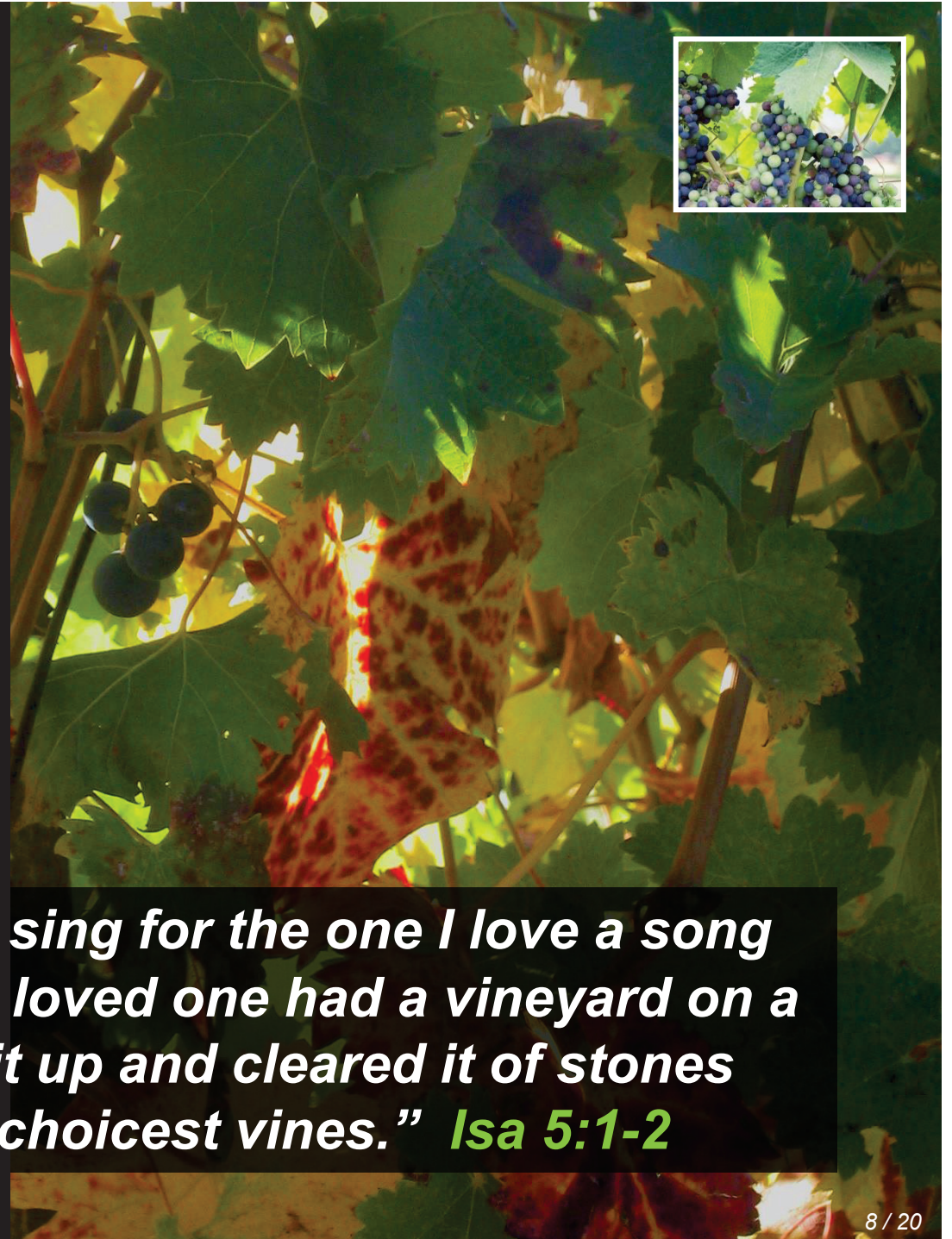
*Lev 17:11*

*Dt 12:23*

=> Where life grows

=> Fertile Woman / Bride

**God and His Bride: “I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.”** *Isa 5:1-2*





## Symbols of the Song

Song belongs  
in the Bible



1. Myrrh: 40% of  
Biblical mentions  
in Song of Songs

DEATH

2. Lilies: 40%

BEAUTY



3. Doves: 15%

NEW PATH



4. Garden: 12%  
/ Vineyard: 6%

FERTILE  
WOMAN



Solomon's deadly new path  
chasing beautiful women

Are these meanings  
consistent with use?

## The Bride's Vineyard



### God tends His Vineyard

*In that day- "Sing about a fruitful vineyard: I, the LORD, watch over it; I water it continually. I guard it day and night so that no one may harm it." Isa 27:2-3*

### The Wife of Noble Character tends her Vineyard

*She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. Prov 31:16-17*

### The Bride neglects her Vineyard, blaming others

*"My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected."  
1:6*

**The Bride has not been developed as a disciple of God**



## Chastity, Consummation & Conception



**Solomon:** *“You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride”* 4:12

**Bride:** *“Let my beloved come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”* 4:16

**Solomon:** *“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.”* 5:1

**Bride:** *“Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened”* 7:12



# Solomon's Thousand Vineyards



Baal-Hamon = "Lord of Excess"

*"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, O Solomon, may have a thousand"*  
**8:11-12**

Solomon gathers 1 000 spouses, an excess



## Central Couplet of the Song



Couplet is the Song's center:

- Literally (same # lines before and after)
- Thematically (sexual consummation a focus)

***"I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;  
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice."*** 5:1

*"I have joined with you, my sister, my bride,  
I have tasted my death with my pleasure"*

**DEATH**



## Eyes of the Dove



Solomon: *“Your eyes behind your veil are doves”* 1:15; 4:1

Bride: *“His eyes are like doves by the water streams”* 5:12

*“You have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes”* 4:9

*“Turn your eyes away from me, for they terrify me!”* 6:5

=> Solomon found his new road in the  
(terrifying) eyes that captured him



## Lily: Physical Beauty



*“Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.” 4:5*

*“Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.” 7:2*

**Bride:** *“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys”*

**Solomon:** *“Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.” 2:1-2*

*“My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.” 2:16*

**Solomon indulged himself with 1 000 women**



## The Deadly Seduction of Beauty



**Solomon had a taste for beautiful women**

*“My lover has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies. I am my lover’s and my lover is mine; he browses among the lilies.” 6:2-3*

But these ‘lilies’ caused him to turn his heart from God *1 Kgs 11:4*

*“His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh.” 5:13*

**Solomon’s taste for ‘pasturing lilies’ was a deadly one**





## Myrrh: Anointing the Dead



*“My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh  
resting between my breasts.” 1:13*

*“Who is this coming up from the desert like  
a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh?”*

*3:6*

**Smoke column in wilderness = God**

**This ‘god’ is perfumed with death**

**Hebraists insist \*she\* is the column of smoke**

*Murphy p267, Bloch p160, Fox p119*

*“Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to  
the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense” 4:6*

**Solomon spends all night at the mountain of myrrh (c.f. Christ)**

## Myrrh: A Developing Trend



*“a sachet of myrrh”* 1:13



*“a column of smoke,  
perfumed with myrrh”* 3:6



*“the mountain  
of myrrh”* 4:6  
& c.f. 8:14

**The Symbol of Death grows:  
from a sachet... to a column... to a mountain!**



## Beloved's Deadly Embrace



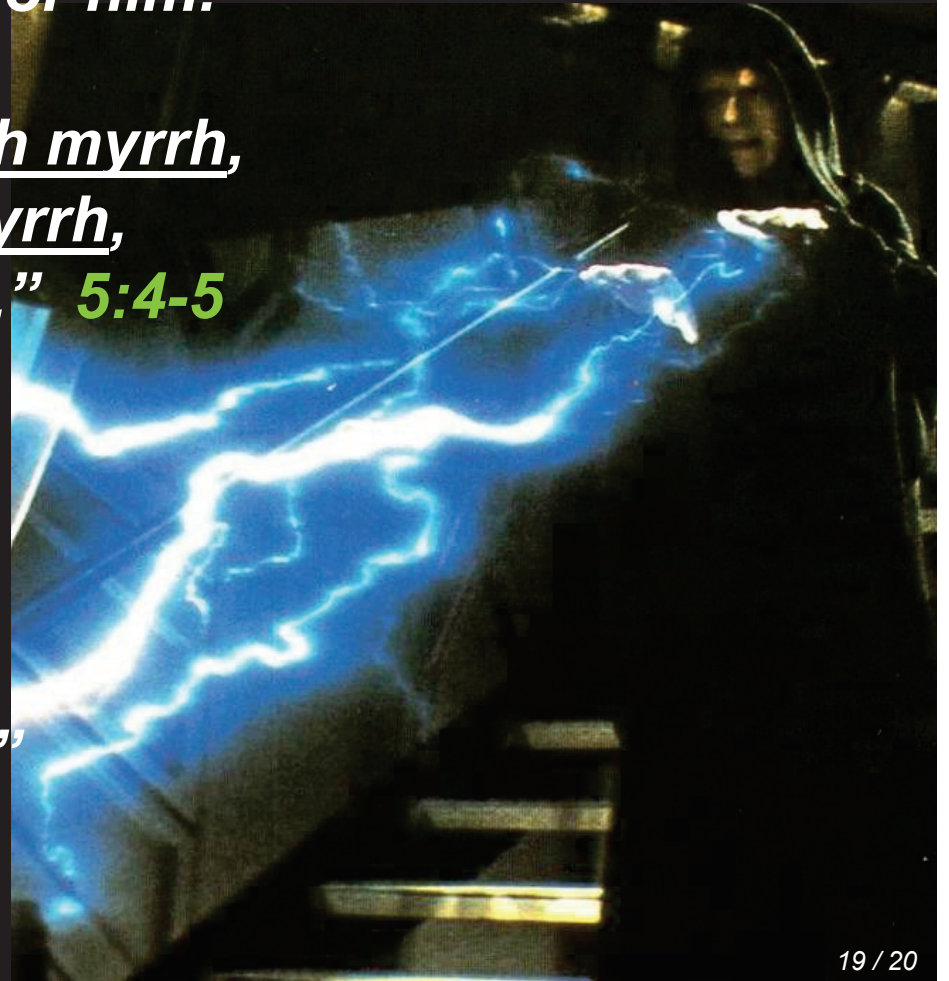
*“My lover thrust his hand  
through the latch-opening;  
my heart began to pound for him.  
I arose to open for my lover,  
and my hands dripped with myrrh,  
my fingers with flowing myrrh,  
on the handles of the lock.”* 5:4-5

**The Bride's touch is deadly**

**Then a strange development:**

*“I opened for my lover,  
but my lover had left...”*

5:6



Where did he go?  
And why?

*“I opened for my lover,  
but my lover had left...”*

5:6

