

The King Who Fell



3

Siren Song of Lebanon

Solomon & Delilah: Characters

Solomon the King



Heb literally
“THE King”
Bloch, p120

1:1,5; 3:7,9,11; 8:11,12

Lebanese Bride



4:8; 4:11,15; 7:4

Plot Summary

- He is Israel's spiritual leader
- She does not know Israel's God
- Their mutual love is genuine

- He becomes infatuated with her
 - ⇒ He 'changes nationality'
 - ⇒ His leadership role transfers to her
- No mention of God (his responsibility)
 - ⇒ She becomes deadly (his fault)



Dynamics with Support Characters

- Daughters of Jerusalem resent her (she takes their place)
- Watchmen of Jerusalem try to eliminate her

King & the Bride are Married

Modern commentators believe the couple are unmarried because of their separate domiciles; i.e. grooms don't live apart from brides *e.g. Gledhill p39; Murphy p263*

Except for Solomon!

Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the Lord has entered are holy." 2 Chr 8:11

Solomon's Spiritual Collapse

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. 1 Kgs 11:1-6

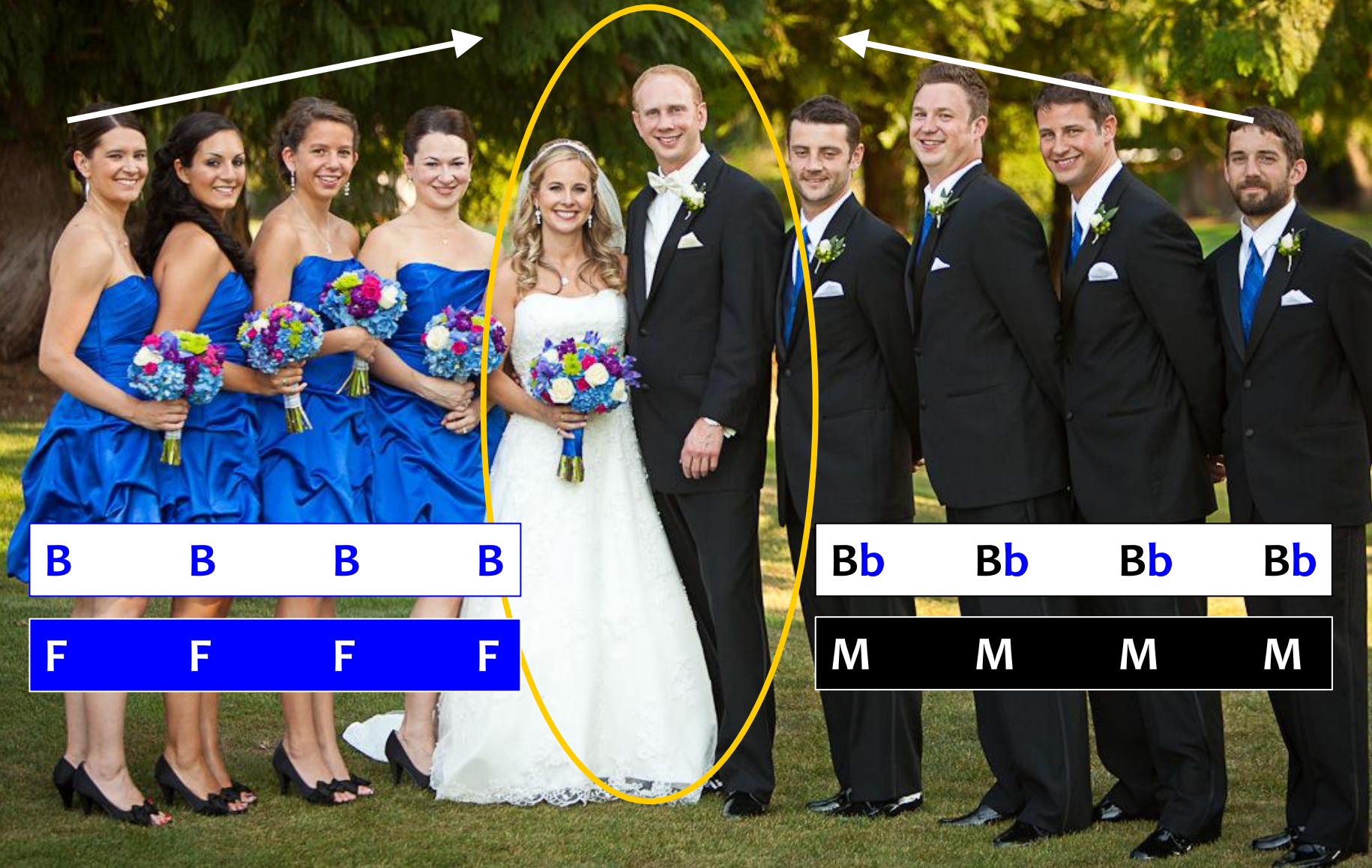
Chronology

I now pronounce you man and 700 wives.

“Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; but my dove, my perfect one, is unique...” 6:8-9

- ⇒ 860 partners still to come *Dt 17:17*
- ⇒ This relationship doesn't last!
- ⇒ Chronology during Solomon's reign

Chiasmus



B B B B

F F F F

Bb Bb Bb Bb

M M M M

Chiasmus

He leads her
2:10; 2:13; 4:8

She leads him
7:11; 8:14



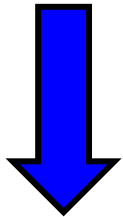
Mtns of Bether
2:17



Mtns of spices
8:14

5:1

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



4:1-7

Call from him away
from Lebanon

4:8

Call from her away
from Jerusalem

8:14

7:1-9



Initially he leads:
"Come with me..."
2:10 & 2:13 & 4:8

Transfer of Leadership

5:1

But the lead transfers:
"Come into..." 4:16
"Come..." 7:11
"Come away..." 8:14

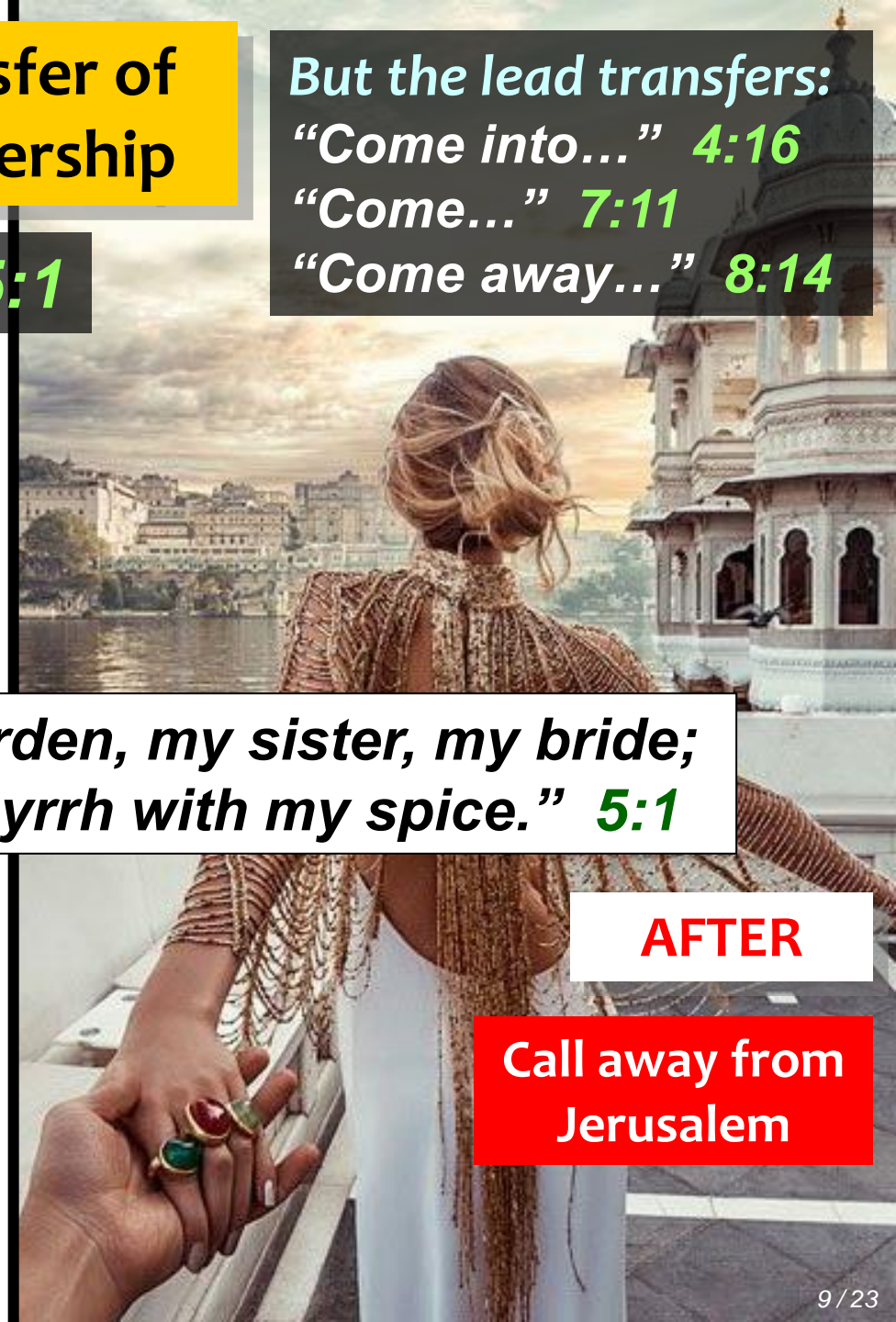
*"I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice."* 5:1

BEFORE

Call away from
Lebanon

AFTER

Call away from
Jerusalem



BEFORE

The Mountains

AFTER



Mtns of Bether
2:17

Judah



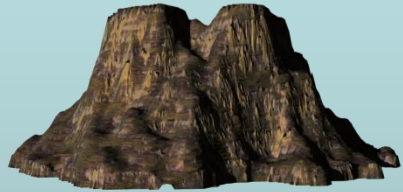
Mtns of spices
8:14

Pleasures

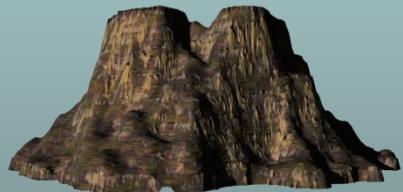
5:1

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

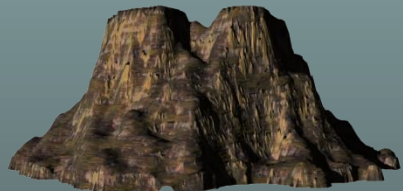
Aside: Mountain is a Biblical symbol for a ruling power



“Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.” Psa 72:1-3



“For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” Lk 23:29-30

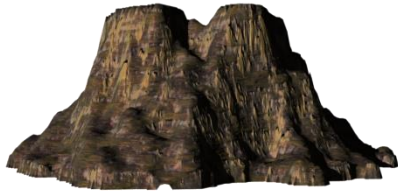


“But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.” Dan 2:35

BEFORE

The Mountains

AFTER



Mtns of Bether
2:17

Judah



Mtns of spices
8:14

Pleasures

5:1

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

BEFORE

The Sequential Poems (wasfs)

AFTER

4:1-7



5:1



Elegant revelation of
their consummation

Clever depiction of
the transfer of power

7:1-9



BEFORE

Solomon to the Bride:

“Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance” **4:4**

Spiritual Immigration

AFTER

Bride to Solomon:

“His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars.” **5:15**

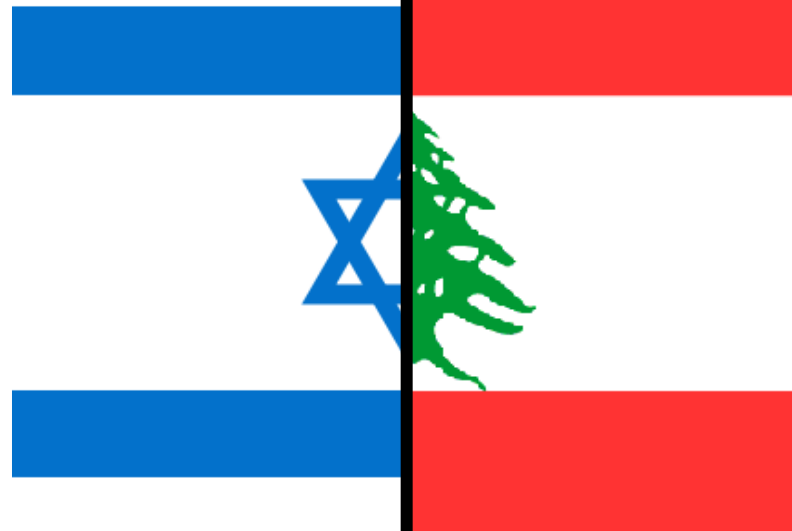
Solomon to the Bride:

“Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus.” **7:4**

5:1

ISRAEL

LEBANON



**Entranced,
Entangled**

**Bride: “While the king was at his table,
my perfume spread its fragrance.” 1:12**

**Solomon: “Your hair is like
royal tapestry;
the king is held captive
by its tresses.” 7:5**

The King describes himself as a captive, mesmerized

She Holds Power

“Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim.” **7:4**

Heshbon is in Moab
Beth Rabbim = ‘House of Rabbis’

He is taking leadership from her beautiful (foreign) eyes



Bride: “Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm”
8:6

Owner seals owned => She owns him

“[angels] put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” **Rev 7:3**



Proverbs 7

*Then out came a woman to meet him,
dressed like a prostitute and with
crafty intent.*

*(She is unruly and defiant,
her feet never stay at home;
now in the street, now in the squares,
at every corner she lurks)...*

*I have covered my bed
with colored linens from Egypt.
I have perfumed my bed
with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.
Come, let's drink deeply of love till
morning; let's enjoy ourselves with
love! My husband is not at home; he
has gone on a long journey.*

Prov 7:10-12,16-19



The Bride

*“All night long on my
bed I looked for the
one my heart loves; I
looked for him but did
not find him. I will get
up now and go about
the city, through its
streets and squares...”*

3:1-2

Proverbs 7

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Prov 7:10-12,16-19



The Bride

*“I liken you, my darling,
to a mare among
Pharaoh’s chariot
horses.” 1:9*

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Prov 7:10-12,16-19



The Bride

*“And our bed is verdant.
...My beloved has gone
down to his garden, to the
beds of spices, to browse
in the gardens” 1:16, 6:2*

*“henna... nard and
saffron, calamus and
cinnamon... with myrrh
and aloes.” 4:13-14*

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Prov 7:10-12,16-19



The Bride

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

4:6

Love More than Wine

Beloved

*“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
for your love is more delightful than wine.” 1:2*

Friends

*“We rejoice and delight in you;
we will praise your love more than wine.” 1:4*

Lover

*“How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride!
How much more pleasing is your love than wine” 4:10*

Love > Life. A deadly love

Love More than Life

*“for love is as strong as death,
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.”*

8:6

Repeated emphasis that
the love will be deadly



Terrors in the Night

“Look! It is Solomon’s carriage, escorted by sixty warriors... prepared for the terrors of the night.”

3:7-8

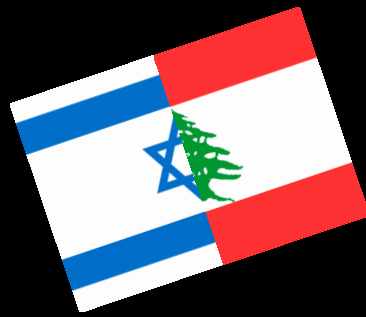


“Sixty queens there may be...” **6:8**



Spiritually, the “terrors of the night” were never outside Solomon’s own bed

LIFE LESSONS



- Love can be intense enough to replace God if faith is weak
- Even love which is pure & feels right can be fatal if it displaces God



How could love ever cost me my faith?
If I believe "truth," won't truth beat error?

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{2\pi/5} \int_0^a \frac{ar}{\sqrt{a^2-r^2}} dr d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} \int_0^a \frac{r}{\sqrt{a^2-r^2}} dr d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} [-\sqrt{a^2-r^2}]_0^a d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} [(-\sqrt{0}) - (-\sqrt{a^2})] d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} [\sqrt{a^2}] d\phi = a \int_0^{2\pi/5} a d\phi \\ &= a^2 \int_0^{2\pi/5} d\phi = a^2 \frac{2\pi}{5} \end{aligned}$$

⇒ We're deceiving ourselves if we think we always value the quest for truth more than celebration of pleasure



The King Who Fell



4

Lilies, Myrrh & Doves

Different Nationality, Different God

*“Dark am I, yet lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem” 1:5*

*“If only you were to me like a brother...
Then... I would kiss you, and no one
would despise me” 8:1*

*“I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed
to one of the chariots of Pharaoh” 1:9*

Egypt: a spiritually ominous comparison

**The relevance of the different nationality is
solely the consequence of a different God**