

# *The King Who Fell*



4

*Lilies, Myrrh & Doves*

## Symbols of the Song

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

1. Lilies: 53% of  
Biblical mentions  
in Song of Songs

2. Myrrh: 40%

3. Doves: 15%

4. Garden: 12%  
/ Vineyard: 6%

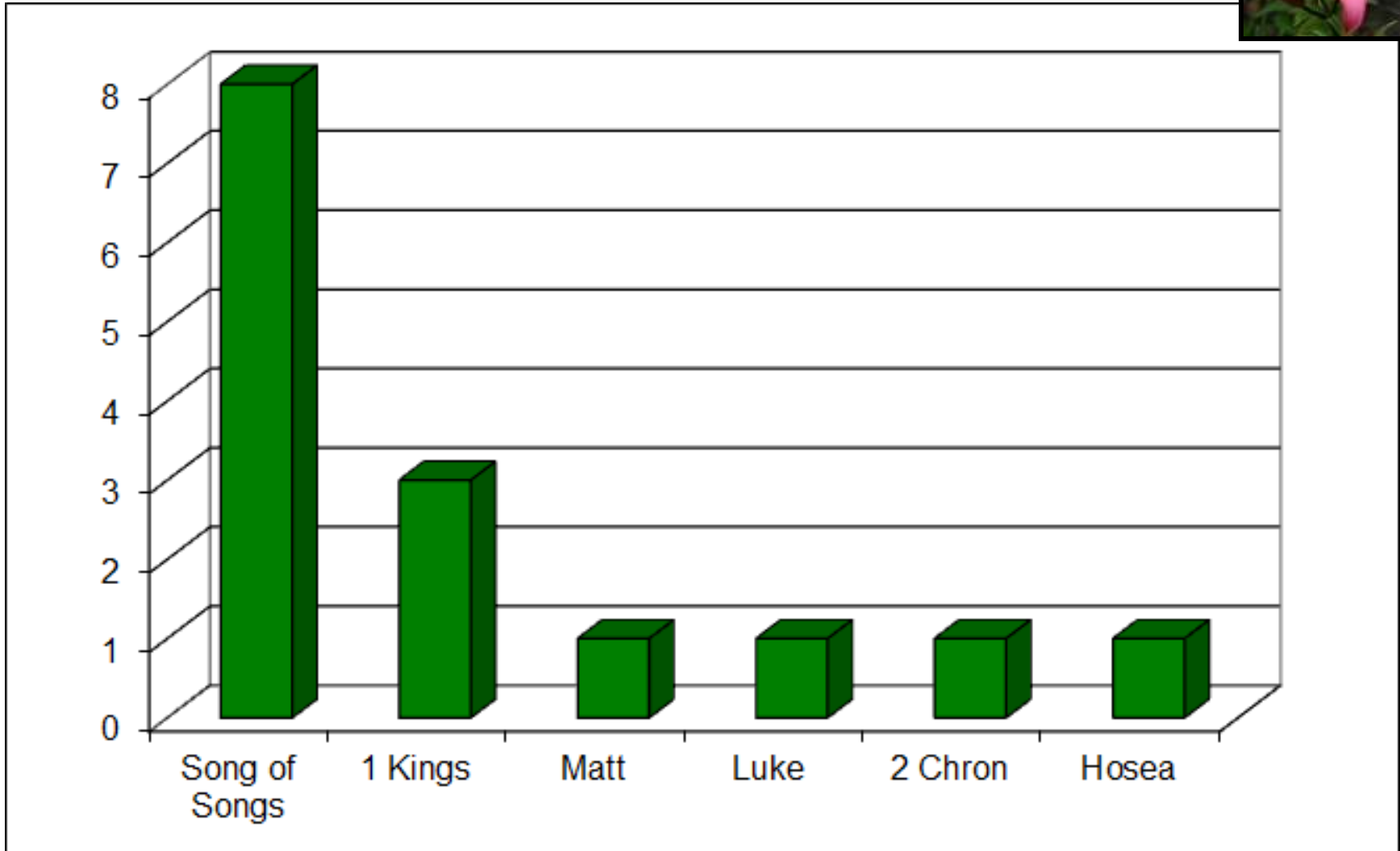


Try to find the \*Biblical\* meaning of these symbols



# Lilies

(Total: 15)





# 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**



# Lilies: Deadly Beauty

## Scientific Precedent:

*Lilium* (commonly known as lily). Most have an unknown water-soluble toxin found in all parts of the plant. Extremely poisonous, yet attractive, to cats, causing acute renal failure; two petals can kill

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_poisonous\\_plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_poisonous_plants)



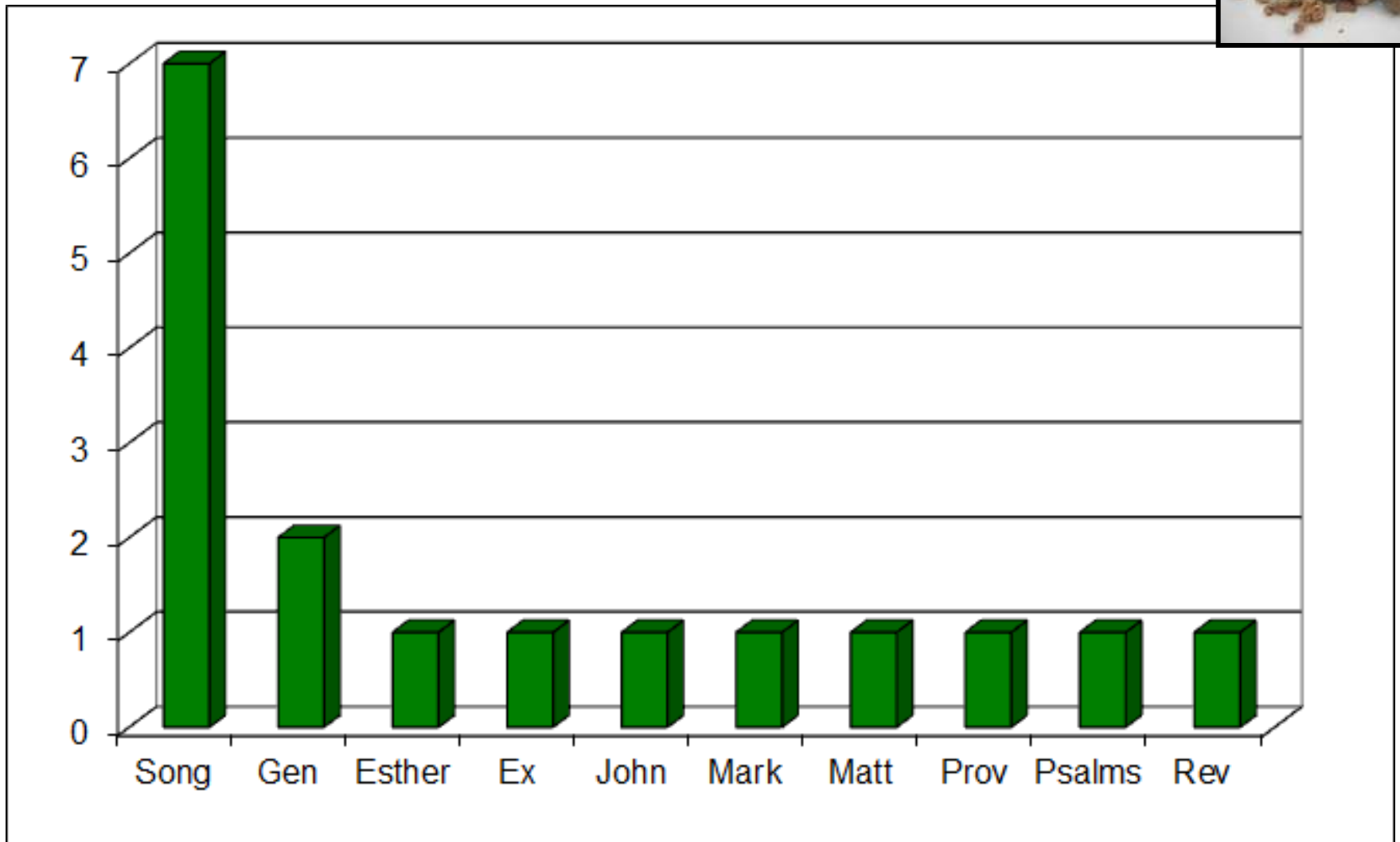
## Secular Precedent: The funeral flower

Google Image search for “funeral flowers”  
- predominantly lily arrangements



# Myrrh

(Total: 17)





# 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***

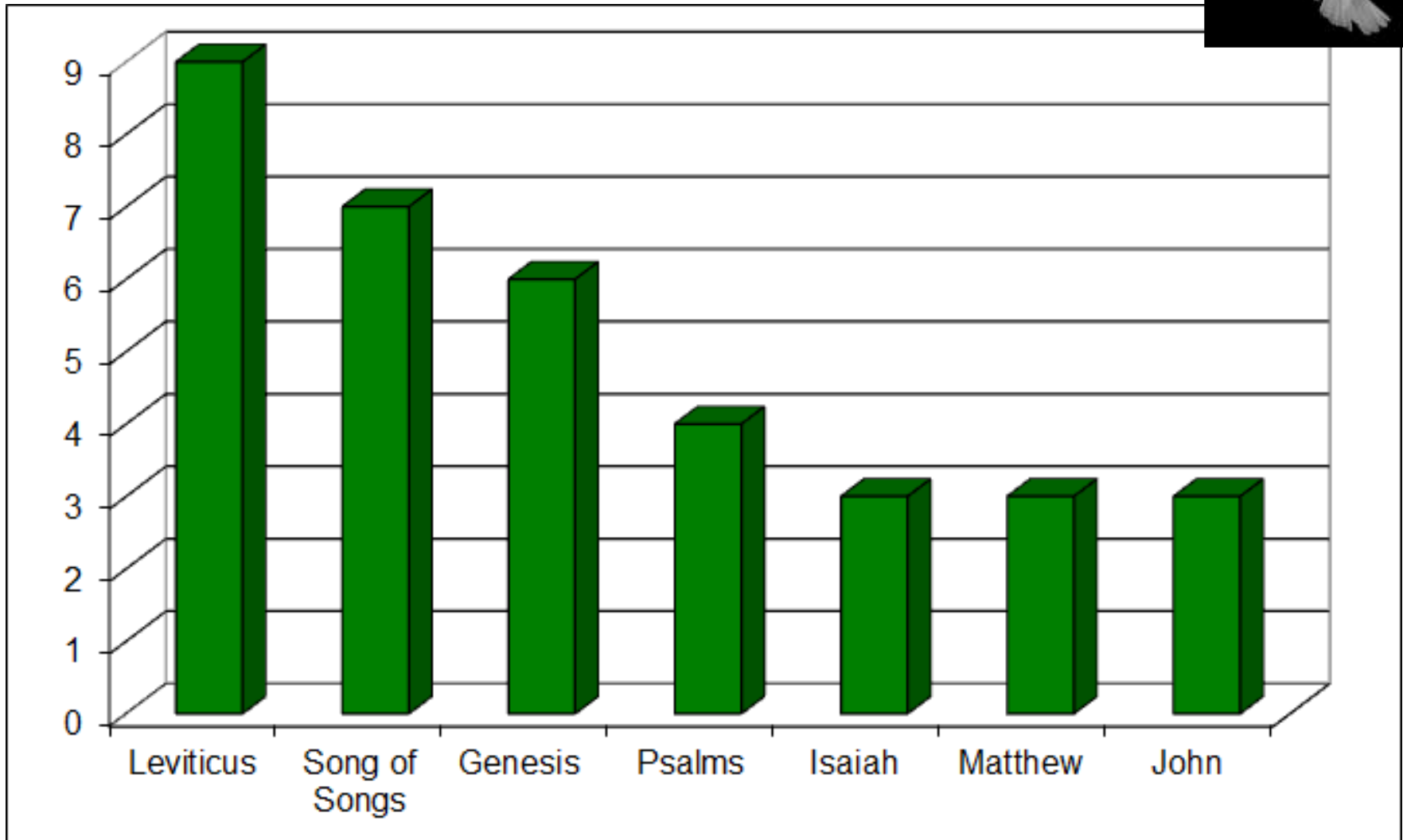
*Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,  
about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the  
two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of  
linen. **Jn 19:39-40***

**=> Myrrh represents death**



# Doves

(Total: 46)





# 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



Baptism  
New start

*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 [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. **Mt 3:16***

*Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm... Jonah [Dove] obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. **Jon 1:15, 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”



## 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'**



**'Baptism'  
New start**

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



# Doves



## The Dove: New Start

### Positive

- Praiseworthy, righteous
- A bad life to a good one

### Negative

- Foolish, Naïve
- A good life to a bad one

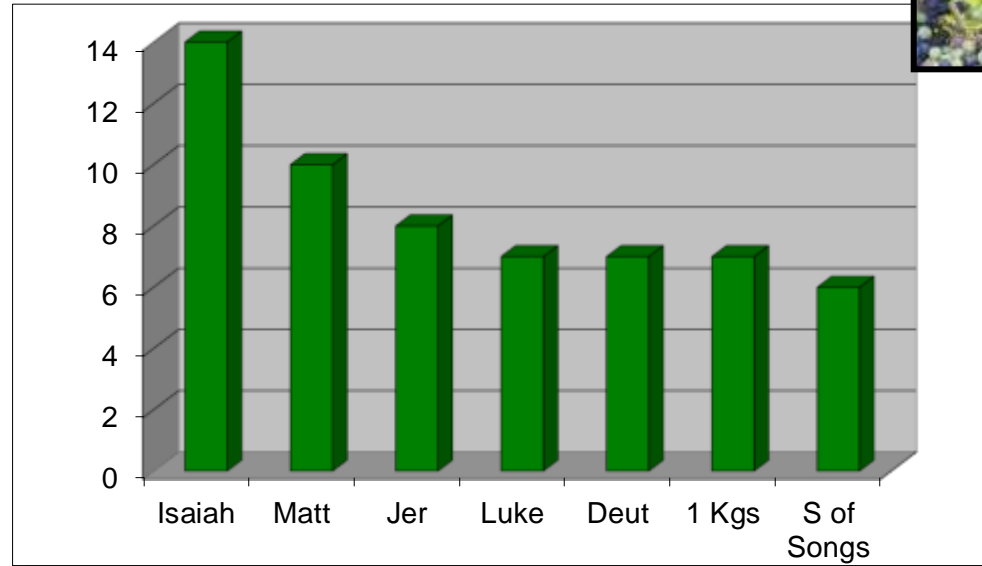
Solomon's "New Path" turning from God to indulge himself / his wives, is a foolish one



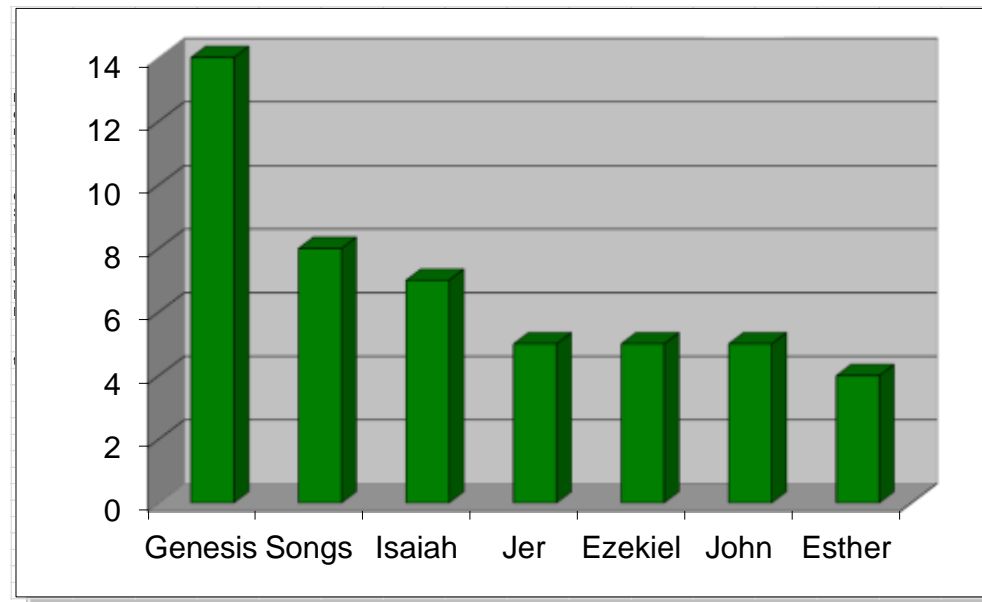
# Vineyard / Gardens



(Total: 108)



(Total: 66)





# 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

## 1. Lilies



**BEAUTY**

## 2. Myrrh

**DEATH**



## 3. Doves

**NEW PATH**



## 4. Garden / Vineyard

**FERTILE  
WOMAN**



**Solomon's deadly new path  
chasing beautiful women**

**Are meanings consistent  
with their use in the Song?**



# 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.”* 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 1 000 Vineyards

Vineyard = bride  
Baal = false god  
Hamon = 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**



# Foxes in the Vineyard



*“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.” 2:15*



*“I hate the brush-tail foxes that,  
soon as day declines,  
Come creeping to their vintaging  
mid goodman Micon’s vines.”  
Theocritus, ~300 BC*

**The foxes are amorous young men who may despoil the ‘vineyard,’ i.e. the Bride**



# 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's new life path was determined by what he saw**



## 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





# *The King Who Fell*

5



*Standing Watch in Vain*



# Psalm 45, The Wedding Song



To the tune of “Lilies”  
A Messianic psalm

*All your robes are fragrant with  
myrrh and aloes and cassia*  
**Ps 45:8**

The myrrh is a ‘cloak’ upon  
Messiah: something which  
covers, but can be removed

**c.f. Jn 10:17-18**