

The Song of Songs

Lesson 12: Dancing Queen

Intro:



BIG IDEA: Mutual _____ is much to be _____.

How beautiful are your feet in sandals,

O noble daughter!

Your rounded thighs are like jewels,
the work of a master hand.

2 Your navel is a rounded bowl
that never lacks mixed wine.

Your belly is a heap of wheat,
encircled with lilies.

3 Your two breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle.

4 Your neck is like an ivory tower.

Your eyes are pools in Heshbon,
by the gate of Bath-rabbim.

Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon,
which looks toward Damascus.

5 Your head crowns you like Carmel,
and your flowing locks are like purple;
a king is held captive in the tresses.

- There is much debate about who is speaking: the crowd or her lover? I'll stick with _____.

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- This is a song of adoration (*wasf*). But instead of going from _____ to _____, it goes from _____ to _____.
- It is balanced: _____ elements of her upper and lower _____.
- The sandals may indicate that she is engaged in the _____ and he is drawn to the _____ of her feet.
- He gives her a title of _____, which is strange in this sexually charged atmosphere.
- He then moves to her thighs or hips (the word can refer to either). They are rounded like an ornament (ring or earring). If she is dancing, she isn't wearing much.
- The idea is not about color and sparkle, but about _____.
- He then admires her _____ and _____. Longman believes these are euphemisms for her private parts (she apparently is only wearing sandals!⁹⁶ Or he has a vivid _____).
- Longman is not driven by lexicons but the _____. Her "navel" never lacks wine. There is a sweet _____ one does not typically associate with _____.
- The heap of _____ takes us in one of two directions: a symbol of _____ or a description of her pubic hair. Either is beautiful for it is encircled with lilies.
- Ivory is _____ and _____. She has a long, elegant neck.
- Her eyes are like beautiful pools of water.
- Her nose is also tower-like. Does she have a big nose? Yet he finds it _____, like Lebanon.



⁹⁶ Dillow, pp. 133.

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- Her head stands tall and _____ like Carmel, a range that sticks out into the _____.
- Royal imagery returns with her flowing locks. They are like _____. She does not have dyed hair.
- She is fit for a king, and her hair captures a king.

Allegorical Interpretation: Christ speaks about how much he loves and delights in us.

Dramatic Interpretation: Her seductive dancing should not be seen as a norm for Western wives. Women can be encouraged to “being creatively aggressive to please her man within the confines of her own personality and culture.”⁹⁷ We tend to approach our spouse in the way that we want to be approached, not the way they want to be approached. In the Song she is aggressive toward him, and he provides the words and romance she needs.

Typological Interpretation: In commenting about how her song has 3 sections where she is praised to only 1 where she praise him, Kinlaw notes:

“If the Song has any allegorical significance, it should indicate that God finds us much more delightful than we find him.”⁹⁸



⁶ How beautiful and pleasant you are,
O loved one, with all your delights!

⁷ Your stature is like a palm tree,
and your breasts are like its clusters.

⁸ I say I will climb the palm tree
and lay hold of its fruit.

Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
and the scent of your breath like apples,

⁹ and your mouth like the best wine.

⁹⁷ Dillow, pp. 140.

⁹⁸ Kinlaw, pp. 1237.

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She

It goes down smoothly for my beloved,
gliding over lips and teeth.

10 I am my beloved's,
and his desire is for me.

- He likens her to a palm tree, probably a _____ palm. She is tall and _____.
- But she bears good, tasty fruit he likes to enjoy. He compares her _____ to that fruit.
- He wants them to be like _____ of grapes- a symbol of _____. They are an object of his desire in which he takes great delight.
- He moves to her mouth (or palate suggesting French kisses) with more sensual ideas. He wants to kiss her, taste her, comparing her mouth & breath to _____ and good wine.
- She responds that her wine, kisses, are good for him. She willingly _____ to his desire.



“His desire for her easily equals hers for him. She is at no disadvantage. She relishes the security of her relationship to her husband.”⁹⁹

Allegorical Interpretation: Christ greatly desires His people, and His people willingly surrender to His loving pursuit and commitment to them. We belong to Him!

Dramatic Interpretation: He is using the language of the vineyard (fertilizing date palms artificially) to express his intention to make love to her. This woman, in response, is confident in her ability to please him.

Wisdom Literature: Marriage is about mutual self-giving. Selfishness destroys a marriage. This is true in our spiritual lives too. Christ gave His life for the Church, for us. In response we give our lives to and for Him: mutual self-giving.

Typological Approach: the reciprocity in desire between spouses is meant to mirror the reciprocity in desire between Christ and the Church. The Spirit works so the Church desires Christ too.

⁹⁹ Kinlaw, pp. 1239.