

Song of Solomon 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Analysis

The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. The Hebrew 'hate'enah chaneta pageyha' הַתֵּאֶנָה חָנֵתָה פָגַיָּה, the fig tree ripens its early figs) and 'gefarim semadar' גְפָרִים סְמָדָר, vines in blossom) describe specific agricultural signs of spring—edible early figs (pagim, פָגִים) and fragrant grape blossoms. **Give a good smell** (natenu reyach, נָתָנוּ רֵיחַ emphasizes fragrance—spring brings not only visual beauty but aromatic delight.

The beloved repeats his invitation (from verse 10): **Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away**—now supported by comprehensive evidence that the time is right. Fig ripening and vine blossoming signal not just beauty but promise of fruitfulness—today's blossoms become tomorrow's harvest. The beloved invites the bride to share in creation's fertility, beauty, and abundance. Spiritually, Christ calls believers into fruitful life—no longer barren but bearing fruit through union with Him (John 15:5). The Spirit produces fragrant 'fruit' (Galatians 5:22-23) in yielded lives. Christ's invitation promises both present beauty (relationship with Him) and future harvest (eternal fruit).

Historical Context

Early figs (pagim) appeared in May/June before the main fig crop, providing delicious early fruit. Grape blossoms in April/May filled vineyards with sweet

fragrance before producing grapes. Ancient Israelites lived by agricultural cycles—these signs meant prosperity, abundance, and God's blessing approaching. The Song uses agricultural imagery throughout because original readers understood vineyard, orchard, and garden metaphors intuitively. Early church fathers saw the 'green figs' and 'tender grapes' as beginning fruit of sanctification—early evidence of grace's work, promise of fuller maturity ahead. The Reformers distinguished between positional righteousness (immediate at justification) and progressive sanctification (the 'green figs' growing toward maturity). The Puritans emphasized 'examining fruit'—evidence of genuine conversion and Spirit's indwelling. Modern readers, often disconnected from agriculture, can recover the power of these metaphors by understanding ancient agrarian life.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'green figs' and 'tender grapes'—early evidence of spiritual fruit—is Christ producing in your life as signs of His indwelling and promise of greater harvest?
2. How does Christ's repeated invitation 'arise and come away' challenge complacency or reluctance to fully engage with Him and His purposes?

Interlinear Text

סְמִדְךָ רָ	וְהַגְּפָנָה יִמְלָא	פְּגַם יְהִ	קָנַת הַ	בַּתְּאֵנָה	תְּעַתֵּן	פָּתַח יְהִ	קָנַת הַ	סְמִדְךָ רָ
The fig tree	putteth forth	her green figs	and the vines	with the tender grape				
H8384	H2590	H6291	H1612	H5563				
לֹא: אֶלְכִי יִפְתַּח בְּעֵתִים כִּי לֹא תִּתְכַּן	בְּעֵתִים כִּי לֹא תִּתְכַּן יִפְתַּח אֶלְכִי אֶלְכִי							
give a good smell	Arise	my love	my fair one					
H5414	H7381	H6965	H7474	H3303				

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 2:10: My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Isaiah 61:11: For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

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