

Song of Solomon 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.

Analysis

The poet commands: 'Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.' This verse shifts to third-person observation of the bridegroom, identified as 'king Solomon.' The 'daughters of Zion' (Jerusalem's women) are summoned to witness the wedding celebration. The 'crown wherewith his mother crowned him' presents a tender image—not the royal diadem of political authority but a wedding crown placed by his mother, signifying maternal blessing and joy. The parallel phrases 'in the day of his espousals' (wedding day) and 'in the day of the gladness of his heart' emphasize the bridegroom's joy—this isn't political alliance or duty but heartfelt delight. The verse teaches that covenant love brings profound joy, warranting celebration and community witness. The bridegroom's gladness models that love is meant to be joyful, not burdensome. Theologically, this prefigures Christ the Bridegroom's joy over His Church (Isaiah 62:5; Zephaniah 3:17) and the eschatological marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9).

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite weddings were communal celebrations involving the broader community, not merely private ceremonies. Wedding processions, feasting, and public festivities marked these occasions (Matthew 25:1-13; John 2:1-11). The reference to Solomon's mother (Bathsheba) crowning him on his wedding day

introduces poignant historical context: Bathsheba's relationship with David began in adultery and tragedy (2 Samuel 11), yet God's redemptive grace transformed that brokenness. Her crowning of Solomon at his wedding represents covenant blessing flowing from repentance and restoration. Wedding crowns were common in ancient Near Eastern marriage customs, symbolizing honor, joy, and the couple's royalty within their own household. Early church fathers saw this as prophetic: Christ crowned with thorns at His passion (John 19:2) is later crowned with glory and honor (Hebrews 2:9), ultimately receiving the Church as His bride. The Puritans emphasized that Christian marriage should be marked by joy, not merely duty—reflecting Christ's delight in His Church. Modern applications celebrate both literal wedding joy and the anticipation of Christ's return for His beloved Church.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the image of the bridegroom's 'gladness of heart' on his wedding day inform our understanding of Christ's joy over His Church despite her imperfections?
2. In what ways should Christian marriage and community celebrate covenant commitments with public witness and joyful festivity?

Interlinear Text

יָצֵא יְנָהּ	וּרְאֵה יְנָהּ	בְּנֵי אוֹת	צִיּוֹן	בַּמֶּלֶךְ	שְׁלֹמֹה ה'
Go forth	and behold	O ye daughters	of Zion	king	Solomon
H3318	H7200	H1323	H6726	H4428	H8010
בְּעֶטֶר ה'	שְׂעֵטֶרָהּ	ל' ו'	אִמּוֹ	וּבִיּוֹם	
with the crown	crowned	H0	wherewith his mother	and in the day	
H5850	H5849		H517	H3117	
חֲתָנָתוֹ	וּבִיּוֹם	שִׂמְחָת	לִבּוֹ:		
of his espousals	and in the day	of the gladness	of his heart		
H2861	H3117	H8057	H3820		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 62:5: For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Jeremiah 2:2: Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

Revelation 1:7: Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Hebrews 13:13: Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Psalms 9:14: That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

Matthew 12:42: The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Zephaniah 3:17: The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

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