

Song of Solomon 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon.

Analysis

King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon. The Hebrew 'appiryon' (אַפִּירְיוֹן) is a rare word, possibly borrowed from Greek/Persian, describing an ornate portable throne or palanquin. **Made himself** (עָשָׂה לִּי, asah lo) indicates Solomon personally commissioned this special conveyance. **Of the wood of Lebanon** (מֵעֵץ הַלְבָּנוֹן, me'atsey halevanon) specifies the prestigious cedars of Lebanon—prized for durability, beauty, and fragrance. Solomon used Lebanese cedar for the temple (1 Kings 5:6-10), making this choice symbolically significant.

The bridegroom crafts a special conveyance for his bride using the finest materials—demonstrating love, provision, and honor. This isn't utilitarian transport but artistic expression of devotion. Using temple-quality wood elevates the bridal journey to sacred significance. The beloved prepares carefully for receiving his bride, sparing no expense or effort. Spiritually, Christ prepares a place for His bride (John 14:2-3)—not hastily or carelessly but with divine care, using the finest 'materials' (grace, righteousness, glory).

Historical Context

Lebanese cedar (*Cedrus libani*) was ancient world's premium timber—tall, durable, aromatic, beautiful. Hiram of Tyre supplied cedar for Solomon's temple (1 Kings 5:1-12), making it associated with sacred purposes. An appiryon of Lebanese cedar would be extraordinarily expensive, demonstrating royal wealth and the bride's value. Ancient readers would appreciate the extravagance—this isn't practical necessity but lavish love-gift. The word appiryon appears only here in Scripture,

suggesting exotic, perhaps foreign-influenced design. Early church fathers saw the 'chariot' as Christ's human nature (the 'wood') prepared for His bride's journey to heaven. The Reformers emphasized Christ's preparation of heavenly dwelling for believers—I go to prepare a place for you' (John 14:2). Modern readers see both wedding celebration and Christ's provision for His Church.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How has Christ 'prepared a place' for you—what evidence of His careful provision and love-expressed-through-preparation have you experienced?
2. What does Solomon's use of temple-quality cedar teach about elevating love to sacred status rather than treating relationships casually?

Interlinear Text

אָפּרִי וֹן	עָשָׂה	לֹ	הֶמֶל לָךְ	שְׁלֹמֹה ה	יַעֲצֵי י	הַלְבָּנוֹן:
himself a chariot	made	H0	King	Solomon	of the wood	of Lebanon
H668	H6213		H4428	H8010	H6086	H3844

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