

# Song of Solomon 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them.

## Analysis

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**Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing**—the Hebrew *tsinayikh* (צִנִּיךְ, your teeth) are compared to *qatsubot* (קְצֻבוֹת, shorn/matched) sheep emerging clean from washing. This celebrates uniformity, cleanliness, and wholeness. The imagery suggests white, even teeth—a sign of health and beauty in the ancient world where dental hygiene was challenging.

**Whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them** (*kullam mat'imot ve'shakulah eyn bahem*, כָּלֶם מְתַאֲיִמוֹת וְשֶׁכְּלָה אֵין בָּהֶם) extends the sheep metaphor: each tooth has its match (bear twins—perfect pairs), with no gaps (none barren). The beloved celebrates completeness and perfection. This verse teaches that godly love notices and appreciates even small details of the beloved's person. Allegorically, the Church's "teeth" represent her ability to receive and process divine truth—healthy doctrine produces spiritual nourishment (Hebrews 5:12-14).

## Historical Context

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Sheep-washing was essential preparation for shearing—creating pristine white wool. The comparison to freshly washed sheep celebrated the bride's cleanliness and purity. In ancient culture where dental care was rudimentary, complete, even, white teeth were prized signs of health and beauty. The "bearing twins" metaphor emphasized perfect symmetry—upper and lower teeth matching perfectly. Early

church interpretation saw the Church's "teeth" as her teaching function—sound doctrine that properly "chews" and distributes spiritual food to believers. Bernard of Clairvaux emphasized that Christ delights in every detail of His Church, even seemingly mundane aspects. The Puritans taught that marital love should involve comprehensive appreciation—noticing and celebrating the beloved's whole person, not just obvious attributes.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse challenge superficial attraction, calling you to notice and appreciate comprehensive, detailed beauty in your spouse or in Christ's Church?
2. What "spiritual teeth"—capacity to receive and process truth—are you developing through studying Scripture and sound doctrine?
3. In what ways does Christ's detailed knowledge and appreciation of His Church (even her "teeth") assure you of His intimate, comprehensive love?

## Interlinear Text

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שֵׁן יָךְ	כַּעֲדָר	הַקְּצוּב וְ	שָׁעַל וְ	מִן
<b>Thy teeth</b>	<b>are like a flock</b>	<b>of sheep that are even shorn</b>	<b>which came up</b>	
H8127	H5739	H7094	H5927	H4480
הַרְחֹץ הַ	שָׁכְלָם	מִתְאִים וְ	וְשָׁכְלָה	אֵין
<b>from the washing</b>		<b>whereof every one bear twins</b>	<b>and none is barren</b>	
H7367	H3605	H8382	H7909	H369
בָּהֶם:				
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 6:6:** Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them.

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