

Song of Solomon 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

Analysis

The bridegroom responds to the bride's invitation (4:16): 'I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk.' The phrase 'I am come into my garden' (bati le-gani, בָּאתִי לְגַנִּי) indicates arrival and full entry. The repeated possessive 'my' emphasizes belonging and intimacy. The verbs 'gathered,' 'eaten,' 'drunk' suggest full participation in the garden's delights. This verse celebrates consummated covenant love—the bridegroom responds to the bride's invitation by fully entering and enjoying what she offers. The following line, 'Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved,' appears to be divine blessing on their union. This verse affirms the goodness of marital intimacy within covenant relationship. Spiritually, it represents Christ's response to the Church's invitation—He delights in His people and finds satisfaction in relationship with them.

Historical Context

Ancient weddings culminated in consummation—the completion of covenant union. The Song's celebration of this is unabashed yet within proper covenant context. The garden imagery continues from 4:12-16, where the bride is described as enclosed garden. Now the bridegroom enters. Ancient Near Eastern love poetry

employed similar garden imagery, but the Song uniquely places it within exclusive covenant commitment. Early church fathers carefully navigated this passage—maintaining both literal affirmation of marital sexuality and allegorical reading as Christ entering His Church. Bernard of Clairvaux emphasized Christ's delight in His people—He finds joy in relationship with the redeemed. The Reformers rejected medieval asceticism by affirming marital sexuality as divine gift, not merely procreative duty. Modern readers benefit from the Song's holistic affirmation of covenant love encompassing emotional, spiritual, and physical dimensions.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this passage affirm that physical intimacy within marriage is good, God-honoring, and mutually delightful—not shameful or merely functional?
2. What does Christ's delight in His Church ('I am come into my garden') teach about God's disposition toward His people?

Interlinear Text

בָּ אֵתִי I am come H935	לְגַנִּי into my garden H1588	אֲחֹתִי my sister H269	כָּלָה my spouse H3618	אָר יִתִּי I have gathered H717	מוֹרִי my myrrh H4753	עַם H5973
בְּשִׁמִּי with my spice H1313	אָכַל וְ I have eaten H398	יְעָרִי my honeycomb H3293	עַם H5973	דְּבַשׁ יְ with my honey H1706	שָׁת וְ I have drunk H8354	
יֵינִי my wine H3196	עַם H5973	חֶלֶב יְ with my milk H2461	אָכַל וְ I have eaten H398	רֵעַ יִם O friends H7453	שָׁת וְ I have drunk H8354	
וְשָׁכַר וְ yea drink abundantly H7937	דּוֹדִים: O beloved H1730					

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 6:2: My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

Song of Solomon 4:16: Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

Revelation 22:17: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Proverbs 9:5: Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Isaiah 65:13: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

Isaiah 51:3: For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden

of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 66:14: And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Isaiah 58:11: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

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.

Acts 11:29: Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: