

# Song of Solomon 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? what is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?

## Analysis

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**What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women?** (mah dodekh midod hayaphah banashim, מה־דֹּדְךָ מִדּוֹד הַפָּה בַּנָּשִׁים)—the daughters of Jerusalem challenge the bride to explain what makes her beloved so special. The repeated question (asked twice in this verse) presses for compelling answer. Why this overwhelming devotion? What distinguishes this beloved from all others?

**What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?** The question isn't hostile but genuinely curious: what makes him worth such desperate seeking? This moment creates apologetic opportunity—the bride must articulate what makes her beloved supremely valuable. This represents the world asking believers: What makes Jesus different from other religious leaders? Why such exclusive devotion? The question invites testimony—explaining Christ's unique worth, compelling beauty, and incomparable love.

## Historical Context

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The daughters' question reflects genuine curiosity—the bride's passionate seeking has attracted attention. Her lovesickness, public searching, and solemn charge demand explanation. In polytheistic ancient Near East, exclusive devotion to one deity seemed odd—why not hedge bets with multiple gods? The daughters' question parallels the world's question to Christians: why exclusive faith in Christ

alone? Early church apologists (Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Augustine) defended Christianity's exclusive claims against pagan pluralism. The Reformers emphasized solus Christus (Christ alone)—salvation through no other name (Acts 4:12). The Puritans taught that believers must be able to articulate why Christ is precious—not just inherited faith but personal, experiential knowledge. Modern readers face renewed religious pluralism—cultural pressure to accept all religious claims as equally valid. The daughters' question invites Christians to give "a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. If someone asked you "What is your beloved more than another beloved?"—what makes Jesus uniquely valuable—could you give compelling answer?
2. How does your life demonstrate that Christ is supremely valuable—worth desperate seeking, exclusive devotion, and public testimony?
3. What experiential knowledge of Christ's character, works, and love enables you to explain His incomparable worth to skeptical questioners?

## Interlinear Text

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מָה	מִדּוֹ	מִדּוֹ	הַפֶּה	בְּנִשְׁיִם	מָה
H4100	<b>What is thy beloved</b>	<b>What is thy beloved</b>	<b>O thou fairest</b>	<b>among women</b>	H4100
	H1730	H1730	H3303	H802	
מִדּוֹ	מִדּוֹ	שָׁכָה	הַשְׁבַּעְתָּנוּ:		
<b>What is thy beloved</b>	<b>What is thy beloved</b>	<b>that thou</b>	<b>dost so charge</b>		
H1730	H1730	H3602	H7650		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 6:1:** Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.

**Song of Solomon 1:8:** If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

**Isaiah 53:2:** For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

**Psalms 45:13:** The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

**Psalms 87:3:** Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

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