

# Song of Solomon 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.

## Analysis

**I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.** The bride (or possibly bridegroom) describes descending to inspect gardens. The Hebrew *el-ginnat egoz yaradti lir'ot be-ibbey hanahal lir'ot hafarechah hagofen heneitsu harimonim* (אֶל-גִּינַת אֵגוֹז יָרַדְתִּי לִרְאוֹת בְּאֵבֵי הַנַּחַל לִרְאוֹת הַפָּרֶחַה הַגּוֹפֵן הֵנֵעִסוּ הָרִמּוֹנִים) employs pastoral imagery emphasizing seasonal inspection of agricultural progress.

"Garden of nuts" (*ginnat egoz*) refers to walnut or nut orchard. *Egoz* (אֵגוֹז) appears only here in Scripture, likely Persian walnut trees valued for shade, beauty, and edible nuts. "Fruits of the valley" (*ibbey hanahal*) means fresh sprouts or blossoms near water source—*nachal* (wadi or stream valley) provided irrigation. The descent "down into" suggests valley location, typically more fertile than hilltops. This echoes shepherd imagery throughout the Song (1:7-8, 2:16, 6:2-3)—tending flocks and monitoring crops.

"To see whether the vine flourished" (*hafarechah hagofen*) uses *parach* (פָּרַח), meaning to bud, bloom, or flourish—same root used of Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:8). Grapevines represented covenant Israel (Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:8-16) and later the church with Christ as true vine (John 15:1-8). "Whether the pomegranates budded" (*heneitsu harimonim*) completes agricultural inspection. Pomegranates symbolized fruitfulness and appeared extensively in temple decoration (1 Kings 7:18-20). The verse suggests pastoral care, periodic

inspection, eager anticipation of harvest—all applicable to Christ's oversight of His church (1 Peter 5:2-4, John 10:14-16).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelite agriculture followed seasonal cycles demanding regular inspection of crops. Spring (March-May) was critical time when blossoms appeared, indicating potential harvest. Vintners and orchard keepers would walk their fields checking vine blossoms, fruit set, pest damage, irrigation needs. Nut orchards, vineyards, and pomegranate groves often occupied valley floors near water sources (wadis) where irrigation was easier and frost less severe. The Song's agricultural imagery would resonate deeply with original audience, most of whom lived agrarian lifestyles. Checking crop progress wasn't mere duty but eager anticipation—livelihood depended on successful harvest.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the imagery of inspecting vine blossoms and pomegranate buds relate to Christ's faithful oversight and care for His church's spiritual growth?
2. What spiritual "fruits of the valley" might Christ look for when He inspects our lives, and how can we cultivate readiness for His inspection?
3. In what ways does this pastoral image of tending gardens counter modern individualistic spirituality by emphasizing corporate nurture and accountability?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל	גֵּן ת	אֲגֹז	יָבִי דָתִי	לִרְאוֹת	בְּאֵי י	הֵן חַל
H413	into the garden	of nuts	I went down	and to see	the fruits	of the valley
	H1594	H93	H3381	H7200	H3	H5158
לִרְאוֹת	הִפְרִיחַ ה	הֵן פֶּן	הֵן צו	הִרְמִינִים:		
and to see	flourished	whether the vine	budded	and the pomegranates		
H7200	H6524	H1612	H5132	H7416		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 7:12:** Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.