

Song of Solomon 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter!
the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands
of a cunning workman.

Analysis

How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! The bridegroom begins an extended celebration of the bride's beauty, working from feet upward. Calling her bat-nadiv (בַּת־נָדִיב, prince's daughter/noble one) emphasizes her dignity and royal status—she's not common but elevated by relationship with the king. The focus on feet 'with shoes' (בִּנְעָלִים, banne'alim) may suggest readiness for travel or dance, or simply the adornment that enhances natural beauty.

The joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman (חֲמוּקֵי יִרְכִיךָ כִּמּוֹ חֲלָאִים מְעֻשָׂה יְדֵי אָמֹן)—the imagery celebrates craftsmanship and artistic beauty. The Hebrew chammugey can mean 'curves' or 'roundings,' and chala'im refers to ornaments or jewels. Church tradition saw the 'feet with shoes' as readiness to proclaim the gospel (Ephesians 6:15; Romans 10:15). The 'cunning workman' is God Himself, who crafts believers as His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10).

Historical Context

In ancient culture, feet were typically considered the lowest, least noble part of the body—yet here they're celebrated as beautiful when properly adorned. This may reflect the bride dancing or moving gracefully. Jewelry and skilled craftsmanship were highly valued in Israel, with artisans like Bezalel filled with God's Spirit for creating beautiful works (Exodus 31:1-5). The description celebrates both natural

beauty and intentional adornment. Church fathers saw the bride's movement (beautiful feet) as the Church's missionary advance. The 'prince's daughter' language connects to Psalm 45:13—'The king's daughter is all glorious within.' The imagery affirms that believers are nobility through adoption into God's royal family (1 Peter 2:9).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does being called a 'prince's daughter'—royalty through relationship with Christ—change how you view your identity and calling?
2. What does it mean to have 'beautiful feet'—being ready and willing to carry the gospel to others?
3. How does recognizing yourself as God's craftsmanship—'the work of the hands of a cunning workman'—affect your self-understanding?

Interlinear Text

מַה	יָפִי	פְּעָמֶיךָ	בְּנָעֲלִים	בִּת	נָדִיב	חֲמוּקֵי
H4100	How beautiful	are thy feet	with shoes	daughter	O prince's	the joints
	H3302	H6471	H5275	H1323	H5081	H2542
יָרֵכֶיךָ	כִּמּוֹ	חֲלָאִים	מַעֲשֵׂה	יָדַי	אֲמִן:	
of thy thighs	H3644	are like jewels	the work	of the hands	of a cunning workman	
H3409		H2481	H4639	H3027	H542	

Additional Cross-References

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

