

Song of Solomon 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. The bride continues her invitation, specifying morning vineyard inspection and intimate promise. The Hebrew *nashkimah lakkeramim nir'eh im parehah haggofen pittah hassemadar heneitsu harimonim sham etten et-doday lakh* (נִשְׁכִּימָה לַכֶּרְמִים נִרְאָה אֶם-פְּרִיָהָ הִגֹּפֶן פִּתַּח הַסְּמָדָר הִנֵּצוּ הָרִמּוֹנִים שָׁם אֶתֵּן אֶת־דּוֹדַי לָךְ) blends agricultural observation with erotic promise.

"Let us get up early" (*nashkimah*) uses *shakam* (שָׁכַם), meaning to rise early, start early—suggesting eagerness and priority. The righteous throughout Scripture rise early to meet God (Abraham in Genesis 22:3; Moses in Exodus 34:4; Jesus in Mark 1:35). "To the vineyards" (*lakkeramim*) recalls the bride's earlier self-identification: "my own vineyard have I not kept" (1:6). Now she invites inspection of vineyards, suggesting restored attention to what matters. The threefold question—"if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth"—employs horticultural terminology: *parach* (פָּרַח, bloom), *semadar* (סְמָדָר, grape blossom), *nets* (נָץ, bud). This detailed inspection shows attentiveness to growth stages.

"There will I give thee my loves" (*sham etten et-doday lakh*) makes the vineyard setting occasion for intimate love. *Dodim* (דּוֹדִים) means loves or love-acts, used elsewhere for physical intimacy (Proverbs 7:18, Ezekiel 16:8). The agricultural

imagery is deliberate—fruitfulness in fields mirrors fruitfulness in marriage. Spiritually, this pictures the church inspecting her spiritual health and offering devotion to Christ. The early morning emphasis suggests worship's priority (Psalm 5:3, 63:1). Just as vine inspection requires attentiveness to detail, so spiritual self-examination requires honest assessment (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Historical Context

Ancient viticulture required careful seasonal attention. Spring inspection was critical—vine blossoms appeared March-May, vulnerable to late frosts or pests. Semadar (grape blossom) was brief phase between budbreak and fruit set, fragrant but delicate. Pomegranate buds likewise demanded monitoring for proper fruit development. Successful harvest depended on vigilant care during these early growth stages. The bride's invitation to early morning vineyard inspection thus combines practical agricultural wisdom with romantic intimacy—productive labor becomes context for love. This reflects biblical pattern where work and worship, productivity and intimacy, aren't compartmentalized but integrated (Colossians 3:23-24).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the bride's eagerness to rise early and inspect vineyards model spiritual vigilance and attentiveness to growth in our walk with Christ?
2. What does the integration of agricultural inspection and intimate love teach about viewing all of life—work, worship, relationships—as occasions for glorifying God?

3. In what ways can the church corporately practice spiritual "vineyard inspection"—honest assessment of fruitfulness, health, and areas needing attention?

Interlinear Text

נִשְׁכֹּץ יְמָה	לִכְכַּרְמֵי יַם	נִרְאֵה ה	אִם	פִּרְחָה ה	הִנֵּה קֵץ	פֹּתֵחַ ח
Let us get up early	to the vineyards	let us see	H518	flourish	if the vine	appear
H7925	H3754	H7200		H6524	H1612	H6605
הֲסִמֵּךְ ר	הֵנִי צוֹ	הַרְמוֹנֵי יַם	שֶׁ ה	אֶתִּי		
whether the tender grape	bud forth	and the pomegranates	H8033	there will I give		
H5563	H5132	H7416		H5414		
אֶתִּי	דִּדִּי י	לִּי:				
H853	thee my loves	H0				
	H1730					

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 6:11: 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.

Psalms 122:5: For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Ephesians 6:24: Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Song of Solomon 7:6: How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!