

# **Wycliffe Associates**

## **Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide**

### **Song of Solomon**

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# 1:1-4

**Background:** The author of the book is unknown. Some people think Solomon was the author. Solomon was the wisest king to rule over Israel. There are two main characters, a man and a woman who are probably betrothed. Sometimes it is hard to know who is talking. The book has three main interpretations. It may be a story about Yahweh's love for Israel, a story about Jesus' love for the Church, or a story about a man and woman's love for one another to show that love is a gift from Yahweh.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The woman desired for the man to kiss her and said his kisses were better than wine. [1:2]
- ☐ The woman said young women love the man because his scent was good and he had a good reputation. [1:3]
- ☐ The woman wanted the king to take her with him. [1:4]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the writer say about the "Song of Songs"? [1:1]  
The writer said the song was Solomon's.
2. What did the woman say about the king's kisses? [1:2]  
His kisses were sweeter than wine.
3. What did the woman say about the king's name? [1:3]  
His name was like flowing perfume, so the young women loved him.
4. What did the woman want of the king? [1:4]  
She wanted the king to take her with him.

**Comment Section:**

## 2:14-17

**Background:** In some places it is difficult to know if it is the man or the woman speaking. In these cases, “the writer” will be used to indicate the speaker.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The man compared the woman to a dove far away. He longed to see her face and hear her voice because they were pleasant. [2:14]
- ☐ The writer is worried that foxes might destroy their vineyards. [2:15]
- ☐ The woman said her betrothed belonged to her and she to him. [2:16]
- ☐ The woman urged the man to leave before daybreak swiftly like a gazelle on the mountains. [2:17]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the man call the woman? [2:14]  
He called her “my dove.”
2. Where did the man say his betrothed was? [2:14]  
She was in the cleft of the rock, in the secret clefts of the mountain.
3. What do you think he meant by this? [2:14]  
Perhaps he meant she was out of reach, like a dove far away hiding among the rocks.
4. What was the man’s desire? [2:14]  
He wanted to see the woman’s face and hear her voice.
5. Why did the writer want the foxes to be caught? [2:15]  
The foxes would destroy the fruit in the vineyards.
6. What did the woman say about her beloved? [2:16]  
She said that he belonged to her.
7. How did the woman want her beloved to go away? [2:17]  
She wanted him to go like a gazelle on the mountains.
8. Why do you think she would want her beloved to go away? [2:17]  
Perhaps she desired him, but they were not yet wed, and it was not yet time for the consummation of their relationship.

**Comment Section:**

# 3:7-11

**Background:** “Daughters of Zion” are referred to in this passage. This is a reference to the young women of Jerusalem.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Sixty mighty warriors surrounded the carried throne of Solomon. [3:7-8]
- ☐ King Solomon’s servants made him a covered seat with fine, expensive materials. [3:9-10]
- ☐ The daughters of Zion were told to gaze on King Solomon. He wore the crown his mother gave him on the day he was wed. [3:11]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was around Solomon’s carried throne? [3:7]  
Sixty mighty warriors surrounded it.
2. What did the author say about the mighty warriors? [3:8]  
They were experienced in warfare, and everyone had a sword at his side.
3. What did King Solomon sit upon? [3:9]  
He sat upon a carried throne made of the finest wood of Lebanon.
4. How was Solomon’s chair described? [3:10]  
The posts were made of silver, the back of gold, and cushions of royal fabric. It was decorated by the daughters of Jerusalem.
5. What were the daughters of Zion told to do? [3:11]  
They were told to look upon King Solomon who wore the crown given to him on his wedding day.

**Comment Section:**

# 4:9-15

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The man said his betrothed had captured his heart with a glance and her love was wonderful. [4:9-10]
- ☐ The man said her lips were sweet and her kisses smooth as milk. The scent of her garments was fragrant. [4:11]
- ☐ The man said his beloved was like a protected garden, full of choice fruits and fragrant spices. [4:12-14]
- ☐ The man said she was like a fountain in a garden, like a stream flowing from the mountain. [4:15]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the man say about his betrothed in 4:9?  
He said that she had stolen his heart with just one glance, and with just one jewel of her necklace.
2. What did the man say about her love? [4:10]  
He said her love was sweeter than wine and the fragrance of any perfume or spice.
3. What did the man say about his beloved's lips and mouth? [4:11]  
He said they were sweet like honey and milk.
4. What did the man say his betrothed was like in 4:12?  
He said she was like a sealed garden.
5. What do you think this meant? [4:12]  
Perhaps the man was saying she was pure. He may be saying that she was a virgin and had reserved herself for him alone.
6. What did the man say his bride was like? [4:13-14]  
He said she was like an orchard full of fruit and fragrant spices, and a spring of water.

**Comment Section:**

## 5:9-16

**Background:** In this section the young women of Jerusalem are asking the new bride questions about her beloved.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The young woman asked the new bride what made her beloved better than any other man. [5:9]
- ☐ She said he was handsome and fit. His head was radiant like fine gold and his hair was dark and curly. [5:10-11]
- ☐ She said his eyes were like a deep pool of water, his beard like sweet spices, and his kisses were delightful. [5:12-13]
- ☐ She said his body was like precious materials such as gold, ivory, jewels and cedar wood. [5:14-15]
- ☐ She called him her beloved and her friend. [5:16]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What question did the young women of Jerusalem ask the new bride? [5:9]  
They asked what made her beloved better than any other man.
2. How did the young bride answer them? [5:10]  
She said he was radiant and ruddy, outstanding from among ten thousand.
3. How did the bride describe her beloved's eyes? [5:12]  
She said his eyes were like doves by streams and mounted like jewels.
4. What did she say about her beloved's cheeks and lips? [5:13]  
She said his cheeks smelled like good spices and his lips were like lilies dripping with myrrh.
5. What did the new bride say about her beloved's arms and legs? [5:14-15]  
His arms are like rounded gold set with jewels and his legs are pillars of marble set on pure gold.
6. What did the new bride call her beloved? [5:16]  
She said he was her beloved and friend.

**Comment Section:**

## 6:4-9

**Background:** Tirzah is mentioned in this passage. Tirzah was a city in Israel known for abundant water and beautiful gardens. Tirzah and Jerusalem were royal cities.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The man praised his bride's astonishing beauty and told her to look away because her eyes were overwhelming. [6:4-5]
- ☐ The man admired her teeth and cheeks. [6:6-7]
- ☐ The man said his bride was above all other women. Other women, maidens and queens called her blessed. [6:8-9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the man say his new bride was like? [6:4]  
He said she was as beautiful as the cities of Tirzah and Jerusalem, and she was awe-inspiring.
2. Why did the man want his bride to turn away from him? [6:5]  
The man said his bride's eyes overwhelmed him, and that her hair was like a flock of goats going down the slopes of Gilead. This probably meant her hair was beautiful and dark.
3. How did the man describe his bride's teeth and cheeks? [6:6-7]  
He said her teeth were like a flock of ewes coming up from the washing place. This probably meant her teeth were white and shiny. He said her cheeks were like pomegranate halves. This probably meant her cheeks were red and glowed.
4. How did the man describe his bride compared to the queens, maidens, and all the other young women? [6:8-9]  
He said she was the perfect one. She was unique and the other women praised her.

**Comment Section:**

# 7:10-13

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The bride said she belonged to her beloved and he desired her. [7:10]
- ☐ She invited him on a journey to the countryside and promised to give him her love. [7:11-12]
- ☐ She described the fragrance of the sweet-smelling flowers and the fruits she had stored for her beloved. [7:13]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the bride say about her beloved? [7:10]  
She said her beloved was hers, and that he desired her.
2. Where did the young bride want to go? [7:11]  
She wanted to go to the countryside, to spend the night in the villages.
3. What did the bride want to do early in the morning? [7:12]  
She wanted them to go to the vineyards to see if the vines had budded and had flower blossoms.
4. What did the bride say about the mandrakes? [7:13]  
She said the mandrakes gave off a sweet fragrance.
5. What was waiting at the door where they were staying? [7:13]  
There were all sorts of choice fruits that she had stored up for her beloved.

**Comment Section:**



## 8:6-7

**Background:** In these verses it was uncertain who was speaking, but most scholars believe it was the woman. Sheol is mentioned in this passage and is a Hebrew word for the place where the spirits of dead people go.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The woman wanted to be kept as a seal upon her lover's heart. [8:6]
- ☐ She said their love was as strong as death and jealousy hotter than Sheol. [8:6]
- ☐ The woman said floods could not quench their love, and no amount of money could buy love. [8:7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the bride want her lover to do in 8:6?  
She wanted him to set her as a seal over his heart.
2. What do you think this meant? [8:6]  
Perhaps it meant she wanted him to think about her and love her forever.
3. What did she say jealousy was like? [8:6]  
She said it was unrelenting as Sheol. It was like flames bursting out, a blazing flame hotter than any other fire.
4. What could surging waters not do? [8:7]  
Surging waters could not quench love and floods could not sweep it away.
5. What would happen if a man gave all the possessions in his house for love? [8:7]  
The offer would be utterly despised.

**Comment Section:**

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