

# SONG OF SOLOMON

## HANDOUT

### BIBLICAL COUPLES IN LOVE

Solomon and the Shulamite bride might hold the “spiciest” story of love in the Bible, but they’re certainly not the only romantic couples featured in Scripture.

<b>Isaac and Rebekah</b> (Gen. 24:1–67)	A father seeks and finds a wife for his son, and the young couple love each other deeply.
<b>Jacob and Rachel</b> (Gen. 29:1–30)	Jacob labors 14 years for his father-in-law in order to gain Rachel as his wife.
<b>Boaz and Ruth</b> (Ruth 3–4)	Legal technicalities bring together a Moabite widow and a wealthy landowner of Bethlehem, and through them a king is descended.
<b>Elkanah and Hannah</b> (1 Sam. 1–2)	A woman is loved by her husband despite being childless, and God eventually blesses her with the birth of a son, who becomes a mighty judge over Israel.
<b>David and Michal</b> (1 Sam. 18:20–30)	Genuine love is manipulated by a jealous king, but instead of ridding himself of his nemesis, the ruler gains a son-in-law.
<b>Solomon and the Shulamite</b> (Song of Solomon)	The commitments and delights of two lovers are told in a beautiful romantic poem.
<b>Hosea and Gomer</b> (Hos. 1:1–3:5)	God calls the prophet Hosea to seek out his adulterous spouse and restore the relationship despite what she has done.
<b>Christ and the Church</b> (Eph. 5:25–33)	Having won His bride’s salvation from sin, Christ loves and serves her as His own body, thereby setting an example for human husbands everywhere.

*Chart by Dean Niforatos*

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The male and female characters in the book of Song of Songs lovingly describe each other in ways that seem quite foreign to us, even downright bizarre.

So here are literal portraits of the two characters, 'She' and 'He', according to the language of the text.

### ← HE

- **head** = finest gold
- **hair** = wavy and black, like a raven
- **eyes** = doves
- **cheeks** = beds of spices
- **lips** = lilies, dripping with myrrh
- **arms** = rods of gold
- **legs** = alabaster columns
- **body** = apple tree, polished ivory, bedecked with sapphires
- **appearance** = radiant and ruddy, cedar

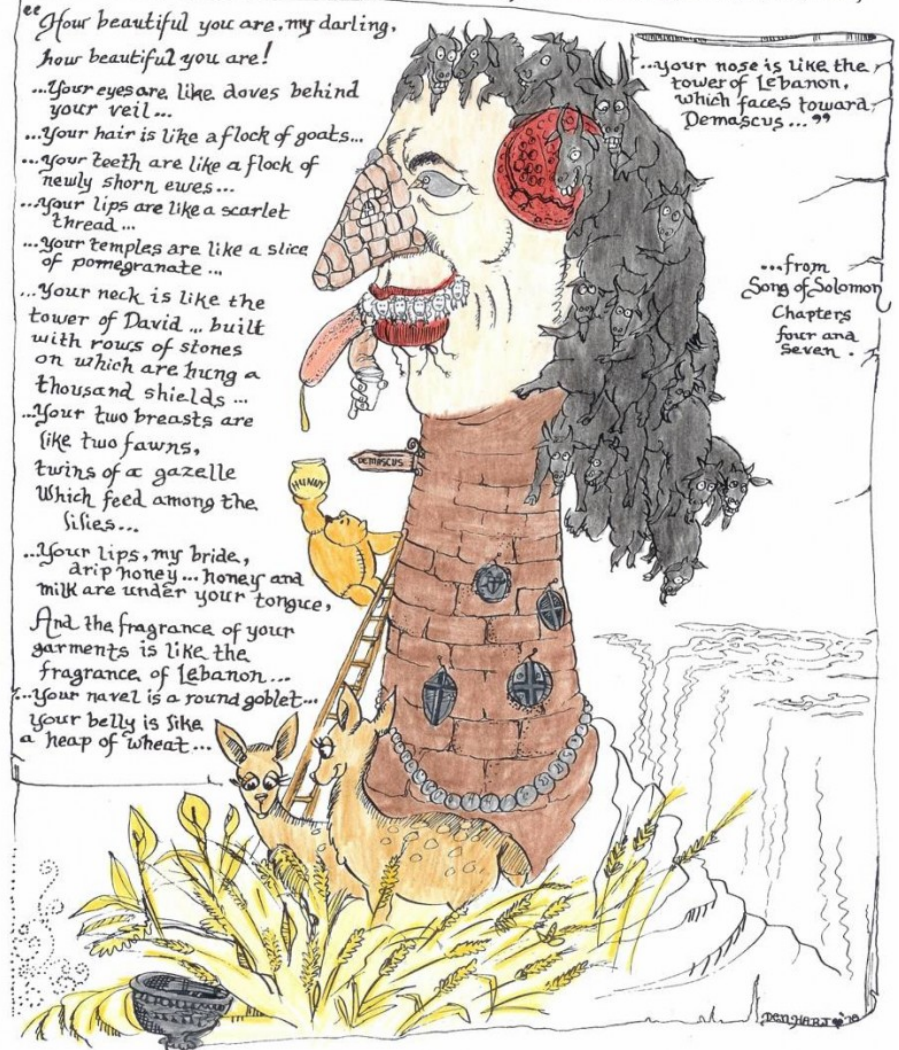


### ← SHE

- **eyes** = doves
- **cheeks** = ornaments, halves of a pomegranate
- **nose** = tower of Lebanon
- **hair** = flock of goats
- **teeth** = sheep
- **lips** = scarlet thread, dripping with wine, honey and milk
- **neck** = ivory, tower of David (with 1000 shields)
- **breasts** = two fawns, clusters of the vine
- **body** = locked garden, fountain with flowing water
- **thighs** = jewels
- **navel** = rounded bowl
- **belly** = heap of wheat
- **stature** = palm tree

Image by Mark Barry

## The Song of Solomon Illustrated (For our literalist friends.)



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