

Song of Songs as Wisdom

Bride:

My beloved is mine and I am his;
he delights in the lilies.

While the day is cool
and the shadows are dispersing,
turn, my beloved, and show yourself
a gazelle or a young wild goat
on the hills where cinnamon grows

Night after night on my bed

I have sought my true love;

I have sought him but not found him,

I have called him but he has not answered.

I said, 'I will rise and go the rounds of the city,
through the streets and the squares,
seeking my true love.'

I sought him but I did not find him,

I called him but he did not answer.

The watchmen, going the rounds of the city, met
me, and I asked, 'Have you seen my true love?'

Scarcely had I left them behind me
when I met my true love.

I seized him and would not let him go
until I had brought him to my mother's house,
to the room of her who conceived me.

Bridegroom:

I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem,
by the spirits and the goddesses of the field:
Do not rouse her, do not disturb my love
until she is ready.

* * *

Bride:

Wear me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion cruel as the grave;
it blazes up like blazing fire,
fiercer than any flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
no flood can sweep it away;
if a man were to offer for love
the whole wealth of his house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Songs 2:16-3:5, 8:6-7
Translation from the New English Bible

Psalm 34

I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.

Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me*
and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the LORD encompasses those who
fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD
lack nothing that is good.

Come, children, and listen to me; *

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Who among you loves life *

and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

Keep your tongue from evil-speaking *

and your lips from lying words.

Turn from evil and do good; *

seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *

and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, *

to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *

and delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted *

and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

Many are the troubles of the righteous, *

but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.

He will keep safe all his bones; *

not one of them shall be broken.

Evil shall slay the wicked, *

and those who hate the righteous
will be punished.

The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *

and none will be punished who trust in him.