



[Growing Together](#)

Wayne Braudrick

[Life Change: We are true companions](#)

Song of Songs 6:4–7:10

September 27, 2026

Why do love songs never go out of style?

You're Still the One

6:4–10

Faithfully

11–13

True Companion

7:1–10a

As my father declined in the months before his death at the age of 100, Nancy was in a frail state as well. Since they were being treated by nurses in separate rooms in their home, the two would write love notes to each other and enlist their nurses to deliver them. This went on every day. Every few hours, each would have written another love note to the other. And this was truly the kind of sort of enduring, romantic feeling that they had until the day my father, Henry, passed. – David Kissinger



Upcoming
Events



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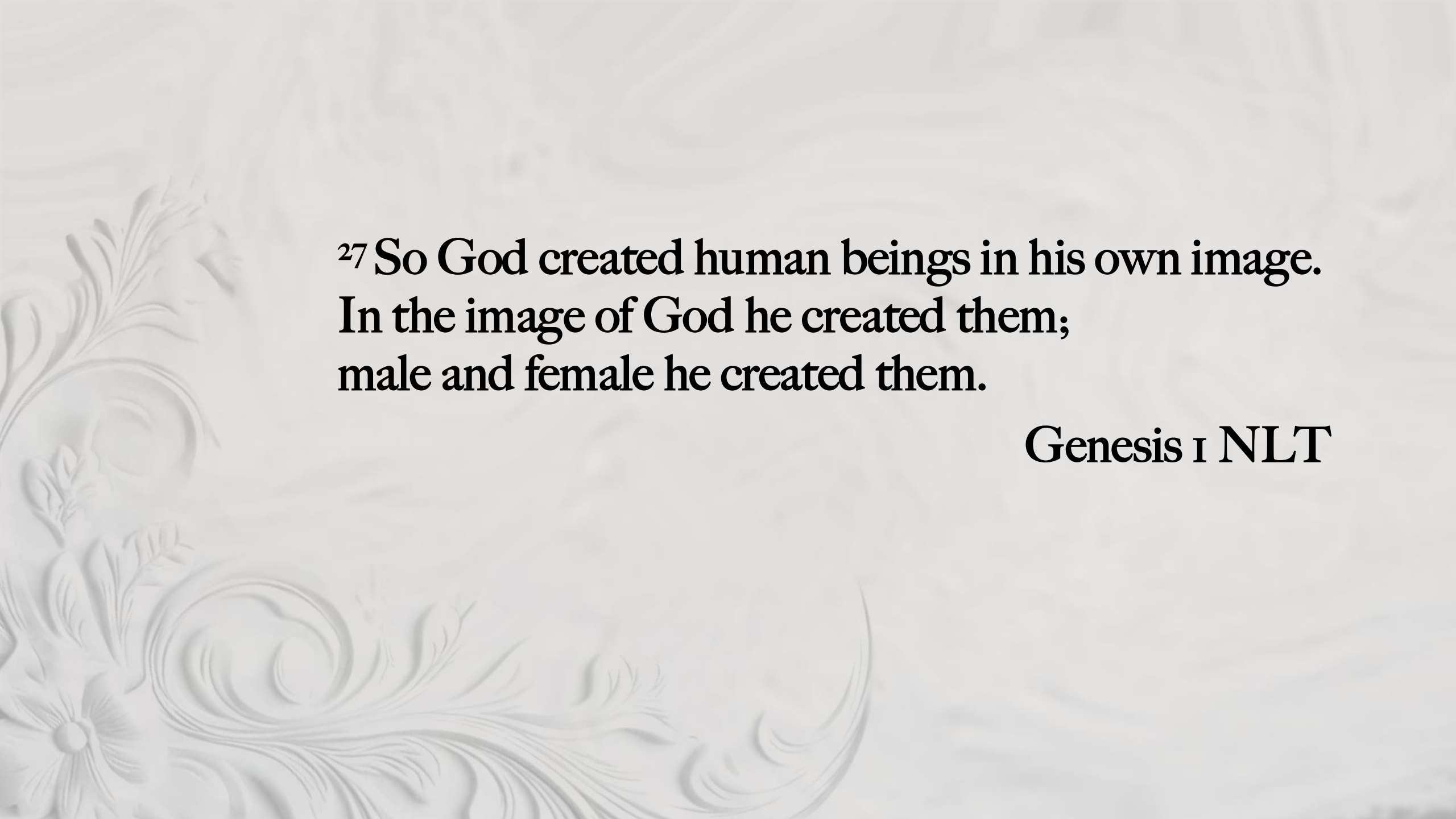


A SONG OF VIRTUE

Why do love songs never go out of style?



A SONG OF VIRTUE



**²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.**

Genesis 1 NLT



On we go
His welfare is my concern
No burden is he to bear
We'll get there

For I know
He would not encumber me
He ain't heavy, he's my brother



Bob Russell & Bobby Scott, “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother”



It isn't silly.

Love isn't silly.

It isn't silly at all.

Man

⁴ You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling,
lovely as Jerusalem,
awe-inspiring as an army with banners.

⁵ Turn your eyes away from me,
for they captivate me.

Your hair is like a flock of goats
streaming down from Gilead.

Song of Songs 6 CSB

⁶Your teeth are like a flock of ewes
coming up from washing,
each one having a twin,
and not one missing.

⁷Behind your veil,
your brow is like a slice of pomegranate.

⁸There are sixty queens
and eighty concubines
and young women without number.

⁹ But my dove, my virtuous one, is unique;
she is the favorite of her mother,
perfect to the one who gave her birth.
Women see her and declare her fortunate;
queens and concubines also, and they sing her praises:

Man quoting friends

¹⁰ Who is this who shines like the dawn,
as beautiful as the moon,
bright as the sun,
awe-inspiring as an army with banners?

Song of Songs 6 CSB

Contempt

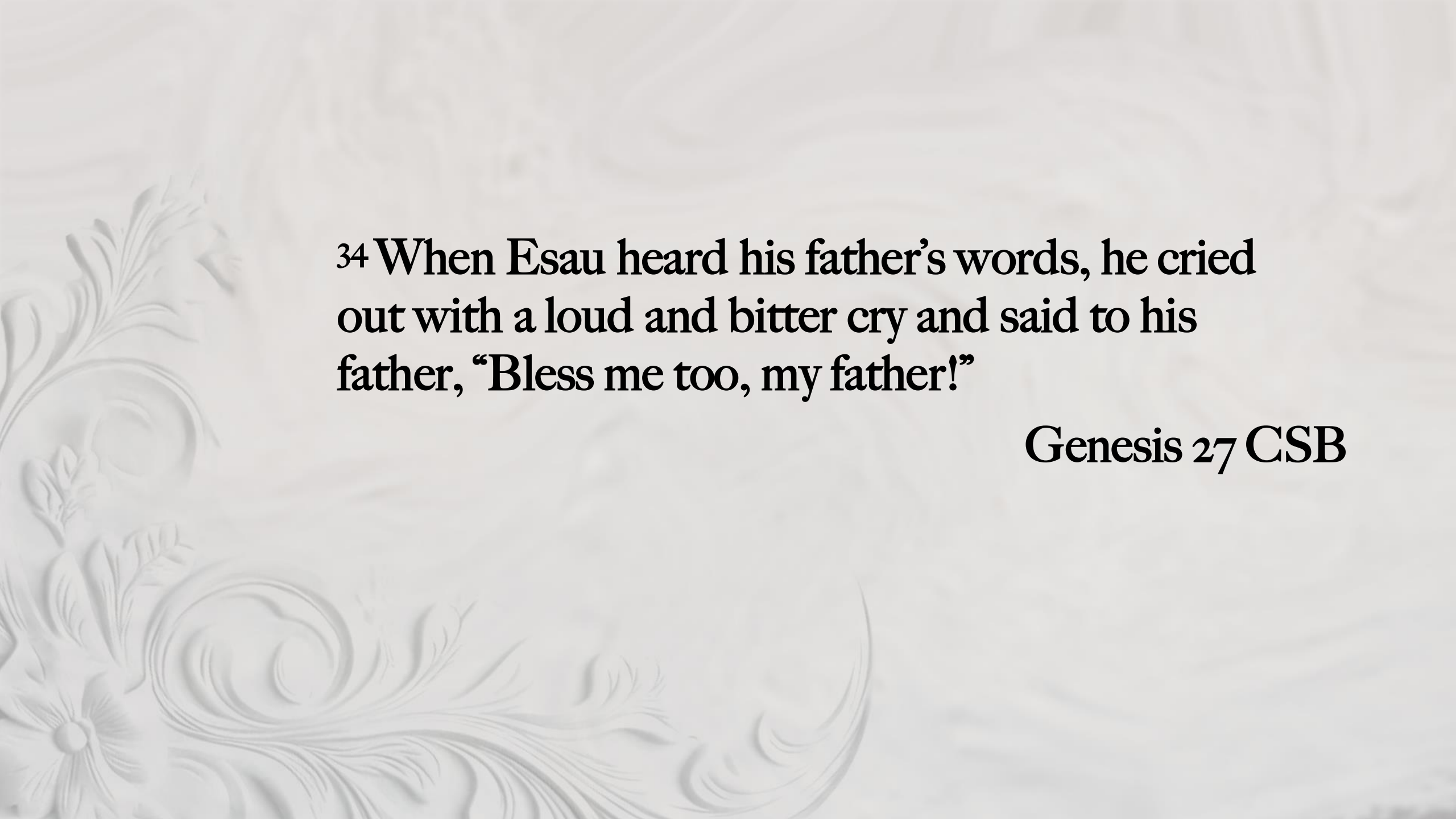
Contempt for the other is the most common factor in divorce.
[Gottman Institute 2025]

Praise

Expressing appreciation & gratitude raises overall marital satisfaction 8%.
[Greater Good Science Ctr
UC Berkely 2026]

Last week, I prayed with three different people who were languishing without praise in their closest relationship.

- **One is dating and suffering a lack of appreciation from her boyfriend.**
- **The second is married and feels mocked by his wife.**
- **The third is a single man in his 20s who senses a total lack of blessing from his dad.**



34 When Esau heard his father's words, he cried out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me too, my father!"

Genesis 27 CSB

Contempt

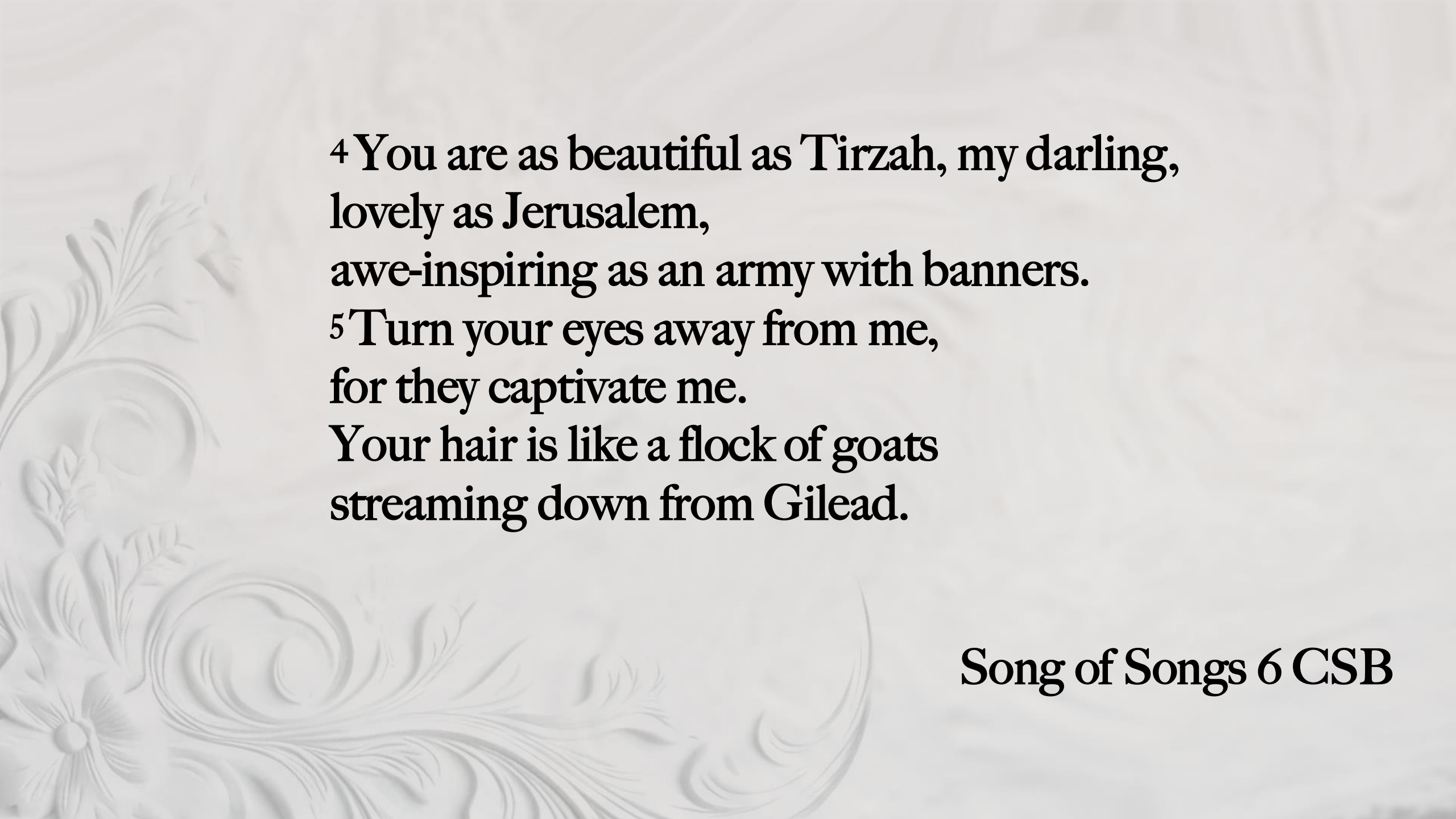
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Song of Songs 6 CSB

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Song of Songs 6 CSB



courtesy Yeshia Grabie

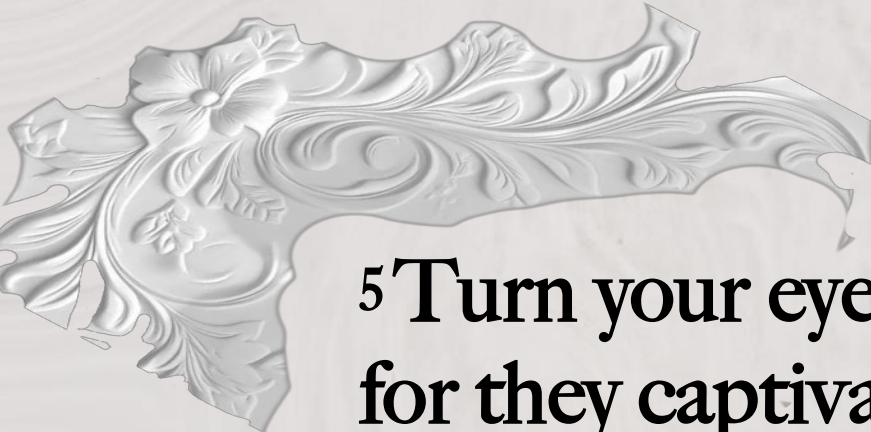


courtesy archeologymag

**4 You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling,
lovely as Jerusalem,
awe-inspiring as an army with banners.**

Song of Songs 6 CSB





**5 Turn your eyes away from me,
for they captivate me.**

**Your hair is like a flock of goats
streaming down from Gilead.**

**6 Your teeth are like a flock of ewes
coming up from washing,
each one having a twin,
and not one missing.**

**7 Behind your veil,
your brow is like a slice of pomegranate.**



15^a Drink water from your own cistern...

18^b and take pleasure in the wife of your youth.

Proverbs 5 CSB

- Married individuals report a 50% lower risk of depression. [Pew Research 2024]
- Monogamous heterosexual couples married over 10 years report 30% more sexual satisfaction than sexually active singles. [General Social Survey Longitudinal Assessment 2026]

**4 You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling,
lovely as Jerusalem,
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Song of Songs 6 CSB

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Proverbs 5 CSB

^{15 a} Drink water from your own cistern...

^{18 b} and take pleasure in the wife of your youth.

Proverbs 5 CSB

³ Support widows who are genuinely in need.

1 Timothy 5 CSB

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Women see her and declare her fortunate;
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Song of Songs 6 CSB

**You're still the one I want to talk to in bed
Still the one that turns my head
You're still the one that makes me laugh
Still the one that's my better half
You're still the one that makes me strong
Still the one I want to take along
You're still the one who can scratch my itch
Still the one and I wouldn't switch
We're still having fun and you're still the one
"You're Still the One" by Johanna Hall**



Tweasure
your wuv.



Woman

¹¹ I came down to the walnut grove
to see the blossoms of the valley,
to see if the vines were budding
and the pomegranates blooming.

¹² I didn't know what was happening to me.
I felt like I was
in a chariot with a nobleman.

Young Women

¹³ Come back, come back, Shulammite!
Come back, come back, that we may look at you!

Man

How you gaze at the Shulammite,
as you look at the dance of the two camps!

Song of Songs 6 CSB



Woman

**II I came down to the walnut grove
to see the blossoms of the valley,
to see if the vines were budding
and the pomegranates blooming.**

**II I came down to the walnut grove
to see the blossoms of the valley,
to see if the vines were budding
and the pomegranates blooming.**

Song of Songs 6 CSB



¹² I am beside myself
you have set me (among) chariots
a prince is with me.

Song of Songs 6 VUWV
[Very Unauthorized Wayne Version]

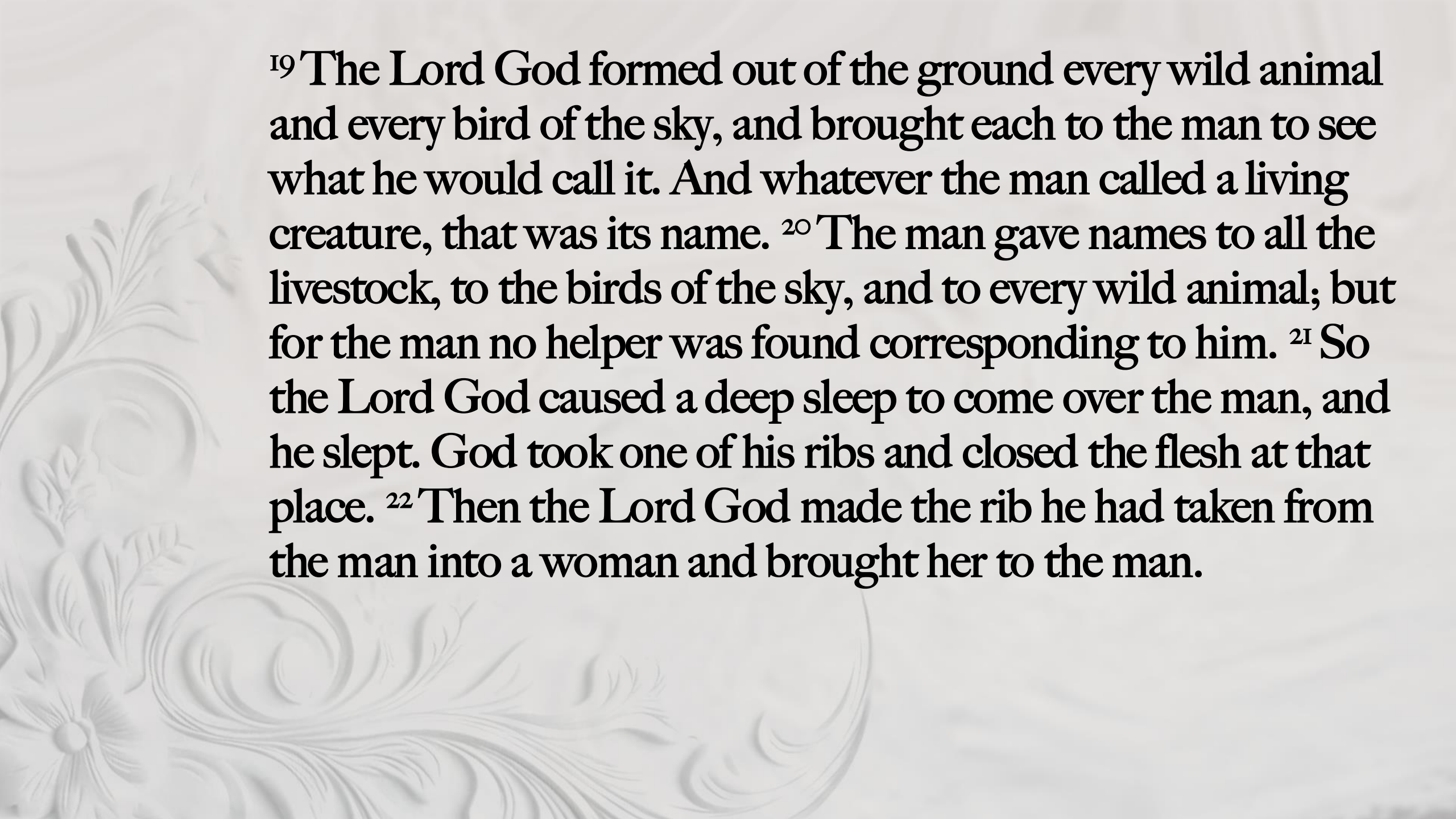
¹² I am beside myself you have set me (among) chariots a prince is with me.



His job is to command where they go. He is focused on threats and protection of the chariot. He is the leader of the chariot, serving the army and keeping his driver safe.



This one is the navigator. That person steers, managing their platform and finding the best path to meet the overall objectives called out by the prince or the king who commands the whole army.

A decorative background featuring a light gray, embossed floral and scrollwork pattern on the left side, transitioning into a plain white background on the right.

¹⁹ The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. ²² Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³ And the man said:

**This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called “woman,”
for she was taken from man.**

**²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother
and bonds with his wife, and they become one
flesh. ²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet
felt no shame.**

Genesis 2 CSB

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Genesis 2 CSB

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Greek: עֶזֶר ezer = indispensable companion.
Ezer is a partner, not a subordinate.

Greek: נֶגְדָּה knegdo = opposite piece that keeps balance;
neghed – the root word of knegdo – implies direction

¹² I didn't know what was happening to me.
I felt like I was
in a chariot with a nobleman.



Young Women

¹³ Come back, come back, Shulammite!

Come back, come back, that we may look at you!

Man

How you gaze at the Shulammite,
as you look at the dance of the two camps!

Song of Songs 6 CSB

Young Women

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dance of Manahaim





Young Women

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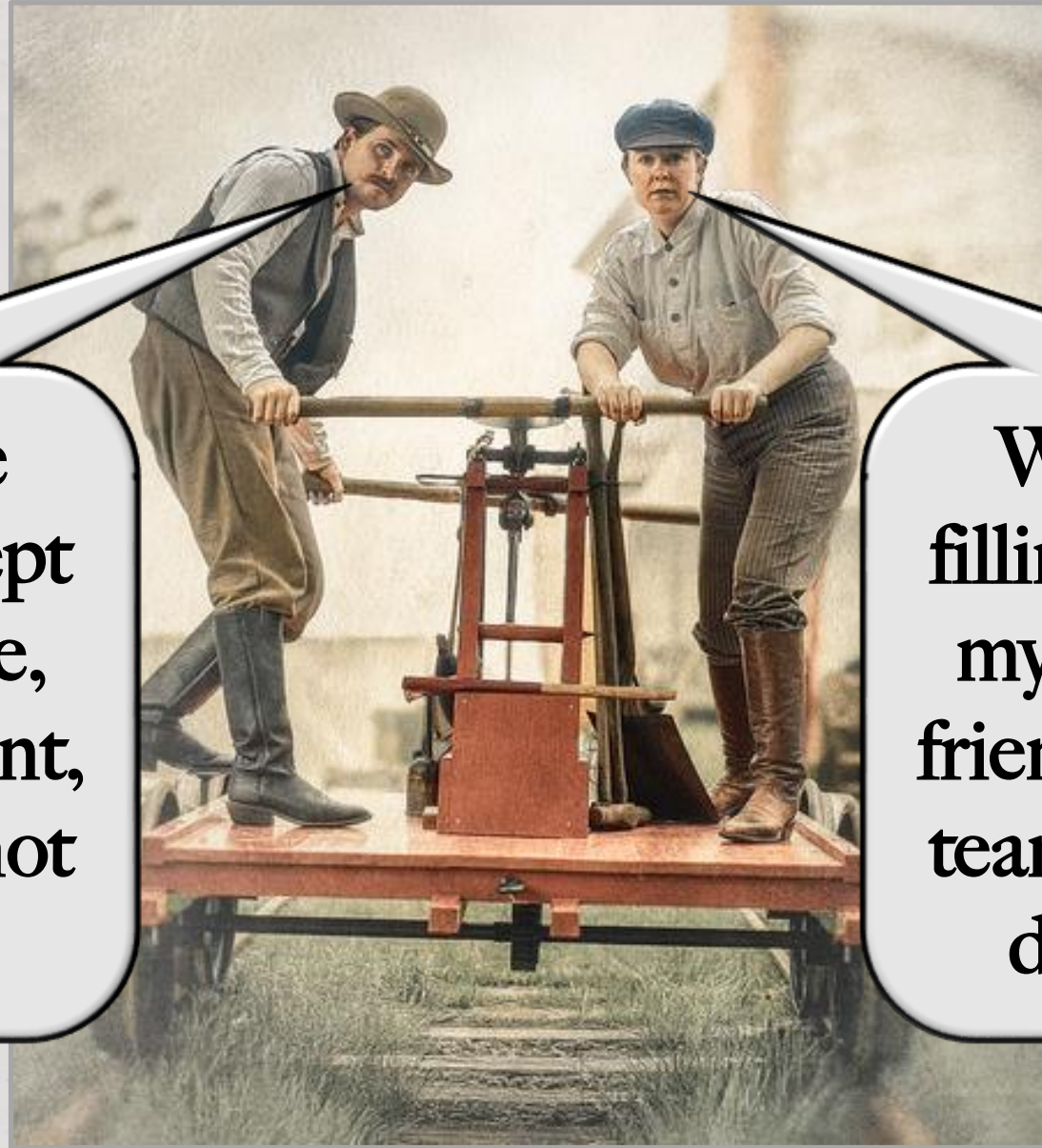
How you gaze at the Shulammite,
as you look at the dance of the two camps!

Song of Songs 6 CSB



courtesy stockphoto

Well, I *would* be filling my role, except my partner (spouse, friend, sibling, parent, teammate, etc.) is not doing their part!



Well, I *would* be filling my role, except my partner (spouse, friend, sibling, parent, teammate, etc.) is not doing their part!



courtesy State of Michigan

The big takeaway from Songs 6:11-13? Assess your relationship. Rejoice over what is good and be diligent by God's grace to fulfill your part.



Well, that's fine for
younger people. But
what about when folks
get old?



Man

¹ How beautiful are your sandaled feet, princess!
The curves of your thighs are like jewelry,
the handiwork of a master.

² Your navel is a rounded bowl;
it never lacks mixed wine.

Your belly is a mound of wheat
surrounded by lilies.

³ Your breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle.





**4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory,
your eyes like pools in Heshbon
by Bath-rabbim's gate.**

**Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon
looking toward Damascus.**

**5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,
the hair of your head like purple cloth—
a king could be held captive in your tresses.**

**6 How beautiful you are and how pleasant,
my love, with such delights!**





⁷ Your stature is like a palm tree;
your breasts are clusters of fruit.

⁸ I said, “I will climb the palm tree
and take hold of its fruit.”

May your breasts be like clusters of grapes,
and the fragrance of your breath like apricots.

⁹ Your mouth is like fine wine—

Woman

flowing smoothly for my love,
gliding past my lips and teeth!

¹⁰ I am my love’s,
and his desire is for me.

Song of Songs 7 CSB

When the years have done irreparable harm
I can see us walking slowly arm in arm
Just like that couple on the corner do
'Cause girl I will always be in love with you
When I look in your eyes
I'll still see that spark
"True Companion" by Marc Cohn





¹ How beautiful are your sandaled feet, princess!
The curves of your thighs are like jewelry,
the handiwork of a master.

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Song of Songs 7 CSB

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Song of Songs 6 CSB

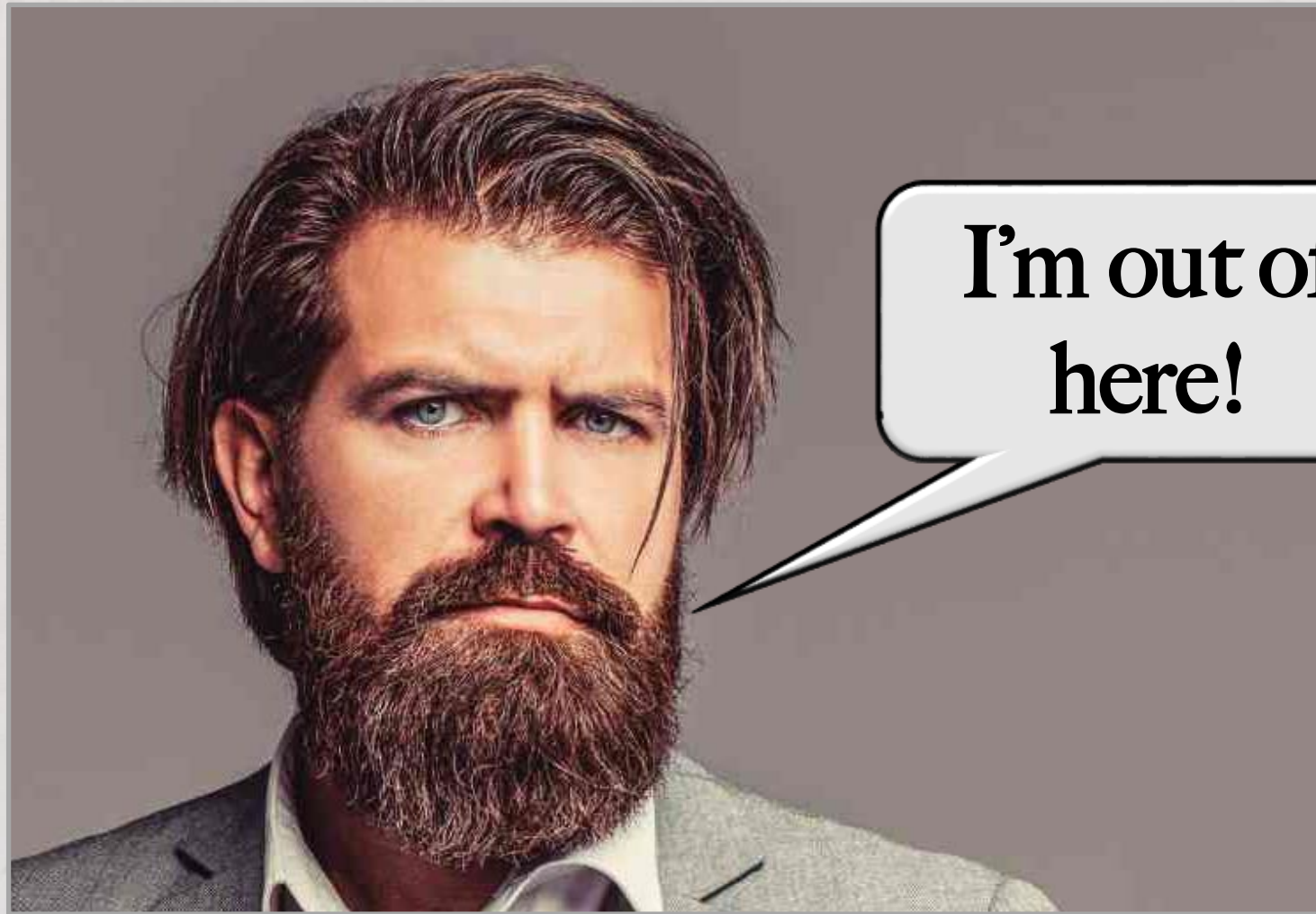




courtesy yazuyajuku

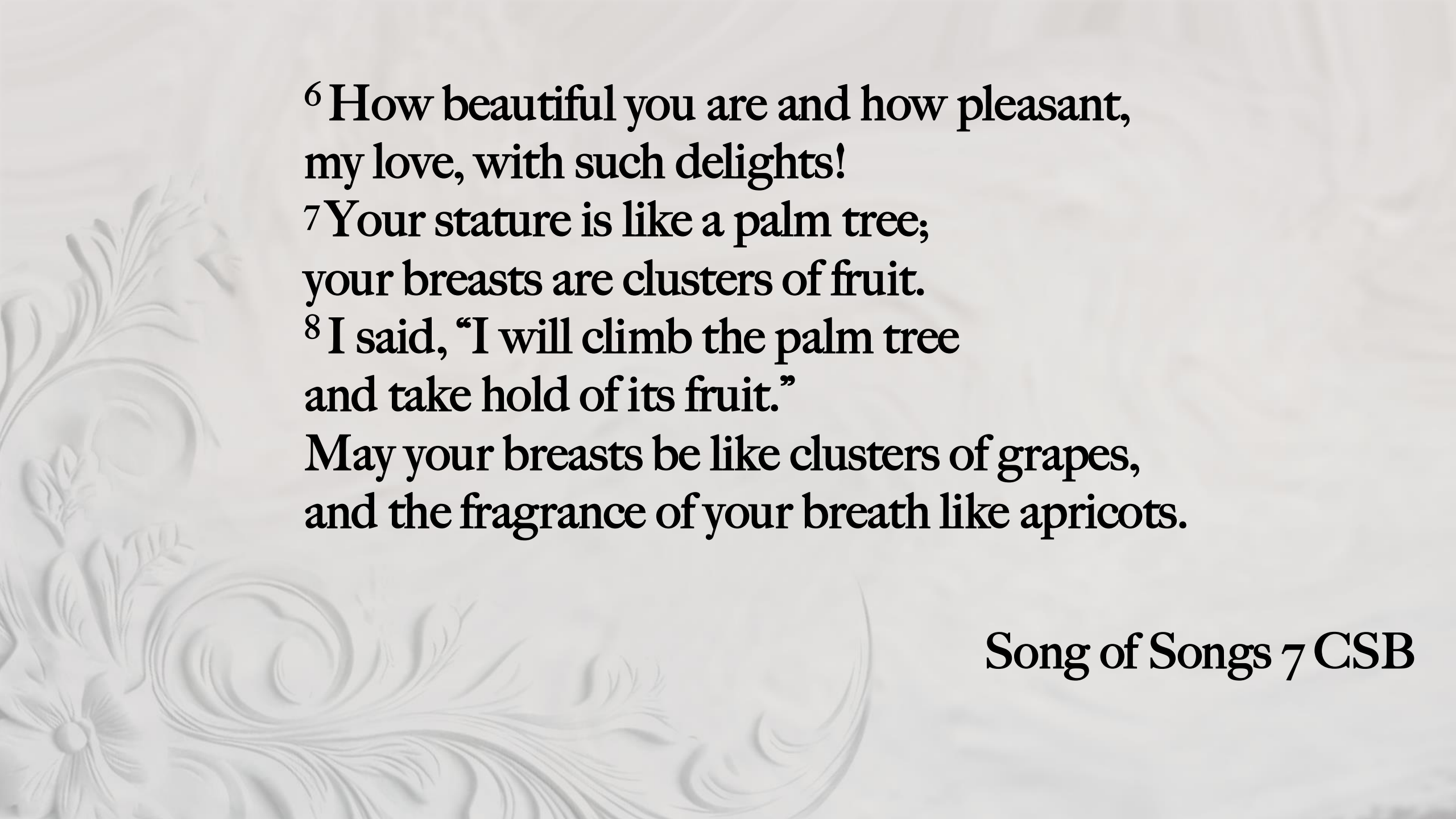


courtesy boredpanda





courtesy State of Michigan



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Song of Songs 7 CSB



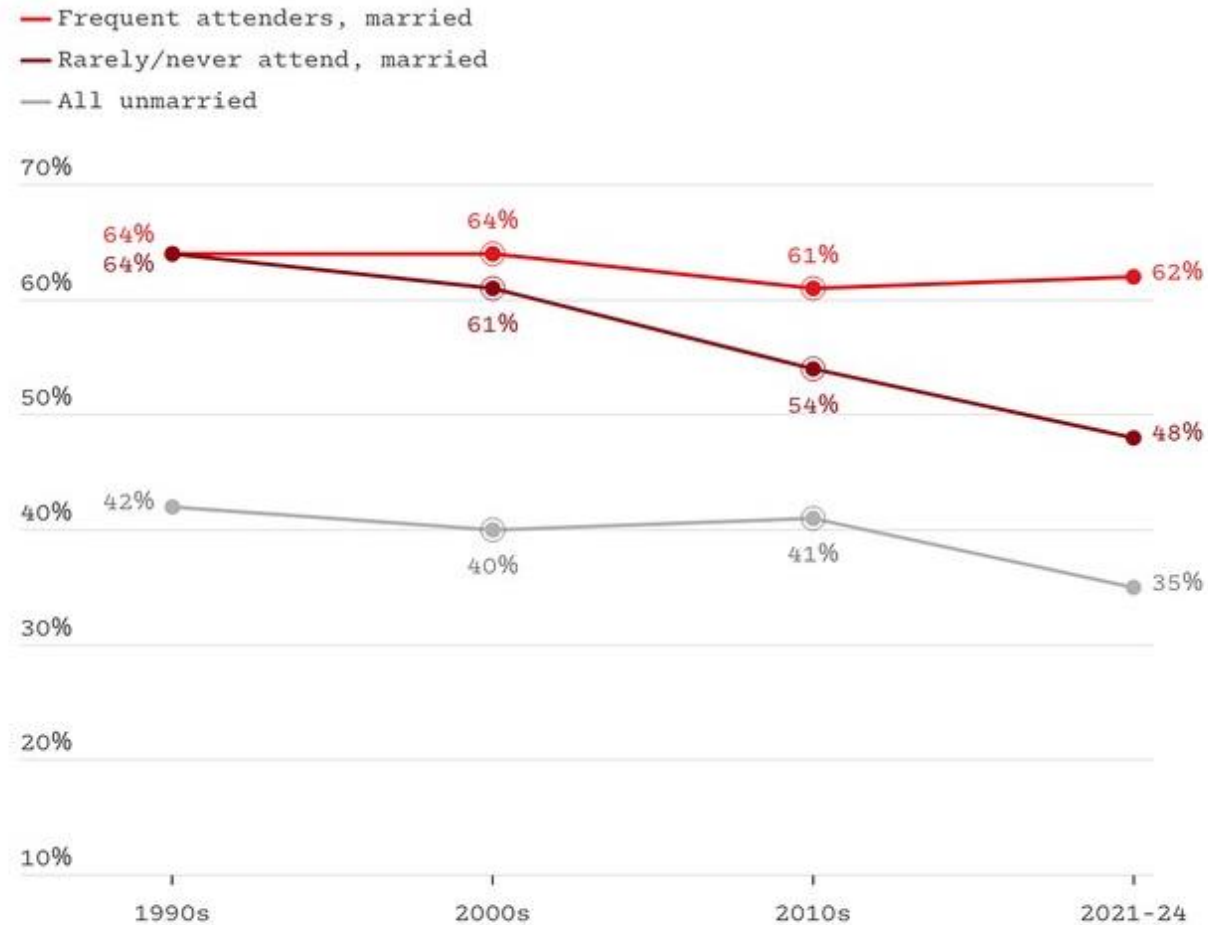
The Americans Having the Most Sex *Regular churchgoers have a surprising advantage*

By Brad Wilcox and Grant Bailey
The Atlantic September 25, 2026

In the popular imagination, religious faith and a thriving sex life don't tend to go together. Movies, books, and TV shows depict religious couples as sexually inhibited or dysfunctional....But the data tell a different story. No group of Americans seems to be having more sex—and more satisfying sex—than married men and women who regularly attend a place of worship.

Religious Couples Avoided the Sex Recession

Percentage of adults ages 20-54 who have sex once a week or more



Age-standardized to the 2000s' married-age distribution. Frequent attendance is twice a month or more. Rarely/never is less than once a year. Occasional attendance omitted.

Source: General Social Survey 1990-2024



Both religious husbands and wives aged 20–54 are more likely to describe their sex life as “excellent” or “very good” than their secular peers, according to the 2026 IFS Religion and Family Survey. 49% of churchgoing wives report being sexually satisfied, compared with just 38% of secular wives. The survey also finds that churchgoing spouses are more likely to be “very” or “extremely” happy in their marriage. In “The Devout Difference: Religion, Marital Quality, and Sex Among Americans,” the family scholars Richard Dell’Isola and Jane Lankes Smith [conclude that] the “cultural trope of the sexually prudish, frustrated religious American does not fit the data.”

– Brad Wilcox & Grant Bailey, “The Americans Having the Most Sex”

⁸ I said, “I will climb the palm tree
and take hold of its fruit.”

May your breasts be like clusters of grapes,
and the fragrance of your breath like apricots.

⁹ Your mouth is like fine wine—

Woman

flowing smoothly for my love,
gliding past my lips and teeth!

¹⁰ I am my love’s,
and his desire is for me.

Song of Songs 7 CSB

When my hair's all but gone and my memory fades
And the crowds don't remember my name
When my hands don't play the strings the same way,
I know you will still love me the same
'Cause, honey, your soul could never grow old, it's evergreen
And baby, your smile's forever in my mind and memory
“Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran



courtesy Howard Stern

Man

⁹ Your mouth is like fine wine—

Woman

**flowing smoothly for my love,
gliding past my lips and teeth!**

Song of Songs 7 CSB



The takeaway from this song in 7:1-10a is clear:
Keep choosing the person with whom God has placed you in covenant. Finish their sentences – sweetly. Write love notes. Rejoice in communication, including the ultimate in communication – marital intercourse.

²⁹ For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ since we are members of his body. ³¹ *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. [Gen 2]* ³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5 CSB



9 Your mouth is like fine wine—

Woman

flowing smoothly for my love,
gliding past my lips and teeth!

*Nancy & Henry Kissinger
at the White House State Dinner*

Chris Kleponia

2015

A branch with two vibrant red hibiscus flowers and green leaves is positioned behind the word 'LOVE'. The flowers are in sharp focus, contrasting with the soft, textured background.

LOVE

A SONG OF VIRTUE