

# *Leading Ladies*

Oct 2020



## 5 *“Siren Song from Lebanon” Story of the Lebanese Bride*

# Is Solomon's Bride the Bride of Christ?



## Watchmen of Jerusalem assault the Bride



***“The watchmen found me  
as they made their  
rounds in the city.  
They beat me, they  
bruised me;  
they took away my cloak,  
those watchmen of the  
walls!” Song 5:7***

**If the Song depicts Christ and the Church  
the Song cannot be \*during\* the Kingdom**

**=> The watchmen of Jerusalem, sinless immortals appointed  
by Christ, beat the Bride, who are also sinless immortals?**

# The King and the Bride are Married

Many believe they're unmarried because married couples don't usually live separately *e.g. Gledhill p39; Murphy p263*

But Solomon and his wives do

*Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the Lord has entered are holy."* **2 Chr 8:11**

## Sexually Consummated

Heb: 'Dodim' occurs 32 times throughout the Song.  
Refers to lovemaking, is diluted when translated 'love'

***“Come, let’s drink deeply of love till morning; let’s enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home...”***

***Prv 7:18-19***

***You grew and developed and entered puberty. Your breasts had formed and your hair had grown... and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love Ezk 16:7-8***

***Then the Babylonians came to her [Jerusalem], to the bed of love, and in their lust they defiled her. Ezk 23:17***

***“Given these uses of dodim, we can be quite certain that the word also refers to sexual love in the Song” Bloch, p38***

***“Dodim always refers to sex acts” Fox, p97***

# Sexually Consummated

If the Song depicts Christ and the Church  
the Song cannot be \*prior to\* the Kingdom

## She Seals Him

**Bride: *“Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm”***

**Song 8:6**

**Owner places the seal on the ‘owned’**



***“[angels] put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”*** **Rev 7:3**

***They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*** **Rev 14:1**

**God owns His disciples  
=> She owns him!**

**The Song cannot depict Christ and the Church at any time**

# Jesus Doesn't Play Favourites



*“Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; but my dove, my perfect one, is unique.” Song 6:8-9*

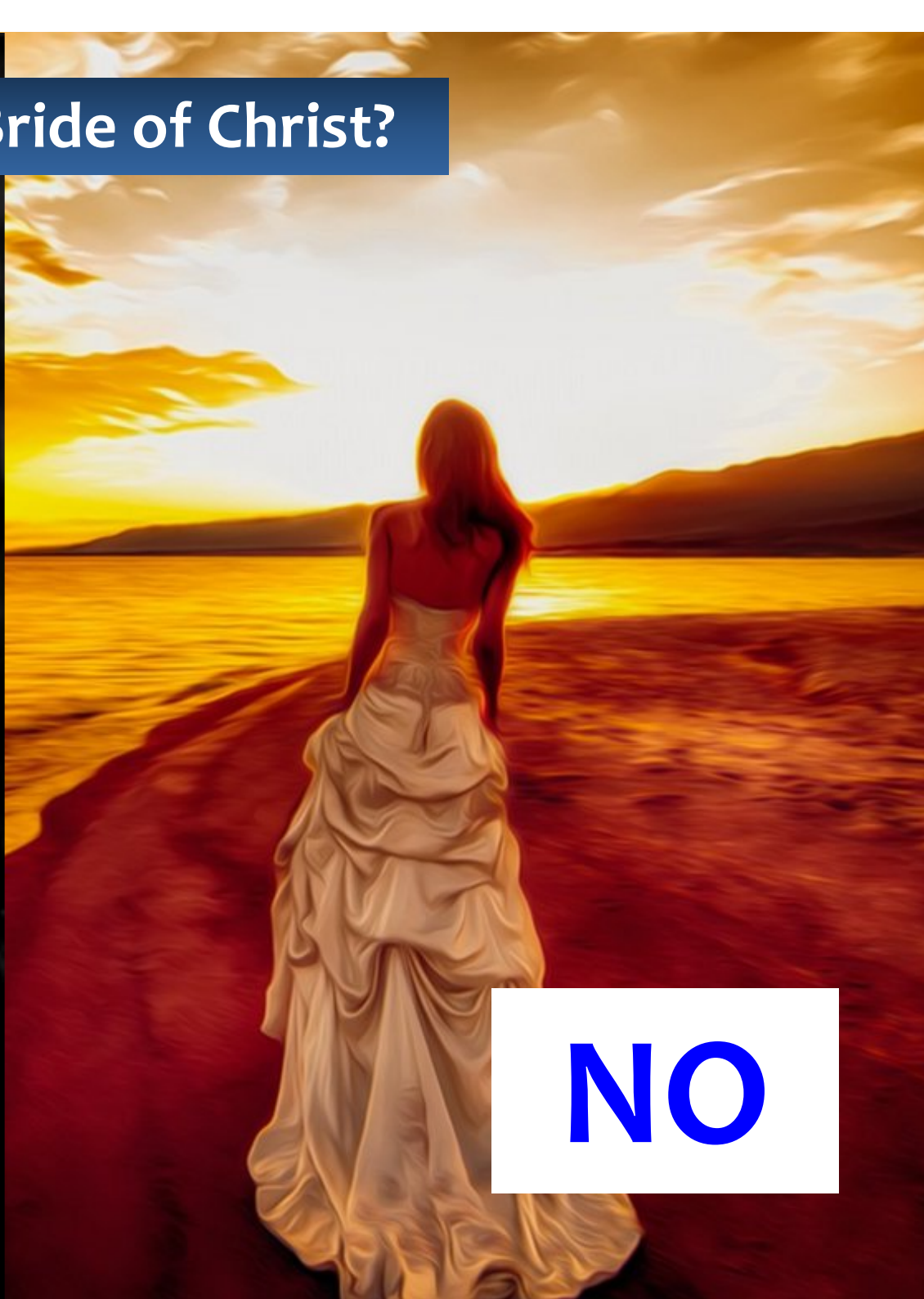
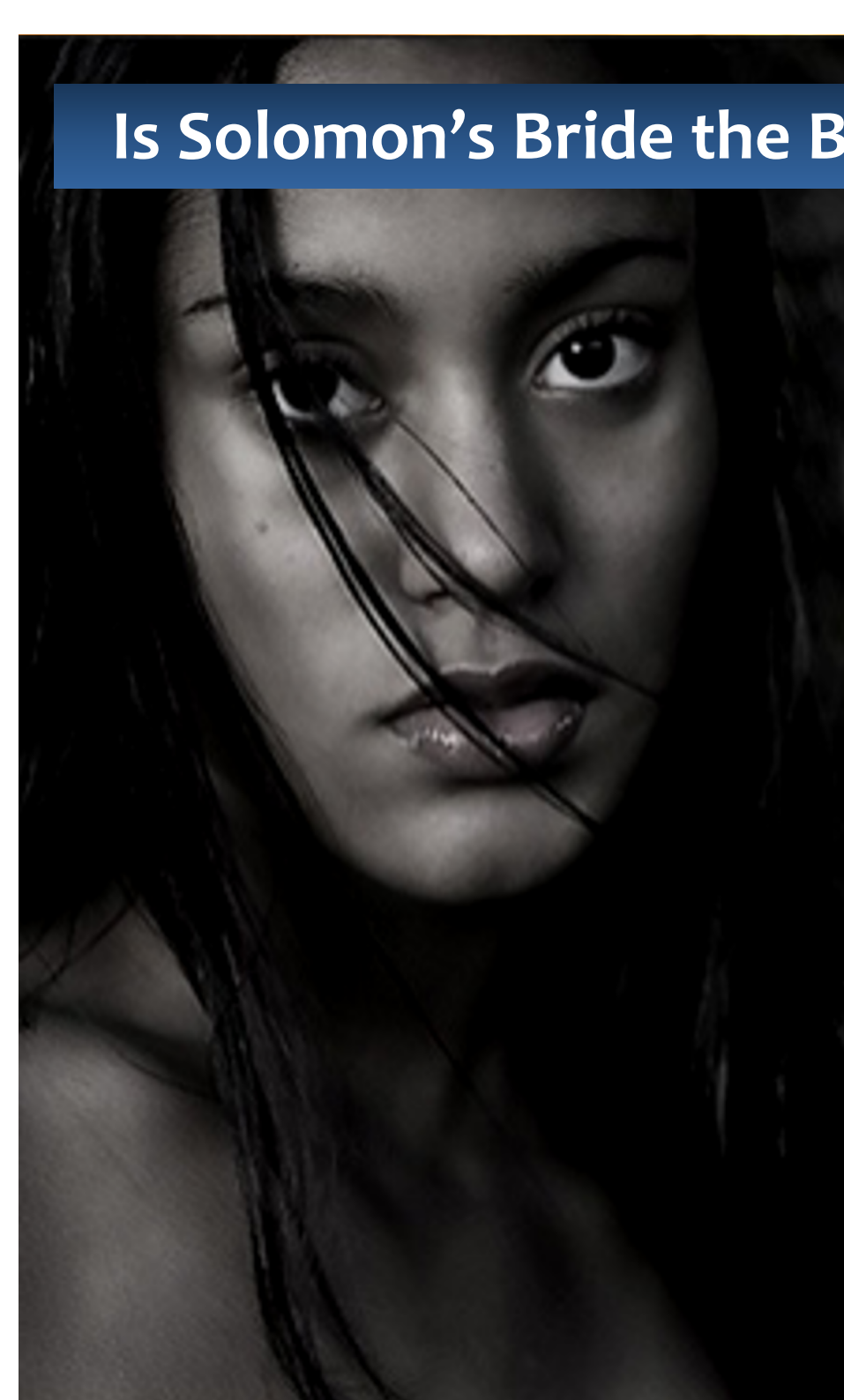
*Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 1 Kgs 11:2-3*

**Jesus isn't wedded to multiple churches**

**Nor would the true church be his 'favourite of many wives'**

**Nor would he have favourites within his multitudinous bride**

**Is Solomon's Bride the Bride of Christ?**



**NO**



## Leading Lady from Lebanon

***“Come with me from Lebanon, my bride,  
come with me from Lebanon.” 4:8***

***“The fragrance of your garments  
is like that of Lebanon.” 4:11***

***“You are a garden fountain,  
a well of flowing water  
streaming down from Lebanon”  
4:15***

***“Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon  
looking toward Damascus.” 7:4***

**The Bride is Lebanese (Sidonian)**

**(Can't be the Bride of Christ)**



## Foreign Tension

**The Bride is Foreign:  
not a Daughter of Jerusalem**

**She is presented in counterpoint  
to the “Daughters of Jerusalem”**

**There is tension because of her  
different religion, different God**

***“If only you were to me like a brother...  
Then, if I found you outside... I would kiss  
you, and no one would despise me” 8:1***

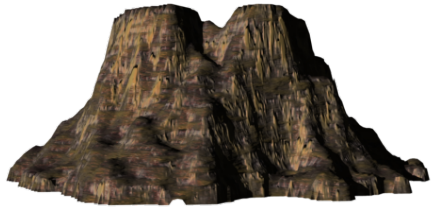
# Chiasm



# Chiasm

He leads her

2:10; 2:13; 2:13; 4:8; 4:8



Mtns of Bethel  
2:17

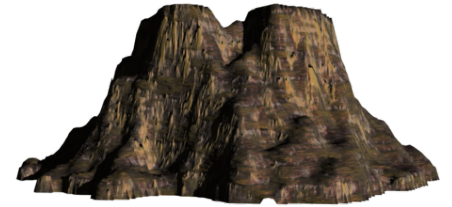


5:1



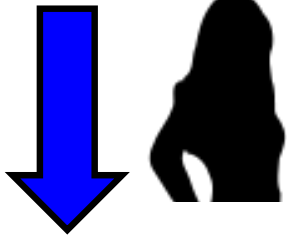
She leads him

7:11; 8:14



Mtns of spices  
8:14

*"I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;  
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice."*



4:1-7



4:1

Doves in  
her eyes

He calls her away  
from Lebanon

4:8

ISRAEL

Doves in  
his eyes

5:12



She calls him away  
from Jerusalem

8:14

LEBANON

7:1-9



Initially he leads:

*“Come with me...”* 2:10

*“Come with me...”* 2:13

*“Come with me...”* 4:8

*“Come with me...”* 4:8

5:1

But the lead transfers:

*“Come into...”* 4:16

*“Come...”* 7:11

*“Come away...”* 8:14

Transfer of  
Leadership

*“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;  
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.”* 5:1

BEFORE

Call away from  
Lebanon

ISRAEL

(Can't be the Bride and Christ)

AFTER

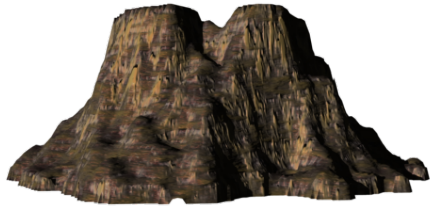
Call away from  
Jerusalem

LEBANON

**BEFORE**

## Mountains

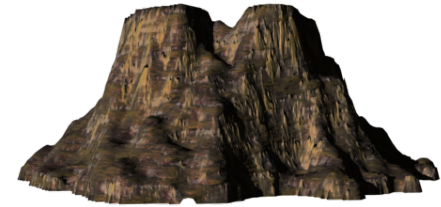
**AFTER**



***Mtns of Bethel***

***2:17***

**Judah**



***Mtns of spices***

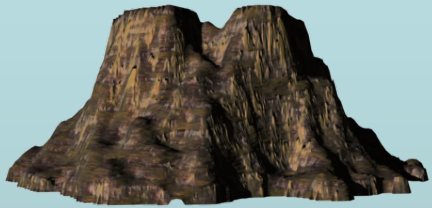
***8:14***

**Pleasures**

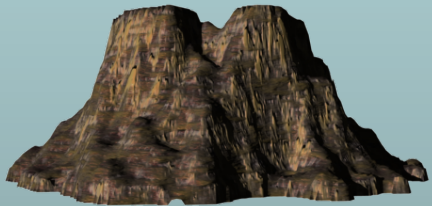
***5:1***

***“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;  
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.” 5:1***

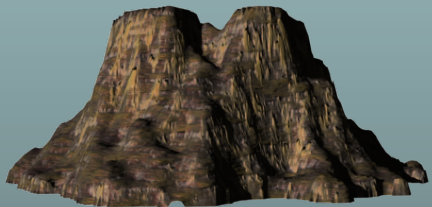
# Mountains Symbolize a Ruling Power



***“Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.” Psa 72:1-3***



***“For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” Lk 23:29-30***



***“But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.” Dan 2:35***

**BEFORE**

## Sequential Poems (Wasfs)

**AFTER**

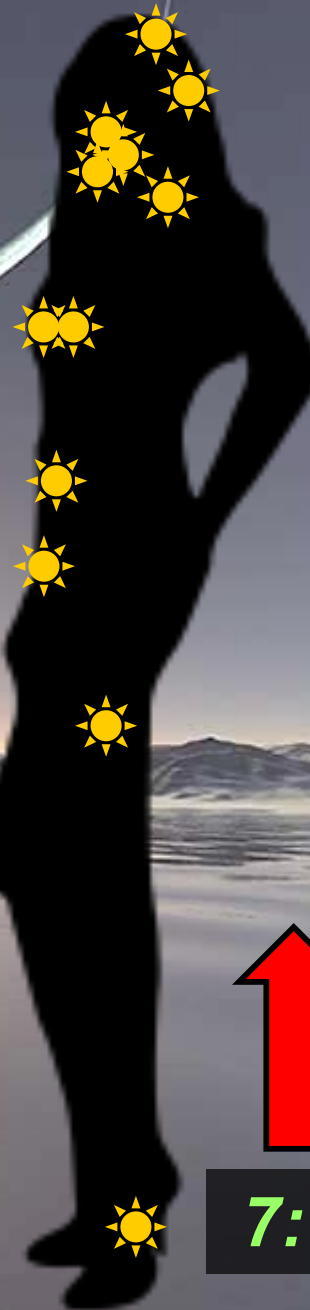
4:1-7



5:1

Elegant revelation of  
their consummation

Clever depiction of  
the transfer of power



7:1-9



**BEFORE**

**Solomon to the Bride:**

*“Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance”* 4:4

**Spiritual  
Immigration**

**AFTER**

**Bride to Solomon:**

*“His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars.”* 5:15

**Solomon to the Bride:**

*“Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus.”* 7:4

5:1

**ISRAEL**

**LEBANON**



# The Chiastic Song

Mountains of Bether, in Israel (2:17)

King calls Bride away from Lebanon (2:10-13; 4:8)

Doves in the Bride's eyes (4:1; 1:15)

King sees her from head downwards, as if above (4:1-7)

Tower of David, King of Israel (4:4)

↕ **The Centerpiece: Sexual union of King & Bride (5:1)**

Tower of Lebanon; her breasts (7:4; 8:10)

King sees her from feet upwards, as if beneath (7:1-9)

Doves in the King's eyes (5:12)

Bride calls King away from Jerusalem (8:14)

Mountains of spices – pleasures (8:14)

## Proverbs 7

*Then out came a woman to meet him,  
dressed like a prostitute and with  
crafty intent.*

*(She is unruly and defiant,  
her feet never stay at home;  
now in the street, now in the squares,  
at every corner she lurks)...*

*I have covered my bed  
with colored linens from Egypt.  
I have perfumed my bed  
with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.  
Come, let's drink deeply of love till  
morning; let's enjoy ourselves with  
love! My husband is not at home; he  
has gone on a long journey.*

*Prv 7:10-12,16-19*



## The Bride

*“All night long on my  
bed I looked for the  
one my heart loves; I  
looked for him but did  
not find him. I will get  
up now and go about  
the city, through its  
streets and squares...”*

*Song 3:1-2*

## Proverbs 7

*Then out came a woman to meet him,  
dressed like a prostitute and with  
crafty intent.*

*(She is unruly and defiant,  
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*with colored linens from Egypt.*  
*I have perfumed my bed*  
*with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.*  
*Come, let's drink deeply of love till*  
*morning; let's enjoy ourselves with*  
*love! My husband is not at home; he*  
*has gone on a long journey.*

***Prv 7:10-12,16-19***



## The Bride

*"I liken you, my  
darling, to a mare  
among Pharaoh's  
chariot horses. "*

***Song 1:9***



## Proverbs 7

*Then out came a woman to meet him,  
dressed like a prostitute and with  
crafty intent.*

*(She is unruly and defiant,  
her feet never stay at home;  
now in the street, now in the squares,  
at every corner she lurks)...*

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with colored linens from Egypt.*

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*Come, let's drink deeply of love till  
morning; let's enjoy ourselves with  
love! My husband is not at home; he  
has gone on a long journey.*

*Prv 7:10-12,16-19*



## The Bride

*“And our bed is verdant.  
...My beloved has gone  
down to his garden, to the  
beds of spices, to browse  
in the gardens” 1:16, 6:2*

*“henna... nard and  
saffron, calamus and  
cinnamon... with myrrh  
and aloes.” 4:13-14*

## Proverbs 7

*Then out came a woman to meet him,  
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morning; let's enjoy ourselves with  
love! My husband is not at home; he  
has gone on a long journey.*

*Prv 7:10-12,16-19*



## The Bride

*“Until the day breaks and  
the shadows flee, I will go  
to the mountain of myrrh  
and to the hill of incense”*

*Song 4:6*





Entranced,  
Entangled

Bride: *“While the king was at his table,  
my perfume spread its fragrance.”* 1:12

Solomon: *“Your hair is like  
royal tapestry;  
the king is held captive  
by its tresses.”* 7:5

The King describes himself as a captive, mesmerized

# Terrors in the Night

**“Look! It is Solomon’s carriage, escorted by sixty warriors... prepared for the terrors of the night.” 3:7-8**

**“Sixty queens there may be...” 6:8**



**Spiritually, the “terrors of the night” were never outside Solomon’s own bed**



- Love can be intense enough to replace God if faith is weak
- Even love which is pure & feels right can be fatal if it displaces God



**How could love ever cost me my faith?  
If I believe “truth,” won’t truth beat error?**

⇒ Truth isn’t the weak spot. But we may be asking the wrong question  
⇒ We’re deceiving ourselves if we think we always value truth more than the celebration of pleasure



$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{2\pi/5} \int_0^a \frac{ar}{\sqrt{a^2-r^2}} dr d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} \int_0^a \frac{r}{\sqrt{a^2-r^2}} dr d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} [-\sqrt{a^2-r^2}]_0^a d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} [(-\sqrt{0}) - (-\sqrt{a^2})] d\phi \\ &= a \int_0^{2\pi/5} [\sqrt{a^2}] d\phi = a \int_0^{2\pi/5} a d\phi \\ &= a^2 \int_0^{2\pi/5} d\phi = a^2 \frac{2\pi}{5} \end{aligned}$$

## The King Who Fell

**King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. **1 Kgs 11:1-6****

**Solomon's favourite Bride was Sidonian (Lebanese)**

# Land of the Moon



Heb 'Lebanown': **Lebanon**  
Heb 'lebanah': **Moon**

**Lebanon's deity: Ashtoreth**  
**A Moon Goddess**

*As Solomon grew old...  
He followed Ashtoreth the  
goddess of the Sidonians  
**1 Kgs 11:4-5***

**Solomon wrought personal & national destruction  
by falling to the Leading Lady of his Lebanese Bride**