

## **OPTION #7 - SONG OF SONGS 2:8-10, 14, 16a, 8:6-7a**

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me,

**“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!**

**“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,**

Let me see you,

let me hear your voice,

for your voice is sweet,

**and you are lovely.”**

My lover belongs to me and I to him.

He says to me:

**“Set me as a seal on your heart,**

as a seal on your arm;

For stern as death is love,

relentless as the nether world is devotion;

its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,

**nor floods sweep it away.”**

The word of the Lord.