JOEL HOFFMAN ON BIBLE TRANSLATION

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Bible translation can turn romance into a crime; or so Joel Hoffman said in a recent lecture which is reported at the Velveteen Rabbi blog:

> *Dr. Hoffman began by saying, "We're going to look at Bible translation, at what happens when you read the Bible in English" -- the Hebrew, the Greek, and the Aramaic parts of the Bible -- "and we'll look at what went wrong and why."*
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> *Take for instance, the Song of Songs / Song of Solomon: it's about romantic love, which is why it's often sung at weddings. We think of verses like "you have ravished my heart, my sister, my bride." But Hoffman quipped, "Here's the thing, though: not only is 'my sister, my bride' not romantic -- in America, it's illegal! So right off the bat we want to ask how is it that translations turn courtship into a felony."*

The notes of the lecture are pretty extensive and it is well worth reading them all - there is a lot to think about (not least the image of a shepherd as John Wayne!)