

Proverbs 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

Analysis

The escape metaphor intensifies: deliver yourself as a gazelle from the hunter and a bird from the fowler. Both images depict vulnerable prey escaping mortal danger through swift action. The Hebrew 'natsal' (deliver) implies a narrow rescue from certain destruction. This connects to Reformed theology's understanding of deliverance from sin—only through God's grace and our diligent response can we escape the snares that threaten us. The passage emphasizes both divine provision and human responsibility in seeking deliverance.

Historical Context

Gazelles and birds were commonly hunted in ancient Israel using nets, snares, and traps. These hunting metaphors would have been immediately understood as life-or-death situations requiring desperate, immediate action.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. In what ways do you see parallels between financial entanglement and spiritual bondage?
2. How does God's sovereignty interact with our responsibility to 'deliver ourselves' from danger?
3. What practical steps can you take to avoid the 'snares' that threaten your freedom in Christ?

Interlinear Text

הַ נִּצֵּל	כָּצַב י	מִיָּד	וּ כְצֵפ וֹר	מִיָּד
Deliver	thyslf as a roe	from the hand	of the hunter and as a bird	from the hand
H5337	H6643	H3027	H6833	H3027
יִקְוֶה:				
of the fowler				
H3353				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:3 (Parallel theme): Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

Psalms 124:7 (Parallel theme): Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.