

# Psalm 104:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

## Analysis

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High hills are for wild goats (ye'elim), and rocks provide refuge for conies (shaphanim, likely rock badgers/hyraxes). God assigns habitats suiting each creature's needs—sure-footed goats get mountains, rock-dwelling creatures get cliffs. This demonstrates thoughtful design matching form to function. Every creature has its place in God's ordered creation. This ecological wisdom reflects God's intelligence in creation. Christ as Creator (John 1:3) designed these intricate relationships. The Reformed understanding of creation recognizes its coherent order as evidence of intelligent design.

## Historical Context

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Rock badgers/hyraxes inhabit rocky areas in the Middle East, while wild goats navigate steep mountain terrain. These were familiar animals demonstrating God's wisdom in suiting creatures to their environments.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does observing the 'fit' between creatures and their habitats strengthen your confidence in God's design for your life?
2. What unique 'place' has God designed you to fill in His kingdom purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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לְשָׁפְנִים: מִחְסָה הַשְׁעָרִים בְּרֵימָם  
hills The high for the wild goats and the rocks are a refuge for the conies  
H2022 H1364 H3277 H5553 H4268 H8227

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 30:26** (Parallel theme): The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

**Job 39:1** (Parallel theme): Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?

**1 Samuel 24:2** (Parallel theme): Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

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