

Song of Solomon 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.

Analysis

The bride adjures the daughters of Jerusalem: 'I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.' This solemn charge appears three times in the Song (2:7; 3:5; 8:4), forming a refrain about love's proper timing. The oath formula 'I charge you' (Hebrew 'hishba'ti,' הִשְׁבַּחְתִּי) means 'I adjure' or 'I put you under oath.' The reference to 'roes' (gazelles) and 'hinds' (female deer) may serve as oath terminology (avoiding God's name) or symbolize love's delicate, free nature—wild creatures that cannot be forced. The command 'stir not up, nor awake my love' warns against artificially hastening or forcing love. Love must develop in its proper season, neither rushed nor manipulated. The phrase 'till he please' (Hebrew 'ad shetechpat,' אֲדַשְׁתַּחֲפַט) literally means 'until it delights' or 'until it desires'—love awakens when ready, not before. This verse teaches that godly love respects proper timing, processes, and readiness. It warns against premature sexual intimacy, emotional manipulation, or forced commitment before appropriate maturity.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite betrothal and marriage followed structured processes with proper timing—engagement period, parental involvement, community witness. Premature intimacy violated covenant boundaries and threatened social stability. The Song's repeated warning against rushing love would have resonated in a

culture valuing virginity before marriage and fidelity within it. The imagery of gazelles and deer—beautiful, graceful, yet wild and easily frightened—pictures love's delicate nature. Force or pressure drives it away; patience and respect allow it to flourish. Early church fathers applied this to spiritual development: God's timing in sanctification cannot be rushed, and believers must wait patiently for Christ's second coming rather than setting dates (Acts 1:7). The Puritans emphasized disciplined courtship with proper boundaries, allowing affection to develop naturally within community accountability. Modern application warns against the sexual impatience of contemporary culture and affirms the wisdom of respecting relational and sexual boundaries until marriage.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life are you tempted to 'stir up or awaken love' prematurely—rushing intimacy, forcing outcomes, or manipulating relationships?
2. How does this verse inform godly courtship, sexuality, and marriage—respecting proper timing and boundaries rather than demanding immediate gratification?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	בְּצִבָּא	וְתִירושָׁלַם	בְּנֹת	אֶתְּכֶם	הַשָּׂבִי עִתִּי
	by the roes	of Jerusalem	you O ye daughters	I charge	
	H6643	H3389	H1323	H853	H7650
וְהָאֵהָבָה	אֶת	תְּעוֹרְרִי	וְאֵם	אֵם	הַשָּׂדֶה
my love		nor awake	nor awake		of the field
H160	H853	H5782	H518	H518	H7704
					by the hinds
					H355
					שֶׁתִּתְחַפֵּץ:
					till he please
					H2654
					H5704

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 3:5: I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.

Song of Solomon 8:4: I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please.

Song of Solomon 1:5: I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.