

Song of Solomon 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.

Analysis

The bride exclaims with joy: **The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.** The phrase 'qol dodi' (קול דודי, the voice of my beloved) expresses recognition and delight—she knows his approach before seeing him. The verbs 'leaping' (medallekh, מְדַלֵּךְ) and 'skipping' (meqappets, מְקַפֵּץ) suggest joyful, energetic, eager movement. **He cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills** pictures the beloved bounding over obstacles with gazelle-like agility and enthusiasm.

This verse celebrates the beloved's eager, joyful approach—he doesn't walk slowly but runs, leaps, bounds in his desire to reach the bride. Mountains and hills represent obstacles, yet the beloved overcomes them effortlessly in his passion to arrive. This teaches that genuine love is eager, active, and persistent—overcoming barriers rather than being deterred by difficulty. Spiritually, this represents Christ's eager pursuit of His Church. He 'leaps over mountains' of sin, death, and separation to reach His beloved. The Incarnation, Cross, and Resurrection demonstrate Christ's determination to overcome every obstacle separating Him from His people.

Historical Context

Palestinian terrain features mountains and hills—the beloved's journey over them demonstrates determination and athletic vigor. The imagery of leaping like a gazelle (verse 9 makes this comparison explicit) celebrates youthful strength,

grace, and enthusiasm. Ancient readers living in mountainous regions would appreciate the energy and skill required to bound over such terrain. The bride's recognition of his voice before seeing him demonstrates intimate knowledge—she knows him so well that his approach is unmistakable. Early church fathers saw Christ eagerly coming to redeem His people—Incarnation required 'leaping down' from heaven, the Cross involved overcoming death's mountain, Resurrection meant bounding over the grave. Bernard of Clairvaux preached that Christ pursues the soul with passionate eagerness, overcoming every obstacle. The Puritans emphasized that Christ's love is active, pursuing grace—not passive waiting but energetic seeking (Luke 19:10). Modern readers see both marital ideal (spouses eagerly pursuing each other, overcoming obstacles to be together) and spiritual reality (Christ's unstoppable, passionate pursuit of His beloved Church).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced Christ 'leaping upon mountains'—eagerly overcoming obstacles to reach you and demonstrate His love?
2. In marriage or friendships, how can you demonstrate eager, active pursuit of the beloved rather than passive or reluctant engagement?

Interlinear Text

קול	דוד י	הנה	ז ה	ב א	מדלג	על
The voice	of my beloved	H2009	H2088	behold he cometh	leaping	H5921
H6963	H1730			H935	H1801	
ההרים	מקפץ	על	הגבעות:			
upon the mountains	skipping	H5921	upon the hills			
H2022	H7092		H1389			

Additional Cross-References

John 10:27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Revelation 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

John 3:29: He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Song of Solomon 2:17: Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.