

Song of Solomon 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.

Analysis

The bride continues: **My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.** The comparison to 'a roe or a young hart' (tsevi o leopher ha'ayalim, אַתְּ אָוֹן עֵפֶר הָאַיָּלִים, gazelle or young deer) emphasizes grace, swiftness, and beauty—these animals were proverbial for agility. Now arrived, **he standeth behind our wall, looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice** pictures the beloved at the dwelling, gazing through openings, seeking to see his bride and be seen by her.

The progression from distant approach (verse 8) to present arrival creates romantic tension: he has come but waits appropriately, looking through windows and lattice rather than forcing entry. This respects boundaries while expressing desire for connection. The beloved seeks mutual encounter—not content with distance but also not violating proper decorum. Spiritually, Christ stands near, seeking fellowship—He knocks but doesn't force entry (Revelation 3:20). He looks through 'windows'—revealing Himself through Scripture, creation, and providence—inviting response without coercion.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite homes had small windows with lattices (wooden or stone grillwork) providing ventilation while maintaining privacy and security. Courtship

protocols required respect for family space—the beloved couldn't simply enter the bride's quarters but sought appropriate encounter through windows. The imagery celebrates restraint alongside desire: he has come eagerly but waits respectfully. Ancient readers would appreciate this balance of passion and propriety. Early church fathers saw Christ revealing Himself through Scripture ('windows and lattices' through which we glimpse divine glory). Gregory of Nyssa wrote that we see Christ partially now ('through the lattice') but will see Him fully in the eschaton (1 Corinthians 13:12). The Puritans emphasized that Christ respects human agency—He woos, invites, reveals Himself, but doesn't violate the will. Modern readers see both courtship wisdom (respecting boundaries while pursuing relationship) and spiritual reality (Christ seeks fellowship without coercion, revealing Himself and awaiting response).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Where do you see Christ 'looking through the lattice'—partially revealing Himself through Scripture, circumstances, or His creation—inviting you to greater intimacy?
2. How does the beloved's combination of eager pursuit and respectful waiting inform godly courtship and marriage—passionate desire with appropriate boundaries?

Interlinear Text

דֹּמֶת הָ	לְאַבִּי	דָּדִי	אָוֶן	לְעֵפֶר	בְּאֵלִים	בְּהַנְּגָה	וְהַ
is like	My beloved	a roe	H176	or a young	hart	H2009	H2088
H1819	H1730	H6643		H6082	H354		
עַזְמָד	אַפְתָּלָנוּ	פָּתַלְנוּ	מִשְׁאָגָעָה	מִן	בְּחַלְגָּוֹת		
behold he standeth	behind	our wall	he looketh forth	H4480	at the windows		
H5975	H310	H3796	H7688			H2474	
מִצְאֵי	בְּחַבְקִים						
shewing	H4480	himself through the lattice					
H6692		H2762					

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 8:14: Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

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.

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