

Song of Solomon 3:5

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 repeats her adjuration: '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 refrain (appearing in 2:7; 3:5; 8:4) emphasizes love's proper timing. The context here follows the bride's successful search for her beloved (verses 1-4), celebrating reunion after separation. The warning still applies: don't force or manipulate love's rhythms. Even within committed relationship, intimacy requires mutual readiness and appropriate timing. The verse teaches that covenant love respects both partners' readiness, never coercing or demanding beyond what is freely given. Spiritually, it reminds believers that God's timing in spiritual development and answered prayer cannot be rushed through human manipulation.

Historical Context

The repetition of this refrain creates structure in the Song, marking transitions between sections. Ancient readers would recognize the pattern: seasons of seeking, finding, intimacy, and restraint cycle throughout courtship and marriage. The emphasis on not awakening love prematurely appears especially after intimate union (verse 4 describes bringing the beloved into chambers), suggesting that even within marriage, respect for the beloved's timing and readiness remains crucial. Early church fathers applied this to spiritual maturity—God's work in the soul progresses at His pace, not ours. The Reformers emphasized that

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Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 2:7: 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.

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