

Song of Solomon 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins.

Analysis

Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins (שְׁנַי שְׁדֵיךְ כְּשַׁנְיִי עֲפָרִים)—this exact phrase repeats from 4:5, demonstrating how covenant love returns again and again to celebrate the beloved's beauty without growing tired or bored. The Hebrew opharim (עֲפָרִים, young roes/fawns) and to'omey tseviyah (תְּאַמִּי, twins of a gazelle) emphasize gracefulness, symmetry, and natural beauty. Gazelles were celebrated for elegance and gentleness.

The repetition of this imagery from earlier in the Song teaches an important principle: covenant love doesn't need constant novelty to maintain passion. Rather, it finds fresh delight in contemplating the beloved's unchanging beauty. The bridegroom's continued celebration of what he's praised before models the biblical pattern of renewed appreciation. This counters the cultural lie that familiarity breeds contempt or boredom. In Christ's relationship with His Church, He continually delights in what He's created and redeemed (Zephaniah 3:17).

Historical Context

Gazelles (Hebrew tsevi) were native to Israel and symbolized grace, beauty, and swiftness. They appear frequently in Scripture as emblems of loveliness (2 Samuel 1:19; Proverbs 5:19). The Song's repeated use of this imagery (4:5; 7:3) demonstrates that ancient love poetry valued familiar themes and recurring praise. Unlike modern culture's obsession with novelty, ancient literature often found beauty in repetition and variation on established themes. The emphasis on 'twins' highlights perfect symmetry and paired beauty. Church interpretation saw the two

breasts as Old and New Testaments (both nourishing), or as love for God and neighbor (the two great commandments), or as contemplation and action in Christian life.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you cultivate the kind of love that finds fresh delight in familiar beauty rather than constantly craving novelty?
2. What does Christ's repeated celebration of His Church's beauty teach about His unchanging, faithful love?
3. In what ways does biblical repetition of praise (like this verse) model healthy patterns for affirming your spouse or fellow believers?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה:	פְּאַמִּים	עַפְרִים	כְּשִׁנִּים	שְׁדִים	כְּשִׁנִּים
Thy two	breasts	Thy two	young	that are twins	roes

H8147 H7699 H8147 H6082 H8380 H6646

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 4:5: Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies.