

SERMON: HINDS' FEET

Psalm 18:33

He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.

Introduction

This Psalm is a song of thanksgiving. It is the fourth longest Psalm in the Book of Psalms. It is a psalm of "grateful retrospect." David looked back on his life and remembered how God had allowed him to survive and even thrive in spite of his many enemies. Moreover, God had forgiven him for his sins and unwise decisions. David was overwhelmed with thanksgiving and praise for God's merciful hand for repeatedly delivering him from the hand of his enemies. Included in these many deliverances are the most noted victories – his rescues from Saul.

The fact that God wrote this sentence of verse thirty-three three times in the Bible is enough to make me realize there is great truth in it. It is recorded in 2nd Samuel 22:34 and in Habakkuk 3:19. Deuteronomy 32:13 also indirectly alludes to it.

A hind is a young female red deer. The male counterpart is called a hart. They are perhaps the most agile of all the animals of Palestine. They live high among the rocky coves and crevices. They are admired for their speed and surefootedness. The eagles were admired for their power and speed of flight; the hinds were admired for their ability to navigate rocky surfaces which were impossible for any other creatures to reach. Hinds were at home among the rocky mountain peaks. They could deftly jump across wide dangerous gorges with no fear of slipping or falling. Their quick feet acted like suction cups when they landed on rocky surfaces. They were amazing to watch.

When hinds come down to ground level to graze and detect a predator, which might include a human hunter, they quickly retreat to the rocks and undoubtedly avoid capture or death.

Because of their specialized feet, hinds have special attributes. This figure of speech, "hinds' feet," when applied to believers, lets us know we have special spiritual attributes. Let's dig a little deeper into what we have already mentioned in this introduction.

Exposition

1. Hinds Live High Above Ground Level.

(If Ye Then Be Risen With Christ, Seek Those Things Which Are Above.)

(Lord, Plant My Feet On Higher Ground.)

2. Hinds Have Amazing Balance.

(Life Is A Balancing Act.)
 (Work And Family- Speech And Silence.)
 (Structure And Spontaneity.)

3. Hinds Have Amazing Agility.

(Be Ready To Share The Love Of Christ In Any Situation.)
 (Be Ready For The Rapture-It May Come Today.)

4. Hinds Enjoy What Would Frighten Others.

(They Are Very Playful On The Rocks.)
 (They Scale The Rocky Ledges And Cliffs With Ease.)

5. Hinds Always Land On Their Feet.

(All Things Work Together For Good For Those Who Love The Lord.)
 (No Weapon Formed Against Me Shall Prosper.)
 (Their Feet Are Like Suction Cups.)

Closing Statements

As we live in this ever-changing world, let us not forget it is God who makes us nimble like a young deer, so that we can escape the wilds of the devil. David made his thanksgiving to God intentional. Our gratefulness should be intentional- not an afterthought. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scriptures

2nd Samuel 22: 1-51

End Notes:

1. Here is an additional thought. A hind's escape route is always upward. On level ground a wolf or lion can easily overtake a hind, but scrambling up a rocky slope the hind will get away every time. As Christians our escape route is always upward toward the Lord, never downward into sin, hatred, resentment, or self-pity. This is a good place to say, "Amen!"
2. Here is a quote for Spurgeon. "You can be sure of your footing when you walk close to Jesus."
3. The nearest animals we have in America to compare to the hinds are the bighorn sheep in Colorado.

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