

# Deuteronomy 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat of them alike.

## Analysis

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Clarification: 'Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat of them alike.' The comparison to game animals (roebuck/gazelle and hart/deer) clarifies that non-sacrificial meat is like hunting—ritually neutral. Leviticus 11:1-47 lists clean/unclean animals for consumption, but this verse addresses ritual cleanliness/uncleanliness of persons, not animals. A ritually unclean person (e.g., recently touched corpse, had emission) couldn't eat sacrificial meat (Leviticus 7:20-21) but could eat regular meat. This prevents ritual law from becoming overly burdensome while maintaining sacredness of worship.

## Historical Context

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Game animals, being wild, weren't brought for sacrifice (only domesticated animals: cattle, sheep, goats). Eating them never involved ritual. This secular category of eating applies to non-sacrificial slaughter of domestic animals when distant from sanctuary. The distinction between ritual purity for worship versus daily life allowed normal activity to continue. Later Pharisaic tradition blurred these lines, creating extensive purity regulations Jesus critiqued (Mark 7:1-23).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How do we maintain appropriate distinction between worship (requiring special holiness) and daily life (common grace)?
2. What dangers arise when ritual requirements for worship expand to govern all daily activities?
3. How does Jesus's teaching on purity (Mark 7) clarify the heart versus external distinctions?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי כִּי לְאַתֶּן וְאַתֶּן כִּאַשְׁר רָאָה  
H389 H834 is eaten H853 Even as the roebuck H853 and the hart H3651  
אֲכַלְתֶּן הַצְבֵּי הַצְבֵּי H6643 H354  
יְאַכְלֶנּוּ בְּטַמֵּא וּרְאַתְּ יְמִתְהָרָה וְרָאַתְּ  
H398 H2931 them the unclean H2889 and the clean H3162 of them alike H398  
is eaten is eaten

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