

# Deuteronomy 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But these are they of which ye shall not eat: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

## Analysis

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**But these are they of which ye shall not eat**—The negative catalogue begins with birds of prey: **the eagle** (נְשֵׁר, nesher, possibly vulture), **ossifrage** (עֲזֵבָר, peres, bearded vulture), and **ospray** (עַזְנִיָּה, ozniyah, black vulture). These carrion-eaters symbolized death and decay, unfit for a people called to life and holiness.

The prohibition's principle extends beyond hygiene to theology: Israel must not internalize death. Just as scavengers feed on corruption, sin feeds on spiritual death. Paul echoes this: **Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness** (Ephesians 5:11). The clean/unclean taxonomy trained Israel to see creation through God's moral categories, not merely biological ones.

## Historical Context

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Raptors were associated with Canaanite divination practices (augury—reading omens from bird flight). By forbidding their consumption, God distanced Israel from pagan omen-reading and declared such birds ritually impure, reinforcing monotheistic worship.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'carrion' (toxic relationships, media, habits) feeds on your spiritual death rather than life?
2. How does categorizing creation morally (not just scientifically) shape a biblical worldview?
3. Why does holiness require not just avoiding evil but refusing even proximity to death and corruption?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	אָשֵׁר	בָּל	הַאֲכָל	בָּל	מִבְּשָׂר	מִבְּשָׂר
H2088	H834	H3808	<b>But these are they of which ye shall not eat</b>	H398	H1992	<b>the eagle</b>
						H5404
וְבָשָׂר	וְבָשָׂר	וְבָשָׂר				
and the ossifrage	and the ospray					
H6538	H5822					

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