

Deuteronomy 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind,

Analysis

The glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind—Three more birds of prey: ra'ah (רָאָה, 'glede,' possibly red kite), ayyah (אֵיָהּ, 'kite'), and dayyah (דַּיָּהּ, 'vulture'). The phrase **after his kind** (לְמִינָהּ, leminah) extends the prohibition to all species within these families, demonstrating God's comprehensive attention to detail.

The repetition emphasizes principle over mere list: holiness admits no exceptions or gray areas. Jesus applied this rigor spiritually: **If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out** (Matthew 5:29)—radical amputation of sin, not cautious negotiation. The dietary law was kindergarten training for the mature ethic: **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect** (Matthew 5:48).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures often revered birds of prey as symbols of warrior gods (Egyptian Horus, etc.). Israel's prohibition rejected this veneration, declaring even powerful creatures subordinate to YHWH's holiness standards.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Where are you tempted to negotiate with sin rather than practice radical amputation?
2. How does 'after his kind' speak to the comprehensive nature of holiness—no area of life exempt?
3. What worldly 'powers' (money, fame, success) does culture venerate that God calls unclean?

Interlinear Text

וְהִכָּאָה	וְאֵת	הָ אֵי ה	וְהַפִּי ה	לְמִינָהּ:
And the glede	H853	and the kite	and the vulture	after his kind
H7201		H344	H1772	H4327

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