

Deuteronomy 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

Analysis

The owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind—Nocturnal and predatory birds continue the list: bat hayya'anah (בַּת הַיַּעֲנָה, ostrich or owl), tahmas (טַחְמָס, night hawk), shahaf (שָׁחַף, seagull or cuckoo), nets (נֶץ, hawk). Night hunters symbolized spiritual darkness and danger—realms of demons in ancient Near Eastern thought.

Israel must **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness** (Ephesians 5:11). The prohibition against night creatures taught constant vigilance: **The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness** (Romans 13:12). Christians are **children of light** (1 Thessalonians 5:5), called to walk in daytime ethics even in a dark world.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures associated night birds with omens and demons (Lilith, the 'night demon,' connected with owls in Isaiah 34:14). By prohibiting their consumption, God distanced Israel from occult practices and superstitions surrounding nocturnal creatures.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'works of darkness' (hidden sins, secret habits) must you 'cast off' to walk as a child of light?
2. How does the modern entertainment industry romanticize spiritual darkness (occult, horror, 'dark' themes)?
3. In what practical ways can you guard against 'nocturnal' spiritual activity (temptations strongest when alone or tired)?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת

H853

בַּת

And the owl
H1323

הַעֵצָה

H3284

וְאֵת

H853

הַתַּחֲסִי

and the night hawk
H8464

וְאֵת

H853

הַשִּׁחַף

and the cuckow
H7828

וְאֵת

H853

הַנֶּץ

and the hawk
H5322

לְמִינָהוּ:

after his kind
H4327