

Deuteronomy 14:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But of all clean fowls ye may eat.

Analysis

But of all clean fowls ye may eat—The permissive conclusion contrasts with the restrictive list, emphasizing God's generosity. The Hebrew structure (כָּל־עוֹף טָהוֹר, kol-of tahor tokhelū) stresses 'all clean birds'—God restricts only what harms; His default is blessing and provision.

This principle pervades Scripture: **Every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving** (1 Timothy 4:4). Legalism inverts this—forbidding what God allows. Paul warned against those who **command to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received** (1 Timothy 4:3). The dietary laws taught discernment, not asceticism; holiness, not deprivation.

Historical Context

In the Promised Land's abundance, Israel would have access to diverse bird species—quail, dove, partridge. This verse assured them of God's provision within holiness boundaries, contrasting with Egypt's limited diet (Numbers 11:5) and wilderness manna.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's generosity (allowing 'all clean birds') guard against legalistic negativity?
2. In what areas are you tempted toward asceticism (unnecessary restrictions) rather than grateful discernment?
3. What 'good gifts' (James 1:17) has God provided that you receive with thanksgiving rather than suspicion?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	ע וְ	טָהוֹר	תֹּאכְלוּ:
H3605	fowls H5775	But of all clean H2889	ye may eat H398

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