

# Deuteronomy 14:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

## Analysis

**Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself** (נֶבֶלֶת, nevelah, carcass)—Animals dying naturally often die from disease, making their meat hygienically dangerous. But the primary concern is theological: Israel must not profit from death. They serve the **living God** (Joshua 3:10), consuming only what's actively slaughtered (life deliberately given), never passively found (death happened upon).

**Thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates**—The resident alien (גֵּר, ger) wasn't bound by full covenant law. This verse shows God's law as gracious privilege, not oppressive burden—Israel's holiness elevated them for service, not superiority. Christ fulfilled this: becoming **a curse for us** (Galatians 3:13), taking our 'carcass' status to give us life.

## Historical Context

Canaanite religions used dead animals in necromantic rituals (consulting the dead). By prohibiting consumption of carrion, God separated Israel from pagan death-worship and reinforced life's sanctity—only blood intentionally shed in sacrifice honors God.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What 'dead things' (past failures, old identities) are you tempted to 'consume' rather than leaving behind?
2. How does allowing strangers to eat what Israelites couldn't demonstrate the privilege of covenant calling?
3. In what ways did Christ 'consume' your death (take your carcass status) to give you His life?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	תִּאֵכֶל	הַ	כָּל	בְּלָה	רַ	לֹא
H3808	<b>Ye shall not eat</b>	H3605	<b>of any thing that dieth of itself</b>	H5038	<b>it unto the stranger</b>	H1616
	H398					
אֲשֶׁר	בְּשַׁעַר	יְה	תַּתֵּן	בָּה	אֲלֵיכֶם	אֲשֶׁר
H834	<b>that is in thy gates</b>	H8179	<b>thou shalt give</b>	H5414	<b>Ye shall not eat</b>	H176
מִכֶּר	לְנַכֵּר	כִּי	עַם	קָדוֹשׁ	אַתָּה	מִכֶּר
<b>it or thou mayest sell</b>	<b>it unto an alien</b>	H3588	<b>people</b>	<b>for thou art an holy</b>	H859	
H4376		H5237	H5971	H6918		
לֹא	אֱלֹהָ יְה	תִּבְשֶׂל	בָּקָל	בָּקָל	בָּקָל	לֹא
unto the LORD	<b>thy God</b>	H3808	<b>Thou shalt not seethe</b>	a kid	<b>milk</b>	
H3068	H430	H1310	H1423	H2461		
אֶתְּנוּ:						
<b>in his mother's</b>						
	H517					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 23:19** (References God): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

**Exodus 34:26** (References God): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

**Deuteronomy 14:2** (Holy): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

**Leviticus 17:15** (Parallel theme): And every soul that eateth that which died of itself, or that which was torn with beasts, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even: then shall he be clean.

**Leviticus 22:8** (References Lord): That which dieth of itself, or is torn with beasts, he shall not eat to defile himself therewith: I am the LORD.

**Ezekiel 4:14** (References God): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

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