

# 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** (נֶבֶלָה, 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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**Psalms 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	וְאָכַלָּהּ	כָּל	בְּכֵלָהּ	לִגְר
H3808	Ye shall not eat	H3605	of any thing that dieth of itself	it unto the stranger
	H398		H5038	H1616
אֲשֶׁר	בְּשַׁעַר יְיָ	תִתֶּנָּהּ	וְאָכַלָּהּ	אִו
H834	that is in thy gates	thou shalt give	Ye shall not eat	H176
	H8179	H5414	H398	
מִכֹּר	לְנֹכַר י	עַם כִּי	קָדוֹשׁ	אַתָּה
it or thou mayest sell	it unto an alien	people	for thou art an holy	H859
H4376	H5237	H3588	H5971	H6918
לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	לֹא	תִבְשֶׁל	בְּחֵיל בֶּגֶד י
unto the LORD	thy God	H3808	Thou shalt not seethe	a kid
H3068	H430		H1310	H1423
				H2461
אִמּוֹ:				
in his mother's				
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.