

Deuteronomy 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois.

Analysis

The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois. This list expands beyond domesticated animals to include wild game. God's provision extends beyond what Israel raises to include what they hunt in the wilderness and mountains.

The inclusion of wild animals demonstrates that clean status is not merely about domestication or human control. The determining factor is the animal's God-given characteristics (split hoof, chewing cud) rather than its relationship to human society.

That God permits eating wild game shows His people need not live exclusively on agricultural products. In times of scarcity or in wilderness regions, they could hunt clean animals for sustenance. This reveals God's practical wisdom in His laws.

The variety of permitted animals displays God's generosity in provision. He does not restrict His people unnecessarily but grants broad permission within the boundaries of ceremonial cleanliness.

Historical Context

These wild animals inhabited the mountains and wilderness regions of Canaan and surrounding areas. Hunting supplemented agricultural food sources, particularly in less fertile regions or during military campaigns.

Archaeological evidence confirms these species lived in ancient Near East and were hunted for food by various peoples, though only Israel restricted their diet according to God's ceremonial laws.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does inclusion of wild animals reveal about the basis for clean and unclean designations?
2. How does God's permission to eat hunted game show practical wisdom in His laws?
3. What does the variety of permitted animals teach about God's generous provision?
4. How might these regulations have affected daily life and economic practices in ancient Israel?
5. What principle about God's provision do we see in His granting multiple food options within holy boundaries?

Interlinear Text

אַיִל

The hart

H354

וּצְבִי

and the roebuck

H6643

יִנְחַם יוֹר

and the fallow deer

H3180

יֶאֱקֹוּ

and the wild goat

H689

יִדִּישׁ

and the pygarg

H1788

וְתֵאֵד

and the wild ox

H8377

וְזֶמֶר:

and the chamois

H2169

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