

# Deuteronomy 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you.

## Analysis

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**Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you.**

God specifies animals that meet one criterion but not both. Despite chewing the cud, these animals lack split hooves and therefore remain ceremonially unclean. Partial compliance is insufficient.

This teaches a crucial theological principle - approaching God requires meeting all His requirements, not selecting preferred elements. Modern tendencies to customize religion by accepting some commands while rejecting others contradicts this principle. God sets the terms for relationship; humans cannot negotiate partial obedience.

The camel, hare, and coney (rock badger) were common in the region, making this prohibition practically relevant. Israelites regularly encountered these animals and needed clear guidance about their status.

Reformed theology affirms that salvation requires complete righteousness - partial obedience cannot justify. Only Christ's perfect fulfillment of all God's law provides the righteousness necessary for salvation. Our partial obedience, like these partially compliant animals, cannot make us clean before God.

## Historical Context

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Surrounding cultures ate these animals, particularly camels which were important for desert transport and trade. Israel's refusal to eat them despite their economic value demonstrated commitment to covenant law above practical convenience.

The specificity of these examples shows God's concern for clear communication - He names specific animals rather than leaving Israel to guess which creatures qualify.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does the insufficiency of partial compliance teach about approaching God?
2. How does this principle apply to contemporary ideas about customizing religion?
3. Why is Christ's complete obedience necessary for our salvation?
4. What does Israel's willingness to forgo eating economically important animals reveal about covenant faithfulness?
5. How should this principle shape our understanding of obedience to God's word?

## Interlinear Text

גַּם הַנְּבָנִים מִלְּפָנֵי תְּאַכְּלָוּ לֹא זֶה אַתָּה אָנָּה H389 H853 H2088 H3808 Nevertheless these ye shall not eat for they chew the cud H398 H5927 H1625

בָּאָרֶן בְּתִי וְאֶת בְּגָמְלָה אֶת הַשְׁסֹעַת וְפֶרֶשָׁה הַפְּרָרָה יְסוֹד

הַפְּרָא יִסְׁאַל	בְּמַאֲ יִמְׁ	הַמִּלְאָקָה	לְכָמָן
<b>but divide</b>	<b>therefore they are unclean</b>	H1992	H0

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