

# Deuteronomy 15:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt eat it within thy gates: the unclean and the clean person shall eat it alike, as the roebuck, and as the hart.

## Analysis

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**Thou shalt eat it within thy gates: the unclean and the clean person shall eat it alike, as the roebuck, and as the hart**—Blemished firstborn animals, unsuitable for sacrifice, may be eaten domestically as ordinary food. The **unclean and the clean** (ritually, not morally) may both eat—it's no longer consecrated food but common provision. Like roebuck (רֵזִי, tsevi, gazelle) and hart (אַיָּל, ayyal, deer)—wild game, never sacrificial—it's simply meat.

This principle preserves God's holiness: what's unfit for His altar becomes common use, preventing false worship. We mustn't present to God what fails His standards while claiming devotion. Yet He graciously provides—the blemished animal still nourishes the family. God rejects sub-standard worship but continues material provision, demonstrating patience: **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger** (Psalm 103:8).

## Historical Context

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By allowing domestic consumption of blemished firstborn animals, the law prevented economic loss (a defective calf still provides meat) while maintaining sacrifice standards. God's regulations are practical and gracious, not arbitrarily harsh.

## Related Passages

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

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's rejection of blemished sacrifices (demanding excellence) coexist with His gracious provision (blemished animals still feed you)?
2. What 'blemished' areas of your life must you not present as worship while God still graciously sustains you?
3. How do you distinguish between God's demand for worship excellence and His patient grace toward your weaknesses?

## Interlinear Text

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<p>בְּשַׁעַר יָרֵךְ it within thy gates H8179</p>	<p>תֹּאכֶל נֹו Thou shalt eat H398</p>	<p>הַטֵּמֵא א the unclean H2931</p>	<p>וְהַטְהוֹר and the clean H2889</p>	<p>יֹאכֵל י person shall eat it alike H3162</p>
<p>כַּצִּבִּי as the roebuck H6643</p>	<p>וְכַצִּי: and as the hart H354</p>			