

## ~BAT (36)

[Hebrew, *'ata-leph'*]

- A flying mammal that, apart from its large wings of membranous skin, resembles the mouse. The Scriptures classify the **bat** among the **unclean flying creatures** that were **not to be eaten by the Israelites**.
- And the stork, the heron according to its kind, and the hoopoe and the **bat**. (**Leviticus 11:19**)
- And the stork and the heron according to its kind, and the hoopoe and the **bat**. (**Deuteronomy 14:18**)
- About 20 different species of **bats**, *Chiroptera*, are found in Israel today.
- During the daylight hours **bats** generally roost head downward in dark caves or deserted buildings, then they come forth at dusk to hunt for food during the hours of darkness. Where large numbers of them roost in one place, there is a repulsive, mousy odor. In some caves **bat** manure has built up into layers of considerable thickness, providing a valuable source of fertilizer.
- It is doubtless because of the **bats** habit of roosting in dark places that the prophet Isaiah speaks of throwing gods of gold and silver to the **bats**. A place of darkness and uncleanness is all such idols deserve, instead of the places of honor and prominence accorded them by their deceived worshipers.
- In that day the earthling man will throw his worthless gods of silver and his valueless gods of gold that they had made for him to bow before to the shrewmice and to the **bats**. (**Isaiah 2:20**)