

~GAZELLE (125)

[Hebrew, *tsevi'*, *tsevi-yah'*, female gazelle, *tse-va 'ah'*, female gazelle, Greek, *dor-kas'*]

- Any of a variety of swift and graceful small antelope. The *Gazella dorcas*, encountered in Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, likely was familiar to the ancient Hebrews.
- This animal is about 1 meter (3.5 feet) long and stands approximately 0.6 meters (2 feet) high at the shoulder. Both male and female have lyre-shaped, ringed horns that may measure as much as 0.3 meters (1 foot) in length.
- The general coloration of this **gazelle** is pale fawn, with dark and light stripes on the face and with white underparts and hindquarters. The hair is short and smooth.
- Another variety of gazelle with which the Israelites may have been acquainted is the somewhat larger, darker, fawn-colored *Gazella arabica*.
- The speed of the **gazelle**, which ranks among the fastest of mammals, is alluded to in Scripture.
- And their possession and their dwelling places were Bethel and its dependent towns and, to the east, Naaran and, to the west, Gezer and its dependent towns, and Shechem and its dependent towns clear to Gaza and its dependent towns. (1 Chronicles 7:28)
- The swiftness of Joab's brother Asahel and of certain Gadites was likened to that of the **gazelle**.
- Now the three sons of Zeruiah happened to be there, Joab and Abishai and Asahel, and Asahel was swift on his feet, like one of the **gazelles** that are in the open field. (2 Samuel 2:18)
- And there were some of the Gadites that separated themselves to David's side at the place difficult to approach in the wilderness, valiant, mighty men, army men for the war, keeping the large shield and the lance ready, whose faces were the faces of lions, and they were like the **gazelles** upon the mountains for speed. (1 Chronicles 12:8)

- **Babylon's fall was foretold to cause her foreign supporters and hangers-on to flee like a **gazelle** to their respective lands.**
- **And it must occur that, like a **gazelle** chased away and like a flock without anyone to collect them together, they will turn, each one to his own people, and they will flee, each one to his own land. (Isaiah 13:14)**
- **This creature is also cited as an example of acting quickly so as to avoid being ensnared.**
- **Deliver yourself like a **gazelle** from the hand and like a bird from the hand of the birdcatcher. (Proverbs 6:5)**
- **Probably with reference to its beauty and gracefulness, the **gazelle** figures in certain vivid descriptions contained in;**
- **My dear one is resembling a **gazelle** or the young of the stags. Look! This one is standing behind our wall, gazing through the windows, glancing through the lattices. (Song of Solomon 2:9)**
- **Also contained in the;**
- **Your two breasts are like two young ones, the twins of a female gazelle, that are feeding among the lilies. (Song of Solomon 4:5)**
- **Your two breasts are like two young ones, the twins of a female **gazelle**. (Song of Solomon 7:3)**
- **The **gazelle** is also mentioned in the oath under which the Shulammite placed the daughters of Jerusalem, in effect obligating them by all that is beautiful and graceful.**
- **I have put you under oath, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the female **gazelles** or by the hinds of the field, that you try not to awaken or arouse love in me until it feels inclined. (Song of Solomon 2:7)**
- **I have put you under oath, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the female **gazelles** or by the hinds of the field, that you try not to awaken or arouse love in me until it feels inclined. (Song of Solomon 3:5)**

- By the terms of the Law given through Moses, the **gazelle** could be used for food.
- Only whenever your soul craves it you may slaughter, and you must eat meat according to the blessing of Yehowah your God that he has given you, inside all your gates. The unclean one and the clean one may eat it, like the **gazelle** and like the stag. (**Deuteronomy 12:15**)
- Only in the way that the **gazelle** and the stag may be eaten, so you may eat it, the unclean one and the clean one together may eat it. (**Deuteronomy 12:22**)
- This is the sort of beast that you may eat, the bull, the sheep and the goat. (**Deuteronomy 14:4**)
- The stag and **gazelle** and roebuck and wild goat and antelope and wild sheep and chamois. (**Deuteronomy 14:5**)
- Inside your gates you should eat it, the unclean one and the clean one together, like the **gazelle** and like the stag. (**Deuteronomy 15:22**)
- It constituted one of the regularly provided meats for Solomon's sumptuous table.
- And Solomon's food for each day regularly proved to be thirty cor measures of fine flour and sixty cor measures of flour. (**1 Kings 4:22**)
- Ten fat cattle and twenty pastured cattle and a hundred sheep, besides some stags and **gazelles** and roebucks and fattened cuckoos. (**1 Kings 4:23**)