

## ~HOPOE (74)

(hoo'poe) [Hebrew, *du-khi-phath*]

- About the size of a slender pigeon, the **hoopoe**, *Upupa epops*, is a somewhat cinnamon-colored bird, distinctively marked with alternate broad bars of white and black along its wings and back.
- Its most conspicuous feature is a crest of plumes, each feather ending in a white border tipped with black, the crest running from the base of the long, slender curved bill all the way to the back of the birds head.
- Though colorfully and conspicuously dressed, the **hoopoe** is notably unclean in home and habits. Its diet of insects is obtained by probing with its sharp bill not only into the ground but also into dunghills and other filth.
- The nest gives off a disagreeable odor produced by secretions of the birds oil glands, and it also becomes foul smelling due to the birds failure to clean the nest of excrement.
- Thus, while not a bird of prey nor an eater of carrion, the **hoopoe** was included among the birds listed as unclean for food in the Mosaic Law.
- And these are what you will loathe among the flying creatures. They should not be eaten. They are a loathsome thing: the eagle and the osprey and the black vulture. (**Leviticus 11:13**)
- And the stork, the heron according to its kind, and the **hoopoe** and the bat. (**Leviticus 11:19**)
- But these are the ones of which you must not eat: the eagle and the osprey and the black vulture. (**Deuteronomy 14:12**)
- And the stork and the heron according to its kind, and the **hoopoe** and the bat. (**Deuteronomy 14:18**)
- Found throughout southern Asia and Africa and parts of Europe, the **hoopoe** migrates to Palestine about the first of March and remains until the approach of winter, when it heads southward to Egypt and other parts of northern Africa.

- The identification of this bird with the lapwing, as in the **King James Version**
- 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**)
- Is no longer followed by modern translations. The translators of the **Greek Septuagint** and the **Latin Vulgate** understood it to be the **hoopoe** [e'pops, LXX, upupa, Vg], and the Syriac and Arabic names for the **hoopoe** Syriac, *qaqupha*, Arabic, *hudhudu*, also confirm this identification.
- Some believe the **Hebrew** name for the **hoopoe**, *du-khi-phath'* is intended to represent the peculiar, somewhat dovelike cry of the bird, as is clearly the case with its name in the other languages mentioned. Others would derive the name from the **Hebrew** verb meaning pound.
- The people spread out and picked it up and ground it in hand mills or pounded it in a mortar, and they boiled it in cooking pots or made it into round cakes, and its taste proved to be like the taste of an oiled sweet cake. (**Numbers 11:8**)
- Noting the **hoopoes** practice of probing the ground for its food.