

~HUNTING AND FISHING (627)

.. Fishing

.. Fishing Was Strenuous Work

.. Figurative

- Only **after the Flood** was man authorized to hunt and fish for food.
- Every moving animal that is alive may serve as food for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- Only flesh with its soul, its blood, you must not eat. (**Genesis 9:4**)
- But even in pre-Flood times men may have engaged in **hunting** to procure animal skins for making clothing and other items.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to make long garments of skin for Adam and for his wife and to clothe them. (**Genesis 3:21**)
- After the Deluge, Nimrod was the first man to distinguish himself as, a mighty **hunter** in opposition to Yehowah.
- And Cush became father to Nimrod. He made the start in becoming a mighty one in the earth. (**Genesis 10:8**)
- He displayed himself a mighty **hunter** in opposition to Yehowah. That is why there is a saying; Just like Nimrod a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. (**Genesis 10:9**)
- Undoubtedly one who **hunted** for sport, as did later kings of Assyria, Egypt, and other lands. There is no indication that the Israelites ever **hunted** for sport, although they did **hunt** animals such as gazelles and stags for food.
- 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**)

- **Killed wild beasts in self-defense.**
- **Accordingly Samson went on down with his father and his mother to Timnah. When he got as far as the vineyards of Timnah, why, look! A maned young lion roaring upon meeting him. (Judges 14:5)**
- **Then Yehowah's spirit became operative upon him, so that he tore it in two, just as someone tears a male kid in two, and there was nothing at all in his hand. And he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. (Judges 14:6)**
- **Defense of domestic animals or of crops.**
- **And David went on to say to Saul; Your servant became a shepherd of his father among the flock, and there came a lion, and also a bear, and each carried off a sheep from the drove. (1 Samuel 17:34)**
- **And I went out after it and struck it down and made the rescue from its mouth. When it began rising against me, I grabbed hold of its beard and struck it down and put it to death. (1 Samuel 17:35)**
- **Both the lion and the bear your servant struck down, and this uncircumcised Philistine must become like one of them, for he has taunted the battle lines of the living God. (1 Samuel 17:36)**
- **Do you people grab hold of the foxes for us, the little foxes that are making spoil of the vineyards, as our vineyards are abloom. (Song of Solomon 2:15)**
- **With reference to **hunting**, the Mosaic Law restated the post-Flood prohibition on eating blood.**
- **Only flesh with its soul, its blood, you must not eat. (Genesis 9:4)**
- **That is why I have said to the sons of Israel; No soul of you must eat blood and no alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst should eat blood. (Leviticus 17:12)**
- **As for any man of the sons of Israel or some alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst who in **hunting** catches a wild**

beast or a fowl that may be eaten, he must in that case pour its blood out and cover it with dust. (**Leviticus 17:13**)

- For the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood by the soul in it. Consequently I said to the sons of Israel; You **must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh**, because the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood. **Anyone eating it will be cut off.** (**Leviticus 17:14**)
- Additionally, certain wild animals were designated as unclean for food.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; This is the living creature that you may eat of all the beasts that are upon the earth: (**Leviticus 11:2**)
- Every creature that splits the hoof and forms a cleft in the hoofs and chews the cud among the beasts, that is what you may eat. (**Leviticus 11:3**)
- Only this is what you must not eat among the chewers of the cud and the splitters of the hoof, the camel, because it is a chewer of the cud but is no splitter of the hoof. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:4**)
- Also the rock badger, because it is a chewer of the cud but does not split the hoof. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:5**)
- Also the hare, because it is a chewer of the cud but it does not have the hoof split. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:6**)
- Also the pig, because it is a splitter of the hoof and a former of a cleft in the hoof, but it itself does not chew the cud. It is unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:7**)
- You must not eat any of their flesh, and you must not touch their dead body. They are unclean for you. (**Leviticus 11:8**)
- This is what you may eat of everything that is in the waters: Everything that has fins and scales in the waters, in the seas and in the torrents, those you may eat. (**Leviticus 11:9**)
- And everything in the seas and the torrents that has no fins and scales, out of every swarming creature of the waters and out of every living soul that is in the waters, they are a loathsome thing

for you. ([Leviticus 11:10](#))

- Yes, they will become a loathsome thing to you. You must not eat any of their flesh, and you are to loathe their dead body. ([Leviticus 11:11](#))
- Everything in the waters that has no fins and scales is a loathsome thing to you. ([Leviticus 11:12](#))
- 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 red kite and the black kite according to its kind. ([Leviticus 11:14](#))
- And every raven according to its kind. ([Leviticus 11:15](#))
- And the ostrich and the owl and the gull and the falcon according to its kind. ([Leviticus 11:16](#))
- And the little owl and the cormorant and the long-eared owl. ([Leviticus 11:17](#))
- And the swan and the pelican and the vulture. ([Leviticus 11:18](#))
- And the stork, the heron according to its kind, and the hoopoe and the bat. ([Leviticus 11:19](#))
- Every winged swarming creature that goes on all fours is a loathsome thing to you. ([Leviticus 11:20](#))
- You must eat no detestable thing of any sort. ([Deuteronomy 14:3](#))
- 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](#))
- And every beast that splits the hoof and that forms a cleft into two hoofs, chewing the cud among the beasts. It you may eat. ([Deuteronomy 14:6](#))

- Only this sort you must not eat out of those that chew the cud or that split the hoof, cloven, the camel and the hare and the rock badger, because they are chewers of the cud but do not split the hoof. They are unclean for you. ([Deuteronomy 14:7](#))
- The pig also, because it is a splitter of the hoof but there is no cud. It is unclean for you. None of their flesh must you eat, and their carcasses you must not touch. ([Deuteronomy 14:8](#))
- This sort out of everything that is in the waters you may eat; Everything that has fins and scales you may eat. ([Deuteronomy 14:9](#))
- And everything that has no fins and scales you must not eat. It is unclean for you. ([Deuteronomy 14:10](#))
- Any clean bird you may eat. ([Deuteronomy 14:11](#))
- 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 red kite and the black kite and the glede according to its kind. ([Deuteronomy 14:13](#))
- And every raven according to its kind. ([Deuteronomy 14:14](#))
- And the ostrich and the owl and the gull and the falcon according to its kind. ([Deuteronomy 14:15](#))
- The little owl and the long-eared owl and the swan. ([Deuteronomy 14:16](#))
- And the pelican and the vulture and the cormorant. ([Deuteronomy 14:17](#))
- And the stork and the heron according to its kind, and the hoopoe and the bat. ([Deuteronomy 14:18](#))
- And every winged swarming creature is unclean for you. They should not be eaten. ([Deuteronomy 14:19](#))
- Any clean flying creature you may eat. ([Deuteronomy 14:20](#))

- Another Law made it wrong for the Israelites to take both the mother bird and her offspring or eggs. In many cases, her attachment to her young would have made the mother bird easy game, however, she was to be sent away, likely allowing her to have more offspring.
- In case a birds nest happens to be before you in the way, in any tree or on the earth with young ones or eggs, and the mother is sitting upon the young ones or the eggs, you must not take the mother along with the offspring. ([Deuteronomy 22:6](#))
- You should by all means send the mother away, but you may take the offspring for yourself, in order, that it may go well with you, and you may indeed lengthen your days. ([Deuteronomy 22:7](#))

See Also BLOOD

- Various implements and devices were employed for **hunting**, including bows and arrows.
- And God continued to be with the boy, and he kept growing and dwelling in the wilderness, and he became an archer. ([Genesis 21:20](#))
- So at this time take, please, your implements, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt some venison for me. ([Genesis 27:3](#))
- **Slings.**
- And David went on to say to Saul; Your servant became a shepherd of his father among the flock, and there came a lion, and also a bear, and each carried off a sheep from the drove. ([1 Samuel 17:34](#))
- And he proceeded to take his staff in his hand and to choose for himself the five smoothest stones from the torrent valley and to place them in his shepherds bag that served him as a receptacle, and in his hand was his sling. And he began approaching the Philistine. ([1 Samuel 17:40](#))
- Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or with a rope can you hold down its tongue? ([Job 41:1](#))

- An arrow does not chase it away, the slingstones have been changed for it into mere stubble. (**Job 41:28**)
- Traps, nets, pits, and hooks.
- The self-exalted ones have hidden a trap for me, and ropes they have spread out as a net at the side of the track. Snares they have set for me. (**Psalms 140:5**)
- And I will spread over him my net, and he will certainly be caught in my **hunting** net, and I will bring him to Babylon and put myself on judgment with him there respecting his unfaithfulness with which he acted against me. (**Ezekiel 17:20**)
- And nations kept hearing about him. In their pit he was caught, and they proceeded to bring him by means of hooks to the land of Egypt. (**Ezekiel 19:4**)
- Finally they put him in the cage by means of hooks and brought him to the king of Babylon. They got to bring him by means of **hunting** nets, in order, that his voice might no more be heard on the mountains of Israel. (**Ezekiel 19:9**)
- Swords, spears, darts, clubs, and javelins no doubt were also used.
- Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or with a rope can you hold down its tongue? (**Job 41:1**)
- Overtaking it, the sword itself does not prove equal, nor spear, dart or arrowhead. (**Job 41:26**)
- It regards iron as mere straw, copper as mere rotten wood. (**Job 41:27**)
- An arrow does not chase it away, the slingstones have been changed for it into mere stubble. (**Job 41:28**)
- A club has been regarded by it as mere stubble, and it laughs at the rattling of a javelin. (**Job 41:29**)
- To capture animals, nets were often set up. Then a group of **hunters** would frighten the animals, commonly by making noise, so

that these ran against the nets, which were so constructed that they would fall upon the animals.

- Also, pits were dug and then camouflaged with a thin cover of sticks and earth. Animals were trapped by being made to flee over the covering. In addition, snares that entangled the animals feet were used, and a combination of pits and nets may also have been employed.
- For he will indeed be let go into a net by his feet, and onto a network he will walk. ([Job 18:8](#))
- A trap will seize him by the heel, a snare keeps hold upon him. ([Job 18:9](#))
- A cord for him is hidden on the earth, and a catching device for him on his pathway. ([Job 18:10](#))
- Round about, sudden terrors certainly make him start up in fright, and indeed chase him at his feet. ([Job 18:11](#))
- Let a cry be heard out of their houses, when you bring upon them suddenly a marauder band. For they have excavated a pit to capture me, and traps they have hid for my feet. ([Jeremiah 18:22](#))
- And Moab will certainly be annihilated from being a people, for it is against Yehowah that he has put on great airs. ([Jeremiah 48:42](#))
- Dread and the hollow and the trap are upon you, O inhabitant of Moab, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Jeremiah 48:43](#))
- Anyone fleeing because of the dread will fall into the hollow, and anyone coming up out of the hollow will be caught in the trap. For I shall bring upon her, upon Moab, the year of their being given attention, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Jeremiah 48:44](#))

See Also BIRDCATCHER

See Also TRAP

.. **Fishing**

- Among the Hebrews, **fishing** was an occupation, it is not mentioned as being done merely for sport. **Fishermen** used nets, harpoons, and spears, as well as hook and line.
- Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or with a rope can you hold down its tongue? (**Job 41:1**)
- Will you fill its skin with harpoons, or its head with fish spears? (**Job 41:7**)
- A drying yard for dragnets is what she will become in the midst of the sea. For I myself have spoken, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, and she must become an object of plunder for the nations. (**Ezekiel 26:5**)
- And I will make you a shining, bare surface of a crag. A drying yard for dragnets is what you will become. Never will you be rebuilt, for I myself, Yehowah, have spoken, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 26:14**)
- All these he has brought up with a mere fishhook, he drags them away in his dragnet, and he gathers them in his fishing net. That is why he rejoices and is joyful. (**Habakkuk 1:15**)
- Is that why he will empty out his dragnet, and does he have to kill nations constantly, while he shows no compassion? (**Habakkuk 1:17**)
- But that we do not cause them to stumble, you go to the sea, cast a fishhook, and take the first fish coming up and, when you open its mouth, you will find a stater coin. Take that and give it to them for me and you. (**Matthew 17:27**)
- Frequently **fishing** was done at night. Dragnets were let down from boats, then either they were hauled ashore or the catch of **fish** was emptied into the boats.
- Afterward the fish were sorted. Those fit for food according to the terms of the Law were kept, the unsuitable kinds were thrown away.
- Again the kingdom of the heavens is like a dragnet let down into the sea and gathering up fish of every kind. (**Matthew 13:47**)

- When it got full they hauled it up onto the beach and, sitting down, they collected the fine ones into vessels, but the unsuitable they threw away. (**Matthew 13:48**)
- But Simon in reply said; Instructor, for a whole night we toiled and took nothing, but at your bidding I will lower the nets. (**Luke 5:5**)
- Well, when they did this, they enclosed a great multitude of fish. In fact, their nets began ripping apart. (**Luke 5:6**)
- So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and assist them, and they did come, and they filled both boats, so that these began to sink. (**Luke 5:7**)
- He said to them; Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. Then they cast it, but they were no longer able to draw it in because of the multitude of the **fishes**. (**John 21:6**)
- But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not a long way from land, only about three hundred feet away, dragging the net of fishes. (**John 21:8**)
- Simon Peter, therefore, went on board and drew the net to land full of big fishes, one hundred and fifty-three of them. But although there were so many the net did not burst. (**John 21:11**)
- A net much smaller than the dragnet may have been cast by fishermen wading in the water or standing on the shore.

See Also DRAGNET

.. Fishing Was Strenuous Work

- It called for physical exertion, especially when the men had to draw in the nets filled with **fish**.
- He said to them; Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. Then they cast it, but they were no longer able to draw it in because of the multitude of the **fishes**. (**John 21:6**)
- Simon Peter, therefore, went on board and drew the net to land

- full of big **fishes**, one hundred and fifty-three of them. But although there were so many the net did not burst. (**John 21:11**)
- **Or row the boats against the wind.**
 - **Evening having now fallen, the boat was in the midst of the sea, but he was alone on the land. (**Mark 6:47**)**
 - **And when he saw them being hard put to it in their rowing, for the wind was against them, about the fourth watch of the night he came toward them, walking on the sea, but he was inclined to pass them by. (**Mark 6:48**)**
 - **At times **fishermen** toiled all night without catching anything.**
 - **But Simon in reply said; Instructor, for a whole night we toiled and took nothing, but at your bidding I will lower the nets. (**Luke 5:5**)**
 - **Simon Peter said to them; I am going **fishing**. They said to him; We also are coming with you. Out they went and got aboard the boat, but during that night they caught nothing. (**John 21:3**)**
 - **Afterward nets had to be dried and repaired.**
 - **And it must occur that fishers will actually stand alongside it from En-gedi even up to En-eglaim. There will come to be a drying yard for dragnets. In their kinds their fish will prove to be, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. (**Ezekiel 47:10**)**
 - **Going on also from there he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. (**Matthew 4:21**)**
 - **The fishermen Peter, Andrew, James, and John worked together as partners.**
 - **Walking alongside the sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, letting down a fishing net into the sea, for they were fishers. (**Matthew 4:18**)**
 - **Going on also from there he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with**

**Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.
(Matthew 4:21)**

- **Going aboard one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to pull away a bit from land. Then he sat down, and from the boat he began teaching the crowds. (Luke 5:3)**
- **So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and assist them, and they did come, and they filled both boats, so that these began to sink. (Luke 5:7)**
- **And likewise both James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were sharers with Simon. But Jesus said to Simon; Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive. (Luke 5:10)**
- **On at least one occasion seven of Jesus disciples, including Nathanael and Thomas, fished together.**
- **There were in company Simon Peter and Thomas, who was called The Twin, and Nathanael from Cana of Galilee and the sons of Zebedee and two others of his disciples. (John 21:2)**
- **Simon Peter said to them; I am going fishing. They said to him; We also are coming with you. Out they went and got aboard the boat, but during that night they caught nothing. (John 21:3)**
- **One of the two fishermen mentioned but not identified at;**
- **There were in company Simon Peter and Thomas, who was called The Twin, and Nathanael from Cana of Galilee and the sons of Zebedee and two others of his disciples. (John 21:2)**
- **May have been Peter's brother Andrew, the other perhaps was Philip, as suggested by the fact that his home was in Bethsaida meaning, House of the Hunter or, Fisherman.**
- **The next day he desired to depart for Galilee. So Jesus found Philip and said to him; Be my follower. (John 1:43)**
- **Now Philip was from Bethsaida, from the city of Andrew and Peter. (John 1:44)**

.. **Figurative**

- **Fishing** may represent military conquest.
- The Sovereign Lord Yehowah has sworn by his holiness; Look! There are days coming upon you, and he will certainly lift you up with butcher hooks and the last part of you with **fishhooks**. (**Amos 4:2**)
- And why do you make earthling man like the **fishes** of the sea, like creeping things over whom no one is ruling? (**Habakkuk 1:14**)
- All these he has brought up with a mere **fishhook**, he drags them away in his dragnet, and he gathers them in his fishing net. That is why he rejoices and is joyful. (**Habakkuk 1:15**)
- On the other hand, Jesus likened the work of making disciples to fishing for men.
- And he said to them; Come after me, and I will make you **fishers of men**. (**Matthew 4:19**)
- Here I am sending for many **fishers**, is the utterance of Yehowah, and they will certainly **fish** for them, and afterward I shall send for many hunters, and they will certainly **hunt** them from every mountain and from every hill and out of the clefts of the crags. (**Jeremiah 16:16**)
- Where the reference is to Yehowah's sending for many **fishers** and **hunters**, may be understood either in a favorable or an unfavorable sense.
- If this text is directly related to verse 15, which speaks about the restoration of the Israelites to their land, then the allusion is to the searching out of the repentant Jewish remnant.
- Otherwise, the **fishers** and **hunters** are enemy forces sent out to find the unfaithful Israelites, thus allowing none of them to escape Yehowah's judgment.
- And, look! There were six men coming from the direction of the upper gate that faces to the north, each one with his weapon for smashing in his hand, and there was one man in among them clothed with linen, with a secretary's inkhorn at his hips, and they proceeded to come in and stand beside the copper altar.

(Ezekiel 9:2)

- **And as regards the glory of the God of Israel, it was taken up from over the cherubs over which it happened to be to the threshold of the house, and he began calling out to the man that was clothed with the linen, at whose hips there was the secretary's inkhorn. (Ezekiel 9:3)**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to him; Pass through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and you must put a mark on the foreheads of the men that are sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done in the midst of it. (Ezekiel 9:4)**
- **And to these others he said in my ears; Pass through the city after him and strike. Let not your eye feel sorry, and do not feel any compassion. (Ezekiel 9:5)**
- **Old man, young man and virgin and little child and women you should kill off, to a ruination. But to any man upon whom there is the mark do not go near, and from my sanctuary you should start. So they started with the old men that were before the house. (Ezekiel 9:6)**
- **And he said further to them; Defile the house and fill the courtyards with the slain ones. Go forth! And they went forth and struck in the city. (Ezekiel 9:7)**