

~KITE (76)

[Hebrew, 'ai-yah', black kite, da- 'ah', red kite, and perhaps dai-yah', glede, likely a variety of kite]

- The **kite** is a bird of prey and scavenger combined. Both the black **kite** and the red **kite**, the common varieties found in Palestine, are included among the unclean birds according to the 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 red **kite** and the black **kite** according to its kind. (Leviticus 11:14)
- 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)
- The Deuteronomy list contains *ra- 'ah'* in place of *da- 'ah'*, as in Leviticus, but this is considered to be probably due to a scribal substitution of the Hebrew equivalent of **r** for **d** the letters being very similar in appearance.
- The Hebrew name 'ai-yah' is believed to be in imitation of the piercing cry of the black **kite**, classified by ornithologists as *Milvus migrans*.
- The original meaning of the Hebrew name *da- 'ah'* is uncertain, but it is suggested that it indicates a swooping or darting flight, as in the expression, he came darting from, Hebrew, *da- 'ah'*, upon the wings of a spirit
- And he came riding upon a cherub and came flying, and he came darting upon the wings of a spirit. (Psalms 18:10)
- And in references to the pouncing of the eagle.
- Yehowah will raise up against you a nation far away, from the end of the earth, just as an eagle pounces, a nation whose

tongue you will not understand. (**Deuteronomy 28:49**)

- For this is what Yehowah has said; Look! Just like an eagle that pounces, someone must also spread his wings over Moab. (**Jeremiah 48:40**)
- Look! Just like an eagle someone will ascend and pounce down, and he will spread out his wings over Bozrah, and the heart of the mighty men of Edom will actually become in that day like the heart of the wife having distress in childbirth. (**Jeremiah 49:22**)
- The name thus points to a bird of prey, and Koehler and Baumgartner [*Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros*, Leiden, 1958, p. 198] suggest the red **kite** *Milvus milvus*.
- Job uses the black **kite** as an example of superior sharp-sightedness, while showing that man's ingenuity and his search for wealth lead him into underground paths that even the farseeing birds of prey cannot see.
- A pathway, no bird of prey has known it, nor has the eye of a black **kite** caught sight of it. (**Job 28:7**)
- Most black **kites** pass through Palestine to spend the winter in Africa. An increasing number winter in Israel. They build their nests in the forks of tall trees and store food in the nest before laying eggs. The red **kite**, a rare winter visitor, is a reddish-brown bird, barred with black, with a grayish-white head.