

~PORCUPINE (125)

[Hebrew, *qip-podh'*]

- **A large rodent distinguished by its protective spines or quills.** There is considerable dispute as to the exact meaning of the Hebrew word *qip-podh'*, variously rendered, **bittern**, KJ, DA, **bustard**, NE, **hedgehog**, AT, LE, and **porcupine(s)**, AS, NW.
- And I will make her a possession of **porcupines** and reedy pools of water, and I will sweep her with the broom of annihilation, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. (**Isaiah 14:23**)
- And the pelican and the **porcupine** must take possession of her, and long-eared owls and ravens themselves will reside in her, and he must stretch out over her the measuring line of emptiness and the stones of wasteness. (**Isaiah 34:11**)
- And in the midst of her, droves will certainly lie stretched out, all the wild animals of a nation. Both pelican and **porcupine** will spend the night right among her pillar capitals. A voice will keep singing in the window. There will be devastation at the threshold, for he will certainly lay bare the very wainscoting. (**Zephaniah 2:14**)
- In the light of Hebrew etymology, G. R. Driver rejects the rendering, **bittern**, and suggests that the Hebrew *qip-podh'* may apply both to the **porcupine** and to a bird.
- But he recommends, **ruffed bustard**, as a likely translation for *qip-podh'* in the above texts. [Palestine Exploration Quarterly, London, 1955, p. 137] Koehler and Baumgartner prefer, **hedgehog** at, [Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros, Leiden, 1958, p. 845]
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- But **short-eared owl** at;
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- That one **Hebrew** word may apply to two entirely different animals is illustrated by the term *tin-she'meth*, which denotes both a flying creature, the swan, and a swarming creature, the chameleon.
- And the swan and the pelican and the vulture. (**Leviticus 11:18**)
- And the gecko fanfoot and the large lizard and the newt and the sand lizard and the chameleon. (**Leviticus 11:30**)
- Despite the uncertainty, however, there is good basis for consistently translating *qip-podh'* as either **porcupine** or **hedgehog**, rather than **bittern**.
- Both older and modern lexicons generally list **hedgehog** or **porcupine** as defining *qip-podh'* in all cases. These renderings have the support of the **Greek Septuagint** and the **Latin Vulgate**, as well as of **Hebrew** etymology and related languages such as **Aramaic**, **Arabic**, and **Ethiopic**.
- On the basis of inferences drawn from,
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- Regarding the desolation of Babylon and Nineveh, some raise the objection that the **porcupine**, or the **hedgehog**, could not be the animal intended, since this creature does not frequent reedy pools of water, nor can it sing or climb to the top of columns. However, according to;

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- Not the reedy pools but Babylon was to become the possession of **porcupines**. One explorer of Babylon's ruins reported finding **quantities** of **porcupine** quills.
- Similarly, the reference to a voice singing in the window at desolated Nineveh can apply to any bird that might perch in a deserted window or even to the sound of the wind and need not apply to the porcupine.
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- As to the **porcupines** spending the night among the pillar capitals the top portion of the pillars, it must be remembered that the picture drawn is of a city in ruins. Hence, it is certainly possible that the pillars are here regarded as fallen to the ground.