

~SWAN (67)

[Hebrew, *tin-she'meth*, Greek, *por·phy·ri´on*]

- **A large, graceful water bird with a long, slender curving neck. Some swans may weigh as much as 18 kilograms (40 pounds) and may have a wingspan of about 2.5 meters (8 feet).**
- The Hebrew name, *tin·she´meth*, appearing in the list of unclean flying creatures.
- 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 swan and the pelican and the vulture. (**Leviticus 11:18**)
- But these are the ones of which you must not eat. the eagle and the osprey and the black vulture. (**Deuteronomy 14:12**)
- The little owl and the long-eared owl and the swan. (**Deuteronomy 14:16**)
- Is from a root meaning, **pant**.
- I have kept quiet for a long time. I continued silent. I kept exercising self-control. Like a woman giving birth I am going to groan, pant, and gasp at the same time. (**Isaiah 42:14**)
- It may describe the **swan** with its loud hissing sound, made when the bird is excited or angered, and is so rendered in a number of translations, **KJ, DA, LE, NW, RO, YG**. This identification dates back at least to the **Latin Vulgate**, in which Jerome rendered the **Hebrew *tin·she´meth***.
- And the **swan** and the pelican and the vulture. (**Leviticus 11:18**)
- By the Latin word *cycnus*, **swan**. The earlier **Greek Septuagint** here reads, **purple-colored bird**, **Greek *por·phy·ri´on***, evidently the **purple gallinule**, *Porphyrio porphyrio*. However, both of these ancient versions translate, *tin·she´meth* as, **ibis** at;
- The little owl and the long-eared owl and the swan. (**Deuteronomy 14:16**)

- Thus showing their uncertainty. The **swan**, though found in Palestine, is not common there in modern times. Because of this, and also because the **swan** is primarily a vegetarian, many modern translators prefer to identify the *tin'she'meth* with the **water hen**, **RS**, **Mo**, **eagle-owl**, **AT**, **ibis**, **JB**, or other birds known to be either carnivorous or scavengers.

- However, the rarity of the appearance of **swans** in Palestine in modern times is not a certain evidence that they were not more common there in ancient times. Likewise, it must be recognized that the view that the classification of certain birds as unclean depended upon their being either raptorial or scavengers is only a deduction and is not directly stated in the Bible.

- In addition to its usual diet of seeds, roots of water plants, and worms, the swan is known to feed on shellfish.