

## GOD'S WORD ON HUNTING

There have been some articles written that equate the killing of wild game to the personality traits of Nimrod and Esau whom the Scriptures say were "*mighty and cunning hunters*" (Gen.10:9; 25:27). Therefore it is proposed that Christians should not hunt game animals on the claim that hunting is an evil act done only by those who enjoy shedding blood. This opinion is the result of the leftist anti-gun lobby among us with their distorted view of nature's reality and their propensity to legislate within an arena they know little, if anything, about. Our Christian American pioneer forefathers carved a great nation out of a wilderness, and the hunting of game for provision as they traveled westward played no small part in what they did. The Biblical depiction of evil Nimrod and Esau being "*mighty hunters*" has absolutely no reference to responsible hunting in the least.

For a person to be best known his entire life as "A Mighty Hunter" would mean that he is not occasionally seeking nature's provision to feed his family, but rather he is first and foremost a professional big game trophy hunter who kills for the purpose of killing. Additionally, in Nimrod's case we aren't even told that his hunting was for animals, rather many Bible commentaries point out the original Hebrew language context (Gen.10:9) in that Nimrod was a tyrant hunter of men being that Nimrod was a "*mighty hunter against God.*" (the antithesis of Christ who has come to set men free. John 8:36; Gal.5:1). Basically, this type of personality likes to shoot anything that crosses his path, and it is this sort who gives responsible game hunting a bad name. Acquiring a famed title recorded for posterity as "A Mighty Hunter" does not refer to a man who works his land, has domestic animals as well, tends much to the crops, yet will bring home a turkey or a deer as part of what Yahweh Almighty has given us as wholesome food. That type of person is a conscientious husbandman of nature with knowledge of providing a varied diet for his family. This is a far cry from a compulsive trophy hunter who will kill an animal or man for target practice, or merely take game for antlers, or ivory and is recognized everywhere as a "Mighty Hunter". Nimrod and Esau obviously earned that distinction by their actions, which actions matched the rest of their degenerate personalities.

God Himself tells us that hunting game is fine. With respect to appropriate provision of clean game meat when needed, of the animals listed for our consumption in Deuteronomy 14:2-5 given by Yahweh God, ten such animals are mentioned.(there are more listed elsewhere) Of the ten that are clean for eating, seven are wild game animals not raised in captivity, but rather they would need to be hunted in the field with Yahweh God giving the "OK" to do so. The "hart, roebuck, fallow deer, wild goat, pygarg, wildox, and chamois" are of the antelope, mountain goat, or deer species. See below.

Deut.14:2 *"thou art an holy people unto Yahweh thy God, and Yahweh hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.*

*3 Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.*

*4 These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox, the sheep, and the goat,*

*5 The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois"*

Therefore, Yahweh certainly did expect His people to make use of the wild game bounty of the land as food, and He even gives this natural rule about hunting to enhance the local ecology (leave the area clean):

Leviticus 17:13 *"And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust."*

Today, hunting with careful regard is a great way to stay sharp on firearm usage. It most certainly beats having our sons and daughters being stuck inside the house glued to a video game or hours of mindless TV nonsense. It is also a way to avoid consuming the harmful chemicals, and hormones found in supermarket meats, which chemicals pollute our bodies contributing to illness. Scriptural hunting when done responsibly and with a humane quick kill is a worthy Christian American tradition.