

**Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen
(Old Testament)**

Genesis 9:3

Meat to Eat

Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herb.

Prior to the Great Flood, plants were the main food source for mankind and animals (Genesis 1:29-30). It was God's design. After the Flood, God gave people His permission to eat meat. With the giving of this permission came the expectation of stewardship. And Noah set the standard.

If Noah and his family had immediately started barbequing to their hearts' delight, there would soon have been no animals left to populate the earth. Eat one cow and how will little cows be made? Eat one chicken and how will little chickens be made? With that fairly well established fact, Noah immediately began farming and ranching. That's a pretty tall order with a pair of this and a pair of that.

But first, Noah took from the surplus of clean animals and offered burnt offerings to the Lord (Genesis 7:2-3; Genesis 8:20). God was pleased with this and responded by blessing Noah and his family (9:1-3). The blessing included something new for mankind: animals may be used for food. This is where stewardship comes in.

We have seen the effects of habitat destruction, uncontrolled market hunting, and poaching. These are not acts of stewardship. These are not part of God's plan for us. God's command has not changed: *I have given you all things, even as the green herb*. As in Noah's day, we too must practice good stewardship over the animals that provide meat to eat. That's a lot of work with a lot of animals that provide a lot of different meat.

And different they are. Each animal was created according to its kind (Genesis 1:21, 24-25). Believers know this. The following food facts from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game publication, *Hunt Alaska*, demonstrate this:

Species	Protein %	Fat %	Cholesterol (mg/100g*)	Calories (Kcal/100g)
Bear (black)	20.1	8.3	NA	163
Beef (lean ground)	17.7	20.7	75	264
Beef (USDA choice)	22.0	6.5	72	180
Bison	21.7	1.9	62	138
Caribou	22.6	3.4	67	127
Chicken	23.6	0.7	62	135
Deer (mule)	23.7	1.3	107	145
Deer (Sitka)	21.5	2.7	18	117
Elk	22.8	0.9	67	137
Goose (Canada)	22.8	7.1	84	161
Mallard duck	23.1	2.0	140	152
Moose	22.1	0.5	71	130
Ptarmigan	24.8	2.3	20	128
Rabbit	21.8	2.3	81	114
Sharptail grouse	23.8	0.7	105	142
Widgeon	22.6	2.1	131	153

* 100 grams equals 3.5 ounces

God has given us all kinds of meat to eat. But there was a stipulation to this blessing. The flesh having blood could not be consumed. This exception reminded people that blood gives life. God said it in Genesis 9:4 and repeated it in Leviticus 17:11.

Today, we are reminded that only one kind of blood gives life, the blood of Jesus. When He bled to death for the sins of humanity, He gave us hope for eternal life. This hope is found in the power of His blood to wash away sins (Revelation 1:5). The sight of blood should remind us of its holy history.

There are many believers and non-believers who are vegetarians. That's okay, especially if it is part of a disciplined life style, whether by choice or necessity. Some people, Christian and non-Christian alike, abstain from eating flesh that contains blood (heart, liver, kidneys). Some people oppose hunting and fishing, yet enjoy eating a good steak or seafood dinner. And some people condone eating fish and condemn eating other kinds of meat. While some of us are glad for God's permission to eat any kind of meat, we must be careful to not misuse Scripture to prove that it is right to kill animals. That may be offensive to some.

But there is no escaping the fact that without the shedding of the righteous blood of Jesus, there is no hope for a relationship with God, and no hope for salvation, and no hope for eternal life. Offensive or not, that's the way it is.

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Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Genesis 9:3

Meat to Eat

HOOK

1. What is your favorite meat to eat? If you don't eat meat, what is your favorite food?

2. List the ingredients you think should be in every bottle of barbeque sauce.

3. Describe your recipe for a pre-Great Flood chef's salad. What can you add now, post-Flood?

LINE

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Today, we are reminded that only one kind of blood gives life, the blood of Jesus. When He bled to death for the sins of humanity, He gave us hope for eternal life. This hope is found in the power of His blood to wash away sins. The sight of blood should remind us of its holy history.

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Explain your activity in conservation issues. If none, what will you do? What does God require?

How can you exalt Jesus in activities that require you to kill an animal for food? How will you respond to the person who is offended by this?

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: food meat stewardship
