

You Are What You Eat

Leviticus Chapter 11

32 times Unclean is in this chapter

It is interesting that the Creator God is not aloof but involved with man even to the point of teaching us proper diet. Notice that the diet of the Israelites was not a vegetarian.

Being unclean does not mean EVIL. It simply means not good to eat. A lion does not chew the cud or has split hoof. There for is unclean. Yet the picture of the Lord is a Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Genesis 7:2 & 8:20 - God was not making up new rules for Israel. Noah knew about clean and unclean animals. God simply codified what was already in the traditions of Israel.

- Lev 11:1 **1) Eatable and Uneatable Animals** vs 1-8
The LORD spoke again to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,
- Lev 11:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, "These are the creatures which **you may eat** from all the animals that are on the earth.
- Lev 11:3 "Whatever divides a hoof, thus making split hoofs, {and} chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat.
- **The rule is simple:** Man could eat animals that chews the cud and has split hoofs.
 - A horse is an example of an undivided hoof. Man cannot eat a horse of course.
- Lev 11:4 "Nevertheless, **you are not to eat** of these, among those which chew the cud, or among those which divide the hoof: the camel, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you.
- Lev 11:5 "Likewise, the shaphan, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you;
- The shaphan = a badger
- Lev 11:6 the rabbit also, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you;
- Three examples of unclean. Camel, Badger and Rabbit. They chew the cud but they do not have split hoofs. (they have paws)
- Lev 11:7 and the pig, for though it divides the hoof, thus making a split hoof, it does not chew cud, it is unclean to you.
- A fourth example of an unclean animal. The Pig has a split hoof but does not chew the cud.
 - **California Health and Human Services** "People get pork tapeworm from eating raw or undercooked infected pork. Infected pork may look "measly" because it has larval cysts in the muscle. The larval cysts develop into adult tapeworms in the person's intestine and produce a large number of eggs. Eggs are passed in the stool and are then spread through food, water, or surfaces contaminated with feces. People develop cysticercosis by swallowing these eggs. The eggs hatch in the small intestine and larvae migrate to various tissues throughout the body, where they form cysts. This is called *cysticercosis*. If the cysts are in the brain, the condition is called *neurocysticercosis*."
- Lev 11:8 "You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.
- Added to this prohibition of eating is the touching of the carcass of the unclean animal.
- Lev 11:9 **2) Eatable and Uneatable Fish** vs 9-12
"These you may eat, whatever is in the water: all that have fins and scales, those in the water, in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat.
- Lev 11:10 "But whatever is in the seas and in the rivers that does not have fins and scales among all the teeming life of the water, and among all the living creatures that are in the water, they are detestable things to you,
- Lev 11:11 and they shall be abhorrent to you; you may not eat of their flesh, and their carcasses you shall detest.

- Lev 11:12 'Whatever in the water does not have fins and scales is abhorrent to you.
- **The rule is simple:** water creatures that have fins and scales man can eat. Those that don't man cannot.
 - Clams, shrimp, lobster, oysters, crab and catfish (no scales), are unclean.
 - These are generally bottom feeders / scavengers

Lev 11:13 **3) Eatable and Uneatable Birds** vs 13-19

'These, moreover, you shall detest among the birds; they are abhorrent, not to be eaten: the eagle and the vulture and the buzzard,

Lev 11:14 and the kite and the falcon in its kind,

Lev 11:15 every raven in its kind,

Lev 11:16 and the ostrich and the owl and the sea gull and the hawk in its kind,

Lev 11:17 and the little owl and the cormorant and the great owl,

Lev 11:18 and the white owl and the pelican and the carrion vulture,

Lev 11:19 and the stork, the heron in its kinds, and the hoopoe, and the bat.

- **This rule is simple:** only in that there are not distinguishing features rather it is a list.
- But the list has a common trait in that these unclean birds are predators / scavengers.

Lev 11:20 **4) Eatable and Uneatable Insects** vs 20-23

'All the winged insects that walk on {all} fours are detestable to you.

Lev 11:21 'Yet these you may eat among all the winged insects which walk on {all} fours: those which have above their feet jointed legs with which to jump on the earth.

Lev 11:22 'These of them you may eat: the locust in its kinds, and the devastating locust in its kinds, and the cricket in its kinds, and the grasshopper in its kinds.

Lev 11:23 'But all other winged insects which are four-footed are detestable to you.

- **This rule is simple:** Winged insects that creep on the ground that have joint above the feet can be eaten. Those that do not are not to be eaten.
- Examples listed are locust, cricket, grasshopper are eatable.
- A fly or cockroach would be unclean.
- Deuteronomy 14:19 "All teeming (swarming) life with wings are unclean to you, they shall not be eaten."
- Some have attempted to discredit the Bible stating that insects have 6 legs. Yet careful attention point out that the eatable have two legs for jumping. Thus, 6 legs but two are for a different purpose.

Lev 11:24 **5) Becoming Unclean** vs 24-28

Man touching dead things
'By these, moreover, you will be made unclean: whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening,

Lev 11:25 and whoever picks up any of their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

Lev 11:26 'Concerning all the animals which divide the hoof but do not make a split {hoof,} or which do not chew cud, they are unclean to you: whoever touches them becomes unclean.

Lev 11:27 'Also whatever walks on its paws, among all the creatures that walk on {all} fours, are unclean to you; whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening,

Lev 11:28 and the one who picks up their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; they are unclean to you.

- **This rule is simple:** The carcasses of unclean animals are unclean. Do Not Touch Them. You will become unclean.
- It is interesting that the one who touches this is only unclean until the evening and he washes. It points out that unclean does not mean sinful. For there is no need of a Sacrifice.

- See verse 39 & 40 This goes for the clean animal as well.

Lev 11:29 'Now these are to you the unclean among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the mole, and the mouse, and the great lizard in its kinds,

Lev 11:30 and the gecko, and the crocodile, and the lizard, and the sand reptile, and the chameleon.

- More animals that are unclean, mole, mouse, lizards, gecko, crocodiles, snakes, and chameleon.

Lev 11:31 'These are to you the unclean among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead becomes unclean until evening.

Lev 11:32 'Also any **THING** on which one of them may fall when they are dead becomes unclean, including any wooden article, or clothing, or a skin, or a sack--any article of which use is made--it shall be put in the water and be unclean until evening, then it becomes clean.

Things that touch dead things

Lev 11:33 'As for any earthenware vessel into which one of them may fall, whatever is in it becomes unclean and you shall break the vessel.

- **This rule is simple:** Things can carry germs also. Clothes and other items can be washed. But your dishes utensils that carry your food will be destroyed.

Lev 11:34 'Any of the food which may be eaten, on which water comes, shall become unclean, and any liquid which may be drunk in every vessel shall become unclean.

Food or drink that touch unclean things

- This isn't just water but the KJV helps with this. "*that on which such water cometh shall be unclean*" This meaning unclean water touching some ones' food or drink,

Lev 11:35 'Everything, moreover, on which part of their carcass may fall becomes unclean; an oven or a stove shall be smashed; they are unclean and shall continue as unclean to you.

Lev 11:36 'Nevertheless a spring or a cistern collecting water shall be clean, though the one who touches their carcass shall be unclean.

Lev 11:37 'If a part of their carcass falls on any seed for sowing which is to be sown, it is clean.

Lev 11:38 'Though if water is put on the seed and a part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you.

Lev 11:39 'Also if one of the animals dies which you have for food, the one who touches its carcass becomes unclean until evening.

Clean animals that die.

Lev 11:40 'He too, who eats some of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening, and the one who picks up its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

Lev 11:41 **6) Detestable Things** vs 41-44

'Now every swarming thing that swarms on the earth is detestable, not to be eaten.

Lev 11:42 'Whatever crawls on its belly, and whatever walks on {all} fours, whatever has many feet, in respect to every swarming thing that swarms on the earth, you shall not eat them, for they are detestable.

Lev 11:43 'Do not render yourselves detestable through any of the swarming things that swarm; and you shall not make yourselves unclean with them so that you become unclean.

Lev 11:44 'For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.

- Seeming extra emphasis on the swarming things. (creeping)
- Here we see the bugs and spiders.
- No exception - all unclean

Lev 11:45 **7) Why? For Holiness** vs 45-47

'For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.'

Lev 11:46 This is the law regarding the animal and the bird, and every living thing that moves in the waters and everything that swarms on the earth,

Lev 11:47 to **make a distinction between the unclean and the clean**, and between the edible creature and the creature which is not to be eaten.

- "For I Am The LORD ...You Shall Be Holy ...I Am Holy" God claims the right to man's life.
- The whole purpose is that Israel would be HOLY or separate from the other nations.
- Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."
- Freedom Under Grace
 - Acts 10:10-16 "But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and there were in it all {kinds of} four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." Again a voice {came} to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no {longer} consider unholy." This happened three times"
 - Acts 15:19-20 The Jerusalem Council "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood."
 - 1 Timothy 4:1-5 "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, {men} who forbid marriage {and advocate} abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer."
- Has God become fickle? Don't eat! Eat! God is the same yesterday today and forever. He calls us to be holy. These are true in Moses' day as well as in Peter's day and in our day:
 - God Makes the rules
 - There are things that are Clean and things that are Unclean
 - God Desires us to be Holy
 - God desires us to remain clean so much so He is concerned about what we eat.
 - We need to "**make a distinction between clean and unclean**"
- This chapter point out that there are issues to be addressed in our Christian Walk.
 - Sin verses Righteous (Jesus Forgives Our Sin)
 - Unclean verses Unclean (Not necessarily sin but must be dealt with)
- So we are forgiven, So we are going to heaven. That is great but there is more to fine tune in our lives. Being clean verses unclean.
- John 13:5-10 - Jesus is cleaning the disciples' feet. Peter at first tries to stop Him. But Jesus insists. Peter then said why stop at the feet, how about my hands and head? Jesus said "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet"
- 1 Corinthians 10:23 "All things are lawful; but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful; but not all things edify."

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