

LEVITICUS 11: DIET AND HYGIENE LAWS.

- I. Laws regarding eating animals of land, sea, and air.
 - i. (1-8) Eating mammals.

If an animal had a divided hoof (not a single hoof as a horse has), and chewed its cud, it could be eaten; the Camel, the Hyrax, and the Hare all chew the cud, but do not have divided hooves - instead, they have paws. Pigs have a divided hoof, but it does not chew the cud. If an animal was considered unclean, one obviously could not eat it nor touch it.

- ii. (9-12) Water animals.

Any water creature having both fins and scales was clean and could be eaten; except a fish like the catfish, which has no scales. Shellfish would be unclean, so are Clams, Crabs, Oysters, and Lobsters all do not have fins and scales.

- iii. (13-19) Birds.

Specific birds (twenty in all) are mentioned as being unclean. The common thread through most of these birds is that they are either predators or scavengers; these were considered unclean.

- iv. (20-23) Insects.

Among insects, any creeping insect was unclean (such as ants). Yet if there were a flying insect with legs jointed above their feet, these could be eaten. Good examples of clean insects include the locust, the cricket, and the grasshopper.

- v. (24-28) Disposal of the carcasses of unclean animals.

Unclean animals, when dead, couldn't just be left in the community to rot; they had to be disposed of. But the people who disposed of the unclean animals had to remedy their uncleanness by washing and a brief (**until evening**) quarantine.

- vi. (29-30) More unclean animals: Reptiles and other creeping things.
 - vii. (31-38) The transmission of uncleanness from unclean animals.

From a hygienic standpoint, these laws required, for example, that if a rodent crawled inside a bowl, the bowl had to be broken. Therefore any disease the rodent carried could not be passed on to the one who would use the bowl.

- viii. (39-40) Carcasses of clean animals.

these laws apply to the natural death of clean animals, not to their butchering for food or death for sacrifice. Those handling such carcasses were ceremonially unclean and needed to be cleansed by washing and a brief quarantine.

- ix. (41-43) Creeping animals considered unclean.
- x. (44-47) The purpose for God's dietary laws.

One great purpose of the dietary laws of Israel was to sanctify - to set them apart - from other nations. It made fellowship with those who did not serve God far more difficult.

"In general it can be said that the laws protected Israel from bad diet, dangerous insects, and communicable diseases." (Harris)

1 Timothy 4:1-5 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

Mark 7:18-23 - *So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, "because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*

Romans 14:19-21 - *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.*

1 Corinthians 8:13 - *Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*