

UNCLEAN FOODS

Unclean Animals — There are certain animals (rats, snakes, pigs, shellfish, etc.) that God forbids us to eat. God calls these animals “*unclean*.”

Of the creatures that live in the WATER God says, “Whatever in the water has *fins* AND *scales*, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat” (Leviticus 11:9). Then God says that if they do NOT have fins OR scales we may NOT eat them—that they are an abomination to us (Leviticus 11:10-12). So, the only fish that we may eat are those that have *both* fins AND scales.

Of the LAND animals God says, “Among the beasts, whatever divides the hoof, having *cloven hooves* AND *chewing the cud*—that you may eat” (Leviticus 11:3). Then God says that if they do NOT have cloven hooves OR chew the cud then we may NOT eat them—for they are unclean for us (Leviticus 11:4-8). So, the only land animals that we may eat are those that have *both* cloven hooves AND chew the cud.

The eleventh chapter of Leviticus then lists all the *birds, insects, and other animals* that we may eat—called *clean animals*—as well as all those that we may NOT eat—called *unclean animals*.

God then explains that when we eat unclean animals we *defile* our bodies (Leviticus 11:43-47). And then we are told in the New Testament: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God...? If anyone *defiles* the temple of God, God will *destroy* him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

And servants of God are expected to teach God’s people these things: “And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and *cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean*” (Ezekiel 44:23).

BEASTS

Lev 11:3-8 — “Among the beasts, *whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves AND chewing the cud—that you may eat.*” [For example]: “...the camel, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean (impure) to you; ...and the swine [pig], though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you.”

FISH

Lev 11:9-11 — “These you may eat of all that are in the water: *whatever in the water has fins AND scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat.* But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination (detestable) to you. They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination.”

BIRDS

Lev 11:13-19 — “And *these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall NOT be eaten, they are an abomination:* the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, the kite, and the falcon after its kind; every raven after its kind, the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the seagull, and the hawk after its kind; the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl; the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture; the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.”

FLYING INSECTS

Lev 11:20-23 — “Yet *these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. These you may eat:* the locust after its kind, the destroying locust

after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. But ALL OTHER FLYING INSECTS WHICH HAVE FOUR FEET SHALL BE AN ABOMINATION TO YOU.”

OTHER ANIMALS

Lev 11:27-42 — “*And whatever goes on its paws, among all kinds of animals that go on all fours, those are unclean to you....* THESE ALSO SHALL BE UNCLEAN TO YOU AMONG THE CREEPING THINGS THAT CREEP ON THE EARTH: the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard after its kind; the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the chameleon.... *And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination (detestable). It shall not be eaten. Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth—these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination.*”

Deut 14:6 — “And you may eat every animal with cloven hooves, having the HOOF SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS, AND THAT CHEWS THE CUD, among the animals.”

Deut 14:3-5— “You shall not eat any detestable (abominable) thing. *These are [examples of] the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat, the deer, the gazelle, ...[and] the antelope.*”

WHY NOT EAT UNCLEAN MEATS?

Lev 11:43-47 — “You shall not make yourselves (your souls) abominable (impure) with any creeping thing that creeps [or any other unclean thing]; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, *lest you be DEFILED by them.* For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.... This is the law of the beasts and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that

creeps on the earth, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.”

1 Cor 3:16-17 — Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? *If anyone DEFILES the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

Isa 66:15-17 — [In a prophecy of the end time concerning the return of Jesus Christ to this earth]: For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many. “Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, *eating swine’s flesh [pig’s meat such as ham] and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed [destroyed] together,*” says the Lord.

Ezek 22:23-26 — [In another prophecy for the end time]: And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, say to her: ‘You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation [in the time of the Lord’s wrath at His return—“the Day of the Lord”].’ The conspiracy of her prophets [religious leaders] in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people (souls); they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; *they have NOT distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean;* and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.”

WHAT ARE TRUE SERVANTS OF GOD TO TEACH?

Ezek 44:23 — “*And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, AND CAUSE THEM TO DISCERN BETWEEN THE UNCLEAN AND THE CLEAN.*”

Lev 20:24-26 — “...I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples. *You shall therefore distinguish between clean beasts and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, AND YOU SHALL NOT MAKE YOURSELVES ABOMINABLE (DETESTABLE OR LOATHSOME) [DEFILED] BY BEAST OR BY BIRD, OR BY ANY KIND OF LIVING THING THAT CREEPS ON THE GROUND, WHICH I HAVE SEPARATED FROM YOU AS UNCLEAN (DEFILED).*”

THE NEW COVENANT

Jer 31:31-34 — “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS, AND WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Heb 10:16 — “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND IN THEIR MINDS I WILL WRITE THEM.”