

## **Leviticus 11:1-47 Eating Clean and Unclean Things Pt. 1**

During the days of Creation, YeHoVaH set in order all things and Laws to govern the world He made. This included all things that dwelled on land, in the sea, and that flew. In His wisdom, the intent and purpose for all things were a forethought, not an afterthought.

YeHoVaH revealed to the first man what he was to eat and to the animals what they were to eat as food. After the destruction of the world via the flood, YeHoVaH reestablished the food Laws for the survivors of the flood.

The Israelites, who had been in bondage for four hundred years had been subjected to the diet of Egypt and had to be reeducated as to what was food and what was not to be eaten when He brought them out of slavery.

YeHoVaH made known to His people, the nation of Israel and all who joined themselves to Israel, what their diet was to be as a new nation of people.

In this portion of Leviticus, YeHoVaH makes known the differences between clean and unclean things.

The New Testament writings do not identify or define what is to be eaten or what is considered food by the Creator.

Therefore, to understand what food is and what is not food, based on YeHoVaH's Instructions, we must go back to where God identified and defined what food was, what was to be eaten, and what was not to be eaten by humans.

Paul, in his writings to the Corinthians, instructed them on the subject matter without giving them what was identified as unclean. Paul simply stated:

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Because the New Testament writings do not identify or define what is to be eaten or what is considered food by the Creator, we must look to what YeHoVaH said and from there get an understanding of what YeHoVaH would desire for us to have.

YeHoVaH defined or determined, based on the things He had created including man and beast, what beast was designed to be eaten by the man He created.

That brings us to Leviticus Chapter 11. Chapter 11 of Leviticus instructs YeHoVaH's people in the difference between the clean and unclean amongst the beasts of the earth, the fowl of the air, the creatures of the sea, and the creeping things on the earth.

In some cases, YeHoVaH explains why some animals may be eaten and others are not but does not give an explanation for everything contained in this list, simply that we shall, or we shall not eat it.

The list does not name the clean animals that can be eaten, but only ways to recognize and distinguish them from one another via split hooves, cloven feet, and it chews the cud.

The list does not include all the unclean animals except in the previous statement and later if the animal has pawed feet.

Chapter 15 deals with the cleanness and uncleanness of mankind.

The priests had been informed of the difference between the holy and unholy, the clean and unclean, and their responsibility to teach the Children of Israel in Chapter 10:10-11.

Lev 10:8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,

Lev 10:9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Lev 10:10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

Lev 10:11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

When looking at the instructions, it is important to not add to, or diminish, or take away from them.

The purpose of giving these Instructions is found at the end of Chapter 11.

Lev 11:44 For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Lev 11:45 For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

**Scripture is clear that YeHoVaH is big on clean and unclean, holy and unholy.**

**YeHoVaH is Holy!**

**YeHoVaH wants His people to be Holy.**

Lev 11:46 This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:

Lev 11:47 To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

What we find in the beginning of the Chapter is that YeHoVaH is the One who is speaking these Instructions to Moses and Aaron. Moses recorded and instructed Israel according to what YeHoVaH had spoken.

Lev 11:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them,

YeHoVaH spoke to Moses and Aaron. Moses and Aaron heard the Words YeHoVaH spoke.

What we are reading and studying in this passage is what Moses wrote from the conversation that YeHoVaH spoke to Aaron and him.

Lev 11:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth.

- The living creatures that live on the land
- Israel and those who join themselves to Israel.

YeHoVaH gave herbs/vegetables and animals for man's diet. Some people prefer to eat only herbs/vegetables and give the impression to others that eating meat is a sin against YeHoVaH, but it is not a sin against YeHoVaH to eat meat.

The majority of the Sacrifices and Offerings presented to YeHoVaH were clean animals.

The only herb/vegetable that was presented to YeHoVaH and sacrificed on the Brazen Altar was the Grain Offering consisting of flour and oil from the olive tree; and the incense that was presented on the Altar of Incense came from herbs and trees.

YeHoVaH does not specify what beasts can be eaten, but he does specify what is forbidden to be eaten for those who choose to eat meat even though He does not specify all of the beasts that are forbidden to be eaten.

However, He specified what animals were to be offered to Him as a Sacrifice.

Lev 11:3 Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.

Parted hoof – 06536 פָּרַע parac  
{paw-ras'}

Meaning: 1) to divide, break in two 1a) (Qal) to break, break up 1b) (Hiphil) to be divided (of hoofs)

Usage: AV - divide 9, parteth 2, deal 1, hoofs 1, tear 1; 14

Clovenfooted – 08156 שָׁחַץ shaca` {shaw-sah'}

Meaning: 1) to divide, cleave, part, split 1a) (Qal) cleaving, cleft (participle) 1b) (Piel) to tear in two, cleave in two

Usage: AV - clovenfooted 3, cleave 2, rent 2, cleft 1, stayed 1; 9

'Chewing the cud' is when a portion of food returns from a ruminant's stomach to the mouth to be rechewed.

Lev 11:4 Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

Unclean – 02931 טָמֵא tame' {taw-may'}

Meaning: 1) unclean, impure 1a) ethically and religiously 1b) ritually 1c) of places

Usage: AV - unclean 79, defiled 5, infamous 1, polluted 1, pollution 1; 87

Some animals either chew the cud or are clovenfooted, but not both. Although other nations and people may eat camels, coney, hare/rabbits, and swine, YeHoVaH's people are not to eat those animals for they are unclean unto us.

Lev 11:5 And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

Coney – 08227 שָׁפָן shaphan {shaw-fawn'}

Meaning: n m 1) rock badger, coney, the hyrax

Usage: AV - Shaphan 30, coney 4; 34

## The Hare or Rabbit

Lev 11:6 And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

Lev 11:7 And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

Lev 11:8 Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.

Swine – 02386 חַזִּיר chaziyr {khaz-eer'}

Meaning: 1) hog, swine, boar 1a) swine (as forbidden food) 1b) wild boar

Usage: AV - swine 6, boar 1; 7

Swine is Pig.

There are some animals that die of itself because of old age or sickness and parts of it can be used or be given to a non-Hebrew or sold to a stranger.

Lev 7:24 And the fat of the beast that dieth of itself, and the fat of that which is torn with beasts, may be used in any other use: but ye shall in no wise eat of it.

Lev 22:8 That which dieth of itself, or is torn with beasts, he shall not eat to defile himself therewith: I am the LORD.

Dt 14:21 Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not see the a kid in his mother's milk.

Lev 11:9 These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.

All water creatures must have fins and scales, not one or the other. There are many water creatures that have fins but no scales.

Lev 11:10 And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you:

Lev 11:11 They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcases in abomination.

Abomination – 08262 שָׂקָץ shaqats {shaw-kats'}

Meaning: 1) (Piel) to detest, make abominable, count filthy, make detestable 1a) to detest 1b) to make detestable

Usage: AV - abomination 2, abominable 2, abhor 1, utterly 1, detest 1; 7

Lev 11:12 Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you.

Lev 11:13 And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the osprey,

Fowls – 05775 עוֹפֹת `owph {ofe}

Meaning: 1) flying creatures, fowl, insects, birds 1a) fowl, birds 1b) winged insects

Usage: AV - fowl 59, bird 9, flying 2, flieth 1; 71

Lev 11:14 And the vulture, and the kite after his kind;

Lev 11:15 Every raven after his kind;

Lev 11:16 And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckoo, and the hawk after his kind,

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

Lev 11:18 And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle,

Swan – 08580 תַּנְשֵׁמֶת tanshemeth {tan-sheh'-meth}

Meaning: 1) an unclean animal of some kind 1a) an unclean bird 1a1) perhaps the ibis, water-hen, species of owl, barn owl 1b) an unclean lizard 1b1) perhaps the chameleon

1c) perhaps an extinct lizard or bird, exact meaning unknown

Usage: AV - swan 2, mole 1; 3

The exact meaning of the Hebrew word for swan is unknown.

Geese or ducks are not in the list of unclean birds, nor are they mentioned in the Bible.

Lev 11:19 And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

Lev 11:20 All fowls that creep, going upon all four, shall be an abomination unto you.

Lev 11:21 Yet these may ye eat of every flying creeping thing that goeth upon all four, which have legs above their feet, to leap withal upon the earth;

Lev 11:22 Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.

Lev 11:23 But all other flying creeping things, which have four feet, shall be an abomination unto you.

Lev 11:24 And for these ye shall be unclean: whosoever toucheth the carcase of them shall be unclean until the even.

Lev 11:25 And whosoever beareth aught of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.