

Leviticus 11:1-47 Eating Clean and Unclean Things Pt. 2

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 to be 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.

YeHoVaH defined or determined, based on the things He had created, including man and beasts, which beasts were designed to be eaten by the man He created. That brings us to Leviticus 11.

Chapter 11 of Leviticus instructs YeHoVaH's people in the differences between the clean and unclean amongst the beasts of the earth, the fowls 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 differences between the holy and unholy, the clean and unclean, and their responsibility to teach the Children of Israel in Leviticus 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 not to add to, diminish, or take away from them.

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

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 want 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 Instructions that YeHoVaH spoke to Aaron and him.

In Part 1, we dealt with the beasts in Verse 2, up to the swan in Verse 18. This is where we will pick up today.

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;

YeHoVaH gave us descriptive language to be able to identify the clean and unclean after its kind.

They have four feet.

They have legs above their feet.

They fly in the air, and they leap 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.

Locust – 0697 אַרְבֵּה 'arbeh {ar-beh'}

Meaning: 1) a kind of locust, locust swarm (coll) 2) (CLBL) 2a) sudden disappearance (fig.)

2b) insignificance (fig.) 2c) activity (fig.)

Usage: AV - locust 20, grasshopper 4; 24

Bald Locust – 05556 סִלְעָם col'am {sol-awm'}

Meaning: 1) locust 1a) an edible winged locust

Usage: AV - locust 1; 1

Beetle – 02728 תַּרְגִּיל chargol {khar-gole'}

Meaning: 1) a kind of locust, a leaping creature

Usage: AV - beetle 1; 1

Grasshopper – 02284 תַּחֲבַב chagab {khaw-gawb'}

Meaning: 1) locust, grasshopper

Usage: AV - grasshopper 4, locust 1; 5

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.

Carcase – 05038 נֶבֶלָה nebelah {neb-ay-law'}

Meaning: 1) carcass, corpse 1a) of humans, idols, animals

Usage: AV - carcase 36, dead body 5, dieth of itself 4, dead of itself 1, died 1, body 1; 48

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

Lev 11:26 The carcasses of every beast which divideth the hoof, and is not clovenfooted, nor cheweth the cud, are unclean unto you: every one that toucheth them shall be unclean.

Lev 11:27 And whatsoever goeth upon his paws, among all manner of beasts that go on all four, those are unclean unto you: whoso toucheth their carcase shall be unclean until the even.

Paws – 03709 קַף kaph {kaf}

Meaning: 1) palm, hand, sole, palm of the hand, hollow or flat of the hand 1a) palm, hollow or flat of the hand 1b) power 1c) sole (of the foot) 1d) hollow, objects, bending objects, bent objects 1d1) of thigh-joint 1d2) pan, vessel (as hollow) 1d3) hollow (of sling) 1d4) hand-shaped branches or fronds (of palm trees) 1d5) handles (as bent)

Usage: AV - hand 127, spoon 24, sole 19, palm 5, hollow 3, handful 2, apiece 1, branches 1, breadth + 04096 1, clouds 1,

Bears, cats, dogs, rats, gators crocodiles, raccoons, possums, monkeys, etc.

Lev 11:28 And he that beareth the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: they are unclean unto you.

Lev 11:29 These also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind,

Lev 11:30 And the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole.

Lev 11:31 These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.

Lev 11:32 And upon whatsoever any of them, when they are dead, doth fall, it shall be unclean; whether it be any vessel of wood, or raiment, or skin, or sack, whatsoever vessel it be, wherein any work is done, it must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the even; so it shall be cleansed.

Lev 11:33 And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean; and ye shall break it.

Earthen – 02789 חֶרֶשׁ cheres {kheh'-res}

Meaning: 1) earthenware, clay pottery, shard, potsherd, earthen vessel

Usage: AV - earthen 8, potsherd 5, sherd 2, stone 1, earth 1; 17

Lev 11:34 Of all meat which may be eaten, that on which such water cometh shall be unclean: and all drink that may be drunk in every such vessel shall be unclean.

Lev 11:35 And every thing whereupon any part of their carcase falleth shall be unclean; whether it be oven, or ranges for pots, they shall be broken down: for they are unclean, and shall be unclean unto you.

Lev 11:36 Nevertheless a fountain or pit, wherein there is plenty of water, shall be clean: but that which toucheth their carcase shall be unclean.

Lev 11:37 And if any part of their carcase fall upon any sowing seed which is to be sown, it shall be clean.

The seed will be clean as long as the seed is not in water.

Lev 11:38 But if any water be put upon the seed, and any part of their carcase fall thereon, it shall be unclean unto you.

Lev 11:39 And if any beast, of which ye may eat, die; he that toucheth the carcase thereof shall be unclean until the even.

If a clean animal die, its carcass becomes unclean.

If someone eats the clean animal that dies, they must wash their clothes and will be unclean until even.

Lev 11:40 And he that eateth of the carcass of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: he also that beareth the carcass of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

Lev 11:41 And every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth shall be an abomination; it shall not be eaten.

Lev 11:42 Whatsoever goeth upon the belly, and whatsoever goeth upon all four, or whatsoever hath more feet among all creeping things that creep upon the earth, them ye shall not eat; for they are an abomination. Lev 11:43 Ye shall not make your selves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.

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.

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.

We are commanded not to eat things that are unclean.

Many items that men call delicacies are unclean.

Escargot
Beluga Caviar
Mollusk
Oysters
Clams
Prawns
Crabs
Shark fin
Prosciutto
Iberian Ham
Frog legs
Wild boar
Monkey brains
Etc.

The list goes on and on depending on the country you are in and on the import's availability.

There are many unclean things that a man may love to eat that are forbidden by YeHoVaH for human consumption. There are many things that are clean and allowed by YeHoVaH that man forbids himself from eating because they don't like them.

- Some men hate vegetables/herbs or certain green vegetables/herbs.
- Of the clean things we are allowed to eat, we are not to become a glutton.

- Eating much food causes the stomach to stretch.
- The more we eat, the more our stomach stretches; the more our stomach stretches, the more we eat.

YeHoVaH established the food laws that are allowed and that which are forbidden to be eaten.

In many cases, the only explanation is simply because He said they were either clean or they were unclean, period.

YeHoVaH gave us descriptive language to be able to identify the clean and unclean after its kind so that we can judge between the two and decide if we will obey His Commands or listen to other voices.

Flying and creeping insects can get into spaces, and if they die in our homes, we must dispose of them. If they defile anything that we use to prepare food with or consume food from, we must clean or destroy the vessels they defile by death or dying upon or falling in or upon the vessel.

Just as we can contaminate or render one another unclean, these things mentioned in this passage can contaminate or render unclean until evening.