

**ye may
eat the
locusts after
its kind**

11:4 – 47 Leviticus

~ Our last report from our Spiritual Safari began as a dietary law but ended up being a spiritual lesson of meditation on the Word of God! We didn't get very far into this chapter dealing with clean and unclean animals. When God tells us something, it's important - but when He repeats it, that means it's twice as important. We have this law repeated in Deuteronomy, but we're told what TO eat there; here, we are told what NOT to eat. Of course, clean animals chewed the cud and parted the hoof both; so, man doesn't fall into the category of a clean animal - but we have a great spiritual lesson whereby we can be a clean animal! The chewing of the cud means to meditate on the Word of God. The parted hoof speaks of the walk of the believer for the cause of Christ in the world.

What type of tracks are you leaving behind as you roam this safari? If you plan to go handing out tracts of Bible stuff, you better realize the people you hand it to will be watching your tracks as you walk away. The believer should have the divided hoof that speaks to the proper dividing of the Word of God. Their walk should be well pleasing to God. We are told to be doers of the commandments of the Lord Jesus – not hearers only. Well, let's read through a list of some of the animals they were to abstain from eating....

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.

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

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

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

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

~ Take the camel, for example. I think there's a governmental warning about smoking Camel cigarettes - and God warns about eating a camel. The thought of either one makes me lose my appetite, and I think that should be the reaction of any believer, personally. God tells them not to eat a camel; but who would WANT to eat a camel? When I remember the Lord Jesus accusing the religious rulers of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel - I have to laugh at God's Camel Brand of humor! Jesus was accusing them of breaking the Mosaic Law themselves - and making a very poignant point about Heaven - all while joking around with them! I wish I could do that. I find I'm just plain mean sometimes. The camel is lumpy and unclean, so I fit the description. That tells me I really need a Savior. What does it tell you? - Anything?

The coney was something like a rabbit and it was also forbidden from being eaten. It's certainly interesting that the group of religion that is so against pork doesn't seem to have any problem with rabbits. That's particularly strange because they are ahead of the pig on this list. Of course, the swine parts the hoof but does not chew the cud. A pig does often eat and constantly chew, and it could be misconstrued that a pig is chewing his cud but - no - that pig is just eating, that's all. It's a big relief to many people to know we can eat pork today. It is still believed to cause irritable bowels, itchy skin and even leprosy, though - but man today can eat anything he wants to eat....

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.

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:

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

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

~ It's much easier to distinguish which seafood is acceptable to eat compared to the animal list. Fish that meet this requirement are good to eat today. Things that crawl around in the water were forbidden and that would eliminate most of the creatures found in the sea. We don't do it this way and we have all sorts of problems as a result. We won't belabor this unimportant detail – go have a lobster – I'll have one with you! No examples of clean and unclean fish are given, and I think the reason why is obvious: it's pretty clear cut and simple. They got fish from the Sea of Galilee, the Mediterranean Sea and out of the Jordan River. Jerusalem has a specific fish gate, and if you can't guess what went on there – I'll tell you - fish came into the city! Remember, Nehemiah had a real problem with fisherman bringing in their fish on the Sabbath Day.

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like a net cast into the sea and gathereth every kind; and when it was full, they took it to shore and began to cast the bad away and keep the good. Well, this is the rule they used to determine what bad was to be cast away. The only question is: does it have fins and scales? The propulsion of the life of a believer is by the Holy Spirit - which the fins speak of - and a believer is clothed in the righteousness of Christ – the scales. What a wonderful, fantastic picture we have here....

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 ospray,

14 And the vulture, and the kite after his kind;

15 Every raven after his kind;

16 And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

17 And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl,

18 And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle,

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

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

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;

~ The birds list is almost comical; I don't have a problem staying away from a single one of those. It would seem the laws were practical for all nations surrounding Israel and most of them do adhere to this law today simply out of preference. We do have some gray areas here, however, or so it would seem; what about an osafraze or a cuckow? You wouldn't know either one if it landed on your plate. An osafraze is a sea eagle, I'm told; I have lived near the beach my entire life and I'm not sure I've ever seen one. What if a cuckow is a chicken? That would be a real problem.

Those people who like to pretend they practice the Levitical Dietary Commandments will all be convicted by what they eat. I promise you that. See, we know the cuckow is a crow; and I'll leave that off my menu, too. Eat what you want to eat, friends; but do it to the glory of God - and stop being so pious and hypocritical about food. The point of all this is to teach the children of Israel to make a distinction in what God commands! The children of Israel are being forced to make a decision with this law. What decision have you made as a believer? What about your conduct? You will have to make a decision whether you accept Christ or reject Him. You decide whether or not you're going to study the Word of God. You're going to have to decide whether you are going to walk in the way that is well pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ, too. All of those choices for our lives are wrapped up right here in this little section of Scripture....

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.

~ These are just different species of locusts with a protuberance in various places; some even had a tail. These were permitted to be eaten, but if we're having lunch together - then let's not have fried grasshopper! If you want to eat them religiously or ceremonially, be my guest, but I won't be yours. The children of Israel are told to be very careful of this distinction and that is the point God is making here....

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

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

25 And whosoever beareth ought of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

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.

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.

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

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,

30 And the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

~ Notice they are commanded to not even touch the carcass of an unclean animal at all. The reason is because death is the result of sin and the dead body of an unclean animal represents that defilement. This is one law that was restated emphatically after the children of Israel returned from Babylonian captivity. This is something we really need to understand correctly. The principle is that contact with the unclean will make the

individual unclean. In the days of Haggai the prophet, the priests were asked, concerning the law, if a man had a fish in his skirt pocket and he then brushes the carcass of an unclean animal, will the fish be made unclean; and the priests answered, "... no." Likewise, contact with that which is holy isn't going to make YOU holy! But remember, Haggai also asked, "... if one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall he be unclean?" - and the priests answered and said, "it shall be unclean!"

When the clean touches the unclean, the clean becomes unclean. The clean does not communicate one single bit of cleanliness to the unclean. You can't rub goodness in, friends! However, the unclean certainly DO affect the clean. An unrighteous man cannot do righteous works that are acceptable to God. This law operates in every realm. In the natural realm, you can't make a gallon of dirty water clean by adding another whole gallon of clean water! But you can make a clean gallon dirty with just a drop of the unclean water. We don't cure the measles by bringing a healthy person into the room! That's ridiculous.

Christians walk in a world where we can EASILY become completely contaminated very quickly. The idea that a Christian can dabble in the world of drugs and drinking and pornography and dirty jokes and carousing and living for self in any way, shape or form is a lie from hell. A young couple were "going together" - but they weren't married - and they went to a night club. They said they were going to reach the lost for Christ - but they did not reach the lost people. The female got drunk and ran off with another man! Jude says there are those saved, so as by fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh! If you think you can mix and mingle with this stuff you are woefully mistaken. We need to be acutely aware of our walk in our Christian lives today, friends....

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

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

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

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.

43 Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth; neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.

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.

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.

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:

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.

~ You may have noticed we left the dining room and went in the kitchen where the meals were prepared as we talk about the pots and pans. God sure is detailed, isn't He? One little creature could fly in and ruin an entire meal. Now, if a dead animal fell in a great big lake or river it didn't make that whole body of water unclean. Well, the Lord Jesus Christ is that river, my safari friends. Jesus touched a leper without thinking twice. We are told to put on the whole armor of God because we are going to go rub up against a whole bunch of unclean things as we travel this Spiritual Safari.

We end this report with the creeping things creeping - and that speaks of the fall of man; just as the judgment of the serpent was to go forth on his belly henceforth. We're going to leave the creeps alone, but I doubt they

will reciprocate. And, as we step out of this chapter, we are told very definitely by God in the very last verse exactly what this is all about: to make a difference. God makes the distinctions between holy and not holy as He says, "I am Holy, be ye, therefore, holy!" You will make your own decision whether or not you will live for and walk with God today - but you will make a decision ~
