

**cow tongue  
brains  
pig feet  
and ears**

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*11:1 – 3 Leviticus*

~ Aaron held his peace with the Lord and Moses was content by the end of our last report. I'm glad that episode is over because it was an awkward and frightful ordeal to witness. In this report, our Spiritual Safari veers off on another new path as we ask the questions: does God really care what we eat for dinner tonight in this age of grace? Is the One who created all creation going to prepare a menu for His creatures? The answer to those questions is that God is extremely interested in every small detail about the lives of His people! No detail about our lives is too minute to escape the interest and concern of God.

If you doubt that first paragraph then you need to pray about the small things in your life and ask yourself, "... is there anything that is big to God?" You and I can imagine a distinction between big problems and little problems; but our problems are really not divided that way. All of our problems are little problems to Him. Worry about nothing and pray about everything is the injunction from Paul to the Philippians. Well, I think most of you will agree with me when I say this is one of the most unusual chapters in the Bible. As we pull away from chapter ten, we find what could be called a radical bifurcation in the book of Leviticus.

Our subject matter in this report is no longer the offerings and the priests; our subject changes from priests to people; from a walk of worship to our walk in the world. Whereas offerings to God have been our entire subject matter thus far, in this report the new topic is food for man. The change in our text is from what we call the sacred to the secular without any slip of pace or any thought whatsoever that we have something new happening! It all just runs together. This is a look into what holiness means in the average everyday life of God's people.

You may be a garbage man. If you are, then you can collect garbage to the glory of God! A ditch can be dug to the glory of God! Whatever you do as a child of God cannot be separated sacredly and secularly. What are we doing to further the cause of Christ today? Are you digging a ditch so straight and true that even God will be able to see it through? God's children are now instructed to only eat certain things and only those things which are put on the table by God Himself. They are to abstain from eating that which is not on the menu given by Him. In this report, we are going to learn a lot about this menu that has a very real and a very practical aspect and application for our lives today. We can expect that what God commands us to eat will be good - and good for us. We also must trust that those things God commands us not to eat are not good for us. There is certainly a health factor that comes into play here; and we are going to find some extraordinary spiritual lessons. When God tells the children of Israel they can eat certain fish but not others - and certain animals but not others - and certain birds but not others - there is a very definite reason; and that reason is a healthy diet. No other reason.

This is much more than a religious ritual. For God to make these deeply personal and intimate instructions reveals that there must be some benefit in following them. God is only commanding these things for the good of His people. Even "arbitrary" with God is a very definite purpose. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. History bears this out as most of the animals commanded not to be eaten were largely unclean feeders. Also, the rejected animals are all more susceptible to disease than the acceptable animals. The unclean animal carries parasites, of course.

Dr. S.H. Kellogg made this statement, *".... one of the greatest discoveries of modern science is the fact that a large number of diseases to which animals are vulnerable are due to the presence of low forms of parasitic life. To such animals, and those who feed on them, which are unclean in their feeding, they will be particularly exposed to these diseases. It should be added that NONE will be found wholly exempt. Another recent discovery of our modern age is no less important; and that is the fact that man and animals both have these identical parasitic diseases. They may also be communicated from the latter to the former."* Then he goes on to show several instances, such as the parasitic trichina, found in swine skins. Turkeys have diphtheria

and it can easily be communicated to mankind. Horses have the loathsome disease known as the Glanders.

Evidently, Moses didn't have this information, though. We know the physicians down in Egypt didn't understand it thoroughly – if at all. Well, God knew - so He made the distinctions we have in this chapter! Dr. Noel Francois Odon Gueneau de Mussy from the Paris Academy of Medicine said – and this quote is from 1885, *“... the idea of parasitic and infectious maladies which has conquered so great a position in modern pathology appears to have greatly occupied the mind of Moses and seem to have dominated all of his hygienic rules. Moses excluded from the Hebrew diet all animals that are particularly liable to parasitic disease and infections. It is in the blood that the spores of an infectious disease circulate; so, Moses orders that their blood must be drained before being served as food.”* This has all worked out historically to be beneficial to man exactly as the Bible commanded the nation Israel, friends.

Many years ago, a plague was decimating Europe. Dr. Kellogg said, *“... the Jews so universally escaped infection and disease during the plague that, by their exemption, populace suspicion was excited into a fury and Jews were accused of causing the fearful mortality among their Gentile neighbors who subsequently accused them of poisoning the wells and springs.”* The Jews enjoyed almost total immunity from the plague that swept through and killed so many people at that time.

Professor Hosmer wrote, *“... throughout the entire history of Israel, the wisdom of the ancient law gives [in these respects] has been remarkably shown. In times of pestilence the Jews have always suffered far less than any other people. Regarding issues of longevity and health, they have always been noteworthy; and in our present-day insurance offices, the lives of Jews is said to be worth much more than that of men from other stocks.”*

We have another doctor from Prussia, Dr. Berenz states, *“... the mean duration of Jewish life averages at least five years more than that of the general population. Today, the Jew has abandoned this diet for the most part and the Jewish lifespan has averaged out to that of other races.*

*However, there have been times in history that the life span of a Jew was twice that of their Gentile neighbors.”*

I could give more quotations than this; but I think this establishes my point that there is a basis for God giving these laws regarding diet and a health factor is the reason. Today, we’re told very definitely in Scripture that we can eat anything we want to eat. Paul said, “... *I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*”

They can rattlesnake meat down in San Antonio, Texas. If you plan to ask me over for dinner, I’ll have you know now – I don’t eat rattlesnake meat! I’ve never tried it and I never will. Some things I don’t have to try to know I don’t like them. It may be delicious, but I already know I do not care for it. Cow tongue, brains, pig feet and ears - all fall into that category of closed-mindedness with me. Apparently, some people like these things because these things are certainly eaten – but not me. Paul said, “... *but meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.*” It is absolutely ridiculous to say there is some spiritual value in eating or not eating certain foods. In fact, that approach to your diet is nothing in the world except superstition. Whatsoever we do – do it all to the glory of God! We will see in this chapter there are even certain bugs you can eat if you want to; well, “*no thank you*” is what I say! ~

***1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them,***

***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.***

~ Of course, we are talking about clean and unclean animals. God is running a strict line of demarcation between animals that are to be eaten and those that are not to be eaten. As we know, God made light and dark so it seems natural that we can trust Him with His food prescription. God saw that it was good to do the dividing of the night and day. Black and white, right and wrong and clean and unclean; it’s all God’s. We know right and wrong because of what God says is right and wrong - and NO other

reason. This is God's universe, and He makes the rules. When you establish your universe then you can make your rules – until then, though – you're obligated to God – like it or not! It's God's law that holds us on this earth! The Lord dictates the happenings in our physical universe; and He makes the rules in the moral and spiritual universe. You can't change it or overcome it.

I know today we like to be "broad-minded" and "open-minded." Man likes to say that certain things aren't really right or wrong; we want to create all kinds of gray areas of conduct. I hear people saying this and that is not evil nor good. That just doesn't happen to be the way God operates! God draws a line and makes a distinction, and He makes it more than clear – from the beginning – that Noah was to take clean beasts by sevens because they were to be offered as the sacrifice!

The choices of animal, fish and fowl generally follow the same pattern that the civilized man has followed down through the centuries and to this present day. It's no accident that this happened and it's no coincidence; God made the distinction and there's certain animals we want to eat and some we don't like to eat. Certain animals were, obviously, healthy and healthful in that land in that day that might not be elsewhere today. That is the reason why this is not specifically to us today. Whether we eat meat or don't eat meat – meat won't commend us to God! The contrary is also true!

We have some great moral issues involved in this chapter that points out how man lives in a world of sin and God requires recognition of that fact; choices must be made! The moral objective here is primary. Remember, when God let down the sheet from Heaven to Simon Peter on the roof in Joppa and said, "rise, slay and eat" – Peter said, "... not so, Lord!" God told Peter not to call unclean what God had called clean! This is a fascinating statement of how God makes ALL the rules the way HE wants to make them. Men today must make a distinction - and they must make a decision – for or against – God Almighty! ~

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

~ The way God makes the distinction He speaks of is His way. Animals not meeting these specifics were treated as unclean. We will have this diet repeated in Deuteronomy chapter fourteen and we're going to see it's more important than we think. We're only going to cover the basics here and finish our thought up in chapter fourteen of Deuteronomy, because this is not a new commandment of clean and unclean. We only have the lines drawn here. We're going to get extremely specific in Deuteronomy.

It does not necessarily follow that we draw biological, categorical or any scientific divisions - because the purpose of this command is their health, and nothing else. This distinction is very different from heathen nations which attribute the creating of certain animals to a good god while others are the product of some bad god. The Persians have that troubling viewpoint today. No, friends, the True and Living God created ALL animals. The nature of the animal had nothing to do with it, either; as some believe they display a sin or virtue such as an eagle or a snake. The lion is considered an unclean animal, but the Lion represents the Lord Jesus Christ in Scripture. We don't have some mysterious connection between the soul and the body. That is a heathen superstition.

Well, we didn't get very far in our Spiritual Safari today; but we didn't intend to - because this is a very important chapter. The one that parteth the hoof speaks of our walk; chewing the cud has to do with masticating and meditating on the Word of God! That is the precise meaning of Psalm chapter one at verse two. Meditating means chewing of the cud. The spiritual lesson is that we are to walk worthy of our high calling wherein we have been called. We should have a parted hoof, by the way! Some people want to think that man is an animal - and our physical chassis has some resemblance, to be sure - but did you know that man would be an unclean animal? Man doesn't chew the cud; that's for pasture dwelling plant eaters. Man's doesn't part the hoof, either - which speaks of a separated life. The Word and his walk will identify the child of God today! As we go through this world, we are told to chew the cud. The emphasis here is all upon the study of the Word of God and how it relates to the walk of the believer; they both go together! Paul said, "... thou hast known my doctrine!" Continue thou in the things thou hast learned here in our first trip through Leviticus. The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation ~

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