

CLEAN AND UNCLEAR MEATS

The purpose of this book is to show that God has a menu for His people. There are several scriptures in the Old Testament and New Testament that have been greatly misunderstood concerning clean and unclean meats.

One of the scriptures in the Old Testament is found in Genesis where God told Noah, “Whatsoever moveth upon the earth, shall be meat for you.”

Genesis 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

²⁰Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

²¹And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Understand that Noah already had knowledge of clean and unclean animals because he had gathered the clean and the unclean animals for the ark. He knew what animals to eat and what animals not to eat.

Genesis 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

²Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

³Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

Remember, after the flood, Noah took of the clean animals and offered them to God upon the alter as a sacrifice. Remember, Noah was a type of a priest and the priest always ate the meat of the sacrifice, he and his family.

Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar

Remember, after the flood, men begin to scatter abroad upon the face of the earth. Because of that, they lost the truth between the clean animals and the unclean animals and what they were made for. The clean animals were made for food for man, and the unclean animals were made to be scavengers upon the earth. They eat things that die as they grow old and die or animals that would be killed by vehicles on

the highways. That's why God said, "Make a difference between the clean beast that may eaten and the unclean beast that should not be eaten".

Leviticus 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.

In order for you to know what animals are clean and what animals are not clean, you have to read the 11th chapter of the book of Leviticus which will let you know the difference between a clean animal and an unclean animal. All unclean animals are creeping things that eat flesh. All clean animals are grazers that eat fruits and vegetables only.

Some religious leaders have taught the people that all the unclean animals are clean now in the New Testament. This is not true. There are still clean and unclean animals on the earth.

The following New Testament scripture has been greatly misunderstood:

Mark 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Jesus was speaking to people who knew how to eat clean, but they questioned Jesus because He was eating with unclean hands. Jesus said, “Eating with unclean hands does not defile a man.” When Jesus said this, He was not talking about eating unclean meat at all. He was talking about the wickedness that men had in their hearts that would defile them if they kept it there.

Jesus said all meats because the Jews had knowledge of all the clean meats that could be eaten. Deuteronomy 12:15 explains that only clean meats were in the gates of Israel.

Deuteronomy 12:15 Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart.

The unclean person and the clean person both can eat what’s in Israel’s gates which is all clean animals for food.

Don’t be confused about the scripture in Mark and think that we can eat unclean animals and still be clean.

Our next scripture in the book of Acts:

Acts 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

¹²Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

¹³And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

Here Jesus shows Peter a vision from heaven of clean and unclean animals of all kinds. A voice comes saying, “Rise Peter, kill and eat.” This vision has been misunderstood by the religious world. Peter was a strict Jew and according to his tradition, he was not allowed to have contact with other nations. So Jesus used unclean animals mixed with clean animals to show Peter how that He had mixed unclean Gentiles with the chosen people, the Jews. He wasn’t showing Peter a vision of eating unclean animals at all. He was merely trying to get Peter to accept the Gentiles.

When Peter finally understood the vision he said:

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

If Jesus had been teaching His disciples to eat all kinds of unclean meats when He was on earth with them, then Peter would not have said, “Not so Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” So let us not be confused about the vision Peter had when he was upon the rooftop asleep thinking it means that we can eat the unclean animals which have been forbidden by God to be eaten.

The following three scriptures about eating clean and unclean meats are difficult to understand:

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

²For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

³Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

⁴Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

⁵One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

6He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

The apostle Paul was writing to people that were in the church eating clean meats, but there were also brethren who were vegetarians. The brethren who were vegetarians had begun to judge those that were eating the clean meats and vegetables also. So Paul said:

Romans 14:14 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.

When Paul says, “Nothing is unclean of itself,” he was not talking about unclean animals at all, but clean animals that the weak vegetarian brethren felt they should have not been eating. The brethren who only ate vegetables felt that the eating of clean animal flesh was wrong. They felt like it was cruel to kill animals, so they only ate vegetables and began to judge those who ate clean animal flesh. So Paul said, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth (in the presence

of my weak brother). He was not talking about the eating of unclean animals at all, but merely teaching the church at Rome not to judge one another or offend one another in anything. So let us not be confused with this statement, “Nothing is unclean of itself.” Remember, when Paul nothing is unclean of itself, he was trying to get the brethren to see that you should not think that the animal that you are allowed to eat according to the menu of God is unclean. And you do not have to be a vegetarian only in order to be saved. You can eat clean meats as long as there is no blood and the meat is cooked well done.

The second scripture that is difficult to understand is:

I Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

²¹Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

²²Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

²³All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Notice what Paul says in verses 20-21, “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice to devils and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils. Ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table and of the table of devils.”

In verse 25 when Paul says, “Whatsoever is sold in shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake”, he was not talking about unclean meats that had been offered in sacrifice to idols, but clean meats that had been offered in sacrifice to idols, which had been taken and sold later on that day in the shambles, which was the marketplace.

Remember, an idol is nothing to him who knows the true God. So, Paul was trying to get the weak brethren to understand that although the meat was offered to idols, the meat was still clean and could be eaten because the idol could not defile a clean animal because the idol was nothing.

Again here is another statement that Paul made that has confused many of the saints of God: “If any of them that believe not invite you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go: eat whatsoever is set before you, asking no questions for conscience sake.” What Paul is talking about again is meat that is clean that has been offered to idols by unbelievers. If the meat is set before you, you can eat it because an idol is nothing to those who know the true God. Paul makes this statement because he knew that there is no other God, but one. Now let us look at the following scripture:

I Corinthians 10:28 But if any man say unto you, this is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:

Paul is saying do not eat the clean meat that has been offered to an idol by a person with a weak conscious because it might offend them because they think the idol means something. It does not mean that you can't eat it but you do not want to hurt their weak conscious.

The final scripture that may confuse people is:

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

⁵For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Again, Paul is talking to young Timothy who had been trained in the holy scriptures from his youth up and who was familiar with the Old Testament menu that God had given to His people, found in Leviticus 11:1-47.

Some false teachers were coming along with teaching that men and women should be vegetarians only and eat no meats. When Paul wrote Timothy that every creature of God is good, Timothy knew what creatures of God were good for food and what creatures were not good for food; he also knew he should not pay attention to any false doctrine that commanded the saints to abstain from eating animal flesh and to become vegetarians only.

Read what the scripture really says. Remember, these false teachers were teaching two doctrines. One doctrine forbade men and women to marry and the other doctrine commanded them to abstain from meats making them vegetarians only.

I Timothy 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Remember, if you know the truth, you know what animals can be eaten and what animals cannot be eaten because you have read God's menu that He gave man in Leviticus 11:1-47. You also know that you must bless the clean meats you eat before you eat them. That's why he said it must be sanctified by the word of God, which the truth in prayer also. Remember, you cannot pray over an unclean animal and bless it because it was never sanctified for food. The word sanctified means it has been set aside for a particular purpose and God has never set aside an unclean animal for food.

There is nothing wrong with eating meats, but they must be sanctified by the word of God, and we find no place in the Bible where God sanctified unclean meats for man to eat.

We have showed you from the Old Testament to that the New Testament that God still has a menu of clean meats that we are allowed to eat along with fruits and vegetables. But he has designated the unclean

animals as scavengers to keep the earth clean from dead bodies of animals and men. These unclean animals have a special digestive system and certain saliva that can eat bacteria and gangrene and it will not make them sick or harm them. But when you eat these unclean animals, those bacteria and poisons that are found in them that do not destroy them will begin to break down in your body and cause all kinds of diseases to attack your body.

I know you think some of these animals are very delicious but they all are an abomination to you when you eat them. The unclean fowls, the unclean fish which have no scales or fins, the bottom dwellers such as shrimp and crabs are all unclean and not fit for man to eat.

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