

# *Second Baptist Church of Doylestown*

## *Bible Study Notes*

*4-7-21*

### *Leviticus 11*

#### **Clean and Unclean Food - Verses 1-8**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>2</sup> "Say to the Israelites: 'Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: <sup>3</sup> You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud. <sup>4</sup> "There are some that only chew the cud or only have a divided hoof, but you must not eat them. The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is ceremonially unclean for you. <sup>5</sup> The hyrax, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you. <sup>6</sup> The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you. <sup>7</sup> And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. <sup>8</sup> You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.

**11:8** God had strictly forbidden eating the meat of certain "unclean" animals; to make sure, he forbade even touching them. He wanted the people to be totally separated from those things he had forbidden. So often we flirt with temptation, rationalizing that at least we are technically keeping the commandment not to commit the sin. But God wants us to separate ourselves completely from all sin and tempting situations. Perhaps this passage has made you aware of areas of your life where you have "technical" innocence but in which you have actually been involved in sin. It's time to cross back over the line and stay there.

#### **Clean and Unclean Food - Verses 9-25**

<sup>9</sup> "Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams you may eat any that have fins and scales. <sup>10</sup> But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water—you are to regard as unclean. <sup>11</sup> And since you are to regard them as unclean, you must not eat their meat; you must regard their carcasses as unclean. <sup>12</sup> Anything living in the water that does not have fins and scales is to be regarded as unclean by you. <sup>13</sup> "These are the birds you are to regard as unclean and not eat because they are unclean: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture, <sup>14</sup> the red kite, any kind of black kite, <sup>15</sup> any kind of raven, <sup>16</sup> the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk, <sup>17</sup> the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl, <sup>18</sup> the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey, <sup>19</sup> the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat. <sup>20</sup> "All flying insects that walk on all fours are to be regarded as unclean by you. <sup>21</sup> There are, however, some flying insects that walk on all fours that you may eat: those that have jointed legs for hopping on the ground. <sup>22</sup> Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket or grasshopper. <sup>23</sup> But all other flying insects that have four legs you are to regard as unclean. <sup>24</sup> "You will make yourselves unclean by these; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening. <sup>25</sup> Whoever picks up one of their carcasses must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening.

**11:25** In order to worship, people need to be prepared. Some acts of disobedience, some natural acts (such as childbirth, menstruation, or sex), or some accidents (such as touching a dead or diseased body) would make people ceremonially unclean (defiled) and thus forbidden to participate in worship. This did not imply that they had sinned or were rejected by God, but it insured that all worship was done decently and in order. This chapter describes many of the intentional or accidental occurrences that would disqualify people from worship until they were "cleansed" or straightened out. Similarly, we need to be prepared for worship.

We cannot live any way we want during the week and then rush into God's presence on Sunday. We should prepare ourselves through repentance, correction of errors where possible, and thoughtful anticipation of what it will mean to be in God's presence with other believers.

### **Clean and Unclean Food - Verses 26-38**

**26** "Every animal that does not have a divided hoof or that does not chew the cud is unclean for you; whoever touches the carcass of any of them will be unclean. **27** Of all the animals that walk on all fours, those that walk on their paws are unclean for you; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening. **28** Anyone who picks up their carcasses must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. These animals are unclean for you. **29** "Of the animals that move along the ground, these are unclean for you: the weasel, the rat, any kind of great lizard, **30** the gecko, the monitor lizard, the wall lizard, the skink and the chameleon. **31** Of all those that move along the ground, these are unclean for you. Whoever touches them when they are dead will be unclean till evening. **32** When one of them dies and falls on something, that article, whatever its use, will be unclean, whether it is made of wood, cloth, hide or sackcloth. Put it in water; it will be unclean till evening, and then it will be clean. **33** If one of them falls into a clay pot, everything in it will be unclean, and you must break the pot. **34** Any food you are allowed to eat that has come into contact with water from any such pot is unclean, and any liquid that is drunk from such a pot is unclean. **35** Anything that one of their carcasses falls on becomes unclean; an oven or cooking pot must be broken up. They are unclean, and you are to regard them as unclean. **36** A spring, however, or a cistern for collecting water remains clean, but anyone who touches one of these carcasses is unclean. **37** If a carcass falls on any seeds that are to be planted, they remain clean. **38** But if water has been put on the seed and a carcass falls on it, it is unclean for you.

### **Clean and Unclean Food - Verses 39-45**

**39** "If an animal that you are allowed to eat dies, anyone who touches its carcass will be unclean till evening. **40** Anyone who eats some of its carcass must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. Anyone who picks up the carcass must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. **41** "Every creature that moves along the ground is to be regarded as unclean; it is not to be eaten. **42** You are not to eat any creature that moves along the ground, whether it moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet; it is unclean. **43** Do not defile yourselves by any of these creatures. Do not make yourselves unclean by means of them or be made unclean by them. **44** I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean

by any creature that moves along the ground. <sup>45</sup> I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

**11:44-45** There is more to this chapter than eating right. These verses provide a key to understanding all the laws and regulations in Leviticus. God wanted his people to be holy (set apart, different, unique), just as he is holy. He knew they had only two options: to be separate and holy, or to compromise with their pagan neighbors and become corrupt. That is why he called them out of idolatrous Egypt and set them apart as a unique nation, dedicated to worshiping him alone and leading moral lives. That is also why he designed laws and restrictions to help them remain separate—both socially and spiritually—from the wicked pagan nations they would encounter in Canaan. Christians also are called to be holy (1 Peter 1:15). Like the Israelites, we should remain spiritually separate from the world's wickedness, even though, unlike the Israelites, we rub shoulders with unbelievers every day. It is no easy task to be holy in an unholy world, but God doesn't ask you to accomplish this on your own. He has provided help. Through the death of his Son, you are "holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22). With Christ, you can live in the world without having to be of the world.

### **Clean and Unclean Food - Verses 46-47**

<sup>46</sup> "These are the regulations concerning animals, birds, every living thing that moves about in the water and every creature that moves along the ground. <sup>47</sup> You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between living creatures that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten."

**11:46-47** The designations clean and unclean were used to define the kind of animals the Israelites could and could not eat. There were several reasons for this restricted diet: (1) To ensure the health of the nation. The forbidden foods were usually scavenging animals that fed on dead animals; thus disease could be transmitted through them. (2) To visibly distinguish Israel from other nations. The pig, for example, was a common sacrifice of pagan religions. (3) To avoid objectionable associations. Creatures that move about on the ground, for example, were reminiscent of serpents, which often symbolized sin.

## ***Leviticus 12***

### **The Purification of Women after Childbirth - Verses 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD gave Moses the following regulations <sup>2</sup> for the people of Israel. For seven days after a woman gives birth to a son, she is ritually unclean, as she is during her monthly period. <sup>3</sup> On the eighth day, the child shall be circumcised. <sup>4</sup> Then it will be thirty-three more days until she is ritually clean from her loss of blood; she must not touch anything that is holy or enter the sacred Tent until the time of her purification is completed.

**12:1-4** Why was a woman considered "ceremonially unclean" after the wonderful miracle of birth? It was due to the bodily emissions and secretions occurring during and after childbirth. These were considered unclean and made the woman unprepared to enter the pure surroundings of the tabernacle.

Her temporary status highlighted her role as a young mother and relieved her of certain duties that probably made the early days with a new baby easier.

**12:1-4** Unclean did not mean sinful or dirty. God created us male and female, and he ordered us to be fruitful and multiply (*Genesis 1:27-28*). He did not change his mind and say that sex and procreation were now somehow unclean. Instead, he made a distinction between his worship and the popular worship of fertility gods and goddesses. Canaanite religions incorporated prostitution and immoral rites as the people begged their gods to make their crops, herds, and families increase. By contrast, Israel's religion avoided all sexual connotations. By keeping worship and sex entirely separate, God helped the Israelites avoid confusion with pagan rites. The Israelites worshiped God as their loving Creator and Provider, and they thanked him for bountiful crops, marital love, and safe childbirth.

### **The Purification of Women after Childbirth - Verses 5-8**

<sup>5</sup> For fourteen days after a woman gives birth to a daughter, she is ritually unclean, as she is during her monthly period. Then it will be sixty-six more days until she is ritually clean from her loss of blood. <sup>6</sup> When the time of her purification is completed, whether for a son or daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the Tent of the LORD's presence a one-year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or a dove for a sin offering. <sup>7</sup> The priest shall present her offering to the LORD and perform the ritual to take away her impurity, and she will be ritually clean. This, then, is what a woman must do after giving birth. <sup>8</sup> If the woman cannot afford a lamb, she shall bring two doves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering, and the priest shall perform the ritual to take away her impurity, and she will be ritually clean.

**12:5** The time for the cleansing for the birth of a female child is twice as long. Boy babies were circumcised on the 8th day, which as we said in a previous verse, was a sign of accepting God. Since a girl baby is not circumcised, then the purification would be different also. To say that this longer time for purification was because girls were more sinful is slightly ridiculous. With God there is no male or female. The only time there is a gender is for the procreation of life on this earth. As we have said over and over in these lessons, the woman symbolizes the church. The 40 days for the purification of having a man child symbolized the 40 years wandering in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. The church of Jesus Christ was not established on the way to the Promised Land. Could the 80 days required for the female child symbolize the 40 years in the wilderness to establish a people of God, and then the 40 days Jesus ministered on the earth after He resurrected from the tomb, to establish the church? The church of the Lord Jesus Christ was not established during the wilderness wanderings, but that had to be the beginning. The church was truly launched when Jesus returned to the Father in heaven and promised to send the comforter. Jesus was seed of the woman, and not of the man.

**12:6** These offerings were not for direct sin, but if you will, inherited sin of the flesh. This sin is really not this mother's sin, but Eve's sin, which was not a deed but an inheritance. This burnt offering was as devotion to God. The sin involved was not her own sin, but sinful nature of all of humanity, until the new birth in Christ. Jesus was dedicated to God on the 40th day of His mother's purification. Luke 2:22 "And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present [him] to the Lord;"