

Session #11: “IS IT KOSHER?” — Leviticus 11:1-47

Monday 7:30pm, H 206 (2nd floor, High School--top of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes and outline to commentaries on Leviticus by David Hocking,, Pastor Chuck Smith, J. Vernon McGee and Jon Courson.

*****Questions:

- Do you believe that if you follow the Kosher diet, you will never get sick?
- These “kosher” laws apply primarily to whom, Jews, Gentile believers, or both?
- These “kosher” laws when kept, do or do not determine a person’s spirituality?
- These “kosher” laws when kept should never cause a person to judge those who do not keep them. True or false?
- How were these “kosher” laws were used by God to open the door of the gospel to Gentiles?
- Do these “kosher” laws need to be understood in the light of God’s Word and prayer, with thanksgiving?

These laws are given by the LORD to Moses & Aaron - they are to teach them to the people. These laws apply to all animal life, not to fruits and vegetables. God gave the animals for food following the flood (Gen. 9:2-4), as long as it was not eaten with its blood still in it.

There are four categories of animals:

Beasts of the earth

Fish in the sea

Birds of the sky

Creeping things that fly

32 times in Leviticus 11, the word “unclean” appears; the word “abomination” appears 10 times - cf. Isa. 5:20

❖ 1A. KOSHER LAWS AS TO THE EATING OF ANIMALS - 1-23

➤ 1B. BEASTS OF THE EARTH - 1-8

- 1C. The Special Instruction - 3
“Whatsoever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud”
- 2C. The Simple Illustrations
 - 1D. The camel - 4
 - 2D. The coney - 5 - cf. Prov. 30:26
 - 3D. The hare (rabbit) - 6
Hebrew word refers to some kind of animal with which we are not familiar. A rabbit does not chew the cud!
 - 4D. The swine (pig) - 7

➤ 2B. FISH IN THE SEA - 9-12

- 1C. The basic Requirement – “fins and scales”
“in the seas, and in the rivers” - salt water and fresh water
- 2C. The required Response
“they shall be an abomination unto you” - NIV - “you shall detest them”
v. 11 - “you shall have their carcasses in abomination”

➤ 3B. BIRDS OF THE SKY - 13-19 - cf. Deut. 14:12-20 – the ugliness is unmistakable!

➤ 4B. ALL FLYING THINGS THAT CREEP - 20-23

- 1C. The Extent to which this kosher law applies
“all flying insects that creep” - NIV – “flying insects”
- 2C. The Exception to this kosher law - 21-22
“locust, cricket (NIV - cricket), & grasshopper”

❖ 2A. KOSHER LAWS AS TO EXPOSURE TO CARCASSES OF UNCLEAN ANIMALS - 24-43

➤ 1B. AS TO PEOPLE - 24-31, 39-40

- 1C. He touches the carcass of any unclean animal
“unclean until evening”

- 2C. He picks up the carcass of any unclean animal
“*shall wash his clothes - unclean until evening*”
- 3C. He touches a dead creeping thing - 29-31
“*the mole, the mouse*” - (NIV - “rat”)
- 2B. AS TO VESSELS - 32-35
“*And everything on which a part of any such carcass falls shall be unclean*”
v. 33 - “*Any earthen vessel (NIV – clay pot) into which any of them falls you shall break; and whatever is in it shall be unclean*”
- 3B. AS TO WATER - 36
“*a spring*” (NIV - spring) or *cistern* (NIV - cistern)
“*in which there is plenty of water*”
- 4B. AS TO SEED - 37-38
- 5B. AS TO CREeping THINGS - 41-43
- ❖ 3A. **KOSHER LAWS AS TO EXPLANATION OF GOD’S PURPOSE - 44-47**
The argument that these “kosher” regulations were intended to improve one’s health or to keep one from certain diseases, may be an application of *Exodus 15:26*: “*If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.*” This passage is not referring to the unique diet of the Jews but rather to being spared from the judgment of God that came upon the Egyptians.
Another verse used to support the health viewpoint of the “kosher” diet of the Jews is found in *Deut. 7:15*: “*And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.*”
Again, in all fairness, this passage is not talking about the Jewish dietary laws.

What is the purpose of God in these “kosher” laws?

- 1B. To RECOGNIZE the principle of holiness (separation) as it relates to the nation of Israel - 44-45 Six times in Leviticus, God says be holy for I am holy. In chapter 11 we have two of those six times! - Cf. *Lev. 19:2; 20:7, 25-26; Deut. 14:2, 21*
- 2B. To REVEAL the importance of holiness as it relates to the issues of sin and compromise in the life of the believer - cf. *2 Cor. 6:14-7:1* stay away from that which is unclean – same words used to describe sexual sin.
A few basic facts:
 - These “kosher” laws apply primarily to Jews, not Gentile believers - *Acts 15:28-29!!*
 - These “kosher” laws when kept, do not determine a person’s spirituality – *Rom. 14:17-18; 1 Cor. 8:8*
 - These “kosher” laws when kept should never cause a person to judge those who do not keep them - *Rom. 14:1-13; Col. 2:16-23*
 - These “kosher” laws were used by God to open the door of the gospel to Gentiles - *Acts 10:11-20* We can’t call “unclean” what God calls “clean”!
 - These “kosher” laws need to be understood in the light of God’s Word and prayer, with thanksgiving - *1Tim. 4:1-6*