

Help! I'm New to Torah, and I Don't Know What to Do!

Lesson 3: What is the Biblical Definition of Food?

1. Introduction

Deuteronomy 29:29	God reveals to us what He wants us to know.
Deuteronomy 31:9-13	What were people supposed to hear?
Amos 3:7	If God was going to declare all animals “clean”, the prophets would have prophesied about it.
Psalms 19:7	Tamim H8549--without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincerely, sincerity, sound, without spot, undefiled. So how can some call God's Torah a curse?

2. Various Types of Uncleaness

Idolatry	2 Chronicles 36:14; Psalm 106:39
Sexual Immorality	Leviticus 18:24, 30
Discharges	Leviticus 15:2 (<i>tame</i> H2931), 3 (<i>tum'ah</i> H2932)
Leprosy	Leviticus 13:45, 46 (<i>tame</i> H2930)
Corpses	Leviticus 21:1, 3, 4, 11; Numbers 6:7; Deuteronomy 21:23 and Matthew 23:27 (<i>akatharsia</i> G167)
Shedding of Innocent Blood	Leviticus 20:3; Numbers 35:34
Certain Animals	Leviticus 20:25-26 -Notice this is in the same chapter as sexual immorality and child sacrifice (not just exclusive to the priests) -Stone Edition Tanach: “This chapter concludes with an exhortation to avoid forbidden foods, as a prerequisite of holiness, as set forth in (Leviticus) 11:44.”

3. What is the Biblical Definition of Food?

Genesis 1:29-30 and 2:15-17	“Green herb” <i>yerek</i> (H3418) <i>esev</i> (H6212). God stipulated that particular plants should not be eaten, such as the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Additionally, not all plants can be eaten because they are poisonous.
Genesis 7:2	“Clean” <i>tahorah</i> H2889; “Unclean” <i>lo tahorah</i> -7 mating pairs of clean were taken, and 2 unclean mating pairs were taken. Why? They were not going to eat or sacrifice the unclean animals.
Genesis 9:3	“As the green herb”, which is the same phrase used in Genesis 1:30. God made a distinction between “clean” and “not clean” in Genesis 7:2, so just as there are stipulations on herbs, there are also stipulations on animals.
Leviticus 11 v.4—Lo <i>tochlu</i> v.8 and 11—Lo <i>tochelu</i> v.13—Lo <i>yeachlu</i> v.41—Lo <i>yeachel</i> v.42—Lo <i>tochlum</i> v.47—Lo <i>teachel</i>	- “unclean” (<i>tame</i>-verb is 2930—19 times; adjective is 2931—13 times) defiled, unfit for human - Consumption - “clean” (<i>tahor</i>-2889 3 times; from the verb <i>taher</i>-2891 1 time) pure, not mingled - Animals on the earth: MUST (1) have divided hoof (2) chew the cud - Water animals: MUST have fins and scales - Birds: No carnivorous birds or birds of prey - Insects: MUST have jointed legs above their feet - V.35—“broken down” (<i>natats</i>-5422) broken, torn, pulled down; Deuteronomy 12:3—translated “destroy”, same word used to talk about breaking down pagan altars—Revelation 21:27, Isaiah 66:14-17

Deuteronomy 14 v.7, 12, 21—Lo tochlū v.8, 10—Lo tochelū v.19—Lo yeachelū	- “Detestable”—<i>toevah</i> H8441, abominable, ○ Sexual Immorality—Leviticus 18:22, 26, 27, 30 ○ Idolatry—Deuteronomy 7:25, 26; 12:31 ○ Cross-dressing—Deuteronomy 22:5 ○ Wicked people—Proverbs 3:32 ○ Proud eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren—Proverbs 6:16-19 ○ Dishonest scales—Proverbs 11:1 ○ Perverse heart—Proverbs 11:20 ○ Unfair justice—Proverbs 17:15 ○ The sacrifice of the wicked—Proverbs 21:27 ○ Scoffers—Proverbs 24:9 ○ Prayers of the lawless—Proverbs 28:9 ○ Certain cultures view particular animals as “food” that we wouldn’t consider—Read article from “Times of India”
Contrast Unclean With Clean...	Exodus 25:31—“pure” means not mingled, free from contamination. - Compare that to clean animals. Clean animals don’t have the diseases that unclean animals do, such as trichinosis, which comes from eating animals like bears and pigs. Read article from Living Church of God and Truth of God - <i>What about mad cow disease?</i> “[It] appears to be caused by the presence of abnormal prions from sheep with a similar disease affecting sheep called “scrapie.” Cows acquire these prions from feed enriched with sheep meat and bone meal, the manufacturing process of which had been modified in the early 1980s.”—scalarlight.com - <i>What is scrapie?</i> “What is understood with greater certainty is that incidences of scrapie were recorded during the 18th and 19th centuries when the exportation of sheep from Spain coincided with an increased occurrence of scrapie. Furthermore, inbreeding sheep to improve wool quality, a practice encouraged by economic incentives, also increased the prevalence of scrapie.” - Psalm 19:9—Obedience (fear) to the LORD and His Law are not mingled with pagan idolatry

4. Did the Definition of Unclean Change in the New Testament?

Mark 5:2, 8, 13	- “Unclean”—<i>akathartos</i> G169, Greek equivalent to <i>tame</i> - “Unclean spirit” appears 24 times in the NT - Notice Yeshua is casting the spirit out, not bringing it in
Romans 1:24, 6:9 2 Corinthians 12:21 Ephesians 4:19, 5:3	- “Uncleanness”—<i>akatharsia</i> G167, noun form of <i>akathartos</i> - Why is uncleanness specifically mentioned if WE can consider anything unclean?
2 Corinthians 6:17	“Touch”—<i>haptomai</i> GG680, Greek equivalent of <i>naga</i> H5061, which means to fasten oneself to, adhere to, cling to - Isaiah 52:11—“touch” <i>tiggau</i>, from <i>naga</i>, same form used in Leviticus 11:8 and Deuteronomy 14:8 - Ezekiel 20:34, 41—Why were the people defiled?

5. Commonly Used Verses to Prove Unclean Animals Can Be Eaten

Mark 7 and Matthew 15	- Read Mark 7:1-23 and Matthew 15:15-20 - The topic is not food, it's about a ceremonial handwashing called netilat yadayim. - Mark 7:2—"defiled" is koinos. - Mark 7:19—Yeshua did not say everything is acceptable to eat, He said that once food passes through your system, it is cleansed from the little bit of dirt that was on your hands. In other words, that is not what makes one unclean, but rather the rebellion that comes from within. - Matthew 15:15-20 further clarifies this point.
Acts 10	- Read v.1-18, 28 - "common" (koinos-2839) rabbinically unclean; "unclean" (akathartos-169) that which God called unclean; equivalent to tame. Akathartos, not koinos, is used in the Septuagint in Leviticus 11.
Acts 15	- Read v.1, 6-11, 18-21 - What's the issue? People have to be circumcised and keep the Law in order to be saved. - V.19-20— These four things characterize pagan idolatry. If you are not willing to give these up, then you won't be willing to come and hear the rest in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
Romans 14	- Read v.1-23 - The issue is about fasting vs. not fasting on Mondays and Thursdays. - V. 5—This is not about picking a day to be a Sabbath. This is about choosing days in which to fast. Other than Yom Kippur, it makes no difference which days you fast. If you feel led by God to fast, then fast. - V.14—"unclean" is the word koinos, which means common. - V. 20—"All things are pure"—within the context, this is talking about even though any food (meat of veggies) is ok to eat, some people think it is evil to eat certain foods on certain days. All "food" is pure because God said it's pure in Leviticus 11, not because we say it's pure.
Colossians 2	- Read v.6-23 - V.8-9—If Yeshua is God, then His words will be according to Scripture. - V.14—"requirements" (dogma1378) judgements—in other words, that which we were guilty of. Why was it contrary to us? The wages of sin are death. "Contrary" (hupenantios [hoop-en-an-tee'-os]-5227) an enemy or adversary—Was the Torah our enemy?
1 Timothy 4	- Read v.1-5 - V.3—"Foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth"—Which animals did God say could be received with thanksgiving?

6. Conclusion

Hosea 9:3	Eating unclean meat was a curse, not a blessing.
Ezekiel 43:6-9	When the LORD dwells in the midst of the nation of Israel in the Kingdom, there will be no uncleanness— Ezekiel 44:23-24
Isaiah 65:4 and 66:17	Notice all of the things mentioned are those which God calls "unclean" -Idolatry -Eating unclean animals -Corpses