

Leviticus 11

Verses 1- 8

The Lord spoke again to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them, ² “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘These are the creatures which you may eat from all the animals that are on the earth. ³ Whatever divides a hoof, thus making split hoofs, *and* chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat. ⁴ Nevertheless, you are not to eat of these, among those which chew the cud, or among those which divide the hoof: the camel, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you. ⁵ Likewise, the shaphan, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you; ⁶ the rabbit also, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you; ⁷ and the pig, for though it divides the hoof, thus making a split hoof, it does not chew cud, it is unclean to you. ⁸ You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

The Lord spoke again to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them, ² “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘These are the creatures which you may eat from all the animals that are on the earth.

The animals they could eat had to meet both of the following conditions:

1. Whatever divides a hoof, thus making split hoofs,
2. And chews the cud

Four animals are mentioned that were not clean because they did not meet both of the qualifications that were just mentioned.

1. The camel
2. The shaphan or rock badger
3. The rabbit
4. The pig

Many people may not be familiar with the rock badger.

See pic 1105 The rock badger



⁸ You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

Even touching their carcass (dead body) made a person unclean.

Verses 9 - 12

⁹ ‘These you may eat, whatever is in the water: all that have fins and scales, those in the water, in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat. ¹⁰ But whatever is in the seas and in the rivers that does not have fins and scales among all the teeming life of the water, and among all the living creatures that are in the water, they are detestable things to you, ¹¹ and they shall be abhorrent to you; you may not eat of their flesh, and their carcasses you shall detest. ¹² Whatever in the water does not have fins and scales is abhorrent to you.

⁹ These you may eat, whatever is in the water: all that have fins and scales, those in the water, in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat

The instructions here ruled out all shellfish.

See pic 1110



¹² Whatever in the water does not have fins and scales is abhorrent to you.

90% of the meal choices at Red Lobster would have been forbidden. ☹

Glad this is not an issue for Christians. ☺

Verses 13 - 19

¹³ ‘These, moreover, you shall detest among the birds; they are abhorrent, not to be eaten: the eagle and the vulture and the buzzard, ¹⁴ and the kite and the falcon in its kind, ¹⁵ every raven in its kind, ¹⁶ and the ostrich and the owl and the sea gull and the hawk in its kind, ¹⁷ and the little owl and the cormorant and the great owl, ¹⁸ and the white owl and the pelican and the carrion vulture, ¹⁹ and the stork, the heron in its kinds, and the hoopoe, and the bat.

These you shall detest among the birds; they are abhorrent, not to be eaten:

1. The eagle
2. The buzzard
3. The kite

See pic 1115 The Kite



The Kite could not be eaten but the fish he has in his claws was OK.

4. The falcon
5. Every raven

See Video 1120 The Raven

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.16.html>

You can't eat a raven, but if you are lonely you can talk to them. ☺

6. The ostrich
7. The owl, the little owl, the great owl, the white owl
8. The sea gull
9. The hawk
10. The cormorant

See Pic 1125 The cormorant



11. The pelican
12. The vulture
13. The carrion vulture

See Pic 1130



14. The stork

15. The heron See pic 1135



16. The hoopoe See Pic 1140



The same bird having a bad hair day. ☺

See pic 1141



17. The bat

Under our current system of classification, bats are considered to be mammals. Even though they can fly they are not considered to be birds. They are the only mammals that can truly fly.

A few other mammals, such as the flying squirrel, appear to fly but they actually glide through the air instead.

Verses 20 - 23

²⁰ **‘All the winged insects that walk on *all* fours are detestable to you. ²¹ Yet these you may eat among all the winged insects which walk on *all* fours: those which have above their feet jointed legs with which to jump on the earth. ²² These of them you may eat: the locust in its kinds, and the devastating locust in its kinds, and the cricket in its kinds, and the grasshopper in its kinds. ²³ But all other winged insects which are four-footed are detestable to you.**

²⁰ **‘All the winged insects that walk on all fours are detestable to you.**

Saying that they walk on all fours does not limit these insects to four legs. Most insects have six legs but many of them use the hind legs for jumping and others use the two front legs for eating. This is why they are said to walk on all fours.

²¹ **Yet these you may eat among all the winged insects which walk on *all* fours: those which have above their feet jointed legs with which to jump on the earth.**

²² **These of them you may eat: the locust in its kinds, and the devastating locust in its kinds, and the cricket in its kinds, and the grasshopper in its kinds. ²³ But all other winged insects which are four-footed are detestable to you.**

The phrase “in its kinds” means a larger group, including the many variations in color and size. This phrase is used many times in the creation account and it probably refers to animals that are able to breed with each other.

This term is used 10 times in 5 verses.

See pic 1145

According to their kind

Genesis 1:11- 12, 21, 24-25

¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit **according to their kind** with seed in them"; and it was so. ¹²The earth produced vegetation, plants yielding seed **according to their kind**, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, **according to their kind**; and God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

²¹And God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, **according to their kind**, and every winged bird **according to its kind**; and God saw that it was good.

²⁴Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures **according to their kind**: livestock and crawling things and animals of the earth **according to their kind**"; and it was so. ²⁵God made the animals of the earth **according to their kind**, and the livestock **according to their kind**, and everything that crawls on the ground **according to its kind**; and God saw that it was good.

Verses 24 - 28

²⁴ **'By these, moreover, you will be made unclean: whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening,** ²⁵ **and whoever picks up any of their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.** ²⁶ **Concerning all the animals which divide the hoof but do not make a split *hoof*, or which do not chew cud, they are unclean to you: whoever touches them becomes unclean.** ²⁷ **Also whatever walks on its paws, among all the creatures that walk on *all* fours, are unclean to you; whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening,** ²⁸ **and the one who picks up their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; they are unclean to you.**

²⁴ **‘By these, moreover, you will be made unclean: whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening, ²⁵ and whoever picks up any of their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.**

All of the winged insects that walk on all fours except for the 4 that were excluded made a person unclean. Uncleaness prohibited the person from participating in any social event, or act of worship.

If anyone touched any of the prohibited insects they would be unclean until evening. But if they picked up any of the prohibited insects they had to wash their clothes and they would be unclean until evening.

Also whatever walks on its paws, among all the creatures that walk on *all* fours, are unclean to you;

This would make anyone who touched or picked up a dead cat or dog unclean.

Verses 29 - 38

²⁹ **‘Now these are to you the unclean among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the mole, and the mouse, and the great lizard in its kinds, ³⁰ and the gecko, and the crocodile, and the lizard, and the sand reptile, and the chameleon. ³¹ These are to you the unclean among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead becomes unclean until evening. ³² Also anything on which one of them may fall when they are dead becomes unclean, including any wooden article, or clothing, or a skin, or a sack—any article of which use is made—it shall be put in the water and be unclean until evening, then it becomes clean. ³³ As for any earthenware vessel into which one of them may fall, whatever is in it becomes unclean and you shall break the vessel. ³⁴ Any of the food which may be eaten, on which water comes, shall become unclean, and any liquid which may be drunk in every vessel shall become unclean. ³⁵ Everything, moreover, on which part of their carcass may fall becomes unclean; an oven or a stove shall be smashed; they are unclean and shall continue as unclean to you. ³⁶ Nevertheless a spring or a cistern collecting water shall be clean, though the one who touches their carcass shall be unclean. ³⁷ If a part of their carcass falls on any seed for sowing which is to be sown, it is clean. ³⁸ Though if water is put on the seed and a part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you.**

²⁹ ‘Now these are to you the unclean among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the mole, and the mouse, and the great lizard in its kinds, ³⁰ and the gecko, and the crocodile, and the lizard, and the sand reptile, and the chameleon.

1. The mole
2. The mouse
3. The great lizard
4. The gecko
5. The crocodile
6. The lizard
7. The sand reptile
8. The chameleon

See pics 1150 thru 1154

Pic 1150



Pic 1151



Pic 1152



Pic 1153



Pic 1154



Someone might wonder why there are 5 pics of the same reptile. This was done for a very technical reason. They are so cool. 😊

³¹ These are to you the unclean among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead becomes unclean until evening.

The trick was to wait until a little before sunset before you touched their dead body. 😊

³² Also anything on which one of them may fall when they are dead becomes unclean,

There were two exceptions to this rule:

1. Any earthenware vessel had to be broken.
2. An oven or a stove had to be smashed.

Verse 39 - 40

³⁹ ‘Also if one of the animals dies which you have for food, the one who touches its carcass becomes unclean until evening. ⁴⁰ He too, who eats some of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening, and the one who picks up its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

If a clean animal dies before it is slaughtered, all those who handle or eat it become unclean until evening.

Verses 41- 43

⁴¹ ‘Now every swarming thing that swarms on the earth is detestable, not to be eaten. ⁴² Whatever crawls on its belly, and whatever walks on *all* fours, whatever has many feet, in respect to every swarming thing that swarms on the earth, you shall not eat them, for they are detestable. ⁴³ Do not render yourselves detestable through any of the swarming things that swarm; and you shall not make yourselves unclean with them so that you become unclean.

⁴¹ **‘Now every swarming thing that swarms on the earth is detestable, not to be eaten.**

Three major groups are mention here.

1. Whatever crawls on its belly.

All snakes, worms, maggots

2. Whatever walks on *all* fours.

Rats and mice

3. Whatever has many feet.

Caterpillars and centipedes

Verses 44 - 47

⁴⁴ **For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. ⁴⁵ For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.’” ⁴⁶ This is the law regarding the animal and the bird, and every living thing that moves in the waters and everything that swarms on the earth, ⁴⁷ to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean, and between the edible creature and the creature which is not to be eaten.**

⁴⁴ **For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.**

These dietary restrictions were a way of showing one’s dedication to the Lord and demonstrated a clear distinction between Israel and all of the other nations.