

The Biblical Dietary Laws¹

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Introduction

The Primary Reason for the Food Laws

The profound principle of the food laws and laws against sexual immorality is that the body of a believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Eating unclean food or blood, and sexual immorality defile the body. Yahuah is holy and cannot be in the presence of anything unclean. **The Holy Spirit cannot live in a defiled body.** This is the reason that most believers today do not have the power of the Holy Spirit or pray in the spirit. That is why they are not seeing the miracles that the early church experienced. They are defiling their body by eating unclean food or committing sexual immorality. Whoever defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit will be destroyed, which temple you are.

1 Corinthians 3:17 – “If anyone defiles the temple of Yahuah, Yahuah will destroy him. For the temple of Yahuah is holy, which temple you are.”

Most believers today are ignoring the dietary food laws in the scriptures. They believe that they have been set free from the law and they do not see any significance to the food laws. They use Peter’s vision of Yahuah commanding him to kill and eat unclean animals in **Acts 10**, and Yahusha’s discourse on eating with unwashed hands in **Mark 7**, to claim that He said all foods are clean.

The truth is that Peter’s vision was instruction in a metaphor for an extraordinary historical change. Yahuah was going to anoint unclean Gentiles with the Holy Spirit and bring them into the household of Israel and the kingdom of heaven. This was a shock to the Jewish believers. Although it was prophesied in the Torah, the Jews were always taught not to come near a Gentile unless they converted to Judaism and became obedient to the law.

Yahusha’s discussion concerning eating bread without the Jewish ritual of washing hands was not about eating unclean meat. The ritual washing of hands is a man-made law of the pharisees which is not in the scriptures. He was criticizing the pharisees for elevating their traditions above the law. The same event is in **Matthew 15**, which doesn’t mention food being cleansed.

In **Acts 15** there is an important decision by the Jerusalem council that new believers only have to keep four laws immediately. Three of these are food laws and the fourth is abstaining from sexual immorality. Believers today are claiming that these are the only laws they need to obey and they do not include most of the food laws. The food laws are not in the new testament. Why did they choose these four laws and what does sexual immorality have to do with food laws?

They both defile the body, making it unholy. So new believers must not defile their body to allow the Holy Spirit to live in them. What the Apostles decided were the most urgent laws for a believer, the Church today is teaching that those laws don’t apply to them.

1 Daniel Joseph, PETER’S VISION, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPq6v7GDJ3s>

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Gentiles are Cleansed and Become Believers in Yahusha

Churches today are teaching that Yahusha redeemed believers from keeping the laws of the covenant given to Moses. In the covenant at **Leviticus 11**, there is an exhaustive list of animals, fish and birds that are called clean animals, which are lawful to eat. All other animals are considered unclean, and an abomination to eat, because they defile the body. Since Yahuah and the Holy Spirit are holy, they cannot come near a defiled body.

Unfortunately, believers today are ignoring the food laws and freely eat unclean food, such as pork, seafood, catfish, rabbits, squirrels, bears, alligators and snakes. Unbelievers eat dogs, horses and many sea creatures. They don't realize they are defiling their body, which prevents the Holy Spirit from entering them. Clean animals are those that eat vegetables and grain. Carnivores and scavengers that eat dead things are unclean and can transmit disease. Yahuah will destroy believers who defile their body.

1 Corinthians 3:17 – “If anyone defiles the temple of Yahuah, Yahuah will destroy him. For the temple of Yahuah is holy, which temple you are.”

Believers are being taught that Peter's vision was a command from Yahuah to eliminate the Biblical dietary laws. That believers and Jews have been commanded to eat unclean animals such as pigs, horses, cats, jackals and ostriches. The truth is that Peter's vision was a metaphor for an extraordinary plan by Yahuah to make the Gentiles clean, by repentance and faith in Yahusha the Messiah. He was bringing the Gentiles and Jews together into one new man filled with the Holy Spirit to serve Him in His kingdom.

Until Yahusha died to pay for the sins of all the people of the world, Gentiles were considered unclean, because they did not keep the laws given to Moses. Israelis were the only clean people on the earth. Yahuah had given the food laws to Adam, Noah and Abraham. So their families kept the food laws from creation. But now, all people are invited to repent, be forgiven and become obedient to Yahuah's laws. The believing Jews were astonished to see the Holy Spirit fall on the unclean Gentiles.

Yahuah Sent Gentiles to Peter

Acts 10:1-7 – “There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared Yahuah with all his household, who gave generously to the people, and prayed to Yahuah always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of Yahuah coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius!’ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, master?’ So he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before Yahuah. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.’”

And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually.”

Cornelius was not a Jew. He was a Gentile. The Bible divides all people into two groups: Israeli and Gentile, circumcised and uncircumcised. The Bible considered all Gentiles to be unclean. But everything about Cornelius's character was like a Torah observant Israeli. He was devout, feared Aluah of Israel, he gave alms to the poor generously as commanded in the Torah and he prayed to Aluah always.

Notice that the angel didn't tell Cornelius what he must do, the angel wanted Peter to tell him. Yahuah was doing an extraordinary new thing – bringing Jews and Gentiles together in faith to worship Yahusha. This is a key to understanding Peter's vision. Peter was chosen because he was a leader of the believers. Yahuah wants Peter, a Jew, to evangelize a Gentile. It is an important part of the story that Cornelius sent three men.

Peter's Vision of Unclean Animals

Acts 10:8-21 – “So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa. The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ But Peter said, ‘Not so, Yahuah! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.’ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, ‘What Yahuah has cleansed you must not called common.’ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.”

Peter Sent to the Gentiles

All the animals in this vision were unclean, forbidden as food according to the Torah in **Leviticus 11** and **Deuteronomy 14**. Common foods are clean animals that have been defiled by strangling or offered as sacrifices to idols. Notice that Yahuah did not say that He has cleansed these animals. Yahuah did not say that He changed His law concerning unclean animals. He did command Peter to eat them in the vision.

Peter did not respond to the command in the vision. He wondered what the vision meant, because the Bible always uses metaphor's in visions and parables to demonstrate spiritual principles. Examples include Joseph's dreams of the sun, moon, stars and wheat sheaves bowing down to him, and Pharaoh's dreams of cows and corn eating each other. It is significant that three men showed up after the vision was revealed three times.

Acts 10:17-21 - “Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.’ Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, ‘Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?’”

Peter Went to the Home of Gentiles

Before the vision and Yahuah's command, Peter, being a Jew, never would have invited Gentiles into his house or gone with them because they were considered unclean. **Here Peter gives the interpretation of the vision. It was a metaphor and had nothing to do with food or changing Yahuah's dietary laws. This was an historical revelation that Gentiles can now have their sins forgiven and be saved for eternal life.** What happens next is a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy in **Isaiah 43**.

Acts 10:22-28— “And they said, ‘Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears Yahuah and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.’ Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.”

“As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, ‘stand up; I myself am also a man.’ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. Then he said to them, ‘You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. **But Yahuah has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.**”

Preaching Salvation to the Gentiles

This is the second time that Peter gives the interpretation of his vision. He is speaking specifically of Gentiles. Peter is stating the required structure of a believers faith: he who fears Yahuah and works righteousness. This is one of the many times that the scriptures state that believers in Yahusha must fear Yahuah’s judgment and be obedient to His laws to be accepted. Peter explains the pure milk of the word, the basic gospel of faith in Yahusha.

Acts 10:33-43 – “So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before Yahuah, to hear all the things commanded you by Yahuah.’

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that Yahuah shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which Yahuah sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Yahusha the Messiah—He is Aluah of all— that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how Yahuah anointed Yahusha of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for Yahuah was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him Yahuah raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by Yahuah, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by Yahuah to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

The Holy Spirit Fell on the Gentiles and They Spoke in Tongues

Acts 10:44-45 - “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify Yahuah.

“Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Yahuah. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”

The Jews saw this historic event that they had never seen before. They were watching the Holy Spirit fall on the Gentiles in the same way if fell upon them. Notice that ALL the people spoke with tongues when the Holy Spirit fell upon them. This is missing in most churches today.

Isaiah's Prophecy of This Event

This event was the fulfillment of a prophecy found in Isaiah which applies to Peter's vision.

Isaiah 43:18-21 - "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise."

What happened in Acts of the Holy Spirit falling upon the Gentiles is the new thing that was prophesied by Isaiah. The Jews and Gentiles becoming one. The jackal and the ostriches were the unclean animals in Peter's vision. They would be coming to Yahuah and honoring Him. The waters in the wilderness is the Holy Spirit giving drink to the Gentiles. This terminology is used in other places in the New Testament.

John 7:38-39 - "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Yahusha was not yet glorified."

It is obvious that Peter's vision had nothing to do with food or changing scriptural dietary laws. It had everything to do with the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit and eternal life through faith in Yahusha the Messiah.

The Fallacy of Yahusha Declaring All Foods Clean

Some believers claim that Yahusha declared all food clean in **Mark 7**. If Yahusha had declared all foods clean, Peter would have been eating unclean foods before his vision and wouldn't have refused when he was commanded to do it. The same event is recorded in **Matthew 15**, but no one goes there. It explains that Yahusha was only criticizing the Jewish law of ritually washing their hands.

Mark 7:1-17 - "Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches"

"Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

"He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' For laying aside the commandment of Yahuah, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

“He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of Yahuah, that you may keep your tradition.... making the word of Yahuah of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do...”

“When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?” And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

Jews and Christians are Violating the Laws of Yahuah with the Traditions of Men

The leaders of the Jews, were questioning Yahusha why His disciples didn’t obey the traditions of the elders. They were eating bread without ritually washing their hands, not eating unclean animals. They were not violating any commandments of Yahuah but the commandments of men. Believers today do not understand how the Jews elevated the traditions of men above the laws of Yahuah, which explains many conflicts that Yahusha and the Apostles had with the Jews. Believers today claim the Yahusha and the Apostles were arguing against the laws of Moses, which is not true.

Orthodox Judaism still practice the hand washing ceremony today, claiming it was commanded by Yahuah. But it is actually a command of ancient rabbis. They believe the ancient rabbis had the authority to make laws above the commandments of Yahuah. The words of Yahusha would get people stoned today, because the Jews take their traditions very seriously.

Christians are doing the same thing when they violate the laws of Yahuah, by ignoring Sabbaths and Holy days, violate dietary laws, and celebrate pagan holydays such as Sunday, Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and government holidays. They are doing exactly as the Pharisees by teaching as doctrine the commandments of men. They claim the laws of Yahuah don’t apply to Christians. They can worship any day, eat anything and commit adultery.

The dietary laws are reiterated in Acts, when they command that believers should not eat meat that has been offered to idols or strangled. Matthew records additional explanation of the meaning of Yahusha’s words.

Matthew 15:16-20 - “So Yahusha said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but **to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.**”

Matthew and Mark are describing the same conversation. But Mark used the phrase “thus makes all foods clean.” Matthew stated it differently with a more accurate meaning that unwashed hands do not make the food unclean.

Believers Today are Perverting Biblical Doctrine

Believers today are deceived and ignoring the law of Yahuah and do not distinguish clean and unclean foods or keep the Sabbath.

Ezekiel 22:23-30 - “And the word of Yahuah came to me, saying, “Son of man, say to her: ‘You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.’ The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. **Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.** Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says Yahuah Aluah,’ when Yahuah had not spoken. The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says Yahuah El Shaddai.

The devout preachers who pervert the scriptures are equated to roaring lions that destroy the church. They are roaring lions, like Satan, wolves in sheep’s clothing. They do not distinguish between holy and unholy, clean and unclean. They do not honor the Sabbath days. The church today is drowning in false prophets, destroying men’s souls. This is the reason that the nation is being destroyed by evil men with lies, tyranny, and death by the medical establishment.

There are many good, devout pastors today who have a heart for Yahuah. They don’t know that they should be obedient to the laws of Yahuah. But they have faith in Yahusha, and Yahuah and are filled with the Holy Spirit. They will eventually learn the truth and repent of their lawlessness. Their spirit will be convicted if they hear the truth.

Does It Matter To Yahuah What Believers Eat?²

In Peter’s vision, the sheet full of unclean animals and birds, came down from heaven. This means that it is a message from Yahuah. Peter knew that eating unclean animals is an abomination to Yahuah. He was astonished when Yahuah said, “Arise Peter, kill and eat.” Peter’s response was to refuse to do it.

Today, modern Christianity sees this vision as proof that Yahuah changed the dietary laws. Abominable foods are now clean and acceptable. However, the text is clear that the vision had nothing to do with food. It was a metaphor for Yahuah’s plan to make Gentiles clean and acceptable through

² Daniel Joseph, PETER’S VISION, Part 2, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnkVAmMx_J4, 2015

repentance and forgiveness. To tear down the wall between Jews and Gentiles, and creating one new nation filled with the Holy Spirit, who would bear fruit for the kingdom of heaven.

The Jews had always considered the Gentiles as unclean and abominable. But, Yahuah did a new thing through Yahusha the Messiah, who tore down the middle wall of separation which kept the Gentiles out of the Temple.

Christians use Mark 7, to say Yahusha declared all foods clean. But Yahusha's conflict with the Jews had nothing to do with meat. It was about the disciples eating bread without the ritual of washing their hands, violating the Jewish man-made law. This was not a law of the Torah, but the tradition of the elders.

Yahusha gave a discourse about the Jews elevating their traditions above the laws of Moses in the Torah. He said that eating with unwashed hands does not defile the temple of the body. What defiles the body is violating the laws of Yahuah. Sin comes out of a man from his spirit. Eating with unwashed hands does not violate any laws of the Torah. It is unfortunate that Mark added the phrase, "thus purifying all foods." Some Bible translations state, "Jesus has declared all foods clean."

Modern Christianity takes the position that it doesn't matter to Yahuah what people eat. Because He has made everything clean. They say that the laws of Moses no longer governs Christians. The law itself has been done away with.

The basic question for believers to investigate is: does it matter to Yahuah what believers eat? Has modern Christianity been deceived like Eve was in the Garden of Eden. Satan convinced her to eat the forbidden fruit; that she would not die as Yahuah had said. Modern Christianity claims the law has become obsolete and is only practiced by the Jews. Scriptures will show that the food laws are an important and pervasive element of the laws of Yahuah because it defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit. They are as important as laws against sexual immorality. Satan's primary purpose is to convince believers that the law is not important to prevent them from entering the kingdom of heaven. It also prevents the believers from experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit and seeing miracles. The Holy Spirit cannot enter a defiled body.

Believers must analyze the ways to worship Yahuah in the Word. Satan is still doing what he did in the Garden to Eve. The first sin was a violation of a food law. Satan said to Eve, "did Yahuah really say that you are not to eat of all the trees of the garden?" She responded that "we cannot eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." What did Satan do? He removed the fear of Yahuah's judgment and said, "did Yahuah really command that? You will surely not die." That is nearly identical to what the churches are teaching today about the food laws.

It emphatically does matter to Yahuah what believers eat. The food laws are still binding, they are still a distinction between clean and unclean animals. If believers are dedicated followers of Yahusha, they should want to be obedient to His laws. It is absolutely necessary to be chosen, after the resurrection at the judgment seat of Yahusha, to enter the gates of the kingdom of heaven. The word says that Yahuah will destroy those that defile their body.

1 Corinthians 3:17 – “If anyone defiles the temple of Yahuah, Yahuah will destroy him. For the temple of Yahuah is holy, which temple you are.”

The Spiritual Concept of the Food Laws

There is a spiritual concept given within the food laws that believers are not aware of. It gives the believer the correct perspective of Yahuah’s laws.

Leviticus 11

Summary of Clean and Unclean Food

Animals

Any animal that has divided hoofs and chews the cud is clean. This includes cows, sheep, goats, deer, elk, moose and antelope, etc. This does not include pigs, rabbits, squirrels, bears, coyotes, woodchucks, camels, horses, zebras, or any animal that walks on its paws.

Creatures in the Water

Everything in the waters that has fins and scales are clean. Everything else is unclean, including catfish, sharks, whales, eels, lobster, crabs, clams and shrimp, etc.

Birds

Birds that are clean include chickens, ducks and turkeys. Birds that are unclean include eagles, vultures, osprey, buzzard, kite, raven, ostrich, hawk, sea gull, owl, cormorant, stork, heron and bats.

Insects and Other Creatures

Clean insects include grasshoppers crickets and locusts. All winged insects that walk on all four legs are unclean. The unclean creatures include the alligators, lizards, weasels, and the mouse.

Blood

Blood is unclean and any animal that dies or its blood is not drained out is unclean.

Leviticus 11:1-46 - “Yahuah spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them: Speak to the people of Israel, saying:

From among all the land animals, these are the creatures that you may eat. Any animal that has divided hoofs and is cleft-footed and chews the cud—such you may eat. But among those that chew the cud or have divided hoofs, you shall not eat the following: the camel, for even though it chews the cud, it does not have divided hoofs; it is unclean for you. The rock badger, for even though it chews the cud, it does not have divided hoofs; it is unclean for you. The hare, for even though it chews the cud, it does not have divided hoofs; it is unclean for you. The pig, for even though it has divided hoofs and is cleft-footed, it does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch; they are unclean for you.

9 These you may eat, of all that are in the waters. Everything in the waters that has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the streams—such you may eat. But anything in the seas or the streams that does not have fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and among all the other living creatures that are in the waters—they are detestable to you and detestable they shall remain. Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall regard as detestable. Everything in the waters that does not have fins and scales is detestable to you.

13 These you shall regard as detestable among the birds. They shall not be eaten; they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the osprey, the buzzard, the kite of any kind; every raven of any kind; the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind; the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl, the water hen, the desert owl, the carrion vulture, the stork, the heron of any kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

20 All winged insects that walk upon all fours are detestable to you. But among the winged insects that walk on all fours you may eat those that have jointed legs above their feet, with which to leap on the ground. Of them you may eat: the locust according to its kind, the bald locust according to its kind, the cricket according to its kind, and the grasshopper according to its kind. But all other winged insects that have four feet are detestable to you.

24 By these you shall become unclean; whoever touches the carcass of any of them shall be unclean until the evening, and whoever carries any part of the carcass of any of them shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening. Every animal that has divided hoofs but is not cleft-footed or does not chew the cud is unclean for you; everyone who touches one of them shall be unclean. All that walk on their paws, among the animals that walk on all fours, are unclean for you; whoever touches the carcass of any of them shall be unclean until the evening, and the one who carries the carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening; they are unclean for you.

29 These are unclean for you among the creatures that swarm upon the earth: the weasel, the mouse, the great lizard according to its kind, the gecko, the land crocodile, the lizard, the sand lizard, and the chameleon. These are unclean for you among all that swarm; whoever touches one of them when they are dead shall be unclean until the evening. And anything upon which any of them falls when they are dead shall be unclean, whether an article of wood or cloth or skin or sacking, any article that is used for any purpose; it shall be dipped into water, and it shall be unclean until the evening, and then it shall be clean. And if any of them falls into any earthen vessel, all that is in it shall be unclean, and you shall break the vessel. Any food that could be eaten shall be unclean if water from any such vessel comes upon it; and any liquid that could be drunk shall be unclean if it was in any such vessel. Everything on which any part of the carcass falls shall be unclean; whether an oven or stove, it shall be broken in pieces; they are unclean, and shall remain unclean for you. But a spring or a cistern holding water shall be clean, while whatever touches the carcass in it shall be unclean. If any part of their carcass falls upon any seed set aside for sowing, it is clean; but if water is put on the seed and any part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean for you.

39 If an animal of which you may eat dies, anyone who touches its carcass shall be unclean until the evening. Those who eat of its carcass shall wash their clothes and be unclean until the evening; and those who carry the carcass shall wash their clothes and be unclean until the evening.

41 All creatures that swarm upon the earth are detestable; they shall not be eaten. Whatever moves on its belly, and whatever moves on all fours, or whatever has many feet, all the creatures that swarm upon the earth, you shall not eat; for they are detestable. You shall not make yourselves detestable with any creature that swarms; you shall not defile yourselves with them, and so become unclean. **For I am Yahuah your Aluah; sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.** You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming creature that moves on the earth. For I am Yahuah who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your Aluah; you shall be holy, for I am holy.

46 This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves through the waters and every creature that creeps upon the earth, to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean, and between the living creature that may be eaten and the living creature that may not be eaten.”

There is no stone unturned in this chapter. It covers it all. Everything that was created by Yahuah that is in the air, the land or the sea. Everything is dealt with in this chapter. First He deals with that which is on the land. He gives characteristic traits of specific animals to identify, that some animals have and others do not. If it is on land it must have a split hoof and chew the cud, such as sheep, goats and cows. These are clean and can be eaten.

It is fascinating that when Yahuah created the animals and the fish of the sea, He intentionally designed characteristics on their body in a very specific manner that distinguish between clean and unclean. They were designed so that His people can identify them. Which may be eaten and which may not be eaten. He literally put a special mark on those animals which are clean. And the mark is a testimony of two features.

The Testimony of Two Witnesses

One of the most fundamental principles throughout scripture from the beginning to the end everywhere. All things are established on the testimony of two or three witnesses. If believers understand this concept, doors of understanding will be unlocked. All judgment is based on two or three witnesses. When Yahusha sent out His disciples, He sent them out in pairs of two. In **Mark 6**, He sent His disciples out in pairs because He wanted to establish the facts of the gospel with two witnesses. All things of Yahuah are established on the testimony of two.

Matthew 18:20 – “Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them.”

When Yahuah wrote the ten commandments, He wrote them on two tablets. He could have written them on one tablet. His law, was established on two tablets. When Pharaoh was given a dream, he was given it twice with different metaphors, cows and corn. A day is established on the testimony of two. In creation, the morning and the evening were the first day. Two great lights govern the days, the sun governs the day and the moon governs the night. Procreation requires a man and a woman to be

fruitful and multiply to establish life. This comes from the mind of Yahuah. This is the divine nature of Yahuah. It is throughout scripture. The Father, Son and the Holy spirit rule the universe. The Father created the Earth through His Son. Redemption is established through His Son. He is going to judge the world through His Son. All things are established on the testimony of two. It is a spiritual concept in the nature of Yahuah.

What does this have to do with food laws? All the of the clean animals in Leviticus are established by two characteristics. Yahuah has established what is clean by His marks. Believers that understand this are acknowledging that Yahuah is the Creator.

Romans 1:18-22 - “For the wrath of Yahuah is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about Yahuah is plain to them, because Yahuah has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew Yahuah, they did not honor him as Yahuah or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal Yahuah for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.”

Some believers see the divine nature of Yahuah in the creation and make the distinction between clean and unclean because the Creator has established it. The clean animals are marked. It is also interesting that righteous men have also been marked by the testimony of two: those who keep the law and have the faith of Yahusha the Messiah. This is how Yahuah distinguishes the clean men from the unclean men.

Revelation 14:12 – “Here is the patience of the saints, here are those who keep the commandments of Yahuah and the faith of Yahusha.”

Food Laws Established at Creation

Many believers think the food laws were established with the law given to Moses. That is not the truth. Yahuah made the distinction at creation with the sons of Adam and Eve as well as Noah. They were told to distinguish between clean and unclean animals. The scripture says that Abel offered the best of his flock to Yahuah as a sacrifice. These were sheep or goats. Noah was also told to distinguish between clean and unclean animals.

Genesis 7:1-2 - “Then Yahuah said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his female; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his female;

Yahuah wants His people to distinguish between clean and unclean to be holy. This is a spiritual concept that most believers don’t understand. He wants them to be holy so He can be their Aluah. When believers repent and seek forgiveness from Yahusha, He takes them out of spiritual bondage. So it is necessary for them to be holy to exist in His kingdom, which is holy. Yahusha tells His disciples to be perfect as their Father in heaven is perfect.

Leviticus 11:44-47 - “**For I am Yahuah your Aluah; sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.** You shall not defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am Yahuah who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your Aluah; you shall be holy, for I am holy. This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves through the waters and every creature that creeps upon the earth, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the living creature that may be eaten and the living creature that may not be eaten.”

The important factor of the food laws is that holiness is at stake. Believers are commanded to make a distinction between the clean and the unclean because He is holy. Not to earn salvation, but to be allowed in His holy presence. This explains why Satan would like to get believers to ignore the food laws. The same reason He convinced Eve to violate a food law, to remove her from Yahuah’s presence. He does not want believers to be holy. He wants to destroy us or defile us so we cannot take authority over him as leaders in the kingdom.

The Four Laws for New Believers

Believers claim the decision that new believers don’t have to keep the law means the law has been done away with. They say believers don’t have to keep the food laws. This is perverse logic since the four laws commanded of new believers in **Acts 10** are mostly food laws.

When Yahuah brought Gentiles into the faith, it sent shock waves throughout the Jewish Messianic believers. The Jewish believers could not believe that Gentiles could receive the Holy Spirit. It became such a conflict that there was a division within the believers over what to do with the Gentiles. Jewish believers kept the law. But the new Gentile believers did not know the law. There was mass discussion. It was the number one issue in the first century. The issue was whether or not the Gentiles had to be circumcised after coming into the faith.

Acts 15:1-11 - “And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

“So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that Yahuah had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:6-11 - “Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago Yahuah chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. So Yahuah, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just

as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore, why do you test Yahuah by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Master Yahusha the Messiah we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Paul believed that when the Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit, they receive the circumcision made without hands in the spirit and they would hear the law in the synagogues. James, the head of the Jerusalem council, made a judgment in the matter:

Acts 15:12-17 - “Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders Yahuah had worked through them among the Gentiles. And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how Yahuah at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; **so that the rest of mankind may seek Yahuah, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says Yahuah** who does all these things.’ (**Amos 9:11,12**)

The Apostles were experiencing what was prophesied by the prophets. It is amazing that the Jews are not able to understand these prophecies. James issues a decree to all believers that new believers do not have to keep all the law because they will learn it over time in the synagogue.

The Jerusalem Decree

Acts 15:18-29 - “Known to Yahuah from eternity are all His works. **Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to Yahuah, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.**” Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.

Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “You must be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no such commandment — it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Aluah Yahusha the Messiah. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

The issue being addressed is the only laws that new Gentile believers must observe when they enter the faith and begin turning to Yahuah. There are four specific commandments are being imposed upon them. (1) abstain from things polluted by idols, (2) sexual immorality, (3) from things strangled, and (4) from blood. The question is: why did they choose these four laws from the 613 commandments in the scriptures? What makes them so special that they must be obeyed first? Three of the four commandments are a specific group of food laws. They are the ways that clean foods become defiled.

If a cow is offered to idols, it becomes unclean. If the cow has been strangled, its blood is still in the meat and Yahuah commanded Adam, Noah and the Israelites not to eat blood. Obviously the food laws were not done away with. It is the first laws believers are commanded to keep. Today the Church is teaching that all the law has been done away with. Why are the apostles commanding these laws? How are the food laws related to sexual immorality? Both of them defile the temple of the Holy Spirit who cannot live in a defiled body.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 - “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to Yahuah is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. **Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,** whom you have from Yahuah, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify Yahuah in your body and in your spirit, which are Yahuah’s.”

It makes sense that these laws had to be immediately imposed upon the Gentiles, because, the Holy Spirit cannot exist in a defiled body. This explains why believers today who ignore the food laws do not have the full power or guidance of the Holy Spirit or pray in the Spirit. Violation of these laws defile the believers temple. These new Gentile believers were being anointed by the Holy Spirit. They must immediately cleanse their temple.

The Food Laws in Scriptures

Believers today claim they don’t have to keep the law because these scriptures say that believers only have to keep these four laws. Some say that the rest of the food laws were done away with. Is it okay for believers to violate the ten commandments, such as stealing, taking Yahuah’s name in vain, killing and lying, etc? None of them are mentioned here. Of course not. These commandments do not do away with the law. James said they expected the new believers to learn the law in the synagogue over time. Today new believers are being taught to ignore the sabbath, and all the law. This is why the Church is failing and the land is being taken over by evil.

Acts 15:21 - “Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath”

The Food Laws are as Important as Sexual Immorality

A question to ask is, how are believers all over the world from different cultures and different religions going to know what sexual immorality is? It is difficult to find any two people to agree on what sexual immorality is. Is it fornication, marrying fornicators or those who are divorced, or of the same sex? It is an ambiguous term without a source to define it. The source to define it is the Torah. There is nothing in the new testament about having sex with animals. Today some believers are saying they can do anything that is not forbidden in the new testament.

Sexual immorality is defined in detail in **Leviticus 18 and 20**. And at the end of Chapter 20, it says to distinguish between clean and unclean animals.

Leviticus 20:25,26 - “You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. And you shall be holy to Me, for I Yahuah am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

There is nothing in the new testament that does away with the food laws. Any argument against them is total fantasy. Peter's vision was not about literal food, any more than Pharaoh's dream was about cows or Joseph's dream was about wheat sheaves. It was a metaphor for unclean Gentiles. In Mark 7, Yahusha was not even discussing meat. He was dealing with the Jewish tradition of ritual washing of hands. Some people like to use **1 Corinthian 10:23-31**, to say all foods are lawful. But Paul was talking about eating clean foods that were offered to idols, making them common. He is saying that it is lawful if the believer doesn't know that it was offered to idols.

Do Not Judge Other Believers Conduct

Yahusha will judge all believers at the resurrection. Believers should not condemn those who violate the law. When a believer had a supernatural experience that turned him back to Yahuah, He was anointed by the Holy Spirit and healed by repenting for his sins. He did not stop eating bacon or keep the sabbath holy. He only did the best he could with what he knew to do with limited information of the law. But he had a humble heart. He searched the scriptures to seek the truth. Believers are to seek first the kingdom of Yahuah. Everything else in his life took a back seat. Therefore it was only a matter of time before he came to know the law.

Believers should not be judging other believers as though they are going to hell. Judge their heart. Speak truth. Do not hide the truth. There are a lot of believers in the church that don't know the law. They don't realize what Satan has done to the church. They don't know anything about the sabbath. But they are authentic believers who have humble hearts and they are seeking Yahuah. It is only a matter of time that they will find the truth. Believers need to teach the truth because today it is more rare than fine gold.

Conclusion

Yahuah created clean and unclean animals, fish and birds and marked them. He has commanded all men from creation to only put clean food into their body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Yahuah is holy and cannot come near anything that is unclean or defiled, spiritually. Believers must be holy forever to be in the presence of Yahuah. Sexual immorality also defiles the body. To experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, a believer must not defile his body. Eating unclean food is as abominable as sexual immorality. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, the Holy Spirit immediately left them. Their clothing of Yahuah's spirit of glory and light immediately disappeared and they had to be expelled from the presence of Yahuah and the Garden of Eden. This principle of holiness is never going to go away for eternity.