

## Leviticus 11:39-47 12:1-8 - Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Last week we got to verse 38 and, Lord willing we'll complete chapter 11 and even chapter 12, both of which seem to be uninteresting.
- We've been studying about clean and unclean animals, fish, birds and insects, and now we will look at dead animals and reptiles.

39'And if any animal which you may eat dies, he who touches its carcass shall be unclean until evening.40 He who eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. He also who carries its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

- This seems to indicate that if the animal is put to death for the purpose of eating it and or sacrificing it, one would not remain unclean.
- If the animal were to die a natural death, the carcass would have to be handled in such a way as to make it ceremonially clean.

41'And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten.42 Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth -- these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination.43 You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them.

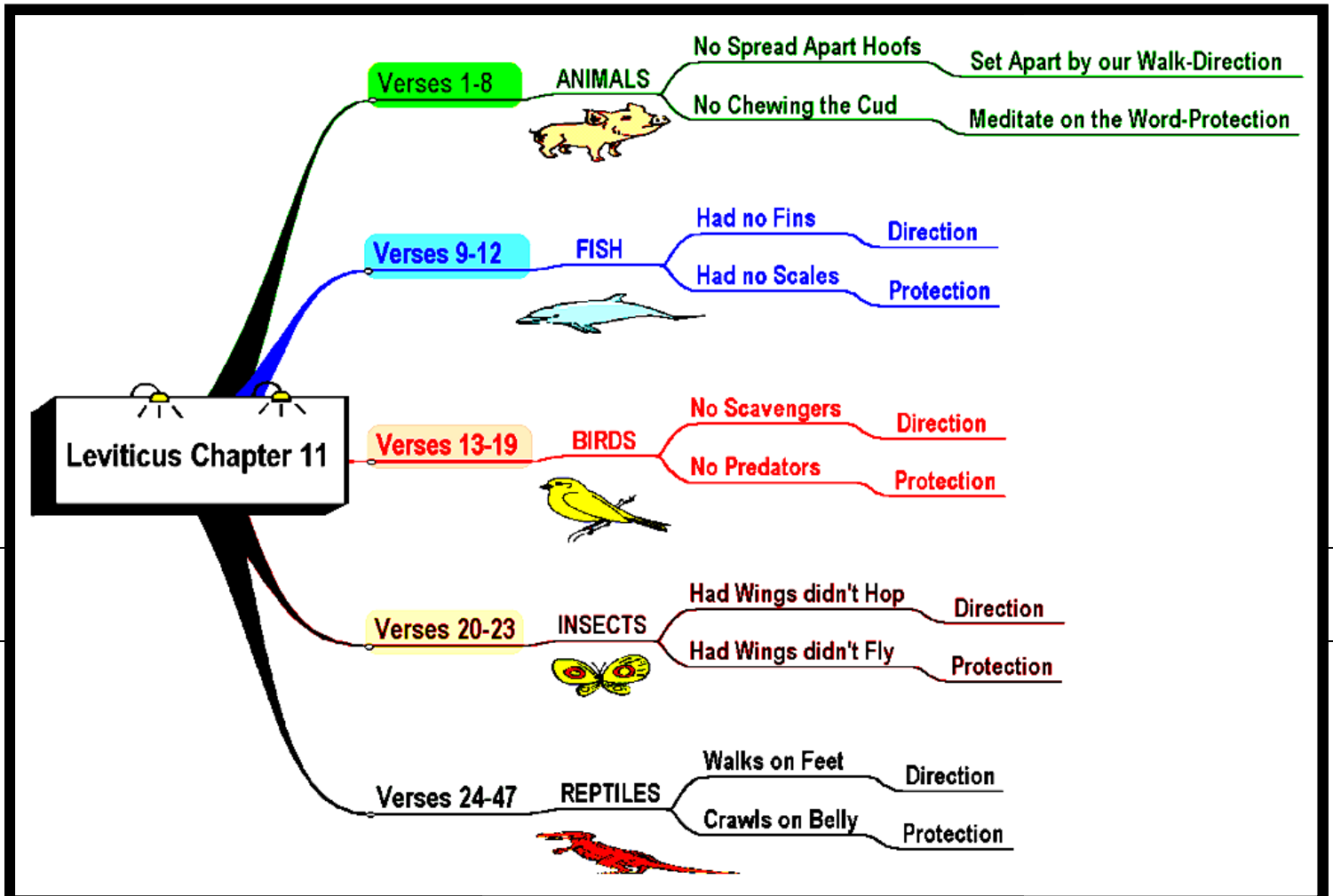
- Here again we have the reptiles, or creeping things, as being unclean and thus they were not to be eaten. They were an abomination.

44 For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.45 For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. 46'This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, 47 to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.'"

- These remaining verses in chapter 11 sort of sums it all up and give us the why behind the what, as it were, so we can see God's heart.
- God wants us holy because He Himself is Holy. He doesn't want us to defile ourselves because He has delivered us from our Egypt.
- The bottom line is that God wants us to be both healthy and holy so in order to do that, He needs to direct us and thus protect us.

On commentator said it best this way; "In general it can be said that these laws protected Israel from bad diet, dangerous vermin, and communicable diseases."

- Actually this is the common thread that is woven into the fabric of every animal, fish, bird, and reptile; it's God's direction and protection.
- In other words we see it right from the start with the clean and unclean animals which is based on their hoofs and chewing of the cud.
- The separated hoof speaks to the "direction" of our walk in this world, and the chewing of the cud speaks to the protection of the Word.



- I would be grossly remiss were I not to address a very important question that you may be asking, and rightfully so. Here it is:
- Are we as Christians under any obligation to observe these dietary laws and practices? The answer is simply no, and here's why:
- First, Acts 15 records for us what is called "The Jerusalem Council," which declared that Christians weren't required to obey these laws.

- Second, in writing to the Corinthian church, in 1 Corinthians 6:12, the Apostle Paul writes that all things are lawful, but not profitable.
- The third reason is; Paul, in his first epistle to Timothy, writes that we have the liberty to eat anything if it's received with thanksgiving.

- As we get into chapter 12, we'll soon discover, like chapter 11, that it seems to be nebulous information for them then, but not us now.
- However, as we learn about the book of Leviticus, we're seeing why it is that God had these details included in the canon of scripture.

Of this, one commentator wrote; "It has been rightly said that the Bible is a book no man could write even if he would, and no man would write even if he could. ...If someone were able to write a seemingly divinely inspired book in his own energy, he wouldn't write a book like this one. Why? Because of chapters like the one ...a chapter that if I were writing the bible, I wouldn't necessarily include..."

**12:1** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity she shall be unclean. 3 And on the Eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. 4 She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty-three days. She shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled.

- The Lord tells Moses that if a boy is born the mother would be unclean for seven days then on the eighth day he was to be circumcised
- After the circumcision on the eighth day, the woman waited for an additional thirty-three days before she would be considered clean.

- Now, if you're anything like me, you may be thinking that this is just too much information. Why do I need to know this about childbirth?
- I believe there are good reasons that the Lord, by the Holy Spirit, deemed it necessary to include this detail in the pages of Holy writ.
- In keeping with the theme of holiness in Leviticus, God wants us holy as He is holy, and this is His way of protecting and directing us.

- Here again we see both the practical "protection" in the physical as well as the principle of "direction" in the spiritual, as we'll see shortly.
- First, there was a practical purpose in these purification laws that would protect both the mother and her new born baby from harm.

1. It gave the mom time to recuperate and heal after what would have been a very difficult birth back in Old Testament times.
2. It gave the baby time to develop its immunities and become strong before they would be exposed to illness out in public.
3. It gave the mom and baby time to bond together during those first few weeks which are most important especially for the nursing.

- Also, notice that the circumcision of a newborn boy was to take place exactly on the eighth day. This was God's protection physically.

"When western physicians began circumcising babies, they did it during the first few days of life while the baby was still in the hospital. Occasionally one would bleed severely. Rarely a boy would bleed to death. For a long time, physicians were puzzled by this serious bleeding. ...Finally, in the early 1900s scientists began to solve the chemistry of blood clotting and then found the answer. The body needs vitamin K to make clotting proteins. Newborn babies, however, don't start making vitamin K until they are five days old. As a result, by a baby's third day one clotting protein (Prothrombin) drops to 30 percent of normal. In a pediatric journal we read, 'The greatest risk [of bleeding] occurs between two and seven days of life.' According to a textbook, bleeding at this time 'may produce serious damage to internal organs, especially to the brain, and cause death from shock and exsanguinations. Soon after birth, the baby begins to produce vitamin K. By day eight, prothrombin levels jump back to 110 percent of the adult level. Thus the safest day for circumcision in a baby's life is day eight.' ... Who do you think is more likely to have picked the eight day: an ancient medical genius or the Creator of Vitamin K?"

"None of These Diseases" S.I. McMillen, M.D. & David E. Stern, M.D. pp 82-84

- In addition to God's protection physically, we have God's direction spiritually. These are His directions both to us and for us as well.
- These circumcision and purification laws speak symbolically in how they point us in the direction of our relationship with the Lord.
- Circumcision is the cutting away of flesh, and it serves as a reminder of our need to have a circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit.

**Romans 2:28-29** 28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. NIV

5'But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her customary impurity, and she shall continue in the blood of her purification sixty-six days.

- Now we have the directions for when a girl was born. Notice that the time of uncleanness for girls is twice as long as it was for boys.
- One thought as to why it was twice as long for girls is because boys were more desired, and this would extend the time for the girl.

- Another thought here is that girls, when they become women, will give birth to more children, thus bringing more sinners into the world.
- Let me hasten to say; the act of procreation and the process of birth are not sinful or unclean, but at conception, the sin nature begins.

**Psalms 51:5** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. NIV

6'When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting.<sup>7</sup> Then he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who has borne a male or a female. 8'And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons -- one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean."

- After the birth and purification, there needs to be atonement, so they would need to bring a sin offering to the Tent of Meeting.
- A lamb is brought by a woman who brings a sinner into the world as a Lamb was brought by the Father bringing salvation to the World.

- Notice that if she was poor and could not afford a lamb, she was to bring either two turtledoves or two young pigeons instead.
- What's interesting is that we have an account of Joseph and Mary going to the temple with this offering because they were poor.

**Luke 2:22-24** 22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." NIV

These were the offerings of the poor, of those whose means did not suffice to buy a lamb. All these offerings pointed to the one great Sacrifice which was to be offered on Calvary. The blood of Christ is within the reach of the poorest and feeblest. — None can say that it is beyond them, that they cannot afford to procure it, that they are too poor. To the poor the Gospel is preached. The Divine call is to those who have no money. Salvation is to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly. "It is nigh thee." The faith that apprehends but a part of the Savior's work saves. — The pigeon may stand for the meager apprehension of Christ that is the portion of the faltering and timid; but it saves equally with that fuller conception of his saving work, which might be compared to the bullock of the priest. The question is not as to the quantity but the object of faith. Is it fixed on Jesus? All faith directed to Him cannot but be genuine. It may but touch his garment's hem, yet it saves. ... What tender touches there are through this strong ancient code! There is such a one here, framed partly in anticipation of the mother of our Lord, who gladly availed herself of its provision. What a glimpse into our Masters humiliation! He owned the cattle on a thousand hills, yet He so emptied Himself that his parents were compelled to bring the poorest offering the law allowed. He stooped that we might rise; emptied Himself that we might be full; became poor that we might be made rich; was made human that we might be made Divine.

F.B. Meyer Devotionals on Leviticus ([http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus\\_sermon\\_illustrations\\_2.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus_sermon_illustrations_2.htm))

- The message of Leviticus 12 is simply this; "because we are born as sinners physically, we need to be born again spiritually.

The parallels between being born and being born again are profound. When any of us are born, we are born with the old sin nature of Adam. This is why we all need to be born again with the new nature of Jesus the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam. When we are born again, we have new life in Christ as He forgives us, cleanses us, then clothes us with His righteousness. How is one born again? It's like when one is born physically, it starts at conception. The seed of God's Word fertilizes the ovum of our lives and impregnates the womb of our heart. After a period of gestation the birth occurs and a newborn life begins like unto eternal life that never ends.

BORN	BORN AGAIN
THE GESTATION	
Upon implantation, complex connections between the mother and embryo develop to form the placenta.	A connection is made between the Lord and us as we develop and form a relationship. (Colossians 2:19)
The heart begins to beat though in size it is no larger than a poppy seed.	Our hearts begin to soften and our faith begins to form though it may be the size of a mustard seed. (Luke 17:6)
Facial features, hands, feet, fingers, and toes, become apparent. The nervous system is responsive and many of the internal organs begin to function.	Certain features and characteristics become apparent in our lives as we become responsive to the Lord and we begin to function differently. (Romans 12:4)
At 14 weeks the baby is now taking shape and is about 3 inches long. The child's movements can be observed.	The weeks inch on and the Lord shapes and forms our life. We observe God moving in our lives. (Jeremiah 1:5)
Once the ears have formed baby can hear voices and will be able to identify the parents voices once born.	We begin to hear the voice of the Lord as we become tuned to and identify Him as our Savior. (John 10:3-4)
At 26 weeks baby can now inhale, exhale and even cry. Eyes have formed, and the tongue develops taste buds.	We begin to feel, see and even develop a taste for the things of the Lord as our relationship forms. (Psalm 34:8)
At 40 weeks baby is ready to be born as the gestation period comes to an end.	We come to a place where we're ready to be born again. It can happen when we're at the end. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

## THE BIRTH

Shortly before birth, baby will usually rotate his head downward. This movement is referred to as lightening because it releases pressure on the mother's abdomen.	Before we are born again, we need to turn (repent). When God moves in our lives, and we see the truth it lightens our load and releases pressure to set us free. (John 8:32)
Labor is divided into three stages that will typically overlap each other.	God created us in His image a triune God in three persons. We are body, soul and spirit. (Genesis 1:26)
During the first stage the "water breaks", contractions become more powerful and sometimes uncomfortable.	There's a powerful breakthrough in our lives, we become more uncomfortable with our lifestyle. (Ephesians 3:20)
At the transition from the 1 <sup>st</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage there may be a break with no contractions after becoming fully dilated. One called it the "rest and be thankful" phase.	A transition is experienced. We become fully aware that we can rest from works and be thankful we're saved from eternity in Hell. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
During the second stage the cervix opens sufficiently and the baby begins to move down the birth canal.	Our understanding begins to open up and we move down the path to a new birth and a new life. (1 John 5:20)
At birth, there is extreme pressure and baby is deprived of oxygen so catecholamines are released at levels higher than at any other time throughout life.	We come under extreme pressure as babes in the Lord, but we are so high as newborn believers than at any other time throughout our life. (Psalm 51:12)
The oxygen deprivation process helps open up the lungs, dry out the bronchi, and thus achieve the switch from a liquid to an air environment.	During this process the Lord helps me to make the switch and pass from death to life. I'm a new creation in Christ, and He changes my whole environment. (John 5:24)
Babies delivered by Cesarean section interestingly may often have respiratory problems by not benefiting from the usual stress of birth!	The Lord delivers us all from sin. Some of us may still have residual problems in addition to new problems as new believers after our new birth. (John 16:33)

## THE LIFE

Research has shown a link between breastfeeding and decreased risk of diseases, illness and even death.	The Lord is "Almighty"(El Shadaay) "Shad" in Hebrew is mothers breast. God has all we need in life. (Exodus 6:3)
Research has also shown some baby's only minutes old will often nestle up to the breast to get to mothers milk.	We will begin to crave the milk and nourishment spiritually from God's Word. (1 Peter 2:2-3)
Research has found over 400 hormones in mother's milk that cannot be duplicated in manufactured formula.	There's no substitute for God's Word. Other sources cannot duplicate what's in the Bible. (Hebrews 5:13-14)
The baby will become attached to the mother. Given this time together they will learn about each other.	We become attached to the Lord and will want time together with Him as we learn of Him. (Matthew 11:29)
In 771 low-birth-weight infants, babies fed mothers milk had an 8-point advantage in mean Bayley's mental developmental index over infants who weren't.	We will develop mentally from the milk of God's Word, and have an advantage over the enemy as we grow in our knowledge of God and His Word. (1 Corinthians 3:2)
As a newborn on milk grows, they cut their teeth and are now ready for solids.	We are only able to handle milk until we grow and get teeth to chew the meat of God's Word. (Hebrews 5:11-12)
The newborn infant who eventually crawls will soon become a toddler and a child who walks.	We will eventually become a child of God as we learn to walk with God. (1 John 3:1-3)
The child becomes a youth who becomes a mature man or woman who will likely have children of their own.	As a child we mature spiritually to men and women of God fathering others in the faith. (1 Timothy 1:2)