

Leviticus 11-12 –13 August 2020

“Are You Clean?”

Introduction

Leviticus – Pertaining to the Levites

Leviticus 1-5 presented the 5 sacrificial offerings in the Law of Israel – they picture the cross of Christ

Leviticus 6-7 we see more details to these offerings

Leviticus 8-10 1st institution of the 1st Levitical priests

Now Chap 11-15 show us Laws concerning purity & how to be clean

There are times when you’re ceremonially clean & can approach God, & there are times when you’re not

Today we’ll see 4 reasons God made a difference between clean and unclean

1st Reason God set a difference between clean & unclean is to show us how to be different than the world (Chap 11:1-23)

Read Chap 11:1-8 – *Land Animals*

1. Teaching of a spiritual separation w/ a physical benefit, not that the unclean are bad animals
 - a. Eagle is unclean but teaching us in other ways (We'll soar on eagle's wings)
2. So Israel can eat land animals that chew cud AND have divided hoof.
3. Vs 4-6 – Camel, Coney & Hare chew cud but don't divide the hoof – don't eat.
4. Vs 7-8 – Pig divides the hoof but doesn't chew the cud – don't eat.
5. Let's make some application
 - a. Chewing cud is picture of meditating on God's Word (Read Psm 1:2)
 - b. Divided hoof pictures a Christian's separate walk w/ God (Read Psm 27:11)

- c. These are spiritual pictures to teach bigger lessons, but everything the Lord does for us has good side effects.
 - i. These laws are also good for dietary reason
 - ii. If God cares this much about our bodies, how much more does He care about our mind & spirit.
- d. Notice meat is allowed in your diet
 - i. In last days, some will forbid eating meat
 - ii. Read I Tim 4:3

Read Chap 11:9-12 – *Sea Creatures*

1. Israel can eat sea animals that have fins & scales
2. By this principle most fish were clean
3. Let's make some application here
 - a. Don't settle for shell-fish/bottom-feeders
 - b. Read Eph 2:6 - We're seated in heavenly places in Christ
 - c. Christians set high standards and high goals to achieve.

Read Chap 11:13-19 – *Fowls Of The Air*

1. Can't eat the unclean scavenger birds of prey
2. Let's make some application
 - a. Be different than those who would eat their own kind.
 - b. We don't take advantage of our own to "get ahead"

Read Chap 11:20-23

1. Don't eat bugs, but if you do, eat the jumping ones
2. John Baptist ate locusts dipped in honey
3. Let's make some application
 - a. Your guess is as good as mine, the Lord will have to explain this one to us in heaven

2nd Reason God set a difference between clean & unclean is to show is that contamination works in one direction (Chap 11:24-43)

Read Chap 11:24-28

1. Carcasses were always unclean
2. Carcass represented death
 - a. Life can die, but death can't live again on earth
3. So the application here is that the unclean can contaminate the clean, but it doesn't go the other direction.
 - a. Read Haggai 2:11-14
 - b. God desires a clean people to offer praise to Him
 - c. Praise God He Himself has made provision for us to be clean to approach Him

Read Chap 11:29-31

1. Creeping land animals can't be eaten
2. Toad licking out west
 - a. One of the most popular is the Colorado River Toad
 - b. I have a few questions like...Who licked the 1st toad?
3. There ARE unclean things in this world
4. This world will contaminate us
5. We need to step up and make a separation between us and the world by the Holy Spirit!!
 - a. Jesus is coming....let's be ready!

Read Chap 11:32-40

1. Cleansing objects that touch a dead carcass
2. There are methods to be washed from daily sin
3. Jesus washed the disciple's feet

Read Chap 11:41-43

1. Can't eat snakes and bugs with many legs

3rd Reason God set a difference between clean & unclean is to show us how that we represent a Holy God (Chap 11:44-47)

Read Chap 11:44-47

1. God's people have always been different
 - a. Noah brought clean/unclean animals
 - b. Even so for us, we're "a holy nation & peculiar people" – I Pet 2:9
2. Are we getting closer to Him and more separate from the world?
 - a. When 2 people are in love, they are holy unto each other not noticing world around them
 - b. God wants Israel to represent holiness by being different that the world around them
3. What God offers us is holy. His love, joy...
 - a. So He says be holy – In whatever we do
 - b. This is My beloved Son in Whom I am already well-pleased.
 - i. Jesus was a holy carpenter; you be a holy...

4th Reason God set a difference between clean & unclean is to show us our flesh in inherently sinful (Chap 12)

Read Chap 12:1-4 – *Male Birth*

1. Ritually unclean for 1 week after having a boy
 - a. Nothing morally unclean here
 - b. Can't approach God until 40 days complete
2. Circumcision on the 8th day
 - a. 8th day the body produces Vit K to coagulate the blood.
 - b. Today they just give a Vit K shot & do it
 - c. Still Circumcise today?
 - i. As all God's laws to Israel, there's a ritual purpose with a physical helpful side-effect
 1. Circumcision lower risk of infections
 - ii. Although there's no spiritual benefit to us, there's still a physical benefit side-effect from performing it.
 - d. It's pic of removing the flesh to be clean

Read Chap 12:5 – *Female Birth*

1. Ritually unclean 2 weeks after having a girl
 - a. Again, nothing morally unclean here
 - b. Can't go to the holy to complete 80 days
2. Side Effects
 - a. Not only the hygienic side-effects, but also the care and love of God to give this time
 - b. Had time to hold your child and bond

Read Chap 12:6-8

1. Notice provision for the poor to bring 2 doves
 - a. Jesus was raised in a poor family
2. Reverse order for the offerings (Burnt then Sin)
 - a. Lev 9 – Consecrating Priests & people it was Sin then Burnt Offerings
 - i. Pictured dealing w/ your sin THEN you can be wholly dedicated to God
 - b. Reverse order here b/c of who's sin it is!!
 - i. Burnt shows parents whole dedication, then Sin offering for the child's Original Sin

- ii. Jesus' death on the cross made the way for all the inherited original sin to be paid for!
- iii. Peter in Act 10-11
 - 1. God made a way for ALL to be cleansed!
 - 2. By trusting in the Savior!

Conclusion

So these are the reason God establish a difference between clean and unclean

- 1. To show us how to be different than world**
 - a. Set them apart spiritually, but also physically
- 2. To show us that contamination works only in one direction**
 - a. World will contaminate you w/ bad acts
 - b. You can't contaminate them with good behavior, but you can offer them new life!
- 3. To show us that we represent a holy God**
 - a. In all that we do, bring our holy God into it
- 4. To show us that our flesh is inherently sinful**
 - a. Jesus paid for our intention sin & our nature