



Topic: "YHWH's Dietary Instructions" Pt 4
Scripture: Numbers 19:20; Rev 21:27
Definition: "Clean and Unclean"

Scriptural Dietary Instructions

Genesis 6 we see the introduction of a very interesting principle of YHWH's instructions...



Clean and Unclean.

Gen 7:1 - 9:1

Chapter 7

vs1...YHWH said!

vs 2...Clean animals to take 7, male and female

Unclean animals to take 2, male and female

Here's a definitive remark that would indicate that Noah and people of he's day (pre-flood) knew the difference between Clean and Unclean as per YHWH's instructions....hmmmm.

vs 8...Noah went in the ark along with the Clean animals and the Unclean animals as YHWH instructed.



Chapter 8

vs 15...YHWH says to Noah...

vs 20...Noah built an altar to YHWH. Sacrificed of every clean animal and bird as a burnt offering

vs 21...YHWH smells the soothing fragrance and covenants with Noah, his sons and all living creatures (9:9-17)

Numbers 19:20 "But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the sanctuary of YAHWEH; the water for impurity has not been sprinkled on him; he shall be unclean."

Important to note something here. Being unclean is not a sin. It's what you do or do not do with it that makes it a sin.

Having unclean animals simply meant they were not to be used in specific ways. When it came to sacrificing to YHWH they were not acceptable. As their created purpose and

design, they were perfect in YHWH's sight (after all He created all things and called them good [Gen 1:24-31]).

Clean has a direct relationship with being holy (set apart) and unclean has a direct relationship of being unholy, common, or not set apart. This plays into the covenant given at Mt. Sinai where YHWH sets His people apart (making them holy, not perfect, but set apart) from the rest of the world. Just as He did with the animals.

There's no mystery here when we begin to understand the Father's instructions as He is giving them to us.

We need to also realize that clean and unclean are always used to separate and divide. Although we may frown on this, it is the ultimate teaching of all YHWH's instructions concerning His Kingdom, His people, His children. Nothing should drive this point home harder than what we see of the great white throne judgment (Rev 20:11-15; Matt 25:32-34)

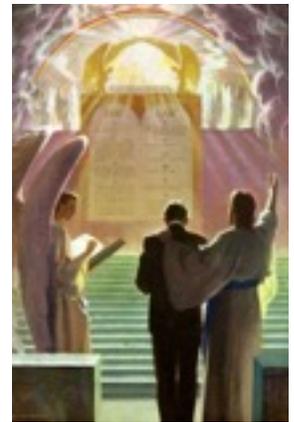
So is it really that important to know the difference between clean and unclean and how we are to apply it to our lives today?

Consider:

Revelation 21:27 "And there shall not enter it any thing that defiles, or he who practices abominations and lies, but only the ones having been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb."

The word defiles in the Greek is:

2839. κοινός koinos, *koy-nos*; probably from 4862; common, i.e. (literally) shared by all or several, or (ceremonially) profane: — common, defiled, unclean, unholy.



It's important to note here that clean and unclean deal with every area of our lives.

- touching a dead body, that made a living person unclean and temporarily unable to participate in the worship ceremony (Leviticus 5:3).
- Skin disease (Lev 13-14)
- Childbirth (Lev 12)
- Genital discharges (Lev 15:3-15)
- Menstruating women (Lev 15:19-24)
- Handling ashes of red heifer (Lev 16:26,28)
- Secondary contamination (Lev 15; 22:4-7; Num 19:21-22)
- Participating in eating sacrifices unworthily (Lev 7:20,21; I Cor 10:21)
- Having to wait a month before participating in Passover (Num 9:6-13)
- Had to stay far away from YHWH's tabernacle (Num 5:3)

There are a wide variety of circumstances that could make a person, animal, or item unclean, the majority of the laws concerned activities disqualifying a person or animal in connection with the tabernacle offerings (i.e. for today, our daily relationship with YHWH). An animal offered for sacrifice had to be without defect. The person who offered the sacrifice also had to be “clean” before the Law; i.e., the worshiper had to comply with the Law and approach God with reverence. Has that really changed because of the advent of Messiah’s life or did He help define it to its fullest and bring the means to accomplish a relationship with YHWH?



Messiah Yahshua says in Luke 11:39-41 “But Yahshua said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but your inside is full of extortion and iniquity. Fools! Did not He who made the outside also make the inside? But give alms of the things which are within, and behold, all things are clean to you.”

“Clean” and “unclean” are concepts very familiar to those Israelites. God called His people to separate themselves from the impurities of the world. The principle of being clean crosses into the New Testament as well, with the idea of living spiritually pure (2 Corinthians 6:17) and seeking to be holy, living a life worthy of our calling (Colossians 1:10). A continuation of YHWH’s instructions is thought to be the norm.

These are some of the things that YHWH has given us in His instructions concerning clean and unclean. The one that we want to focus on during this study is in the book of Leviticus starting in chapter 11...

Dietary Instructions. What YHWH describes as being clean and unclean for us to eat.



Next week we will look into Leviticus 11 to see what YHWH has instructed for dietary needs for us.

Next week we will explore more of YHWH’s thoughts on dietary instructions.

