

LEVITICUS 11-12

REVIEW...

- **INTRODUCTION**

- Two main divisions to Leviticus...
 - Leviticus 1-16 - Laws concerning 'Ceremonial Holiness' - our relationship with God...
 - Leviticus 17-27 - Laws concerning 'Practical Holiness' - our daily lives...

- **LEVITICUS 1-9 - LAWS CONCERNING THE 4 SACRIFICES TO THE LORD...**

- The Burnt offering - the offering of submission / The Grain offering - thankfulness...
- The Peace offering - fellowship / The sin offering - the offering for breaking God's Law...

- **LEVITICUS 10 - MISREPRESENTING THE LORD...**

- In the excitement of the dedication - Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire...
- Fire came out from the Lord and consumed them - they died there before the Lord...
- 1st - they misrepresented God to the people - it was not an offering commanded by God...
- 2nd - it appears they had been drinking - they did not have a clear mind

WHAT TO EAT... LEVITICUS 11:1-47

- **CLEAN AND UNCLEAN ANIMALS... Read: Leviticus 11:2-3 / 10 / 21 / 41-42**

- God gave instruction to Israel as to what kind of animals they were permitted to eat...
 - The concept of clean and unclean animals goes all the way back to Noah - **Genesis 7:2**
 - If an animal was a 'clean' animal - then they were allowed to use it for food...
 - If an animal was 'unclean' - then it was forbidden for them to eat it...
 - Before God gave the Law it is assumed men knew 'clean' animals by oral tradition...
 - Now in the Law God describes 5 categories of animals - defining clean from unclean...
- 1st - Any animal that has a split hoof / and that eats grass - is a clean animal... vs. 1-8
 - Meaning God allowed Israel to eat - Cows / Sheep / Goats / Deer / Caribou...
 - But they were forbidden to eat - Pigs / Camels / Horses / Dogs / Lions...
- 2nd - Any fish that has fins and scales - is a clean fish... vs. 9-12
 - Meaning God allowed Israel to eat - Anchovies / Tuna / Salmon / Bass...
 - But everything else was forbidden - shrimp / crabs / mudfish / squid / frogs...
- 3rd - God gave a list of the birds that were unclean... vs. 13-19
 - Included were owls, vultures, eagles, hawks, ravens, seagulls, and bats...
 - What all these birds have in common is they either eat unclean animals...
 - Or they are eat carrion - dead animals - they are scavengers...
 - The suggestion is that birds that are not scavengers or birds of prey - are clean
- 4th - Any insect that had joined legs for hopping - were clean... vs. 20-23
 - The only insects that qualified were grasshoppers and locusts...
 - John the Baptist was famously fond of eating grasshoppers with honey - **Matthew 3:4**
 - Every other insect - spiders / ants / termites - all of them - unclean
- 5th - All reptiles / snakes / rodents - are all unclean and must never be eaten...
- Why the clean and unclean animals...
 - There are two thoughts on why God forbid Israel to eat certain foods...

- 1st - It may have been a test - to see how devoted Israel was to God...
 - By forbidding Israel to eat certain foods - some of them (*letson*) VERY tasty...
 - It allowed God to test Israel and see if they would be obedient to God...
 - Part of following Jesus is learning to deny what we want - and choose the Lord...
 - * **Luke 9:23** - "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
 - For example - we might want to eat - but God calls us to fast to focus on Him...
 - Fasting is giving up something we want for the purpose of denying ourselves...
 - Taking the time we would have devoted to eating (*or TV*) and spending it with Jesus
 - We might want to sleep - but God calls us to get up and spend time in His word...
 - God does allow tests in our lives - to see if we will please God or please ourselves
- 2nd - God created the animals - and He knows which ones are the safest to eat...
 - For example: Pigs are scavengers - eat anything from garbage to their own fecal...
 - Trichinosis - a parasitic disease caused by the roundworm *Trichinella spiralis*...
 - It follows the eating of raw or inadequately cooked meat - especially pork...
 - The adverse affects of the high content of fat in Pork - high blood/stroke...
 - Shellfish are the cockroaches and vacuums cleaners of the ocean...
 - Their 'bottom feeding' tends to give them high levels of bacteria and toxins...
 - They have notoriously high levels of mercury and heavy metals in them...
 - Many people have a potentially fatal allergic reaction to 'shell fish'...
 - God wants to keep us healthy - so He gave us rules to eat the healthiest animals...
 - There is wisdom in following these rules - just simply for your health's sake...
- Eat whatever you want...
 - We are no longer under the Law - we are under Grace - **Romans 6:14**
 - Spiritually it does not make a difference what we choose to eat...
 - * **Matthew 15:11** - "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."
 - Whatever you eat – it just goes into your stomach – then into the CR...
 - So you are not a better person if you don't eat pork/shrimp – or worse if you do...
 - So spiritually speaking - chow down on all the *letson* and crabs you want!
 - But what comes out of our mouth...
 - The words that we speak – they are what make us unclean – defiled...
 - We are defiled because our words reveal what is in our heart...
 - * **Luke 6:45** – "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."
- **DEFILED BY UNCLEAN ANIMALS...** Read: **Leviticus 11:43-47**
 - If you touched a dead animal... vs. 24-31, 39-40
 - If you picked up a carcass - you had to immediately go and wash your clothes...
 - If you touch a dead animal - clean or unclean - you are 'defiled' until evening...
 - The word 'defiled' means - unclean or impure - you couldn't enter the Tabernacle...
 - You could not come into the presence of the Lord till you were 'clean' again...
 - If a dead animal touched something... vs. 32-38
 - 1st - A dead animal fell on something (*wood/cloth/leather*) - it had to be washed...

- The item would be unclean - unusable until evening - then it would be 'clean' again
- If they water used for cleaning touched anything - it was defiled until evening...
- 2nd - The animal fell into a clay pot - the contents had to be thrown out - pot smashed...
- 3rd - The dead animal fell into a spring or well - the water would not be defiled...
 - But whomever removes the dead animal - they will be 'defiled' till evening
- 4th - The dead animal falls on a seed to be planted - the seed is considered clean...
 - But if the seed was wet - then the seed is 'defiled' and must be thrown away...
- o It must have been very challenging to keep all these rules...
 - Every time you killed a chicken for lunch - you were unclean till evening...
 - Every time you swatted and killed a mosquito - you were unclean till evening...
 - Every time you had to kill a gecko for your wife - unclean until evening...
 - Why have all these rules - why make it so difficult for Israel - 2 reasons...
 - 1st - To set Israel apart from all other nations...
 - God is holy (*separate from a sinful world*) - so we must also be holy...
 - Israel stuck out in a crowd because of God's Laws - they were different...
 - The same way God calls us to be different from a lost and sinful world...
 - Not so much in what we eat - but in our actions - in our words...
 - We live in a VERY sinful world - if we act like them - we are not following God...
 - Instead we should be a light to them - by our life - show them the way to God!
 - 2nd - It made Israel constantly think about God...
 - By giving rules on eating - something everyone does every day...
 - Israel constantly - daily - had to think about God's Law for their lives...
 - Too often Christians think their faith only has to be lived out on Sunday mornings...
 - They other 6 days and 22 hours of the week - they act just like the world...
 - We should be daily in fellowship with God - guiding our every action...
 - Morning - noon - and night depending on the Lord to guide our every step!
 - **Psalms 55:17** - "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice."

THE LAWS FOR GIVING BIRTH... LEVITICUS 12:1-8

- **WHEN A WOMAN HAS A CHILD... VS. 1-5**
 - o If it was a boy...
 - She would be 'unclean' for 7 days - the normal length for her impurity...
 - A woman was 'unclean' for the first 7 days after she gave birth...
 - It was simply a time to allow her to physically recover from the pregnancy...
 - On the 8th day - she would circumcise her son...
 - According to the command God gave to Abraham in **Genesis 17:7-14**...
 - The circumcision was the symbol of God's Covenant with Israel...
 - * **Colossians 2:11** - "When you came to Christ, you were 'circumcised,' but not by a physical procedure. It was spiritual... the cutting away of your sinful nature."
 - It showed that the son was set apart - he was to be devoted to following God...
 - Then she must wait 33 more days to be purified - 40 days in all...
 - She could not go into the Temple - participate in religious ceremonies...
 - There are two thoughts as to why the woman had to wait 40 days...

- 1st - It was a time to prepare for the challenges that lay ahead...
 - When a baby is born - they are born into a lost and sinful world...
 - The challenges of raising a child to know and follow the Lord were enormous....
 - The number 40 in the Bible is the number of trials - raising a child is a trial!
 - It is a lifelong choice for parents to choose to raise their children to know Jesus!
 - Not just simply teaching a child about Jesus - but showing them in actions...
 - Our children grow up following in our footsteps - they will mirror our example!
- 2nd - For the health and well being of the new baby...
 - The first month of an infant's life is critical physically and emotionally...
 - It was a time of bonding - between the mother and the child...
 - God did not want the mom getting busy again too quickly...
 - God also wanted to make sure the baby was physically strong - healthy...
- If it was a girl...
 - She would be 'unclean' for 14 days - double the length if it had been a son...
 - Then she would wait for 66 days to be purified - 80 days in all!
 - There are some who have interpreted this as a punishment for having a girl - wrong...
 - **Galatians 3:28** - "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus."
 - God created us as equal - there is no difference between male or female in Christ!
 - Perhaps the reason for the 'double time' was to give more time to the baby girl...
 - In ancient cultures men were traditionally given more value than women...
 - So the Lord gave moms an extra 40 days to stay at home and bond with girls...
- OFFERING TO THE LORD... VS. 6-8
 - At the end of the days - 40 or 80 - the woman was to go to the temple...
 - She was to bring a lamb as a sin offering / a bird as a purification offering...
 - God was not saying it is a sin to have a baby - God wants us to have LOTS of kids...
 - God's 1st command for marriage was to be fruitful and multiply - **Genesis 1:28**
 - God tells us his desire for marriage is Godly children - **Malachi 2:15**
 - And Jesus rebuked His disciples for keeping little kids from Him - **Matthew 19:14**
 - But because the baby was born as a sinner - there was a need for salvation...
 - Babies are not born as saints - they are born as dirty rotten selfish sinners...
 - The moment a child is born - you spank them - and they start crying...
 - Therefore a mom was to offer a lamb - to cover the sin of her newborn child...
 - We are born with the need for a savior - we were all born into sin and judgment...
 - **John 3:6-7** - "Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven... don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again."
 - So God sent the Lamb of God - to take away our sin - so we might be born again...
 - This time not into sin - but into new life in Christ!
 - If the mom could not afford a lamb...
 - She was allowed to instead bring two birds as an offering...
 - Mary and Joseph were poor - they could not afford a lamb for the sacrifice - **Luke 2:24**
 - Instead they brought two birds - the offering God allowed for those who were poor...
 - It is so important to study both the Old and the New Testament...
 - If you did now know **Leviticus 12** - you would not full understand **Luke 2...**

- Like two halves of one whole - the one is not complete without the other!