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 offered 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...
    - It 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 / Dear / 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 will we please God our 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 heaven 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...

o 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

o If you touched a dead animal... vs. 24-31, 39-40
- If you picked up a carcass - you had to immediately go and wash you 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...

o 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 it the seed was wet - then the seed is 'defiled' and must be thrown away...
- 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**
    - 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!