

Leviticus, from The Holy Bible, King James version, Univ. of Virginia

Food taboos from Leviticus, chapter 11

Questions

1. Why do you think “camels,” “coney,” “swine,” “all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters” (e.g., shrimp) and “vultures” are condemned as unclean while cows, goats, “whatever has fins and scales” (e.g. flounder and carp), chickens and “locust,” “beetle,” “crickets,” and “grasshoppers” are declared good to eat?
2. When was the last time you ate locust, beetle, crickets, or grasshoppers?

- 1: And the LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them,
- 2: Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth.
- 3: Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.
- 4: Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.
- 5: And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.
- 6: And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.
- 7: And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.
- 8: Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.
- 9: These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.
- 10: And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you:
- 11: They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination.
- 12: Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you.
- 13: And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,
- 14: And the vulture, and the kite after his kind;
- 15: Every raven after his kind;
- 16: And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,
- 17: And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl,
- 18: And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle,
- 19: And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.
- 20: All fowls that creep, going upon all four, shall be an abomination unto you.
- 21: Yet these may ye eat of every flying creeping thing that goeth upon all four, which have legs above their feet, to leap withal upon the earth;
- 22: Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.
- 23: But all other flying creeping things, which have four feet, shall be an abomination unto you.
- 24: And for these ye shall be unclean: whosoever toucheth the carcase of them shall be unclean until the even.
- 25: And whosoever beareth ought of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.
- 26: The carcasses of every beast which divideth the hoof, and is not clovenfooted, nor cheweth the cud, are unclean unto you: every one that toucheth them shall be unclean.
- 27: And whatsoever goeth upon his paws, among all manner of beasts that go on all four, those are unclean unto you: whoso toucheth their carcase shall be unclean until the even.

- 28: And he that beareth the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: they are unclean unto you.
- 29: These also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind,
- 30: And the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole.
- 31: These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.
- 32: And upon whatsoever any of them, when they are dead, doth fall, it shall be unclean; whether it be any vessel of wood, or raiment, or skin, or sack, whatsoever vessel it be, wherein any work is done, it must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the even; so it shall be cleansed.
- 33: And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean; and ye shall break it.
- 34: Of all meat which may be eaten, that on which such water cometh shall be unclean: and all drink that may be drunk in every such vessel shall be unclean.
- 35: And every thing whereupon any part of their carcase falleth shall be unclean; whether it be oven, or ranges for pots, they shall be broken down: for they are unclean, and shall be unclean unto you.
- 36: Nevertheless a fountain or pit, wherein there is plenty of water, shall be clean: but that which toucheth their carcase shall be unclean.
- 37: And if any part of their carcase fall upon any sowing seed which is to be sown, it shall be clean.
- 38: But if any water be put upon the seed, and any part of their carcase fall thereon, it shall be unclean unto you.
- 39: And if any beast, of which ye may eat, die; he that toucheth the carcase thereof shall be unclean until the even.
- 40: And he that eateth of the carcase of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: he also that beareth the carcase of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.
- 41: And every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth shall be an abomination; it shall not be eaten.
- 42: Whatsoever goeth upon the belly, and whatsoever goeth upon all four, or whatsoever hath more feet among all creeping things that creep upon the earth, them ye shall not eat; for they are an abomination.
- 43: Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.
- 44: For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- 45: For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.
- 46: This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:
- 47: To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

Sexual and other taboos from Leviticus, chapter 20 – Are you innocent?

Punishable by death (check where appropriate): **Do you know the modern terms for these offenses?**

- Giving seed unto Molech
- Cursing his mother or father
- Adultery with another man's wife
- Lieth with his father's wife or daughter-in-law
- Man lieth with mankind, as with womankind
- Marrage to your mother-in-law
- Man or woman lie with a beast
- Divineth by ghosts and other familiar spirits

Punishable by banishment (check where appropriate): **Do you know the modern terms for these offenses?**

- Seeing the nakedness of your sister or half-sister or aunt
- Seeing the nakedness of your brother or half-brother or uncle
- A man lie with a woman having her sickness

- 1: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- 2: Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones.
- 3: And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name.
- 4: And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not:
- 5: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.
- 6: And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.
- 7: Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.
- 8: And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.
- 9: For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.
- 10: And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.
- 11: And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness: both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
- 12: And if a man lie with his daughter in law, both of them shall surely be put to death: they have wrought confusion; their blood shall be upon them.
- 13: If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
- 14: And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you.
- 15: And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.

- 16: And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
- 17: And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.
- 18: And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.
- 19: And thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister, nor of thy father's sister: for he uncovereth his near kin: they shall bear their iniquity.
- 20: And if a man shall lie with his uncle's wife, he hath uncovered his uncle's nakedness: they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.
- 21: And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.
- 22: Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out.
- 23: And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.
- 24: But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.
- 25: Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.
- 26: And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.
- 27: A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.