

# LEVITICUS 11

## YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

We have now arrived at a new section. Leviticus chapters 11-15 contain laws concerning ritual cleanness and uncleanness.

Chapter 11 differentiates between clean and unclean foods.

Chapter 12 deals with pollution associated with child birth.

Chapters 13,14 deal with defiling skin and fungal diseases.

Chapter 15 deals with bodily discharges.

These five chapters look back to 10v10 "that you may distinguish between holy and unholy and between clean and unclean", and culminate in chapter 16, the great day of atonement, in which sacrifices were ordained "because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel" (16v16) and "to cleanse you that you may be clean" (16v30).

### Structure of chapter

#### **Clean and unclean animals defined v1-23**

##### 1-8 Land creatures

2-3 edible

4-8 inedible, unclean

##### 9-12 Water creatures

9 edible

10-12 inedible, detestable

##### 13-23 Flying creatures

13-19 inedible, detestable birds

20-23 insects, detestable (20)

Edible (21-22)

#### **Pollution by animals and its treatment 24-47**

##### 24-28 Land creatures

##### 29-45 Swarming creatures

Principles (29-38)

Clean animals (39-40)

Exhortation (41-45)

##### 46-47 Summary

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### Summary of the regulations

1. Cloven-hoofed, cud-chewing land animals may be eaten.
2. Only fishes which have fins and scales may be eaten.
3. Certain birds, mainly birds of prey, may not be eaten.
4. Flying insects may not be eaten, but hopping insects are edible.
5. Touching the dead carcass of an unclean animal makes a person unclean.
6. Other swarming animals, such as mice and lizards are unclean. If they are found dead inside a vessel, the vessel becomes unclean and must be destroyed or purified.
7. Clean animals that die of natural causes become unclean, unfit to eat and defiling.