

**Clean and Unclean Animals (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

## Leviticus 11

**Clean and Unclean Land Animals**

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,  
2 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘These *are* the animals that you may eat from all the animals that *are* on the land:  
3 Any among the animals that has a divided hoof and has a split cleft in *the* hoof, such you may eat.  
4 However, these you may not eat from those that chew the cud and from those that have a divided hoof: the camel, because it *is* a chewer of cud but it does not have a hoof that is divided—it *is* unclean for you;  
5 and the coney, because it *is* a chewer of cud but it does not have a hoof that is divided—it *is* unclean for you;  
6 and the hare, because it *is* a chewer of cud but it does not have a hoof that is divided—it *is* unclean for you;  
7 and the pig, because it has a divided hoof and has a split cleft in the hoof but it does not chew cud—it *is* unclean for you.  
8 You must not eat from their meat, and you must not touch their dead body—they are unclean for you.

**Clean and Unclean Aquatic Animals**

- 9 “ ‘These you may eat from all that *are* in the water: any in the water that has a fin and scales, *whether* in the seas or in the streams—such you may eat.  
10 But any that does not have a fin and scales, *whether* in the seas or in the streams, among all the water’s swarmer among all the living creatures that *are* in the water—they *are* a detestable thing to you.  
11 And they shall be detestable to you; you must not eat from their meat, and you must detest their dead body.  
12 Any that does not have a fin and scales in the water—it *is* a detestable thing to you.

**Unclean Birds**

- 13 “ ‘And these you must detest from the birds; they must not be eaten—they *are* detestable: the eagle and the vulture and the short-toed eagle,  
14 and the red kite and the black kite according to its kind,  
15 every crow according to its kind,  
16 and the ostrich and the short-eared owl and the seagull and the hawk according to its kind,  
17 and the little owl and the cormorant and the great owl,  
18 and the barn owl and the desert owl and the carrion vulture,  
19 and the stork, the heron according to its kind and the hoopoe and the bat.

**Clean and Unclean Winged Insects**

- 20 “ ‘Any winged insect that walks on *all* fours *is* detestable to you.  
21 Only this may you eat from any of the winged insects that walk on *all* fours—that which has jointed legs above its feet for leaping upon the land.  
22 From these you may eat the locust according to its kind and the bald locust according to its kind and the cricket according to its kind and the grasshopper according to its kind.  
23 But any *other* winged insect that has four legs *is* detestable to you.

**Purification After Touching Dead Animals**

- 24 And by these you shall become unclean—anyone who touches their dead body shall become unclean until the evening,  
25 and anyone who carries their dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening.  
26 “ ‘*With regard* to any animal that has a divided hoof but does not split the hoof, or does not have a cud *for* chewing—they *are* unclean for you; anyone who touches them shall become unclean.  
27 And anything that walks upon its paws among any of the animals that walks on *all* fours—they *are* unclean for you; anyone who touches their dead body shall become unclean until the evening,  
28 and the one who carries their dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening—they *are* unclean for you.  
29 “ ‘And these *are* the unclean for you among the swarmer that swarm on the land: the weasel and the mouse and the thorn-tailed lizard according to its kind,  
30 and the gecko and the land crocodile and the lizard and the sand lizard and the chameleon.  
31 These *are* the unclean for you among all the swarmer; anyone who touches them at their death shall become unclean until the evening.  
32 And anything on which one of them falls at their death shall become unclean: any object of wood or garment or skin or sackcloth—any object that has performed work—must be placed in water, and it shall be unclean until the evening, and *then* it shall be clean.  
33 And any clay vessel into which it falls shall become unclean, and you must break it.  
34 Any of the food that could be eaten on which water *from such a vessel* comes shall become unclean, and any liquid that could be

drunk in any *such* vessel shall become unclean.

35 And anything on which one of their dead bodies falls shall become unclean: an oven or a stove must be broken—they *are* unclean and shall be unclean for you.

36 Surely a spring or a cistern collecting water shall be clean, but that which touches their dead body shall become unclean.

37 And when one of their dead bodies falls on any seed for sowing, it *is* clean.

38 But when water is put on *the* seed and one of their dead bodies falls on it, it *is* unclean for you.

39 “ ‘And when one of the animals dies that is for you to eat, the one who touches its dead body shall become unclean until the evening.

40 And the one who eats some of its dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening; and the one who carries its dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

#### Unclean Swarming Animals

41 “ ‘And any swarmer that swarms on the land *is* detestable; it must not be eaten.

42 You must not eat anything that moves upon its belly or that walks on *all* fours, even any *with* numerous feet *belonging* to any swarmer that swarms on the land, because they *are* detestable.

43 You must not defile yourselves with any swarmer that swarms, and you must not make yourselves unclean by them and *so* be made unclean by them,

#### Rationale for the Law

44 because I *am* Yahweh your God, and you must keep yourselves sanctified, so that you shall be holy, because I *am* holy. And you must not make yourselves unclean with any swarmer that moves along on the land,

45 because I *am* Yahweh, who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be for you as God. Thus you shall be holy, because I *am* holy. [[1 Pet 1:16](#)]

#### Summary Statement

46 “ ‘This is the regulation of the animals and the birds and all living creatures that move along in the water and concerning all the creatures that swarm on the land,

47 to distinguish between the unclean and the clean and between the animal that is to be eaten and the animal that must not be eaten.’”

### Purification After Childbirth (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

#### Leviticus 12

##### Birth of a Son

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “ ‘Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘When a woman becomes pregnant and she gives birth to a male, then she shall be unclean seven days—as *in* the time of her menstrual bleeding, she shall become unclean.

3 And on the eighth day his foreskin’s flesh shall be circumcised.

4 And *for* thirty-three days she shall stay in the blood of *her* cleansing; she must not touch any holy *object*, and she may not come to the sanctuary until the fulfilling of the days of her cleansing.

##### Birth of a Daughter

5 But if she gives birth to a female, then she shall be unclean *for* two weeks as *in* her menstruation, and *for* sixty-six days she shall stay through the blood of *her* cleansing.

##### Offering for Bearing Children

6 And at the fulfilling of the days of her cleansing, *whether* for a son or for a daughter, she must bring to the priest at the tent of assembly’s entrance a yearling male lamb as a burnt offering and young dove or a turtledove as a sin offering.

7 And *the* priest shall present it before Yahweh, and he shall make atonement for her, so that she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This *is* the regulation of childbearing for the male or for the female.

8 And if she cannot afford a sheep, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young doves—one as a burnt offering and one as a sin offering—and the priest shall make atonement for her, so that she shall be clean.’” [cf. [Luke 2:22–24](#)]

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