

ARE THE

OLD TESTAMENT

FOOD LAWS

FOR US TODAY?



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"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price," Isa. 55:1.

"...freely ye have received, freely give," Mat. 10:8.

Please note:

The true Names of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, are used throughout this booklet, instead of the common but erroneous forms found in most translations of the Holy Scriptures.

These Names are found thousands of times in the Original, Inspired Scriptures, but most translators say they have “followed longstanding tradition” by inserting substitutes such as “LORD” and “GOD” in place of Yahweh’s Name, and the Savior’s True Name has been corrupted by centuries of Greek, Latin, and French influence. For more information, or for additional copies of this booklet, please write to the U. S. address on the preceding page.

ARE THE OLD TESTAMENT FOOD LAWS FOR US TODAY?

By Frank Brown

Are the old testament food laws to be observed by us today? Are we required to abstain from eating things like swine, buz-zards, and bats today? Or were these food laws "done away at the cross," as so many ministers teach today? In this article, we want to take up a study of the laws of clean and unclean foods, as revealed in the scriptures, and find out from the scriptures whether we are to keep them today.

Before we get started, I want to remind you that I always use the correct form of our heavenly Father's name, Yahweh, in-stead of Lord or Jehovah, and of his Son's name, Yahshua, instead of Jesus. These names were in the original inspired scrip-tures, but were later taken out by uninspired scribes and Bible trans-lators. Of course, you are all famil-iar with "hallelujah", which is an untranslated He-brew phrase meaning "praise ye Yah." This is ex-actly what we are told to do in Psa. 68:4, which says to "praise him by his name Yah." This is one of the few places in the King James Bible where the name "Yah" survived. Yah is the poetic, or short form of the name Yahweh. For more information on this im-portant subject, write and ask for articles on "the Names."

Now back to the subject. In the 11th chapter of Leviticus and the 14th chapter of Deuteronomy, is a list of animals, some said to be clean, and others said to be unclean. Since the two accounts are nearly identical, let's look at Leviticus 11:

(Lev 11:1-12 KJV) "And Yahweh 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. "

So we see that fish, to be fit to eat, must have both fins and scales. That lets catfish out, because while they have fins, they have skin instead of scales. It also forbids shellfish, such as shrimp, crabs, oysters, lobster, and crawfish.

Leviticus 11:13 *And these [are they which] ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they [are] an abomination:* and then he goes on to name birds of prey, flesh eaters, such as eagles, hawks, and owls, and carrion eaters like vultures, as well as scavengers such as crows, etc.

But birds that eat grass, seeds, and other vegetation, are clean to eat - quail, pheasant, partridge, turkey, chickens, to name a few.

I recently met a man, a professing Christian, or at least, he goes to church most every Sunday, who said that he had just recently discovered this

information in his Bible. He said he had never read it, or even heard of it before. Why such ignorance? Why should supposed believers of the scriptures be so totally unaware of what they contain?

I'll tell you why. We have been taught by misguided pastors that the Old Testament is a thing of the past, with no relevance for us today; that it was nailed to the cross when the savior died, and we don't have to be concerned with any of its teachings in this modern new testament age. Further, they say that these laws were given only to the Jews, and were not for anyone else.

Well, let's examine some of the scriptures relating to this subject, and also look at some so-called proof texts that modern ministers use to refute the clear teachings of the scriptures.

First, let's notice Genesis 7:1 and 2: (*Gen 7:1-2 KJV*) "*And Yahweh said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. {2} Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.*"

According to Dr. E. W. Bullinger's Companion Bible, the flood, in Noah's time, happened 856 years before the Exodus, in the time of Moses. And yet, it is obvious that the law of clean and unclean

foods was already in effect way back then.

Now, let's turn our attention to some New Testament scrip-tures. First, an incident in the course of the Savior's minis-try, which is recorded in Matthew 15, and Mark 7. Let's look at Mark's ac-count, because some words are added that are not in the account in Matthew.

Mark 7:15: (the savior is speaking) *there is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.*

Mark 7:19 because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

Some Bible translators have brazenly taken it upon them-selves to add, "thus he said, cleansing all meats," or something similar. But is that what he meant?

First, we have to get the context, and find out what they are discussing. You need to read the whole chapter. I'm going to only hit the key verses to con-serve space.

In v. 1, some Pharisees and scribes "came to-gether unto him" as it says. In v. 2, they saw some of his disciples eat **bread** with defiled or unwashed hands. And of course, being Pharisees, they found fault. Verse 3 shows that it was a tradition of the eld-

ers for them to wash often, especially before eating. This was a ritual washing, clear to the elbows, and was merely one of their traditions that had sprung up. It had no Scriptural basis.

Washing before eating is a good sanitary practice, but sometimes it isn't practical; especially if you're out in the boondocks, which they were at the time. Now notice v. 5:

Mark 7:5 *then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?* Notice it was bread, not meat.

Mark 7:6 *he answered and said unto them, well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with [their] lips, but their heart is far from me.*

Mark 7:7 *howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.* Now notice v. 9:

Mark 7:9 *and he said unto them, full well ye reject the com-mandment of Yah that ye may keep your own tradition.*

The subject here is eating bread with unwashed hands, yet many ministers of this world's churches use this scripture to try to prove that the commandment against eating unclean meats is no longer in force. But the truth of the matter is, meats

are not even mentioned. The word translated "meats" is from a Greek word that simply means "food." It is translated "food" in other places.

Now let's look at Colossians 2:16: *let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath [days]:*

This verse gets a lot of use from those who love to twist and pervert the plain scriptures. It's used to say that the un-clean food laws are done away; it's used to say that we don't have to keep the annual holy days; it's used to say that we don't have to observe the new moon, a reference to the holy calendar revealed in the Bible, whose months start with the appearance of a new moon; it's also used to say that the weekly Sabbath is not to be observed today.

But it does none of these things. It says, note carefully, let no **man** judge you, in **your** observance of these things. In vv 20-23, he is warning believers to stay away from the commandments and doctrines of **men**, not Yahweh's commandments. [Write for my article, "Does the Book of Colossians Do Away With the Law?"]

Now let's look at one final scripture that is often used in an attempt to justify breaking Yahweh's eternal law:

It's the story of Cornelius the Roman Centurion, as told in Acts 10. Up to this time, the Jews would have nothing to do with gentiles. They were considered unclean. But Yahweh's plan was to call the gentiles, to make salvation available to them, and Cornelius was the first to answer that call. He was told in a vision to send for Peter, who was at that time in Joppa. So he sent three servants to ask Peter to come to his house and instruct them in what they should do. But Peter had to be prepared for this new development. Let's pick up the story in Acts 10:9:

Acts 10:9 on the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: 10 and he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11 and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: 12 wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 13 and there came a voice to him, rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 but Peter said, not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15 and the voice [spake] unto him again the second time, what Yahweh hath cleansed, [that] call not thou common. 16

this was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

Did Peter immediately jump up and shout, "Hooray! Now I can eat pig meat! And snakes! And possums! And...and"... No, of course not. That's not what he said.

Verse 17 says, *now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, be-hold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,...*"

You see, Peter knew that Yahweh was not changing his law. He never even thought that. And he finally figured out what the vision meant. In v. 28, he said, *Ye know how that it is an un-lawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but Yah hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.* Remember 1 Tim. 4:1-5: *now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which Yahweh created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of Yahweh [is]*

good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of Yahweh and prayer.

Sanctified means to be set apart. The meats we are to eat are set apart, or sanctified, in the word of Yahweh, Lev. 11, and Deut. 14, as we read earlier, and we are supposed to ask His blessing on our meals, in prayer, before we eat them.

So, let's sum up the study. Today's preachers teach that the law of clean-unclean meats was part of the Mosaic law given at Mount Sinai, and was for the Jews only. But Scripture says it has been in force since at least before the flood, and no scripture says it has ceased. Malachi 3:6 says "I am Yahweh, I change not."

Heb. 13:8 says Yahshua the Messiah, the same yesterday, and today, and forever. If they don't change, why would they change their law? Do not be hoodwinked by today's no-law teachers and preachers. They cry, "Legalism," as if being legal were a bad thing. We are required to be lawful. To be otherwise is sin. I John 3:4, tells us:

(1 John 3:4 KJV)

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

To transgress the law is to break the law - to

be lawless - to be a violator of Scriptural instruction, which is given us for our own good. Note what the Apostle Paul told Timothy:

(2 Tim 3:16 KJV) "All scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

The Savior said, *(Mark 7:9 KJV) "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of Yahweh, that ye may keep your own tradition."*

Let us stop following man's religious tradition that does not square with Scripture, and begin to obey with all our hearts the pure words of Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah. HalleluYAH! ~

