

# Leviticus 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

This verse falls within the section on **Clean and Unclean Animals**. Dietary laws distinguishing clean from unclean animals, teaching Israel holiness and separation from pagan practices.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

## Historical Context

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Dietary laws distinguishing clean from unclean animals, teaching Israel holiness and separation from pagan practices. Chapters 11-15 address ritual purity, teaching Israel to distinguish clean from unclean. These laws served multiple purposes: promoting health, teaching spiritual lessons about sin's defilement, and separating Israel from pagan practices. Archaeological evidence shows Canaanite worship involved practices Israel's laws explicitly prohibited. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them

for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָל הַבְּהֵמָה הָאֲשֶׁר הוּא מִפָּרָה וּמִכֶּזֶּה הַחֹף  
H3605      H929      H834      H1931      H6536      H6541  
**The carcasses of every beast which divideth the hoof**

וְשֶׁסָּעָה אֵינָהּ וְשֶׁסָּעָה אֵינָהּ וְשֶׁסָּעָה אֵינָהּ  
H8156      H369      H8157      H1625      H369      H5927  
**and is not clovenfooted the cud nor cheweth**

כָּל הַנִּגֵּץ עַלְיָהּ לְכָל הַנִּגֵּץ עַלְיָהּ  
H3605      H1992      H0      H5060  
**unto you every one that toucheth**

וְהָיָה כָל הַנִּגֵּץ עַלְיָהּ  
H2930  
**them shall be unclean**