

Leviticus 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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.

The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

Historical Context

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. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

אַ	אֶת	זֶה	לֹא	תֹאכְלוּ	מֵעַל הַ
Nevertheless	H853	H2088	H3808	these shall ye not eat	because he cheweth
H389				H398	H5927

הַ	יֶגֶד הַ	מִפְּרֵי יֵשׁ	וּפִרְסָה	אֶת	הַ גִּמְלָה	כִּי	מֵעַל הַ
the cud	but divideth	not the hoof	H853	as the camel	H3588	because he cheweth	H5927
H1625	H6536	H6541		H1581			

הַ	יֶגֶד הַ	הַ וְאֵל	וּפִרְסָה	אֵינָּה נֹו	מִפְּרֵי יֵשׁ	טִמֵּא אֵל	הַ וְאֵל	לָכֶם:
the cud	H1931	not the hoof	H369	but divideth	he is unclean	H1931	H0	
H1625		H6541		H6536	H2931			