

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

Nevertheless	H389	אַתָּה	H2088	לֹא	H3808	זֶה	H398	תֹאכַל	וְ	מַעַל	הָ	מַעַל	הָ	מַעַל	הָ			
	H853							these	shall	ye	not	eat	because	he	cheweth			
the cud	H1625	בְּ	H6536	אַתָּה	H6541	וְפָרָסָה	H853	מִפְרָסָה	אַתָּה	בְּ	כָּמָל	כִּי	בְּ	כָּמָל	because	he	cheweth	
											H1581	H3588				H5927		
the cud	H1625	וְ	H1931	אַתָּה	H6541	וְפָרָסָה	H369	אַיִל	כִּי	וְפָרָסָה	אַיִל	מִפְרָסָה	אַיִל	מִפְרָסָה	אַיִל	מִפְרָסָה	אַיִל	מִפְרָסָה
											H6536	H2931				H0		

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