

Leviticus 11:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

Analysis

To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

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. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

לְבַדּ יְלִלָּה	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין
To make a difference	H996	between the unclean	H996	and the clean	H996		
H914		H2931		H2889			
בֵּין הַמְּטֻמָּא וְבֵין הַמְּטֻמָּא	תָּאכֵל	וְבֵין	תָּאכֵל	וְבֵין	תָּאכֵל	וְבֵין	תָּאכֵל
and between the beast	that may be eaten	H996	and between the beast	H996			
H2416	H398		H2416				
תָּאכֵל:	לְאֵין						
that may be eaten	H3808						
	H398						

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 10:10 (Parallel theme): And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

Ezekiel 44:23 (Parallel theme): And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

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