

Leviticus 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

Analysis

And the coney, 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 holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

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 tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

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. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	הַשֶּׁפַּי	כִּי	מַעֲלֵה	גִּבָּה	הָ	וּפְרָסֵהָ
H853	And the coney	H3588	because he cheweth	the cud	H1931	not the hoof
	H8227		H5927	H1625		H6541
לֹא	יִפְרֹדֵם	טִמֵּא	הָ	לָכֶם:		
H3808	but divideth	he is unclean	H1931	H0		
	H6536	H2931				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:18 (Parallel theme): The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

Proverbs 30:26 (Parallel theme): The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

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