

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

וְפָרָס	ה	וְא	גַּבָּה	מַעַל	ה	פְּשָׁפֶן	וְאַתָּה
H1931				H5927		H3588	H8227
not the hoof				the cud		because he cheweth	And the coney
H6541				H1625		H1931	H853
לֹא	וְא	טָמֵן	וְא	טָמֵן	וְא	לֹא	לֹא
H3808		H2931		H1931		H0	H6536
but divideth	he is unclean						

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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