

Leviticus 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.

Analysis

Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to 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.

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

מִבְשָׂרָם	לֹא	תְּאַכֵּל	לְאַ	וּבְנֶגֶלֶת	לֹא	תְּנַעֲשֶׂה
Of their flesh	H3808	shall ye not eat		and their carcase	H3808	shall ye not touch
H1320		H398		H5038		H5060
they are unclean	H2931		H0			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:10 (Parallel theme): Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Isaiah 52:11 (Parallel theme): Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

Colossians 2:16 (Parallel theme): Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Leviticus 5:2 (Parallel theme): Or if a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean, and guilty.

Hosea 9:3 (Parallel theme): They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.