

# Torah Studies    Leviticus: *Vayikrah* – *And He Called*



Laws and Regulations  
Part 1

Leviticus 11 – 13

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Torah Studies

On Keeping God's Word

## Torah Studies

## On Keeping God's Word

- Psalm 119:61-64 (NKJV)

61 The cords of the wicked have bound me,  
[But] I have not forgotten Your law.

62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You,  
Because of Your righteous judgments.

## Torah Studies

## On Keeping God's Word

- Psalm 119:61-64 (NKJV)

63 I [am] a companion of all who fear You,

And of those who keep Your precepts.

64 The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy;

Teach me Your statutes.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

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### Dividing Up Leviticus:

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

### Dividing Up **Leviticus**:

**Part 1:** Sacrifice: Approaching a Holy God **Ch. 1 – 10**

**Part 2:** Sanctification: Living a Holy Life **Ch. 11 – 27**

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

### Previously in **Leviticus**:

- In **Leviticus 8 – 9**, we saw the ordination of Aaron and his sons.
- This covered their initiation into the priestly ministry.
- The scene culminated in God's glory filling the tabernacle.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

### Previously in **Leviticus**:

- Then in **Leviticus 10**, two of Aaron's sons offered unauthorized fire before the Lord.
- The result was that fire came out from the presence of the Lord and killed them.
- Aaron's other two sons took their place.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 11 – 13:**

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Introduction

### What to expect in **Leviticus 11 – 13**:

- This begins the section of the book that governs the life of the community in Israel.
- We will not see much in the way of narrative story.
- Rather, we will see instructions for how the people of Israel were expected to live.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

Outline



# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

- I. Clean and Unclean Animals **11:1-47**
- II. Purification After Childbirth **12:1-8**
- III. Laws About Leprosy **13:1-59**

## Outline



# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

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11:1-47

- The idea of clean and unclean animals first appears in **Genesis 7 & 8**.
- God asked Noah to make a distinction between clean and unclean animals.
- At that point, however, there is no explanation.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- **Genesis 7:1-2.**

1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- **Genesis 8:18-20**

18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. 20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- The concept appeared there in **Genesis** suddenly and without explanation.
- For that reason, it is hard to know when or how the idea started.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- Nonetheless, starting here, for the Jews, a kosher – that is, a *fit or proper* diet – was set down as law.
- This changes, however, in the New Testament.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- Mark 7:18-19

18 And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?"  
(Thus he declared all foods clean.)

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- In **Acts 10:9-16**, we find Peter receiving a vision in which God breaks down this dietary barrier.
- Then, in **Acts 11**, Peter goes to the home of a Roman centurion and a house full of Gentiles turn to Christ.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- In **Acts 15**, the apostles and elders officially decide what Gentile Christians must observe.
- They do not require keeping the kosher food laws.
- The only food-related instructions are practical issues more tied to idolatry and fellowship.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- Paul then emphasizes the change in his teaching,
- **Colossians 2:16-17**

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47



*In a day when there was neither refrigeration nor adequate means for cooking, many of these forbidden foods were potentially dangerous to the health of the people. However, the main reason was that the Jews might be reminded daily, ...*

*– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019),  
pastor and Bible teacher*

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47



*... at each meal, that they were a separated people who were not to live like the Gentile nations around them.*

*– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019),  
pastor and Bible teacher*

## I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- We may not have dietary laws, but Christians still need to remember that we are a separated people.

# I. Clean and Unclean Animals

11:1-47

- 1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

## II. Purification After Childbirth

12:1-8

## II. Purification After Childbirth

12:1-8

- I am not sure why the length of time of separation for uncleanness is doubled for a girl over a boy.
- No explanation is given.
- Some have suggested it might be a reminder of the future uncleanness of menstruation.

## II. Purification After Childbirth

12:1-8

- We do know this.
- In vv.6-8, a lamb and a small bird were required for offerings regardless of whether it was a boy or a girl.
- If she could not afford a lamb, two birds were allowed.

## II. Purification After Childbirth

12:1-8

- Luke 2:22-24

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

## II. Purification After Childbirth

12:1-8

- We can gather that Mary and Joseph were on the poorer side, since they could not afford a lamb.
- Jesus was born into a common family which adds to the picture of humility we see in Him.

### III. Laws About Leprosy

13:1-59

### III. Laws About Leprosy

13:1-59

- Not everything discussed in this chapter is what we would call leprosy today.
- Still, the idea of an infectious, disfiguring disease gives us striking picture of what sin does to us.

### III. Laws About Leprosy

13:1-59



*Sin, like leprosy, is a horribly disfiguring process. It takes a beautiful person and eats away at them in a destructive way. Sin, also, is contagious, and it isolates those it infects.*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

### III. Laws About Leprosy

13:1-59

- Thanks to a greater understanding of hygiene and the rise of antibiotics, leprosy is no longer such a big threat.
- Sin still has no other cure other than the blood of Jesus Christ.

Laws and Regulations: Part 1

Leviticus 11 – 13

Conclusions

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

### Clean and Unclean Foods

## Conclusions

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### Clean and Unclean Foods

- God called His people to be holy in the everyday details of life—even what they ate.
- Today, while we are free from these food laws, the principle of holiness remains.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### Clean and Unclean Foods

- Leviticus 11:44-45

44 For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. ... 45 For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### Clean and Unclean Foods

- Let every part of your daily life—your habits, choices, and appetites—reflect separation unto the Lord.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

### Purification After Childbirth

## Conclusions

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### Purification After Childbirth

- Childbirth, though a beautiful gift from God, reminded Israel of the ongoing effects of the fall.
- The blood and impurity required atonement.
- In Christ, His blood now cleanses us completely.

Laws and Regulations: Part 1

Leviticus 11 – 13

The Uncleaness of Leprosy

Conclusions

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### The Uncleaness of Leprosy

- Leprosy pictured the insidious, spreading, isolating nature of sin.
- It defiles and cuts us off from the community and from worship.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### The Uncleaness of Leprosy

- Matthew 8:2-3

2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."

3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

# Laws and Regulations: Part 1

## Leviticus 11 – 13

## Conclusions

### The Uncleaness of Leprosy

- Jesus, our Great High Priest, doesn't just diagnose our uncleanness.
- He touches the unclean and makes us clean
- No matter how deep or visible your sin, Christ can declare you clean.

# Torah Studies    Leviticus: *Vayikrah* – *And He Called*

## Laws and Regulations Part 2 Leviticus 14 – 15

