

# Christ in Food Regulations

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Leviticus 11

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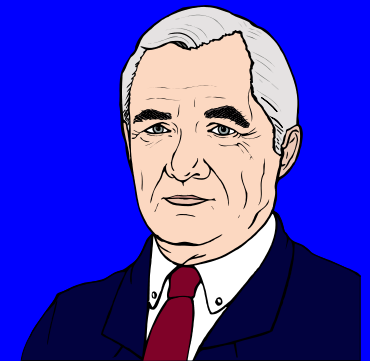
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# Absorbing the World

I like to relax  
watching TV.  
I don't much  
care what I watch.

The Bible  
gives pictures  
to help us  
discriminate.



# Outline of Leviticus

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I. The sacrifices (1-7)

II. Consecrating the priests (8-10)

~~III. Uncleanness and its remedy (11-16)~~

IV. Maintaining holiness (17-27)

# **Types of Uncleanness in Lev. 11-15**

---

**Unclean foods (11)**

**Uncleanness at birth (12)**

**Unclean contagion (13-14)**

**Unclean emissions (15)**

**Remedy for uncleanness (16)**

# Types of Uncleanness in Lev. 11-15

**Unclean foods (11)**

**Uncleanness at birth (12)**

**Unclean contagion (13-14)**

**Unclean emissions (15)**

**Remedy for uncleanness (16)**

## A. Clues to What Is “Unclean”

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# Clean and Unclean Animals in Leviticus 11:1-25

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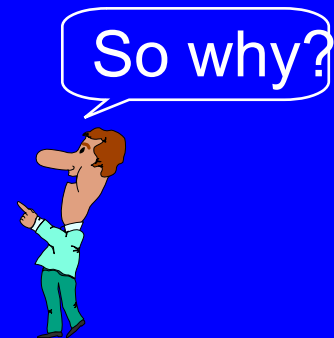
The topic of edible animals (1-2)

Land: chew cud and divide hoof (3-8)

Sea: with fins and scales (9-12)

Air: --nonviolent birds (13-19)

--insects with hopping legs (20-25)



# Clean and Unclean Animals in Leviticus 11:24-47

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**Carcasses:**

**Insects (24-25)**

**Land: chew cud and divide hoof (26-28)**

**Crawlers (29-38)**

**No animals already dead (39-40)**

**No creepy crawlers (41-43)**

**Basis: the Lord (44-45)**

**Summary (46-47)**

So why?



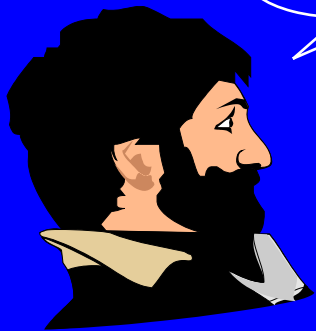


# Critical Discrimination

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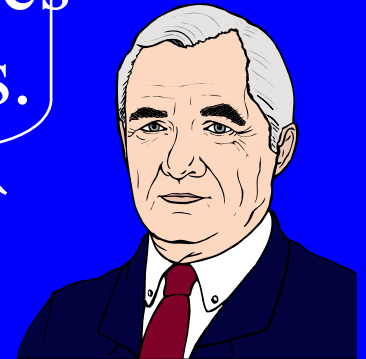
But this is about  
choosing foods.

But it doesn't  
make sense!



You will find  
that the principles  
apply to the  
whole world.

There are clues  
to principles.



# Beware of Death

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No touching dead from land (8)

Detest the dead from sea (11)

Unclean birds mess with death (13-19)

Dead insect makes unclean (20-26)

Dead from land makes unclean (31)

Carcass makes other items unclean (32-35)

Dead clean thing makes unclean (39-40)

# Other Features of Uncleaness

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Death makes unclean  
(severely). See Num.  
19

Death in Gen.  
3:19, 3-4

Focus in 11:41-45 on  
the ground.

Curse on ground,  
Gen. 3:17-19

Hint: 11:42, “belly”

“Belly” travel,  
Gen. 3:14

The original  
disaster!



## B. General Principles on Unclean

# A General Principle: Order

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death, curse, belly travel

point to the disorder of  
rebellling against God

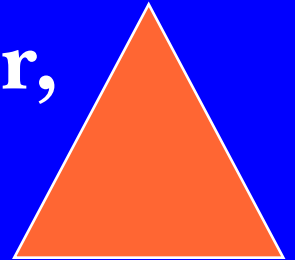
generalize,  
symbolize

“Disorderly” animals signify rebellion;  
“orderly” animals signify faithfulness

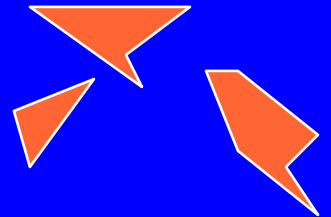
# God's Character

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God is a God of law, beauty, order,  
and balance.



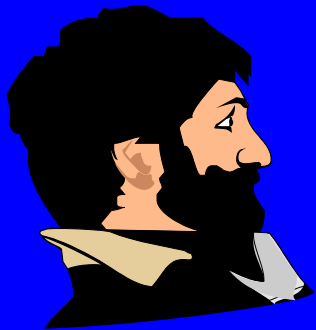
Opposition to God brings  
disorder.



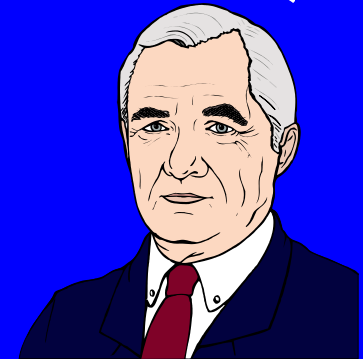
# Order, Physical and Moral

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Oh, so it reinforces  
what God is  
saying morally.



God created the physical  
order of the universe  
and moral order. He  
gave Israelites a  
picture of his order.



# Symbolism of Food in Lev. 11

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Old world character

Keep from death (13-19)	Death
Keep from dust (41-42)	Earthly
Keep from belly (42)	Evil
Keep from disorder (10)	Disorderly, mixed, confused



# What about Water Creatures?

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So why do fish  
have to have  
scales and fins?



# Kinds of Order and Disorder

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**Four feet normal for land.**

**Fins and scales normal in water.**

**Two wings and two feet normal for air.**

A worm is “gross”  
because it uses “belly travel.”

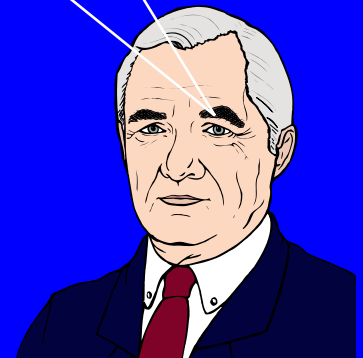
# Why Cud and Hoof?

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I still don't understand about pigs.



That's harder to say. Maybe pigs just didn't match the "ordinary" herd animals. But maybe there is something more.



# Chew Cud and Divide Hoof

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**Divide hoof: divide  
up the ground**

**Chew cud: divide up  
your food, which  
has come from the  
ground**

**Discriminate between  
good and evil in the  
world**

**Discriminate finely  
before taking it in  
(making it part of  
yourself and your  
practice)**

## C. Implications for Today

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# What Does God Teach?

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So what is God saying  
with all this?



# New Life for Israel

---

the old way

**Death**

**Earthly**

**Evil**

**Disorderly**

**Mixed**

the new way

**Life from God**

**God present from heaven**

**God's righteous law**

**God's ordering for the  
individual, family, and  
nation**

**Purified from evil**

Relief!



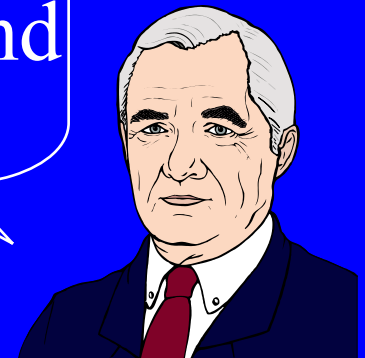
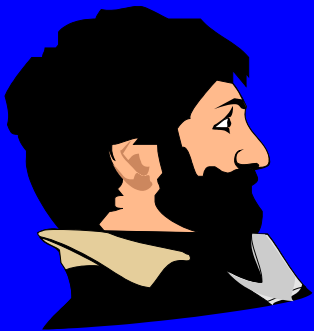
# How Does It Apply Now?

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So why don't we eat the same foods they did?

Christ changed it. The foods symbolized the spiritual discrimination that Christ brought in.

Let's look at Mark 7:14-23 and 1 Tim. 4:3-5





# New Life for You (Col. 3:1-4)

---

the old way

You die from sin.

Renounce flesh

Put off sin

End disorder

End confused mix  
with ungodliness

the new way

Life from Christ

Citizen in heaven

Righteous in Christ

Follow God's order  
(purification by the  
Holy Spirit)

Pure in Christ

# Creation and Re-Creation

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God separates spaces (Gen. 1:6-8)

God separates animals (Gen. 1:20-25)

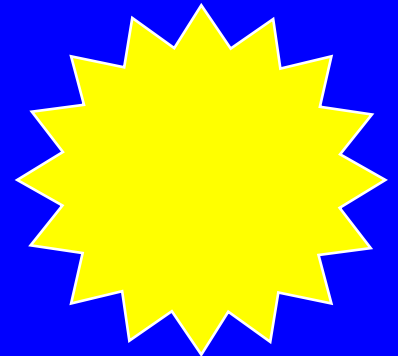
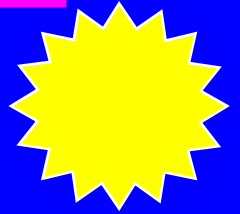
God separates tree of knowledge (2:17)

Satan attacks God's separations (3:4)

Israel imitates God's separations (Lev. 11)

Christ perfectly banishes evil

You separate by new life  
in Christ (Col. 3:1-4)



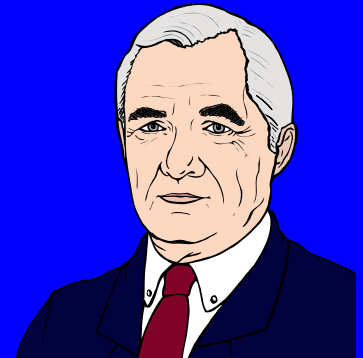
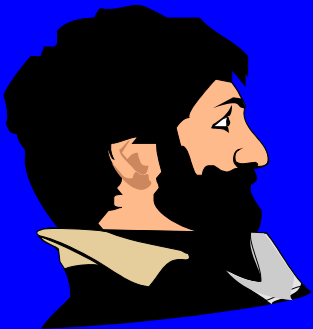
# What about TV?

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Still, I don't see  
anything wrong  
with watching TV.

What would  
I look for?

“Chew the cud”  
in taking in TV.  
Does TV honor  
God's order?



# Applying Discrimination

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I've got some thinking to do!



What does it do with death, sin, and curse? Does it distinguish normal from abnormal? What is it saying about who man is, about meaning, good living, goals, rewards, happiness? Do these agree with God's values?

