



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Leviticus 9:1-11:47
- Genesis 6-9
- I Timothy 4:1-4
- Romans 14:1-13

Title:

THE FOOD CHANNEL MEETS

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- The Diluvian Divider
- Clean and Unclean
- Apology for Apologetics

There is so much diversity in Christianity across the globe and other than agreement on the cross, there seems to be no particular doctrine that is universally held as true in all denominations. Of course, the cross of Christ unites us; it's simple, if you don't believe in the cross, then you are not even a Christian. Beyond that, everything appears to go haywire.

There is one other commonly held belief that has gained almost universal traction in Christianity, however. It's not one that threatens your eternity of course, but adherence to it seems to be as dogmatic as the cross itself. No, it will not threaten your eternity, but getting it wrong might make you arrive there a whole lot sooner.

Interview your Christian family, friends, and neighbors. Find a diversity of denominations to survey, so you can obtain a good

cross section of tightly held Christian beliefs. And do you know what you will discover? “Don’t mess with my food!”

It’s true; Christians will choose common culture over biblical truth almost 100% of the time when it comes to their food choices. In other words, they will choose their taste buds and addictions over biblically kosher every time. Now, we can spend an eternity (pun intended) talking about the myriads of unnatural man-made junk foods you should not eat (what I call common sense kosher), but we won’t go there for now. Instead, I want to make it simple. I just want to explore what the Bible says you are permitted to eat (what I call biblically kosher) and how Christians worldwide, and across nearly all denominations, believe that the cross of Christ annulled God’s laws on food, and how that is simply not true.

Yes, Christians universally agree on two things; the cross has set them free for eternity, and has also freed them to eat whatever they wish. The first will save your life; the latter will kill you!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.” Leviticus 11:46-47 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in **latter times** some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and **commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth**. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;” I Timothy 4:1-4 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The consecration of the priesthood has concluded after seven days and the eighth day has arrived. This portion describes the events of that day, includes a fabulous worship service, which is then followed by a tragic incident. We conclude with the biblical dietary laws regarding animals fit for consumption and prohibitions regarding those that are unfit.

Leviticus 9

2. **The Priestly Ministry Begins:** on the eighth day Aaron and his sons take over their priestly duties, first making a sin offering for themselves and then for the people. They also offer a bull and a

ram as peace offerings, and a grain offering mixed with oil; Moses tells them to make these offerings as commanded and the glory of the Lord will appear.

3. They do the offerings exactly as prescribed and then Aaron lifts his hand toward the people and blesses them.
4. Moses and Aaron go into the tabernacle of meeting, and come out and bless the people and the glory of Yahweh appears.
5. Fire comes out from before the Lord and consumes the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people see it, they shout and fall on their faces.

Leviticus 10

6. **The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu:** the sons of Aaron, each take his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offer fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them, making it profane fire. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.
7. Moses tells Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' "
8. Aaron held his peace and accepted Yahweh's consequences for the sin of offering unauthorized fire, the life of his sons.
9. The sons of Aaron's uncle (Uzziel) are called to carry Nadab and Abihu by their tunics out of the camp.

10. **Next in line to the priesthood:** Aaron's sons Eleazar and Ithamar. They are essentially told not to mourn the loss of their brother, but instead let the whole house of Israel express great regret for the fire which Yahweh has kindled.
11. **Conduct Prescribed for Priests:** These are statutes forever...
- (a) Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink when you go into the tabernacle of meeting so you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes of the Lord.
 - (b) They are again instructed which parts of the grain offering, wave offering, and heave offering are their due portion to eat.
12. Eleazar and Ithamar are then rebuked for not eating the sin offering in the holy place. But, Aaron explains to Moses that they just being overly cautious after such things had befallen him that day (the death of Nadab and Abihu). When Moses heard that, he was content.

Leviticus 11

13. **Foods Permitted and Forbidden:** These *are* the animals which you may eat among all the animals that *are* on the earth:
- (a) Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves *and* chewing the cud—that you may eat.

(b) Nevertheless these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves (Don't eat their flesh nor touch their carcasses):

(1) the camel, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves...

(2) the rock hyrax, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves...

(3) the hare, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, *is* unclean to you...

(4) and the swine, though it has cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud.

14. **These you may eat of all that *are* in the water:** whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers. that you may eat.

(a) Any sea creatures that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which *is* in the water, they *are* an abomination to you.

(b) You shall regard their carcasses as an abomination.

15. **And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds:** the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, the kite, and the falcon, every raven, the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk, the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl, the

white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture, the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

16. All flying insects that creep on *all* fours *shall be* an abomination to you.

(a) Yet, these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on *all* fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth.

(b) These you may eat: the locust, the cricket, and the grasshopper.

(c) All other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you.

17. **Unclean Animals:** By these you shall become unclean; whoever touches the carcass of any unclean animal shall be unclean until evening.

18. These also *shall be* unclean to you among the creeping things that creep on the earth:

(a) the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard after its kind; the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the chameleon.

(b) Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening.

- (c) Anything on which *any* of them falls, when they are dead shall be unclean. It must be put in water. And it shall be unclean until evening; then it shall be clean.
- (d) Any earthen vessel into which *any* of them falls you shall break; and whatever *is* in it shall be unclean:
- (e) Nevertheless a spring or a cistern, *in which there is* plenty of water, shall be clean.
- (f) And if a part of *any such* carcass falls on any planting seed which is to be sown, it *remains* clean.

19. Even clean animals that die become unclean to touch and you will be unclean until evening. He who eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

20. And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten.

- (a) Whatever crawls on its belly...
- (b) whatever goes on all fours...
- (c) or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth.

21. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I *am* holy. For I *am* the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

22. The portion concludes with this exclamation point!

- (a) *“This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.”* Leviticus 11:46-47 NKJV

23. Last year’s teaching on this portion: [The Face of Y’shua](#)

THE DILUVIAN DIVIDER

1. Just the Facts (Diluvian: referring to the great flood)

A. Antediluvian Provision (before the flood)

(1) Adam and Animals

- (a) Dominion: God gave man dominion over the earth and all the animals, fish and birds. But as we will see, they were not for food.

1. “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”” Genesis 1:28 NKJV

- (b) Food in Perfection: Man was given a diet in paradise and it consisted of those things that contained the seeds of life, herbs and fruit. Animals too were not carnivorous as they were given the greenery to eat.

1. "And God said, "**See, I have given you every herb that yields seed** which is on the face of all the earth, and **every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.**" Genesis 1:29 NKJV
 2. "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, **I have given every green herb for food**"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:30-31 NKJV
- (c) The fall of man brought curses into the perfect system. Even the ground that provided the perfect food was tainted.
1. "To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your **sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children;** Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."" Genesis 3:16 NKJV
 2. "Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "**Cursed is the ground for your sake;** In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. **Both thorns**

and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”” Genesis 3:17-19 NKJV

(d) And then we see that sin also brought the death of an animal for man’s sake as God clothed Adam and Eve in the skin of an animal.

1. “Also for Adam and his wife the Lord **God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.**” Genesis 3:21 NKJV

(2) Noah and Animals

(a) The sin in the garden continued to spread in the earth until it reached such a level of intensity that God regretted He created man. He decides to remove man and beast from the earth, but will preserve Noah in whom He found grace.

1. “Then the Lord saw that the **wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, “**I will destroy man whom I have created from**

the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:5-8 NKJV

(b) Yahweh also makes provision to save every species of animal by making space for each in the ark.

1. “And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring **two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive** with you; they shall be male and female.” Genesis 6:19 NKJV

(c) It would seem that you could easily get stuck in the children’s version of the story about Noah’s Ark if you stop in Genesis 6. Don’t Stop! Turn the page to the next chapter where you will find, just five verses later, a key clarification on God’s plan to preserve each species.

1. “Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. [2] **You shall take with you seven [pairs] each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean,** a male and his female; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the

species alive on the face of all the earth.” Genesis
7:1-3 NKJV

- a) The Children’s Story: there were two of each animal on the ark.
 - b) The True Story: There were two of each unclean animal and seven pairs of each clean animal on the ark!
 - c) Hint: in some English translations it appears that there are seven total, not seven pairs, of each clean animal. But, the Hebrew behind the English favors seven pairs. If your version does not say “pairs” read it like this, “seven males and females.”
 - d) It is easy to make similar types of erroneous conclusions in other areas of the Bible like many people make when they recall Noah’s Ark and the animals climbing aboard two-by-two, if you don’t pay attention to the entire narrative. The same thing happens when reading about Peter’s dream in Acts 10 and Y’shua’s teaching about the law in Mark 7. If you are not careful to explore the entire context, you will miss the real story. We will see those details later in Section Three of this study.
- (d) Why seven pairs of every clean animal?

1. There are a few key things to consider here. First you should recognize that Noah was capable of distinguishing between clean and unclean animals. And he was doing this 850 years before Mount Sinai and the “giving of the law.” Second, when the ark finally settles down after the flood waters recede, there are no trees and no herbs immediately available for food, so...

B. Postdiluvian Provision (after the flood)

(1) Sacrifices to Yahweh and Food for Man

- (a) When man exits the ark into a cleansed world, he is again instructed (as in Genesis 1:28) to be fruitful and multiply on the earth. He is not called to subdue it and have dominion over the animals this time, but is instead instructed to take of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offer burnt offerings on the altar. You can not sacrifice unclean animals to God, so here we have our first reason why God required seven pairs of each clean animal. Yahweh teaches us that while earth remains, this is the plan.

1. “Then God spoke to Noah, saying, “**Go out of the ark**, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. **Bring out with you every living thing**

of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and **be fruitful and multiply on the earth.**” So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark. **Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma.** Then the Lord said in His heart, **“I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth;** nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. **“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”**” Genesis 8:15-22 NKJV

- (b) We also learn that animals will now have fear of man. The sacrifice thing is certainly one reason. But, we also learn that they are now available as food for man, but don’t eat the blood. Yes, the vegetation will remain

available as food, but the menu has expanded to include meat from clean animals as a food option.

1. "So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: **"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.** And the **fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea.** They are given into your hand. **Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. [5] Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it,** and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. [6] "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. **And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;** Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it.'" Genesis 9:1-7 NKJV

C. Passover Lamb

- (1) Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning...
 - (a) Genesis 9:5 above shows us that there is a price to pay for your life now. When we fast forward to the Exodus,

we learn that this reckoning will be by the spotless lamb. You will eat the Passover Lamb and use the blood on your doorposts and lintel. The blood of the lamb gets all the press, and rightly so. For us as Christians, the blood of the Lamb of God is everything. But the oft overlooked piece here is that we are also told in Exodus 12:8 to “eat the flesh on that night.”

1. “Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. **Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.** You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall **kill it at twilight.** And they shall **take**

some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. [8] **Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire,** with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. [9] Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. **And thus you shall eat it:** with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. **So you shall eat it in haste.** It is the Lord's Passover." Exodus 12:1-11 NKJV

(2) Was Jesus a Vegan?

(a) In all the accounts of the loaves and fishes and likewise when He cooked for the disciples on the beach, Jesus shared fish with meals. He would undoubtedly never have ask His disciples to eat something that was forbidden, nor unhealthy.

1. "And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; **and likewise of the fish,** as much as they wanted." John 6:11 NKJV

2. “Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, **and fish laid on it**, and bread. Jesus said to them, “**Bring some of the fish** which you have just caught.” Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, “**Come and eat breakfast.**” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and **took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.**” John 21:9-13 NKJV

D. The Curse Remains

- (1) The Cross was NOT meant to restore the Garden!
 - (a) Creation is still subject to futility, so the conditions of the postdiluvian era are still in effect!
 1. “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together **until now.**” Romans 8:20-22 NKJV

(b) When will it be restored? Elijah comes before Christ returns to restore all things. Until then, creation remains corrupted. And for that reason we must become knowledgeable on what the Scriptures teach about how to survive as healthy as possible outside the “garden environment.”

1. “And His disciples asked Him, saying, “**Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**” Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, **Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.**” Matthew 17:10-11 NKJV
2. “Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet** Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. **And he will turn** The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”” Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV

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 - (d) And then we see that sin also brought the death of an animal for man's sake as God clothed Adam and Eve in the skin of an animal.
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CLEAN AND UNCLEAR

2. To eat or not to eat?

A. Food Laws

(1) Foods Permitted and Forbidden

(a) These *are* the animals which you may eat among all the animals that *are* on the earth (Leviticus 11:1-8):

1. Among the animals, whatever **divides the hoof**, having cloven hooves *and* **chewing the cud**—that you may eat.

2. Nevertheless these **you shall not eat** among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves (Don't eat their flesh nor touch their carcasses):

(1) **the camel**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves...

- (2) **the rock hyrax**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves...
 - (3) **the hare**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, *is* unclean to you...
 - (4) **and the swine**, though it has cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud.
- (b) These you may eat of all that *are* **in the water**: whatever in the water has **fins and scales**, whether in the seas or in the rivers. that you may eat (Leviticus 11:9-12):
- 1. Any sea creatures that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which *is* in the water, they *are* an abomination to you.
 - 2. You shall regard their carcasses as an abomination.
- (c) And these you shall regard as an **abomination among the birds** (Leviticus 11:13-19):
- 1. the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, the kite, and the falcon, every raven, the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk, the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl, the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture, the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.
- (d) All flying insects that creep on *all* fours *shall be* an abomination to you (Leviticus 11:20-23):

1. Yet, **these you may eat** of every flying insect that creeps on *all* fours: those which have **jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth.**
 2. These you may eat: the **locust**, the **cricket**, and the **grasshopper.**
 3. All other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you.
- (e) These also *shall be* **unclean** to you among the **creeping** things that creep on the earth (Leviticus 11:29-30):
1. the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard after its kind; the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the chameleon.
- (f) And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten (Leviticus 11:41-42):
1. Whatever crawls on its belly...
 2. whatever goes on all fours...
 3. or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth.

(2) Blood

- (a) It should be very clear that even when you do eat permitted animals, you are not to eat the blood, because the life of the flesh is in the blood and it is

reserved for atonement! And notice that the truth on this matter is not limited to the Old Testament. (See Hebrews 9:19-22 below.)

1. “Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. **But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.** Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.” Genesis 9:3-6 NKJV
2. “**For the life of the flesh is in the blood,** and I have **given it to you upon the altar to make atonement** for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’ Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘**No one among you shall eat blood,** nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.’” Leviticus 17:11-12 NKJV
 - a) “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and

hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, **“This is the blood of the covenant** which God has commanded you.” Then likewise he **sprinkled with blood** both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, **and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**” Hebrews 9:19-22 NKJV

3. “Only **you shall not eat the blood;** you shall pour it on the earth like water.” Deuteronomy 12:16 NKJV
4. “Only be sure that **you do not eat the blood,** for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat. You shall not eat it; you **shall pour it on the earth like water.** You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the Lord.”
Deuteronomy 12:23-25 NKJV
5. Revelation Timeout! More on this later. But just to be clear, this blood prohibition (among other prohibitions) is specifically named in the New Testament as applicable for Gentile converts into the Christian faith.

- a) **“Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.** For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”” Acts 15:19-21 NKJV

(3) Clean and Unclean (concept)

- (a) Let’s be clear, the requirement to be capable of distinguishing between unclean and clean is not limited to the Old Testament. It extends to Christians as well!

1. **“This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.’ ””** Leviticus 11:46-47 NKJV
2. **“You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean** birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from

you as unclean. And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.” Leviticus 20:25-26 NKJV

(b) Revelation Timeout: *“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean.”* To be separate from what is unclean, you must know what is unclean. Who does not know or does not care? The lawless, those who love darkness, Belial, the unbeliever, those who stand in agreement with idols... Pick a side!

1. **“Do not be unequally** yoked together with unbelievers. For **what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?** And what communion has **light with darkness?** And what accord has **Christ with Belial?** Or what part has a **believer with an unbeliever?** And what agreement has the **temple of God with idols?** For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore **“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean [Isaiah 52:10-11],** And I will receive you.” “I

will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”” II Corinthians 6:14-18 NKJV

- a) “The Lord has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God. Depart!
Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the Lord.” Isaiah 52:10-11 NKJV

(4) Health Curses in Deuteronomy 28

- (a) What happens when you live a life of disobedience to God’s laws (“*If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book*”)? All those who think God’s Laws (Food Laws) don’t apply to you...what might be the natural consequences? Step outside the Bible for a moment and picture the following descriptions as if you were consulting with your doctor. Yes, you’d describing various diseases that we know today are caused by poor lifestyle choices!
- (b) Deuteronomy 28:15, 21-22, 27-28
1. **The Lord will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed**

2. The Lord will strike you with **consumption, with fever, with inflammation...**
3. The Lord will strike you with the **boils** of Egypt, with **tumors**, with the **scab**, and with the **itch**, from which you cannot be healed.
4. The Lord will strike you with **madness and blindness and confusion of heart.**

(c) Deuteronomy 28:58-61

1. the Lord will bring **upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.**
2. **Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the Lord bring upon you** until you are destroyed.

B. Religion and Politics

(1) Priorities placed ahead of God's laws!

(a) Animal Rights

1. Save the whales
2. Protect the sea turtles
3. Don't harm the ducks
4. Feel horrible for the poaching the tusks
5. But pay no mind to human poachers (abortion)—the unborn have no rights!

6. Reminder...man was given dominion!

Summary: CLEAN AND UNCLEAN

2. To eat or not to eat?

A. Food Laws

(1) Foods Permitted and Forbidden

(a) These *are* the animals which you may eat among all the animals that *are* on the earth (Leviticus 11:1-8):

1. Among the animals, whatever **divides the hoof**, having cloven hooves *and* **chewing the cud**—that you may eat.

(b) These you may eat of all that *are* **in the water**: whatever in the water has **fins and scales**, whether in the seas or in the rivers. that you may eat (Leviticus 11:9-12):

(c) And these you shall regard as an **abomination among the birds** (Leviticus 11:13-19):

(d) All flying insects that creep on *all* fours *shall be* an abomination to you (Leviticus 11:20-23):

1. These you may eat: the **locust**, the **cricket**, and the **grasshopper**.

(e) These also *shall be* **unclean** to you among the **creeping** things that creep on the earth (Leviticus 11:29-30):

(f) And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten (Leviticus 11:41-42):

(2) Blood

(a) It should be very clear that even when you do eat permitted animals, you are not to eat the blood, because the life of the flesh is in the blood and it is reserved for atonement! And notice that the truth on this matter is not limited to the Old Testament. (See Hebrews 9:19-22)

1. Revelation Timeout! More on this later. But just to be clear, this blood prohibition (among other prohibitions) is specifically named in the New Testament as applicable for Gentile converts into the Christian faith. (See Acts 15)

(3) Clean and Unclean (concept)

(a) Let's be clear, the requirement to be capable of distinguishing between unclean and clean is not limited to the Old Testament. It extends to Christians as well!

(b) Revelation Timeout: *"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean."* To be separate from what is unclean, you must know what is unclean. Who does not know or

does not care? The lawless, those who love darkness, Belial, the unbeliever, those who stand in agreement with idols... Pick a side!

(4) Health Curses in Deuteronomy 28

- (a) What happens when you live a life of disobedience to God's laws (*"If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book"*)? All those who think God's Laws (Food Laws) don't apply to you...what might be the natural consequences? Step outside the Bible for a moment and picture the following descriptions as if you were consulting with your doctor. Yes, you'd describing various diseases that we know today are caused by poor lifestyle choices!

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APOLOGY FOR APOLOGETICS

3. It's time to set the record straight!

A. Rightly Dividing the Word

(1) It all starts with good doctrine!

(a) You must be able to correctly understand, explain, and apply God's Word.

1. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**" II Timothy 2:15 NKJV

(b) Bad doctrine is to the Church as cancer is to the human body.

1. "But shun **profane and idle babblings**, for they will increase to more ungodliness. **And their message will spread like cancer.** Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some." II Timothy 2:16-18 NKJV

(c) Give yourself entirely to the learning, living, and sharing good doctrine!

1. "Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **Do not neglect the gift that is in you,** which was given to you by prophecy with the laying

on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; **give yourself entirely to them**, that your progress may be evident to all. **Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.** Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." I Timothy 4:13-16 NKJV

- (d) And to be clear, even Y'shua Himself claimed no latitude to alter or dismiss His Father's doctrine. And He taught us that it is easy to tell who has the right doctrine. The one who agrees with Moses is right; the others seeking their own glory. Pick a side!
1. "Jesus answered them and said, "**My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wills to do His will, **he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.** He who speaks from himself **seeks his own glory;** but **He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true,** and no unrighteousness is in Him. **Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law?** Why do you seek to kill Me?" John 7:16-19 NKJV

B. Kosher

(1) Kosher is not a word you will find in the Bible, but it is a concept you will find in God's Word. It simply means "fit". Kosher foods are fit for consumption. It should then become obvious that what God said you can eat is fit or kosher, and what He said you cannot eat is unfit, or not kosher. Hint: God made you! He knows what's best for you! And, don't try to pull the "all things in moderation card!" That is a poor argument and smacks of human rationalization.

(a) Must we state the obvious? We know that all things are not lawful. The context here in I Corinthians (both times) is that "Of all things that are lawful," not all things are beneficial; they don't all edify; and you are not to be ruled by any of those things that are lawful! This means, even if something is permitted, it may not be right for you for many other reasons. For instance, alcohol is permitted by biblical law, but for obvious reasons it is not a good idea for some. We can go over one examples after another, but the concept remains. Even if something is permitted, it may not be a good option for you!

1. **"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be**

brought under the power of any.” I Corinthians 6:12
NKJV

2. “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; **all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”** I Corinthians 10:23 NKJV

(2) Common Sense Kosher

- (a) “Common Sense Kosher” is a concept that expands the idea of what God would call fit, into a modern application. This is not meant, in any way, to add to or take away from God’s word. It is simply a way to evaluate “foods” that did not exist in the Bible and to put them through the “fit test.” If it is unhealthy, and will contribute to disease and early death, then we must agree it is “not fit” for consumption. Therefore it is not “common sense kosher.” Hint: this assumes you are exercising common sense!

C. Revisionist History (Notice that what you’ve been taught about these scriptures is often the exact opposite of what they mean.)

(1) Christmas Ham and Easter Bunnies

- (a) Don’t you find it interesting that not only do Christians routinely violate God’s food laws, but they attach their habitual disobedience to the man-made holidays that

they disobediently substitute for Yahweh's Feasts, also in violation of God's laws?

1. "Nevertheless these **you shall not eat** among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the camel, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; **the hare**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; and **the swine**, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you." Leviticus 11:4, 6-7 NKJV

(2) Peter's Vision (It's not about the food! Acts 10:1-48)

- (a) Peter has a vision in which three times God tells him to kill and eat unclean animals. All three times he says no. He refuses to eat foods in violation of God's commandments. God then tells him, "*What I have cleansed you must not call common.*" Christians worldwide, and across time have interpreted this as a release to eat anything they wish. If we read the narrative in its entirety we will see otherwise!

1. "The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very

hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he **fell into a trance** and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were **all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.** And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "**Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.**" And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**" This was done **three times.** And the object was taken up into heaven again." Acts 10:9-16 NKJV

- (b) Was Yahweh now calling formally unclean foods clean? Has He changed His Word that endures forever? Of course not. The vision is not about food; He is referring to Gentiles. The entire narrative (read Acts 10:1-48) was to inform Peter that he was to go to the pagans and preach, starting in the house of Cornelius. It was not about food laws changing; the vision was a metaphor! And as we will see later on in Acts 15:6-11, Peter even gives his testimony and how God supernaturally revealed to him that he was to go fulfill what the

Scriptures already prophesied, that the Jewish Messiah was also for the Gentiles. Nowhere in his testimony does he suddenly reveal that God has released His people to eat unclean foods! The vision was a metaphor!

1. “Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But **God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.**” Acts 10:28 NKJV
2. **In the House of Cornelius:** “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that **God shows no partiality.** And He **commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify** that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.” Acts 10:34, 42 NKJV

(3) Paul’s Admonition (I Timothy 4:1-4)

(a) Was he preaching that food laws had changed? Was Paul saying it is a doctrine of demons to still restrict foods according to the laws of clean and unclean in Leviticus 11?

1. “Now the Spirit expressly says that in **latter times** some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to**

deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and **commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.** For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;" I Timothy 4:1-4 NKJV

- a) KEY REVELATION: "foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."
- b) Had Yahweh ever created unclean foods to be received with thanksgiving. Of course not!
- c) Paul is obviously referring to some other doctrine, some other restriction imposed by man.
- d) How could Paul ever refer to the Laws in Leviticus, which he strictly adhered to, as "doctrines of demons"? He would not and did not!
- e) The answer is clear; the doctrine of demons is any doctrine that espouses that you cannot participate in foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- f) When you know the “truth” you will not be fooled by deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.
- g) How disturbing is it to consider that most of Christianity falls on the side of being deceived on this topic?
- h) And consider how what is historically taught on this topic is the EXACT OPPOSITE of the truth.
- i) Final note: lies about marriage are also mentioned here. The same deceiving spirits that have twisted the truth about food have also lied about about the sanctity of marriage.
- j) Ask yourself, as a follower of Christ: “How could have I been deceived by such a spirit?” It’s time to WAKE UP!

(4) Jesus’ Clarity

- (a) What you are taught: It does not matter what a man puts in his mouth as far as food is concerned. It will not defile him. On the surface, that is a true statement. A bad food choice, or an unclean food choice does not defile a man. But does this truth then negate that you are still commanded to eat no unclean food? Also, is this teaching about food at all? The answer to both is no, as you will learn when you keep it in context.

1. “When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: **There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”” Mark 7:14-16 NKJV

(b) Context! *“Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”* Y’shua cuts right to the heart of the matter. There is no law in Torah that commands a hand washing before eating bread. It is a doctrine and commandment of men. Calling someone defiled because they don’t adhere to some manmade tradition is hypocrisy. Moreover, you can see that there is no context here about clean or unclean food, just some guilt trip laid on Y’shua’s disciples for not keeping to tradition. These accusers are such hypocrites that their religious adherence to their own laws makes God’s real law of no effect.

1. “Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. **Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with**

defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. **For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way,** holding the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, **they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things** which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, **“Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”** He answered and said to them, **“Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites,** as it is written: **‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’** For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the **tradition of men** —the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” He said to them, **“All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’

But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, **making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.** And many such things you do.'" Mark 7:1-13 NKJV

(c) Y'shua goes on to explain that nothing can defile a man from the outside; it is the evil in his heart that then comes out of him that defiles him. And, don't get hooked on the phrase in verse 19, "thus purifying all foods," as this seems to be an added phrase not found in the older manuscripts, and of course is completely out of context. Just as with Peter's vision, this is not about food at all, but about man's refusal to make God's laws a priority over their own belief-system. Back in Acts 10, as you've learned, Peter had no interest in preaching Messiah to the Gentiles and God had to correct him on that wrong "man-made doctrine."

1. "When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? **Do you not perceive that**

whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, [19] because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" [20] And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.'" Mark 7:17-23 NKJV

(5) Understanding Paul in Romans 14!

(a) There is likely no greater example of an area of scripture interpreted to mean the EXACT OPPOSITE of Paul's intention than Romans 14. This is the standard takeaway: *"Those who think they should adhere to Old Testament Food laws are weak in the faith."* This is what he is actually saying: *"Those who don't know the Old Testament Food laws and how they apply to them are weak in the faith."*

1. "Receive one who is **weak in the faith**, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For **one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only**

vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand." Romans 14:1-4 NKJV

(b) Whatever you do, give thanks to the Lord.

1. "One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. **He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.** For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living." Romans 14:5-9 NKJV

- (c) Whatever you decide, don't judge your brother for his level of knowledge and understanding. In the end, everyone must give an account of himself to God.
1. "But **why do you judge your brother?** Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: " As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.** Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, **not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.**" Romans 14:10-13 NKJV

(d) The True Apologetic of Romans 14!

1. Throughout Christendom it is classically taught that what Paul is saying in Romans 14 is that those who are still under the delusion that they must adhere to dietary laws of the Old Testament are those who are "weak in the faith!"
2. The key to understanding Paul's context here is the phrase "*eat only vegetables.*" There was never such a restriction in the Torah to do so, but rather Paul is telling those who are mature in the faith (those who

know exactly what the Scriptures say about foods they are permitted to eat—see Leviticus 11 and 20, those who can distinguish clean from unclean) to bear with those who have no clue, in other words, those who are weak in the faith.

3. In their presence (the weak), if necessary, choose only vegetables along with them. You see, those who choose only vegetables do so because they CANNOT DISTINGUISH clean from unclean meats.
4. This way they do not have a guilty feelings that they might have eaten meats that are forbidden.
5. Do not exercise your liberty to eat clean meats in front of them, as to not cause them to stumble. And the reverse is true as well. Those who don't know, (the weak in the faith), should not judge those who do know.

(6) The Holy Spirit's Confirmation that Food Laws (kosher) still applies today!

(a) Let's set the stage... Galatians 2:1-21

1. Fourteen years after his Road to Damascus encounter, Paul goes to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus

2. He went by revelation to share what had been happening among the Gentiles, but also to meet privately with church leaders.
3. Titus who was Greek was not compelled to be circumcised. False brethren were claiming you must be circumcised to be saved. And Titus' testimony was a statement to the contrary. Of course, Paul is not against circumcision, but against any doctrine that adds to the cross of Christ alone for redemption.
4. Paul was not seeking approval from leaders in Jerusalem; he was confident that he was called to bring the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter ultimately was called to the circumcised. (Of course Peter was first knocked into reality by his calling to go to the uncircumcised, as we have learned.)
5. James, Cephas (Peter), and John gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, affirming their ministry as being inspired by God.
6. Paul explains that he had to straighten out Peter's doctrine and hypocrisy in Antioch because he was eating with the Gentiles until other Jews were around, then he withdrew and separated himself.

7. Note: you will see shortly in Acts 15 that Peter testifies to his corrected status!
- (b) See Acts 14:21-28: Paul goes to Antioch and stays a while before heading of to Jerusalem as we see in Galatians 2.
1. **“From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.** Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”
- (c) This is what is happening for the context of Acts 15. Men with bad doctrine are adding something to the “cross alone” doctrine of redemption. They are preaching you have to be circumcised and keep all the law to get saved! This is what the argument is against. It is not an argument against circumcision and the law; but against them as a REQUIREMENT to be born-again.
1. “And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, **“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”**” Acts 15:1 NKJV

2. “But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, **“It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”**”

Acts 15:5 NKJV

(d) Received in Jerusalem: Paul comes in to challenge this bad doctrine and set the record straight. He shares his mission testimonies and gets down to business.

1. **“Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them,** they determined that **Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders,** about this question. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. **And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees** who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary **to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”**” Acts 15:2-5 NKJV

(e) Peter had obviously received his correction as he is the first to stand up and claim that the Gentiles came to the faith by grace as we all do! The law did not get the Jew saved and will not get the Gentile saved.

1. "Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute, **Peter rose up and said to them:** "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by **my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.** So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by **giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,** and **made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.** Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? **But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.**" Acts 15:6-11 NKJV

(f) Paul and Barnabas finish their testimonies and then James takes over the meeting, acknowledges Peter's contribution and affirms that God always had a plan for the Gentiles.

1. “Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to **Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.** And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: **Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.** And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; **So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,** Says the Lord who does all these things.’ “Known to God from eternity are all His works.” Acts 15:12-18 NKJV
- (g) The Ruling: Then James makes a ruling about the corrected way the law applies to new converts to the faith. Notice that there are three categories of laws Gentiles are to add to the practice of their faith. They are not singular laws, but categories, and the details will get filled for them like they do for everyone, by going to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Categories: (1) Idolatry (2) Sexual Sin (3) Kosher Food (No Blood). I would

make special note that the early church was clear that “no blood” meant that “Kosher” laws remained in tact for God’s people!

1. **“Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.** For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, **being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”** Acts 15:19-21 NKJV

(h) The Official Letter: The ruling pleases all the leaders and of course the Gentiles are thrilled. They should not be troubled from anyone who adds anything to faith alone to be saved (like circumcision and the law). That point of view is officially rejected!

1. **“Then it pleased the apostles and elders,** with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in

Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. **Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “You must be circumcised and keep the law”**—to whom we gave no such commandment— it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you **abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.** If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” Acts 15:22-29 NKJV

2. “So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they **delivered the letter.** When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.” Acts 15:30-31 NKJV

(7) Daniel’s Reasoning

(a) Why did Daniel choose vegetables? Daniel will not eat the unclean food of Babylon. His supervisor is worried that if he does not eat, he will look weak and gaunt.

1. “But Daniel purposed in **his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies**, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore **he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself**. Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my Lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For **why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age?** Then you would endanger my head before the king.”” Daniel 1:8-10 NKJV

(b) Daniel asks for ten days to eat only vegetables and that then they can do a comparison with those who eat the king’s food. Daniel is so certain he will look healthier that he consents to do whatever the supervisor wishes, should he not prevail.

1. “So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Michael, and Azariah, “**Please test your servants for ten days,**

and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days." Daniel 1:11-14 NKJV

- (c) At the end of ten days Daniel and his boys look superior and their knowledge and skill excel as well.
 - 1. "And **at the end of ten days their features appeared better** and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. Thus the steward **took away their portion of delicacies** and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. As for these four young men, **God gave them knowledge and skill** in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." Daniel 1:15-17 NKJV
- (d) In the end, after a long time, Daniel and his boys appear before the king and they were "ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm." Why? They refused the unclean food of Babylon!

1. **“Now at the end of the days,** when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, **he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.** Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.” Daniel 1:18-21
NKJV

(e) Why did Daniel choose vegetables?

1. Important: He did not want to eat the unclean food of the Babylon.

(8) It's not about you...

(a) Remember: “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.” I Corinthians 10:23

1. “Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being. **Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;** for “the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness.” **If any of those**

who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. But if anyone says to you, **"This was offered to idols,"** do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."
"Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? **But if I partake with thanks,** why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks? Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **Give no offense,** either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." I Corinthians 10:24-33 NKJV

- a) One final point: An otherwise clean piece of meat, from an animal offered to an idol, does not make the meat unclean. Why? AN IDOL IS NOTHING.
- b) However, your first priority is how others see it. If you are around someone who serves you the meat who thinks nothing of it, EAT IT!

- c) If you are around someone who would be offended by you eating it, DON'T EAT IT!
- d) Others matter first!

Summary: APOLOGY FOR APOLOGETICS

3. It's time to set the record straight!

A. Rightly Dividing the Word

- (1) It all starts with good doctrine!
 - (a) You must be able to correctly understand, explain, and apply God's Word.
 - (b) Bad doctrine is to the Church as cancer is to the human body.
 - (c) Give yourself entirely to the learning, living, and sharing good doctrine!
 - (d) And to be clear, even Y'shua Himself claimed no latitude to alter or dismiss His Father's doctrine. And He taught us that it is easy to tell who has the right doctrine. The one who agrees with Moses is right; the others seeking their own glory. Pick a side!

B. Kosher

- (1) Kosher is not a word you will find in the Bible, but it is a concept you will find in God's Word. It simply means "fit". Kosher foods are fit for consumption. It should then

become obvious that what God said you can eat is fit or kosher, and what He said you cannot eat is unfit, or not kosher. Hint: God made you! He knows what's best for you! And, don't try to pull the "all things in moderation card!" That is a poor argument and smacks of human rationalization.

- (a) Must we state the obvious? We know that all things are not lawful. The context here in I Corinthians (both times) is that "Of all things that are lawful," not all things are beneficial; they don't all edify; and you are not to be ruled by any of those things that are lawful! This means, even if something is permitted, it may not be right for you for many other reasons. For instance, alcohol is permitted by biblical law, but for obvious reasons it is not a good idea for some. We can go over one examples after another, but the concept remains. Even if something is permitted, it may not be a good option for you!

(2) Common Sense Kosher

- (a) "Common Sense Kosher" is a concept that expands the idea of what God would call fit, into a modern application. This is not meant, in any way, to add to or take away from God's word. It is simply a way to

evaluate “foods” that did not exist in the Bible and to put them through the “fit test.” If it is unhealthy, and will contribute to disease and early death, then we must agree it is “not fit” for consumption. Therefore it is not “common sense kosher.” Hint: this assumes you are exercising common sense!

C. Revisionist History (Notice that what you’ve been taught about these scriptures is often the exact opposite of what they mean.)

(1) Christmas Ham and Easter Bunnies

(a) Don’t you find it interesting that not only do Christians routinely violate God’s food laws, but they attach their habitual disobedience to the man-made holidays that they disobediently substitute for Yahweh’s Feasts, also in violation of God’s laws?

(2) Peter’s Vision (It’s not about the food! Acts 10:1-48)

(a) Peter has a vision in which three times God tells him to kill and eat unclean animals. All three times he says no. He refuses to eat foods in violation of God commandments. God then tells him, “*What I have cleansed you must not call common.*” Christians worldwide, and across time have interpreted this as a

release to eat anything they wish. If we read the narrative in its entirety we will see otherwise!

- (b) Was Yahweh now calling formally unclean foods clean? Has He changed His Word that endures forever? Of course not. The vision is not about food; He is referring to Gentiles. The entire narrative (read Acts 10:1-48) was to inform Peter that he was to go to the pagans and preach, starting in the house of Cornelius. It was not about food laws changing; the vision was a metaphor! And as we will see later on in Acts 15:6-11, Peter even gives his testimony and how God supernaturally revealed to him that he was to go fulfill what the Scriptures already prophesied, that the Jewish Messiah was also for the Gentiles. Nowhere in his testimony does he suddenly reveal that God has released His people to eat unclean foods! The vision was a metaphor!

(3) Paul's Admonition (I Timothy 4:1-4)

- (a) Was he preaching that food laws had changed? Was Paul saying it is a doctrine of demons to still restrict foods according to the laws of clean and unclean in Leviticus 11?

1. KEY REVELATION: “foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”
2. Had Yahweh ever created unclean foods to be received with thanksgiving. Of course not!
3. Paul is obviously referring to some other doctrine, some other restriction imposed by man.
4. How could Paul ever refer to the Laws in Leviticus, which he strictly adhered to, as “doctrines of demons”? He would not and did not!
5. The answer is clear; the doctrine of demons is any doctrine that espouses that you cannot participate in foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
6. When you know the “truth” you will not be fooled by deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.
7. How disturbing is it to consider that most of Christianity falls on the side of being deceived on this topic?
8. And consider how what is historically taught on this topic is the EXACT OPPOSITE of the truth.

9. Final note: lies about marriage are also mentioned here. The same deceiving spirits that have twisted the truth about food have also lied about about the sanctity of marriage.
10. Ask yourself, as a follower of Christ: “How could have I been deceived by such a spirit?” It’s time to WAKE UP!

(4) Jesus’ Clarity

- (a) What you are taught: It does not matter what a man puts in his mouth as far as food is concerned. It will not defile him. On the surface, that is a true statement. A bad food choice, or an unclean food choice does not defile a man. But does this truth then negate that you are still commanded to eat no unclean food? Also, is this teaching about food at all? The answer to both is no, as you will learn when you keep it in context.
- (b) Context! *“Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”* Y’shua cuts right to the heart of the matter. There is no law in Torah that commands a hand washing before eating bread. It is a doctrine and commandment of men. Calling someone defiled because they don’t adhere to some manmade tradition is hypocrisy.

Moreover, you can see that there is no context here about clean or unclean food, just some guilt trip laid on Y'shua's disciples for not keeping to tradition. These accusers are such hypocrites that their religious adherence to their own laws makes God's real law of no effect.

- (c) Y'shua goes on to explain that nothing can defile a man from the outside; it is the evil in his heart that then comes out of him that defiles him. And, don't get hooked on the phrase in verse 19, "thus purifying all foods," as this seems to be an added phrase not found in the older manuscripts, and of course is completely out of context. Just as with Peter's vision, this is not about food at all, but about man's refusal to make God's laws a priority over their own belief-system. Back in Acts 10, as you've learned, Peter had no interest in preaching Messiah to the Gentiles and God had to correct him on that wrong "man-made doctrine."
- (5) Understanding Paul in Romans 14!
 - (a) There is likely no greater example of an area of scripture interpreted to mean the EXACT OPPOSITE of Paul's intention than Romans 14. This is the standard takeaway: *"Those who think they should adhere to Old*

Testament Food laws are weak in the faith.” This is what he is actually saying: “Those who don’t know the Old Testament Food laws and how they apply to them are weak in the faith.”

- (b) Whatever you do, give thanks to the Lord.
- (c) Whatever you decide, don’t judge your brother for his level of knowledge and understanding. In the end, everyone must give an account of himself to God.
- (d) The True Apologetic of Romans 14!
 1. Throughout Christendom it is classically taught that what Paul is saying in Romans 14 is that those who are still under the delusion that they must adhere to dietary laws of the Old Testament are those who are “weak in the faith!”
 2. The key to understanding Paul’s context here is the phrase *“eat only vegetables.”* There was never such a restriction in the Torah to do so, but rather Paul is telling those who are mature in the faith (those who know exactly what the Scriptures say about foods they are permitted to eat—see Leviticus 11 and 20, those who can distinguish clean from unclean) to bear with those who have no clue, in other words, those who are weak in the faith.

3. In their presence (the weak), if necessary, choose only vegetables along with them. You see, those who choose only vegetables do so because they CANNOT DISTINGUISH clean from unclean meats.
 4. This way they do not have a guilty feelings that they might have eaten meats that are forbidden.
 5. Do not exercise your liberty to eat clean meats in front of them, as to not cause them to stumble. And the reverse is true as well. Those who don't know, (the weak in the faith), should not judge those who do know.
- (6) The Holy Spirit's Confirmation that Food Laws (kosher) still applies today!
- (a) Let's set the stage... Galatians 2:1-21
1. Fourteen years after his Road to Damascus encounter, Paul goes to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus
 2. He went by revelation to share what had been happening among the Gentiles, but also to meet privately with church leaders.
 3. Titus who was Greek was not compelled to be circumcised. False brethren were claiming you must be circumcised to be saved. And Titus' testimony was a statement to the contrary. Of course, Paul is not

against circumcision, but against any doctrine that adds to the cross of Christ alone for redemption.

4. Paul was not seeking approval from leaders in Jerusalem; he was confident that he was called to bring the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter ultimately was called to the circumcised. (Of course Peter was first knocked into reality by his calling to go to the uncircumcised, as we have learned.)
 5. James, Cephas (Peter), and John gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, affirming their ministry as being inspired by God.
 6. Paul explains that he had to straighten out Peter's doctrine and hypocrisy in Antioch because he was eating with the Gentiles until other Jews were around, then he withdrew and separated himself.
 7. Note: you will see shortly in Acts 15 that Peter testifies to his corrected status!
- (b) See Acts 14:21-28: Paul goes to Antioch and stays a while before heading off to Jerusalem as we see in Galatians 2.
- (c) This is what is happening for the context of Acts 15. Men with bad doctrine are adding something to the "cross alone" doctrine of redemption. They are

preaching you have to be circumcised and keep all the law to get saved! This is what the argument is against. It is not an argument against circumcision and the law; but against them as a REQUIREMENT to be born-again.

- (d) Received in Jerusalem: Paul comes in to challenge this bad doctrine and set the record straight. He shares his mission testimonies and gets down to business.
- (e) Peter had obviously received his correction as he is the first to stand up and claim that the Gentiles came to the faith by grace as we all do! The law did not get the Jew saved and will not get the Gentile saved.
- (f) Paul and Barnabas finish their testimonies and then James takes over the meeting, acknowledges Peter's contribution and affirms that God always had a plan for the Gentiles.
- (g) The Ruling: Then James makes a ruling about the corrected way the law applies to new converts to the faith. Notice that there are three categories of laws Gentiles are to add to the practice of their faith. They are not singular laws, but categories, and the details will get filled for them like they do for everyone, by going to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Categories: (1) Idolatry (2) Sexual Sin (3) Kosher Food (No Blood). I would

make special note that the early church was clear that “no blood” meant that “Kosher” laws remained in tact for God’s people!

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3. If you are around someone who would be offended by you eating it, DON’T EAT IT!

4. Others matter first!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. God’s dietary plan:

A. What was man instructed to eat in the garden prior to the Flood? (See Genesis 1:29-31)

- B. What was added after the Flood? (See Genesis 8:15-22)
- C. What special provision did God make on the ark so man could both sacrifice and eat animals? (See Genesis 7:1-3)
- D. What would Y'shua say about eating animals? (See: Exodus 12:1-11; John 6:11, 21:9-13)

2. Leviticus 11:1-42 teaches us all we need to know about which animals are clean or unclean to eat.

- A. What are you permitted to eat from the land, water, and air?
- B. What is the restriction about eating blood? (See: Genesis 9:3-6; Leviticus 17:11-12; Deuteronomy 12:16, 12:23-25; Acts 15:19-21)
- C. What is the blood needed for (Leviticus 17:11-12; Hebrews 9:19-22)

3. We are called to distinguish clean from unclean. (See Leviticus 11:46-47, 20:25-26)

- A. How might this relate to II Corinthians 6:14-18?
- B. Why can we be sure Noah was able to do this 850 years prior to Mount Sinai? (See Genesis 7:1-3)
- C. What health warnings are we given about disobeying God's laws in Deuteronomy 28:15-61?
- D. How would those warnings show up in your doctor's office today? What are the modern-day causes?

4. How might the modern church place religion and politics above God's laws?

- A. How do traditions, denominational allegiances, and societal pressures often usurp strict adherence to God's Word?
- B. Food for Thought: think Christmas ham, Easter bunnies, save the whales, and protect the sea turtles.

5. What does it mean to "rightly divide the word of truth?" (See II Timothy 2:15)

- A. Why is knowing good doctrine so important? (See: II Timothy 2:16-18; I Timothy 4:13-16; John 7:16-19)

6. Kosher is not a word you will find in the Bible, but it is a concept you will find in God's Word. It simply means "fit". Kosher foods are fit for consumption.

- A. With that in mind, explain I Corinthians 6:12 and I Corinthians 10:23?
- B. Use this concept to better explain your answer: "Of all things that are lawful," not all things are beneficial; they don't all edify; and you are not to be ruled by any of those things that are lawful! This means, even if something is permitted, it may not be right for you for many other reasons.
- C. Use this Concept to add to your answer: "Common Sense Kosher" is a concept that expands the idea of what God would call fit, into a modern application. This is not meant,

in any way, to add to or take away from God's word. It is simply a way to evaluate "foods" that did not exist in the Bible and to put them through the "fit test." If it is unhealthy, and will contribute to disease and early death, then we must agree it is "not fit" for consumption.

7. Peter's vision in Acts 10 is often interpreted as a release for Christians to eat whatever they wish. (Read Acts 10:1-48)

- A. What is he seeing in Acts 10:9-16? What is his reaction and what is God's admonition?
- B. Why can we be sure Peter's vision is not about food? (See Acts 10:28, 34, 42)

8. In Paul's Words to Timothy, how can we be sure he is not referring to biblical laws as "doctrines of demons"? (See I Timothy 4:1-4)

- A. With all you have learned thus far in this study, what food has God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth?
- B. With this correct perspective, what then might Paul be referring to as a doctrine of demons?

9. Read Mark 7:14-23...

- A. Like with Peter's dream, is Y'shua talking about food or something else?

- B. What is His main point? Is He trying to change His Father's food laws? What really defiles a man?

10. Read Romans 14:1-13...

- A. With all you have learned in this study, is there any law that says you are supposed to eat only vegetables?
- B. Who would choose vegetables only as a safety net: someone who understands which meats God permits or someone who does not understand?
- C. Who then is the one who is "weak in the faith" according to Paul?
- D. How are we called to treat one another regardless of our maturity level?

11. Read Acts 15:1-31. Notice the context of the meeting; some people are trying to enforce adherence to the law as a requirement for salvation (Keep this in mind!).

- A. What is Paul's argument?
- B. What is Peter's testimony?
- C. What is James' ruling?
- D. How does James' ruling in Acts 15:19-21 confirm that the Church is called to adhere to God's laws on food? (Hint: think abstain from blood!)
- E. Where will the Gentiles be studying God's laws after their conversion?