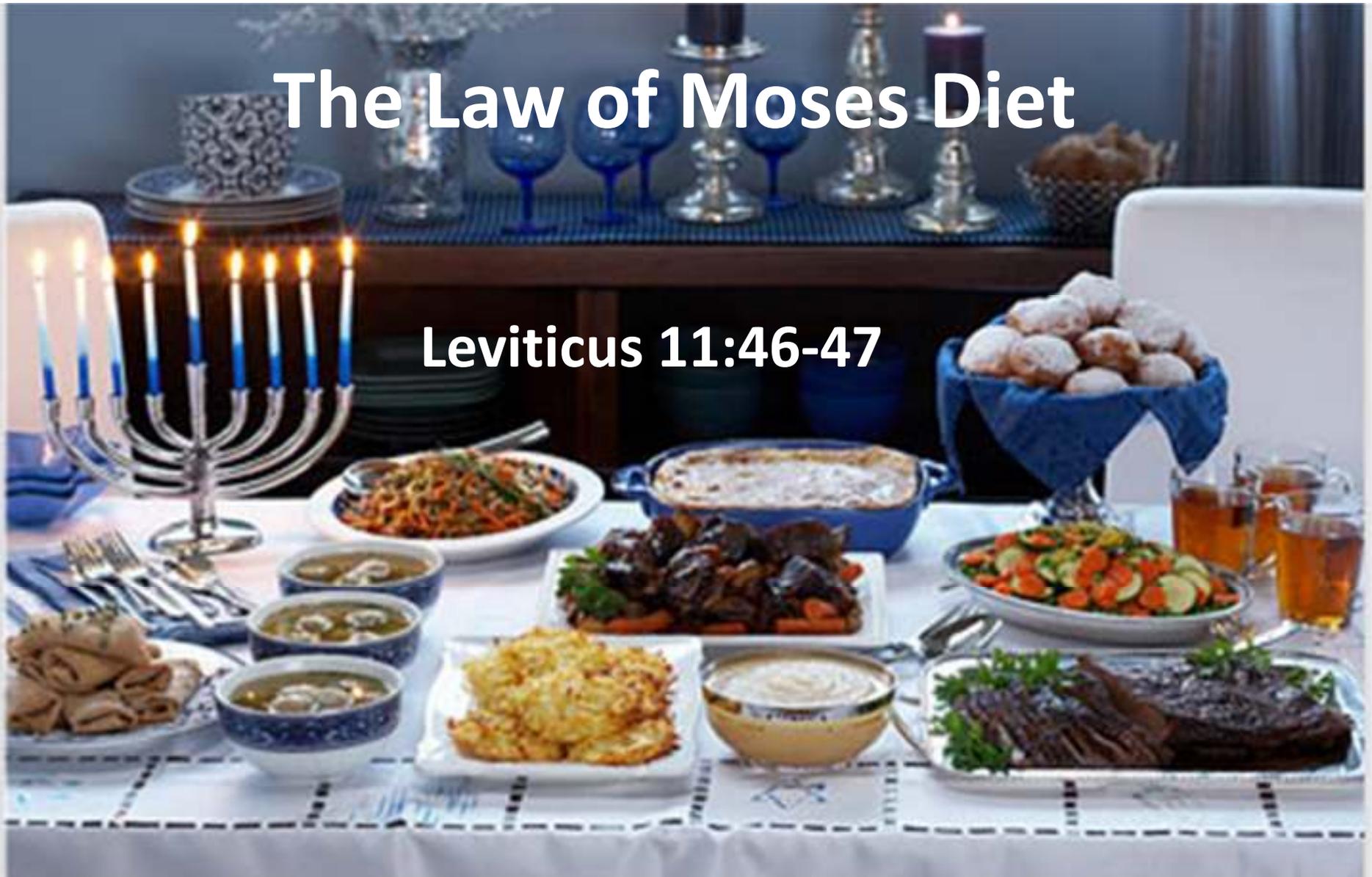


The Law of Moses Diet

Leviticus 11:46-47



The Law of Moses Diet

- Lev. 11:46-47 - “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, 47 'to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.”

The Law of Moses Diet

- What were the restrictions?
- Why were the restrictions made?
- Do the dietary restrictions of the Law of Moses have any significance for us today?

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- We are not familiar with these limits
 - Acts 15:28-29 - “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 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.”
 - Rom. 15:4 - “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

What Were The Dietary Restrictions?

- Restrictions on large animals
 - Lev. 11:1-7
 - Deut. 14:3-8
- If it parts the hoof (cloven-footed) and chews the cud (ruminant), it may be eaten.

What Were The Dietary Restrictions?

- There are about 150 species of ruminants, including both domestic and wild species, such as: cattle, goats, sheep, giraffes, yaks, deer, antelope, kangaroos, buffalo, elk, and camels; but not all of them are cloven hooved
- Specific restrictions: camel, rock badger (coney, hyrax, a type of prairie dog) rabbit, and pig; animals that walk on paws on all fours - v27

What Were The Dietary Restrictions?

- Restrictions on water creatures
 - Lev. 11:9-12
 - Deut. 14:9-10
- May eat anything that has fins and scales
- May not eat of anything without fins and scales (catfish, eels, whales, dolphins, sharks)

What Were The Dietary Restrictions?

- Restrictions on winged creatures
 - Lev. 11:13-19
 - Deut. 14:11-18
- Specific prohibitions (ESV translation): eagle, vulture, kites, falcons, ravens, ostriches, hawks, sea gulls, owls, stork, heron, hoopoe, and bat
 - Remaining birds were acceptable
 - The restricted animals, fish, and birds eat things that are unclean

What Were The Dietary Restrictions?

- Restrictions on insects
 - Lev. 11:20-23
 - Deut. 14:19-20
- Winged insects that crawl on all fours may not be eaten: cockroach, et al
- May eat those with jointed legs above their feet: locusts, crickets, grasshoppers; in 2/3s of the world, insects are major source of protein

What Were The Dietary Restrictions?

- Restrictions on crawling animals
 - Lev. 11:29-31, 41-43
- Mole rat, mouse, lizard, snake, multiple feet like centipede and millipede

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- The scriptures distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and unholy.
 - Lev. 11:44-45 - “For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 45 '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.”

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- Remember how far humankind wandered from God during the Patriarchal age; God needed to re-reveal Himself to man and teach him about good and evil, right and wrong, clean and unclean all over again.
- Israel needed to learn how to make distinctions

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- Humankind needed to understand good health practices, and unlearn the self-destructive behaviors learned from the pagans
 - Ex. 15:26 - “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.”
 - Deut. 7:12, 15 - “Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers... 15 And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.”

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- This was necessary to preserve the seed of Abraham and the lineage of the Christ
 - Gen. 3:15 - “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
 - Gen. 12:3 - “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- Deut. 18:15-18 - “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' 17 And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. 18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- Acts 3:22-23 - “For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.”

Why Were The Dietary Restrictions Made?

- The purpose of the Law of Moses was to prepare humankind for Christ
 - Gal. 3:24 - “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
 - Gal. 4:4 - “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law”
- God used both miraculous and ordinary means to accomplish this

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- The wisdom of God is expressed in dietary science. One of the evidences that the Bible could only come from God.

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- Manifests the sinfulness of sin
 - Rom. 7:13 - “Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”
- Although we are not bound by the restrictions, we must understand that lesson today
 - Rom. 8:1 - “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- Highlights the difference between the holy and the common.
 - 1Peter 1:15-16 - “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy.”
 - Heb. 12:14 - “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord”
 - Heb. 5:14 - “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- Generates appreciation for liberty in Christ
 - Acts 15:10-11 - “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? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”
 - Gal. 5:1 - “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- Points to the love God has for His people. The fact that he placed restrictions on them showed that He wanted the best for them
 - Heb. 12:6 - “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- God used the lifting of these dietary restrictions to show that Gentiles could now be saved
 - Acts 10:11-15 - “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. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean. 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, What God has cleansed you must not call common.”

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- God has no dietary restrictions for His people today
 - 1Tim. 4:4 - “For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving”

What Do The Dietary Restrictions Teach Christians?

- Rom. 14:14, 20 - “I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean... 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.”
- 1Cor. 10:25 - “Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake”
- Titus 1:15 - “To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.”

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- Rejoice, for we are no longer under the Law of Moses, but are saved by faith in Jesus and free from sin and the Law
 - Gal. 3:10-14, 26-29 - “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith. 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but the man who does them shall live by them. 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

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- Gal. 3:26-29 - “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”