

YTVideo-Clean & Unclean Food in The NT

By Yirmeyah Tan, 24 October 2020

Text [Acts 10: 9-28]

Act 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Act 10:10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

Act 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Act 10:12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

*Act 10:13 And there came a voice to him, **Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.***

Act 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Act 10:15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Act 10:16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

Act 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

Act 10:18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

Act 10:19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Act 10:20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Act 10:21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

Act 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Act 10:23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

Act 10:24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

Act 10:25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

Act 10:26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

Act 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

Act 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

I. Peter's Vision

- a. Command to kill and eat unclean animals?
- b. Peter said he had never eaten anything defiled or unclean: note that this was some time after Pentecost, well after Yashua's ascension into Heaven. He was still observing Lev 11!
- c. Peter interpreted his vision to mean that it was now lawful for a Jew to keep company with Gentiles: v. 28. He never went out and ate unclean food after the vision.

II. 2 Key Words

G2839: koinos

koy-nos'

Probably from G4862; common, that is, (literally) shared by all or several, or (ceremonially) profane: - **common, defiled**, unclean, unholy.

G169: akathartos

ak-ath'-ar-tos

From G1 (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of G2508 (meaning cleansed); **impure** (ceremonially, **morally (lewd) or specifically (demonic)**): - **foul, unclean.**

III. Yashua in Mark 7

Mar 7:14 And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:

Mar 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Mar 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Mar 7:17 And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

*Mar 7:18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? **Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;***

Mar 7:19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

Mar 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

Mar 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Mar 7:22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

Mar 7:23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

- a. This is the passage used by Christians to justify eating unclean food. They claim Yashua said nothing a man eats can defile him.
- b. Some translations have "Yashua making all foods clean" in v.19
- c. This is wrong because the context is not clean/unclean food but the washing of hands: v.3
- d. V.19 simply says that the stomach processes food and discharges

Mat 15:17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

Mat 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

Mat 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

*Mat 15:20 **These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.***

- e. Mt 15:20 makes it clear that Yashua was talking about eating with unwashed hands not defiling a man.
- f. If Yashua had declared all foods clean, He and His disciples would have been charged by the Pharisees. Likewise, neither the Apostle Peter nor Paul was ever charged with eating unclean food.
- g. The Greek word for defile here is **koinos, not akathartos!**

IV. Bad fish & animals

Mat 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

*Mat 13:48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, **but cast the bad away.***

*Luk 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a **serpent?***

*Luk 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a **scorpion?***

- a. There would be no bad fish if all were made clean
- b. Snakes & scorpions are eaten in many cultures but Yashua is obviously pointing to their uncleanness and being dangerous.

V. Unclean Animals in NT

a. **Frogs:** *Rev 16:13 And I saw **three unclean spirits like frogs** come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

b. **Birds & Beasts:** *Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

ISV: *Rev 18:2 He cried out in a powerful voice, "Fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen! She has become a home for demons. She is a prison for every unclean spirit, a prison for every **unclean bird, and a prison for every unclean and hated beast.***

VI. Rom 14:14

Rom 14:14 *I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*

Note:

One of the problems in the NKJV and most other translations is that they translate koinos as 'common' in Titus 1:14 and Jude 3, but translate it as unclean—a meaning that it does not have-- in Romans 14:14.

Koinos is also mistranslated as unclean in Hebrews 9:13, where it also should be translated to be "defiled" as in touching dead bodies, or childbirth

Note: Unclean foods are declared so by YHWH, not by any man [Lev 11]

*“**Koinos** refers to situations not covered in the Law of God (Torah), in which something clean (a pot, a utensil, a clean animal, or even a person) comes into contact with something unclean (an unclean animal, dirt, etc), rendering the clean thing defiled or unacceptable. The Pharisees viewed these previously clean things as now being “common” [koinos].*

*So in a sentence, the difference between koinos and akathartos (common and unclean), is that koinos (common) connotes the pharisaic belief (based in tradition) that a clean thing can be made 'common' through contact – whereas **akathartos (unclean)** connotes that which God has declared to be unclean.”*
[<http://messianicpublications.com/robert-roy/a-hebraic-perspective-on-peters-vision-acts-10/>]

VII. 1Tim 4:1-5

1Ti 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and **doctrines of devils**;*
1Ti 4:2 *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*
1Ti 4:3 **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats**, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

1Ti 4:4 *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:*

1Ti 4:5 *For it is **sanctified by the word of God and prayer.***

- a. Lev 11 speaks of unclean food as “abomination” to YHWH. Praying will never sanctify such food.
- b. We can only eat what is “sanctified [set apart] by the Word of God”
- c. Forbidden: pork, animals that do not chew the cud and part the hoof, crustaceans, shellfish, fish without scales & fins, unclean birds

VIII. Uncleaness is a Sin

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Gal 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

IX. Day of YHWH [When Yashua Returns]

Isa 65:1 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.

Isa 65:2 I have spread out my hands all day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts:

Isa 65:3 A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

Isa 65:4 Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;

Isa 65:5 Which say, stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

Isa 66:15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Isa 66:16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Isa 66:17 They that sanctify themselves and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

X. The Millenium

Eze 44:23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

XI. Clean Food, Abomination & Holiness

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1Pe 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

a. Holy [Gr "hagios" = H "qâdôsh"]

b. Defile [Gr "koinoo" = H "tame"]

c. Abomination [Gr "bdelugma" = H "sheqets"]

Compare:

Lev 11:44 For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Lev 11:45 For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

Lev 11:46 This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:

Lev 11:47 To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

- a. Clean & Unclean Food is YHWH's Law
- b. No man can declare any food to be clean or unclean. He can only declare a food to be defiled [common]
- c. Not based on hygiene or nutrition but His decision
- d. Eating unclean food is therefore a sin, a transgression of the Law [Torah]
- e. The one commandment given to Adam & Eve was about food-not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good & evil!
- f. The forbidden fruit was lovely to look at and good for food:

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

- g. Holiness requires abstention from unclean food