



A Torah Study Guide  
for the Young  
& Young at Heart

by  
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence  
& his kids

PARASHAT  
SHEMINI

פרשת שמיני

Leviticus 9:1-11:47







Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

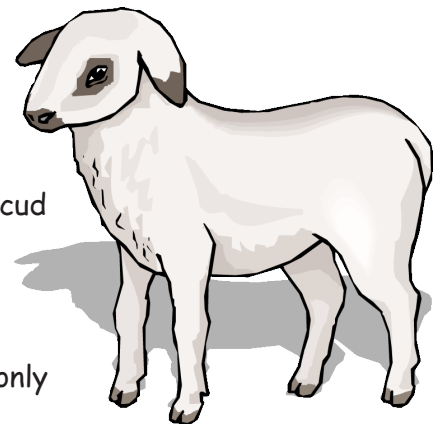
### Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 9:1 The Priestly Service Begins
- 9:24 The Fire of YHVH Consumes the Burnt Offering
- 10:1 YHVH Executes Nadab and Abihu for Offering Up Strange Fire Upon the Altar
- 10:8 YHVH Forbids the Drinking of Alcohol While Ministering in the Tabernacle
- 10:12 Rules for the Priests to Follow While Ministering
- 11:1 The Laws of Kashrut (Clean and Unclean Meats)

### Exploring This Week's Parashah

#### 1 Leviticus 11: Your Guide Map to YHVH's Laws of Clean and Unclean Meats



- (a)  When is the first mention in the Scriptures of clean versus unclean animals? (Read Genesis 7:1-4, 8-9.)
- (b)  What type of animals did YHVH's servants offer up to him for sacrifice—clean or unclean? (See Genesis 4:4; 8:20; 15:8-10; 22:13—there are many more.) Why were only clean animals used for sacrifices? To what important person did these sacrifices prophetically point? (Read John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 13:8.)
- (c)  What are the identifying signs of the animals that YHVH says are clean to eat? (Read Leviticus 11:2-3, 9, 21-22.)
- (d)  What are some examples of animals that chew their cud and have a split hoof? (Read Deuteronomy 14:4-6.)
- (e)  What are some types of fish that have fins and scales? What types do not?
- (f)  Did you know that locusts and grasshoppers are the only



insects that are clean to eat? Make up and write down a recipe of how to prepare a grasshopper dish. Come up with a fancy name for your new dish—something like grasshopper à la orange, or grasshopper fettucine with alfredo sauce.




Some species of grasshopper and locust are very large and grow to be several inches in length. Not only are they fun to catch, but they're easy to clean. Simply pull off the legs and wings, and then pull off the heads and the guts will come out. All you have left is the body, which fries up nicely in a pan with some oil or butter. Remember this as a wilderness survival tactic.

-  (g) What famous person in Scripture lived outdoors and used honey and wild locust for food? (Read Matthew 3:4.)
-  (h) What kind of birds are YHVH's people allowed to eat? (See Deuteronomy 14:11, 20.) This is kind of a trick question, for the Scriptures lists more of the kind of birds that are not proper to eat, than are allowed to eat. (Read Leviticus 11:13-20 and Deuteronomy 14:12-19.) What type of birds are in this list of forbidden birds? What do they all have in common? Are there any indications in Scripture as to what type of birds are clean to eat? (Look at Exodus 16:11-13 and Leviticus 12:6.)




The Torah does not describe the physical characteristics of clean birds, but from the list of the types of unclean birds we learn that all were meat-eating scavengers. From this, we know that clean birds cannot have these characteristics. Furthermore, based on the quail YHVH fed the Israelites and the doves and pigeons YHVH commanded to be sacrificed on the altar, and based on long-standing Jewish tradition, we know that certain birds are kosher to eat. These birds would include chicken, dove, duck, goose, partridge, pheasant, quail, turkey and song birds.

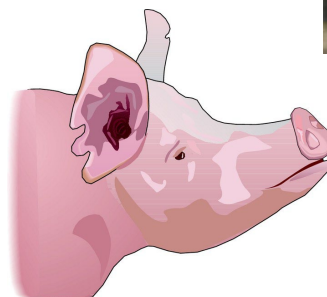
-  (i) Read through Leviticus 11 and find how many animals are listed there as unclean that are common food in today's world. What are some of these animals?

## 2 Eating Unclean Meats Is an Abomination!

What strong language does YHVH use to describe the eating of unclean meats? (Read Leviticus 11:10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 23, 41, 42, 43.)

The word "abomination" (as used in the King James Bible) is the Hebrew word "sheqets" meaning "detestable thing, unclean thing, or an idol." That is very strong language.

-  (j) When YHVH's people eat unclean meat what happens to them? (Read Leviticus 11:43.)



The word “unclean” (as used in the KJV) are the Hebrew words “tamah” and “tawmay” meaning “to defile, become impure or unclean, to become polluted or vile.”



(k) Why does YHVH use such a strong word to describe the eating of unclean meats?

### 3

**YHVH Tells Us, “Be Kadosh/Set-Apart (Holy) for I am Kadosh.”**



(l) What does YHVH want for his people to be? (Read Leviticus 11:43-45.)

When YHVH took his people out of Egypt (a picture of this world and the heathens who live in it), he wanted his people to be different from the surrounding pagan nations. They were to act differently, live differently, eat different foods, have a different religion and worship a different Elohim (God).



(m) Why did YHVH call his people out of this world and what did he want his people to become? (See Exodus 19:5-6 and compare this to 1Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6. Now read 2 Corinthians 6:14-17.)



(n) When YHVH's people would follow his Torah (including the laws of clean and unclean meats, what would YHVH's people become to the world? (Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8.)

### 4

**YHVH and Man: The Big Picture**

In the very beginning, YHVH made man to be small mirror-image version of himself, in a sense. (Read Genesis 1:26.) YHVH wanted to have a loving relationship with man whom he had created in his own image. (Read Genesis 3:8.) But something happened that broke that loving, friendship relationship between man and his Maker.



(o) What caused man to fall out of fellowship with YHVH? (Read Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6.)

Even though Adam and Eve sinned and were forced to leave the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24), YHVH still loved his people whom he had made in his image. He still wanted them to be sinless and kadosh (holy) like him, so that he could be friends with them. But for man to walk in a loving relationship with his perfect and righteous Creator, man must turn away from sin, and learn to walk in righteousness—he must learn to be kadosh or set-apart (holy) as YHVH is kadosh.

YHVH gave man his Torah commandments to help man to show him how to walk in righteousness, how to be kadosh, and how not to be like the world, which is full of sin and wickedness.

It is impossible for man to fully obey YHVH's Torah by himself. But when we recognize that we have sinned by breaking YHVH's laws (1John 3:4), and we have confessed our sins and repented of them (1John 1:9), and then we have placed our faith in Yeshua the Messiah who died on the cross for our sins (Romans 10:9-10, 13; John 5:24), and we have asked for and received the gift of his Set-Apart (Holy) Spirit to live in our hearts and minds and empower us to obey YHVH, it is then that we can follow his Torah





commandments. We have the divine empowerment to obey him because we are saved from our sins and have become a new (spiritual) person because Yeshua lives in us by his Spirit, and because we love him (John 14:15; Galatians 2:20).

Eating clean foods, just like thinking righteous thoughts, speaking wholesome words, being honest and truthful, keeping YHVH's Sabbaths, loving our neighbors as ourselves, dressing modestly, keeping ourselves clean physically and spiritually, and walking according to a high and righteous standard in all areas of our lives, along with praying to YHVH, praising and worshipping him, and studying his Word are all aspects of being set-apart or kadosh even as he is. This is what he wants for us because he loves us so much and wants to have a close and personal and forever relationship with each and every child of his whom he made in his very own image. This is why YHVH wants us to follow his laws of clean and unclean meats! He is righteous and holy or set-apart, and he wants us to be that way also so we can be close to him and him to us.

Eating unclean things is like eating food out of garbage can. YOU are a human being made in the image of Elohim—not a scavenger! He has called you to be a set-apart vessel—the temple of the Spirit of Elohim, not a physical and spiritual garbage can!

