CLEAN VS UNCLEAN FOODS

Do you recall my illustration that I shared about being stranded on an Island with only the Word as an Instruction Manual for Life from our Creator?

Did you catch that….OUR CREATOR – the One who intrinsically woven us together – He should then also know what is good for this body and what is not.
Are we going to trust Him?

WHAT DOES THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL SAY ABOUT FOOD?

JUST A FEW FACTS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

- FOOD definition: that which sustains the body or soul
- We know that Adam and Eve only ate fruits, veggies & seeds.

GEN.1:29

Then God said, "Here! Throughout the whole earth I am giving you as food every seed-bearing plant and every tree with seed-bearing fruit.

- This was the case until after the flood of Noah….

GEN.9:3

Every moving thing that lives will be food for you; just as I gave you green plants before, so now I give you everything — 4 only flesh with its life, which is its blood, you are not to eat.

- When Noah completed building the ark, YHVH gave the instruction:

GEN.7:1-3

Adonai said to Noach, "Come into the ark, you and all your household; for I have seen that you alone in this generation are righteous before me. 2 Of every clean animal you are to take seven couples, and of the animals that are not clean, one couple; 3 also of the birds in the air take seven couples — in order to preserve their species throughout the earth.

- They started off with being 8 people that had to eat. If they ate of the clean animals, no animal would be come extinct, because they would have time to recreate and multiply.

The first concept of clean vs unclean animals as food is introduced in Lev.11.

BACKGROUND:

- Slowly, the people moved away from YHVH's presence from Adam & Noah's time. This is more than 500yrs from Abraham's time. The people started following their own way and assimilated to the people around them.
- Now they've been redeemed and freed from Egypt, but YHVH needs to "renew their way of thinking and doing" according to His Life Instructions. That is why Torah is so important for us as well – wanting to walk in YHVH's ways. Because Yeshua also told us, if your love me, you will keep (guard/treasure) my commandments (instructions.)

- He has shown them His calendar & rhythm and the amazing sign of covenant with Him: Shabbat.
- Now, He is teaching us about what is food (nourishment) for us and what is not….

LEV.11:1-2

Adonai said to Moshe and Aharon, 2 "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'These are the living creatures which you may eat among all the land animals:

Clean Animals:

- **Land Animals:**
  Animals with split, divided hooves and that chew the cud. This includes:
- Cattle (cows, bulls, steers)
- Sheep (lambs, rams)
- Goats
- Deer (including elk, caribou, etc.)
- Antelope, gazelles
- **Fish:**
  Those with fins and scales in both saltwater and freshwater.
- **Birds:**
  Most birds of prey and carrion eaters are considered unclean; however, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quail, and pheasants are considered clean.
- **Insects:**
  Certain insects like locusts, grasshoppers, and crickets are considered clean.

Unclean Animals:

- **Land Animals:**
- Pigs (including boars, hogs)
- Camels
- Rabbits
- Rock badgers
- All animals that do not have split hooves and/or do not chew the cud
- Carnivores
- Reptiles, amphibians (frogs) , and mollusks (snails)
- **Fish:**
  Those without fins and scales, i,e. catfish(barber), prawns, shrimp, octopus, etc.
- **Birds:**
  Birds of prey (eagles, vultures, hawks, etc.) and carrion eaters are unclean.
- **Insects:**
  Most insects are considered unclean, with the exception of locusts, crickets, and grasshoppers.

THE REASON

LEV.11 ends with verse 44:

You shall be holy; for I am holy"

DEUT 14 starts in verse 1 with: *"You are the people of Adonai your God….."*

- Then some instructions follows…
- Verse 3: *"You are not to eat anything disgusting…"* the description of clean and unclean animals follows again.

Ahhhh – now comes the question we as humans always want to ask, especially if an instruction interferes with our comfort or desires….**WHY?**

- Do you believe that YHVH loves you, knows your name and knows what is good for you? (He created you and all the animal.s)
  Our heavenly Father wants the best for us as well.
- When your child is young and you say they can not eat paper, chalk, rubber toys, poisonous plants, etc. – do you say this just to be a difficult parent, or because you don't want anything to harm your child?
- Over the years, a lot of scientists, doctors, and wise men and women have pondered this instruction of Adonai.
- Some suggest that better quality feed for unclean animals and modern cooking methods remove the need to follow these dietary laws.
  But neither dynamic changes how God designed the animals—some fit for food and some not.
- A few good logic reasonings have come forth, i.e
  - Pigs, shellfish, ostrich, etc. are scavengers, which are cleaning toxins from the environment. Consuming these animals meant ingesting those toxins, leading to potential health issues.
  - Pigs, lacking sweat glands, cannot expel toxins, which remain in their meat and subsequently enter the human body when consumed.
  - Most birds and 4 legged animals that are unclean, are the"cleaners" of the earth, i.e. ostriches, pigs, shellfish, etc.
- For us as YHVH's children it comes down to the following:
  God instructed me, I love Him, so I obey Him – with or without understanding.

MISINTERPRATIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:
MARK.7:18-20

*He replied to them, "So you too are without understanding? Don't you see that nothing going into a person from outside can make him unclean? **19** For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and it passes out into the latrine." (Thus he declared all foods ritually clean.) **20** "It is what comes out of a person," he went on, "that makes him unclean.*

- The term "food" in the hebrew context, strictly refers to what was deemed clean by the Torah – to be consumed.
- This discussion was therefore about ceremonial cleanliness.
- True defilement comes from within rather than from external practices.
- The Pharisees criticize Jesus's disciples for eating bread without the traditional hand-washing rituals. (verse 5)
- Yeshua points out that what truly matters is **not** the outward adherence to rituals but the **inward** purity of the heart.

ACTS.10 – Peter's vision

- He asserts that what truly matters is **not** the outward adherence to rituals but the **inward** purity of the heart.
- Jews were not about to mingle with gentiles – not eat with them, or have fellowship with them.
- Cornelius was a gentile with a thirst for YHVH's truth and way. With this vision Adonai gave the message to Peter to minister to Cornelius.
- The vision's message was NOT about food.

COL.2:16-17

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

- Paul wrote to gentiles in a gentile city – a city and people much like we are surrounded by. When these people, who he is writing to, chose to follow YHVH's ways, there are 3 specific things they were critizised about:
    - Diet – what they now chose to eat or not to eat
    - Feasts …
    - Sabbath
- Seems we have the same battle today – the same 3 things which distinguish us, following YHVH's Torah. Paul encourages to see the bigger picture of YHVH's Kingdom.

Always – read in context when you read the Word of Adonai. He will NEVER contradict Himself.

DEUTERONOMY 5:29

"Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"