

CAN WE EAT UNCLEAN MEATS TODAY?

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The Ten Commandments, spoken by God, written on stone ... placed in The Ark ... are God's Eternal standards for now and the future.

Is it now okay for us believers to eat unclean meats? Why do we avoid unclean meats?

Today we will clarify the subject.

Exodus 34:1

"And the Lord said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke."

Exodus 34:4

" So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone."

Exodus 34:28

" So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He (GOD) wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments."

Deuteronomy 4:11-13

" "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone."

Deuteronomy 5:22

"**These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more.** And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me."

So ... The Ten Commandments are God's standards for today.

Revelation 11:19

" Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and **the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.**

But ... there are 613 "other commandments" that the Jews acknowledge today. What about them? How do they relate to us? These are a separate covenant ... written in a book ... on animal skins ... placed beside the Ark.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26

" So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: **"Take this Book of the Law, (VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SPOKEN AND WRITTEN BY GOD) and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;"** (They were to "fence them in" because they were so rebellious)

We are part of Abraham's Covenant ... not The Sinai Covenant.

The eating of clean and unclean meats has nothing to do with either of these covenants.

Clean and unclean meats aren't dependant on any covenants. They have to do with Creation. They go right back to the beginning. They have to do with the fundamental rules that apply to good health.

Genesis 7:1-2

"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.** You shall take with you **seven each of every clean animal,** a male and his female; **two each of animals that are unclean,** a male and his female;" (Approx 1,000+ years before the Sinai Covenant. These animals have been clean or unclean since Creation)

Noah clearly knew and lived by God's standards.

Genesis 8:15-20

" 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."**

You can't offer an unclean animal as a sacrifice to God. Unclean animals are not designed to be eaten.

Genesis 9:1-3

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.**" (In context: eat animals that are edible, eat herbs and plants that are edible).

Which animals are unclean, what birds, what fish? Noah knew, Abraham knew. But ... when the Israelites came out of Egypt, they probably didn't

know what was clean or unclean. They had been slaves and probably eaten what they could "get their hands on".

Leviticus 11:1-8

"Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, "Speak to the children of Israel, saying, 'These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth: Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud—that you may eat. 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 rock hyrax, 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. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you."

This chapter is not making these animals clean or unclean ... it is a repeat instruction of what was once known to God's people. This chapter is not creating a new law. The context here is more about ceremonial uncleanness.

But ... some people like to eat unclean foods ... their pork, bacon, lobster, etc. What/where can we find in The New Testament that says we can eat rabbit, bacon, etc? ... The "get out clause"!

Here is where people typically go:

Acts 10:1-16

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"

So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

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 10:17-28

"Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?"

And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." Then he invited them in and lodged them.

On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. 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.**" (Not pigs, dogs, rabbits, lobsters, etc)

Acts 10:44-48

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptised who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptised in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days."

Acts 11:1-18

"Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.' But the voice answered me again from heaven, **'What God has**

cleansed you must not call common. Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, **"Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."**

There is nothing in these verses that permit the eating of unclean foods.

Mark 7:1-3

"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, (Ceremonially unclean) 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."

Mark 7:4-23

" 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 honours 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, 'Honour 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."

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!"

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, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" 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."

Where is there anything in this passage that says you can eat unclean foods? People are just "clutching at straws".

1 Timothy 4:1-5

"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** (Does that include unclean meats?) 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; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.**"(Which was The Old Testament)

Does this passage say that we were following "doctrines of demons" by not eating unclean meats? No!! Pig, rabbits, lobsters have never been "food". Food is something that is defined for human consumption.

Revelation 18:1-4

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and **a cage for every unclean and hated bird!** (According to some people there is no such thing as an unclean bird or animal) For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."

So ... clean and unclean meats are part of Creation and are not food.

Let's look at a couple of scriptures in closing.

Ezekiel 22:26

" Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them."

Three things that God condemns here:

1. They violate His Law.
2. They have not distinguished or made known what is clean or unclean.
3. They have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths.

Isaiah 66:1-2

"Thus says the Lord:

"Heaven is My throne,

And earth is My footstool.

Where is the house that you will build Me?

And where is the place of My rest?

For all those things My hand has made,

And all those things exist,"

Says the Lord.

"But on this one will I look:

On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit,

And who trembles at My word."

Isaiah 66:15-17

" 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.

For by fire and by His sword

The Lord will judge all flesh;

And the slain of the Lord shall be many.

"Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves,

To go to the gardens

After an idol in the midst,

Eating swine's flesh and the abomination and the mouse,

Shall be consumed together," says the Lord."

Either way ... we don't eat unclean meats.