

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

July 15, 2026

Leviticus 11:24-47

Introduction:

1. The responsibility of the priesthood was to “*distinguish between holy and unholy, and between clean and unclean*” (Lev. 10.10,11; 11.1; 13.1; 14.33; 15.1)
2. Parallel to the priesthood, the eldership is also given the responsibilities both to distinguish and to teach. (1 Tim. 3.2,3; Titus 1.7,10-16)
3. The end of the chapter gives us a summary of what was legislated. (Lev. 11.46,47)
4. Verses 24ff sees a shift in focus from taste to touch. (cf. Lev. 5.2,3; Haggai 2-11-14)

I. THE CLEANLINESS

A. Defilement from land animals.

1. The duration: “*shall be unclean until evening*” (Lev. 11.24 et. al).
2. The gradation: “*whoever carries part of the carcass*” (Lev. 11.25 et. al).
3. **Leviticus 11.26:** “*the carcass of any animal which divides the foot...*”
4. **Leviticus 11.27,28:** “*And whatever goes on its paws*”

B. Defilement from creeping things.

1. **Leviticus 11.29-31:** “*These shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep on the earth*” Lit., swarming things. Zoological category.
2. **Leviticus 11.32-35:** Household items. (cf. Num. 31.21-24)
3. **Leviticus 11.36-38:** Carcasses that contact items in nature.

C. Defilement from clean animals.

1. **Leviticus 11.39:** “*he who touches its carcass*”
2. **Leviticus 11.40:** “*he who eats...who carries*” (cf. Ezek. 4.14; Lev. 17.13-16)

II. THE CHARACTER

A. The prohibition restated.

1. **Leviticus 11.41:** “*And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten.*” Abomination: Sheqets - dietary.
2. **Leviticus 11.42:** Focus is on how they move. (cf. v. 29)
 - a) **Verse 42:** “*Whatever crawls on its belly*” (cf. Gen. 3.14)
 - b) **Verse 42:** “*Whatever goes on all fours*” (cf. vs. 20-23)
 - c) **Verse 42:** “*Whatever has many feet*”

B. The purpose of the prohibition.

1. **Leviticus 11.42:** “*You shall not make yourselves abominable*” Shift from the third person to the second person. Not just accidental, but willful defilement.
2. **Leviticus 11.44,45:** Three reasons are given. (cf. 1 Pet. 1.14-16)
 - a) **Leviticus 11.44:** Because of the authority of God.
 - b) **Leviticus 11.44:** Because of the nature of God.
 - c) **Leviticus 11.45:** Because of the salvation God.