

THE DIETARY CODE

I. Introduction

Greetings. Welcome to our continuing Deuteronomy studies as we come to chapter 14 and the dietary code. It is not so much a study of nutrition as it is of practical advice in honoring God in the simplest of things: eating. This chapter parallels Leviticus 11 and I must tell you a story that came into my life in 1961

Dr. Pohl and the Kosher meal at University of Pennsylvania

Well, he may have overstated his case but I have never forgotten it and have tried to incorporate the idea when I am giving thanks for my daily food. But we can look at the code on these lines:

14:1-2...you will remember your special position
14:3....the general charge
14:4-8...the test of beasts
14:9-10..the test of sea creatures
14:11-20.the designation of fowls

II. Discussion

14:1-2...you will remember you are a holy people and will not indulge yourselves in wicked worldly practices!

14:3....you will carry sanctification to your diet

14:4-5...Legal animals..kosher, fit to eat

14:6....testing the beasts: the clean beast parts the hoof and chews the cud

14:7-8...Animals that just do one of these at ⁷⁰unclean..you will not eat them or be contaminated by them in any way. Note the swine and remember the miracle in Luke and ask yourself....

14:9-10..of sea creatures: fins and scales. A lot of things were unclean...like oysters, shrimp...woe is me!

14:11-20.we are not told what they are but in vss 12-19 we are told what they are not and the lists includes raptors, carrion eaters, etc., without telling us why they are unclean. The assumption is that what is not outlawed is okay. Leviticus 11 adds notes on creeping things..things that have four feet and fly and things that have four feet made mostly for leaping. But the locust may be eaten and beyond this one must use one's judgment.