

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Leviticus 11:29-38

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue to read Leviticus 11:29-38.

The dietary laws of the Old Testament no longer apply to the saints in the New Testament. Therefore, when we read about these dietary regulations, we approach them from a spiritual perspective. When the Gospel was about to turn toward the Gentiles, God showed Peter a vision in which a large sheet descended from heaven, containing all kinds of living creatures, which God had cleansed. God said to Peter that they should not be considered common. God used these living creatures to represent Gentile Christians who were saved by grace. This also signifies that after we are saved by grace, under God's sovereign authority, we will experience various environments.

Sometimes, like beasts, we walk on the earth God created; sometimes, like aquatic creatures, we live in waters corrupted by Satan; at other times, like birds, we soar in the vast heavens, free from earthly bonds; and sometimes, like insects, we are trapped in situations where pressure surrounds us.

Regardless of the circumstances, we must learn to always choose what is clean and avoid unclean things, especially being cautious about contact with death, which is unclean. If we are defiled, all we need is to confess and repent to receive forgiveness. If we come into contact with death, we become unclean for a period of time until sunset, meaning until the day ends. When new grace comes, the old things have passed away, and all things have become new.

Today, we will study the fifth category of creatures—creeping things on the ground. All of these creatures are unclean, and the Israelites were required to avoid them. From a spiritual perspective, these creatures do not represent Christians. They are companions of Satan, who sometimes masquerades as an angel of light. Their

nature is earthly, and their actions are rooted in the world governed by Satan. We must be vigilant not to be deceived.

Verse 29 - 30: "These also shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep on the earth: the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard after its kind; the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the chameleon."

Creeping things that crawl on the ground without wings and joints on their feet, making it impossible for them to leap, are considered unclean. The Bible specifically lists certain creeping creatures commonly found in daily life, such as rodents, lizards, and those that crawl on walls, like geckos. These are all unclean and forbidden for Israelites to eat. Saints, if interested, may consult encyclopedias to see the appearance of these creatures. Some of them have vibrant colors and appear cute, but they are creatures that crawl on the ground, which reminds us not to be attracted by the world's appearance but to see its essence. The world is a system Satan uses to deceive people, luring them away from God and His will. Saints must be vigilant and cautious.

Verse 31: "These are unclean to you among all that creep. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening."

Creeping things are unclean and cannot be eaten by the Israelites. If these unclean creatures die and are touched, the person becomes unclean until evening. This principle applies to all unclean animals. As we discussed yesterday, death is more serious than being unclean. If a person is defiled, they only need to confess and repent to immediately receive forgiveness. However, touching death requires a period of separation until evening. For the Israelites, the day begins at evening, symbolizing God's new grace bringing a fresh start in the morning.

Verse 32: "Anything on which any of them falls when they are dead shall be unclean, whether it is any item of wood or clothing or skin or sack, whatever item it is in which any work is done, it must be put in water. It shall be unclean until evening; then it shall be clean."

Creeping things are easily recognizable as unclean, and Israelites could usually avoid touching them. The challenge arises when they die and fall on the Israelites' daily items, making those objects unclean. These creatures lived alongside the Israelites, often crawling on their household walls. When such a creature died and accidentally fell on household items, it was an unforeseen situation. In such cases, God instructed Moses and Aaron to tell the Israelites to handle it properly. Whether it fell on a wooden item, clothing, leather, a bag, or any tool, the object must be placed in water until evening to be cleansed.

Dear brothers and sisters, this shows us, as New Testament saints, that we must be cautious not to come into contact with what is unclean or associated with death. Even when we do not intentionally seek these things, Satan will still try to place death in our daily lives, especially among the tools we frequently use. According to this revealed principle, these tools must undergo a period of cleansing, washed by the Holy Spirit's water, before they can be used again. Although this may be inconvenient, God values doing the right thing over efficiency. Therefore, we must cleanse these tools before continuing our service.

Verses 33-34: "And any earthen vessel into which any of them falls you shall break; and whatever is in it shall be unclean: in such a vessel any edible food upon which water falls becomes unclean, and any drink that may be drunk from it becomes unclean."

If a dead creeping creature falls into an earthen vessel, whatever is inside becomes unclean and must not be eaten. Additionally, the earthen vessel must be broken because, in those days, earthenware was unglazed, full of porous material that could not be cleansed by water. If the vessel contained soup or water, they would become unclean and must not be consumed, and the vessel would still need to be

broken. The same applies if the water was used to prepare food—it becomes unclean and unfit for consumption.

The translation of this passage in the CUV (Chinese Union Version) is not entirely accurate. It seems to imply that food not mixed with water remains clean, but the original meaning is that food prepared with unclean water becomes unclean. This passage highlights that the Israelites had to pay a considerable price to follow these regulations. Even if it was through no fault of their own, such as a dead insect falling into a bowl of rice, the rice could not be eaten, and the bowl had to be broken.

God wanted the Israelites to be completely separated from the uncleanness of death, even at a cost. For New Testament saints, the principle remains: God does not want us to use unclean tools to do His work. Some churches, for example, when lacking funds for building projects, may resort to various fundraising methods, including outsourcing to marketing companies that use high-pressure tactics. Such methods violate the principle revealed here. When it comes to serving God and the church, He does not want us to use unclean tools, especially those tainted by death.

Verse 35: "And everything on which a part of any such carcass falls shall be unclean; whether it is an oven or cooking stove, it shall be broken down; for they are unclean and shall be unclean to you."

If a dead creeping creature fell onto the oven or cooking stove, which were often earthenware, these items had to be broken down. This could lead to significant financial loss. A small creature could cause such great damage, but God's law required the Israelites to follow this instruction.

Dear brothers and sisters, though we no longer need to observe these rules as New Testament saints, the spiritual principle remains the same. When we serve God and the church, He still requires that we avoid defilement. We must be vigilant of death, even when it is forced upon us. We should be prepared to pay the price to remain clean and pure in our service to God.

Verse 36: "Nevertheless a spring or a cistern, in which there is plenty of water, shall be clean, but whatever touches any such carcass becomes unclean."

If a dead creeping creature falls into a spring or a cistern with flowing water, it remains clean because the water is living and has the power to cleanse. However, any part of the water near the dead creature must be removed. This highlights a key principle: water stored in a cistern becomes dead water, and if a dead creature falls into it, the water and the cistern become unclean and must be broken. Flowing water, however, is alive and can cleanse. Jesus said in John 7:37-38: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

This shows that if we receive the grace of Jesus' living water, we should share it with others, like a river flowing with life. Living water has the power to cleanse, protecting us from Satan's attacks of death. However, if we receive grace but do not share it, we risk becoming stagnant, dead water, vulnerable to Satan's influence. Let us learn to not withhold grace. When we receive the flow of grace from Jesus Christ, we must freely share it. In doing so, we become a source of flowing, living water that constantly pours out.

Verses 37 - 38: "If any part of any such carcass falls on any planting seed which is to be sown, it remains clean. But if water is put on the seed, and if a part of any such carcass falls on it, it becomes unclean to you."

This passage addresses the situation where the carcass of a dead creature falls on seeds. If the seeds are intended for planting, their inherent vitality makes them clean, as they are capable of overcoming death and can still be sown. However, if the seeds have been watered and are intended for food, they lose that life force and become unclean when touched by death. The same seed, depending on its use, can have different outcomes when coming into contact with a carcass: planting seeds retain their strength and can withstand death, while seeds for food lose their life force and become contaminated by death.

Dear brothers and sisters, as believers who have been born again, we have received the seed of life. This seed must take root, grow, and bear fruit in us, enabling us to overcome the attacks of death. However, if this seed loses its vitality, it can easily be corrupted by death. Let us ask the Lord to protect us.

Let us pray together: Lord, we thank You for reminding us that Satan, like a roaring lion, is prowling around seeking someone to devour. Though we live cautiously, avoiding contact with unclean things and guarding against death, we still encounter attacks from Satan and his followers. Protect our clothing, tools, and belongings from death. Grant us the resolve to follow Your principles and handle anything tainted by death as You have instructed—whether to wash or break as necessary. Help us stay connected to the flow of grace from heaven, and may our hearts become like rivers of living water. May the seed of life grow, take root, and bear fruit within us. Let life swallow up death, and let the living water purify us. Guide us to live continually in the flow of life. Bless our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.