

# MORAL CHOICE VS. PREFERENCE

- The Human Will makes moral choices
- Preferences are personal and intellectual and does not involve morality
- Without moral choices available, our Wills cannot function
- The Law provides for those moral choices
- Without the Law (moral choice) sin is impossible



# GOD DIVIDES AND SEPARATES



- The very first Law God gave to Man concerned food
- He used food to demonstrate His principle of distinctions
- God's preeminent activity is dividing and separating
- Food was divided into ritually clean and unclean (OK and NOT OK)
- The food laws are NOT primarily about hygiene, or other rational/logical means
- The concept of clean/unclean involving health issues as the reason for God's choices first appeared in the Middle Ages

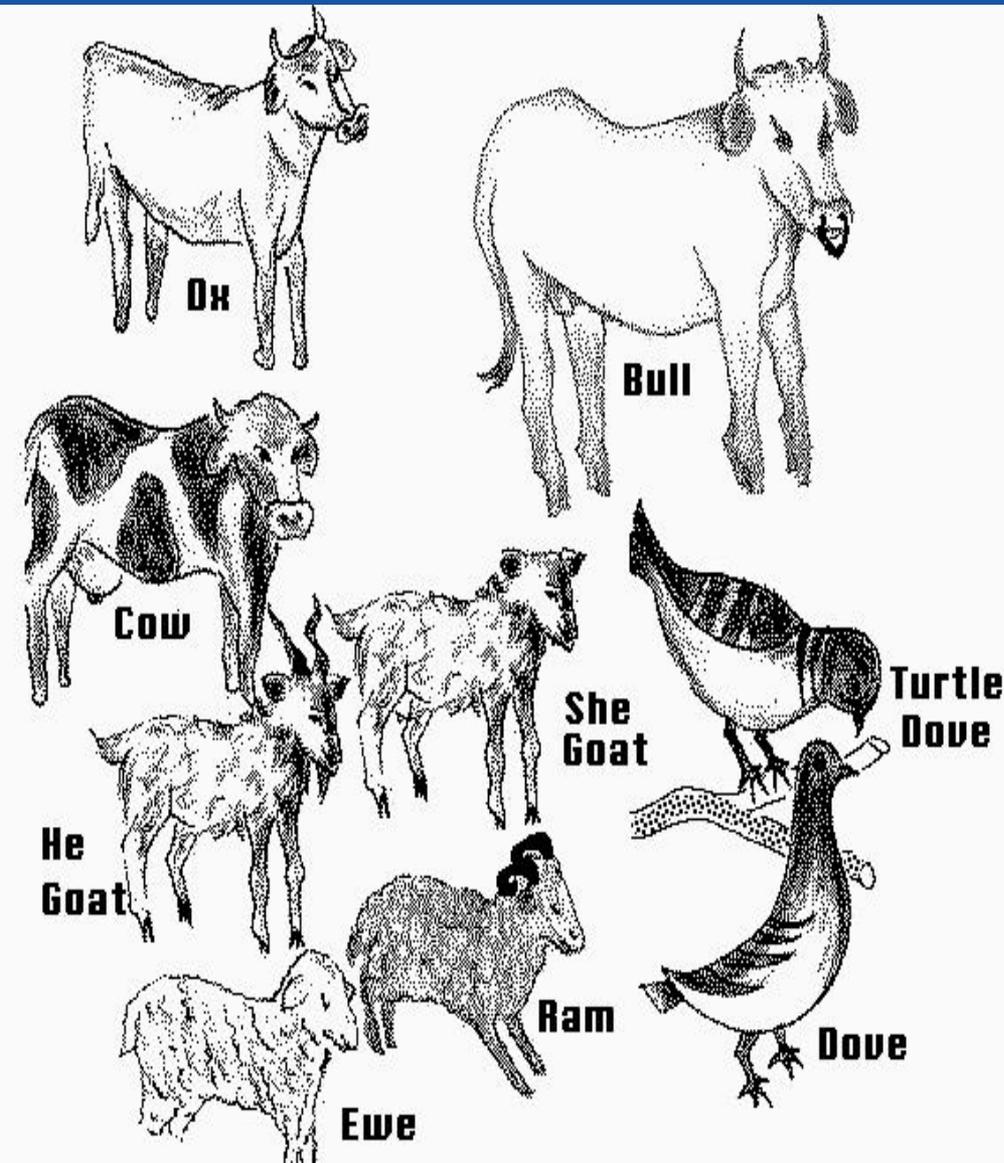


# IT'S ALL ABOUT HOLINESS!

- The dietary laws are one of the components of God's people maintaining their holiness
- BUT.....it MUST be done within the context of loving and trusting Yehoveh or it has no value
- The Lord **DECLARES** what is holy
- Man may **NOT** decide for ourselves what is holy and what is not

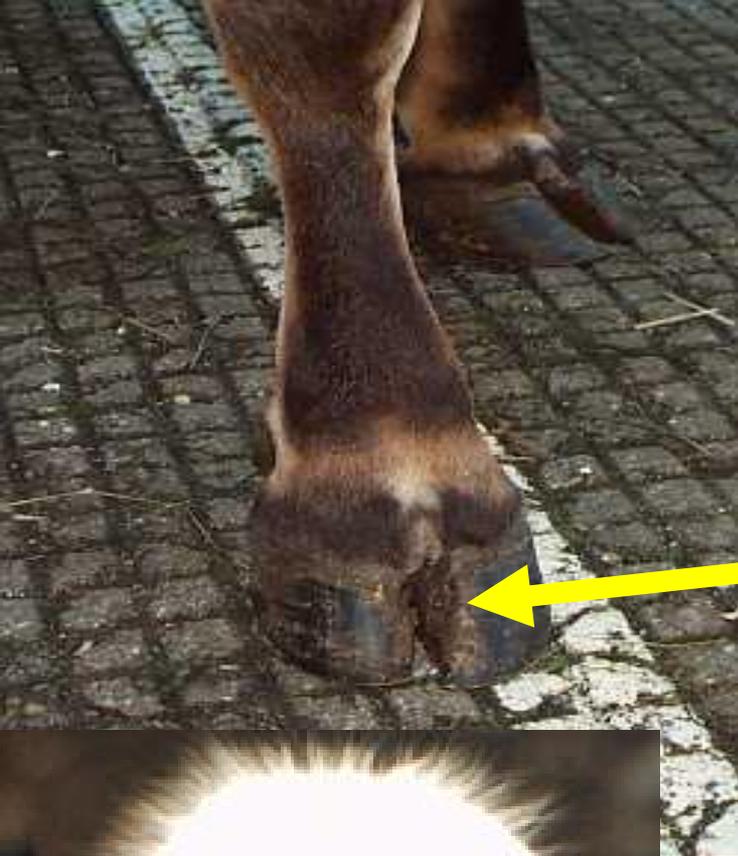


# DEUTERONOMY 14: FOOD LAWS



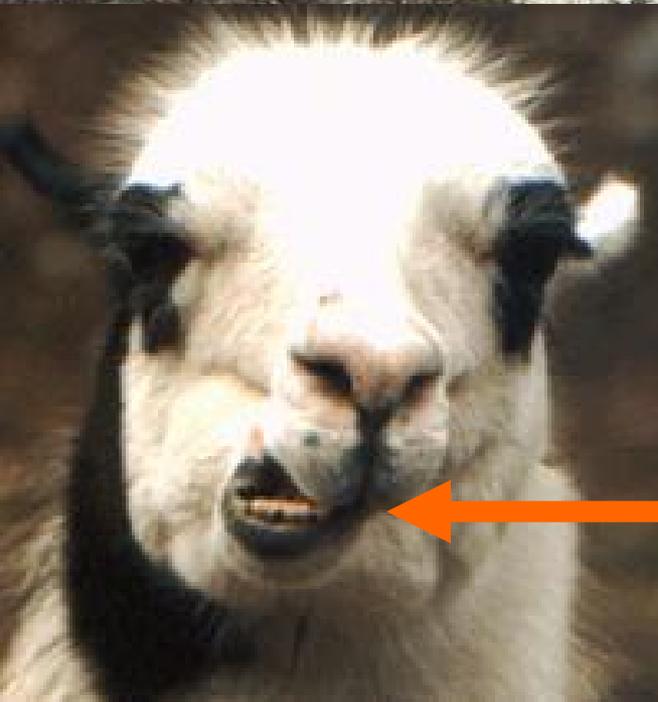
- *To'evah* = abhorrent, abominable, disgusting
- Especially unclean or unholy
- ALL unclean foods are *to'evah*
- Edible items that are considered UNCLEAN are not classified as "food"

# PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CLEAN ANIMAL



**CLOVEN HOOF**

**BOTH MUST  
BE PRESENT  
TO BE CLEAN!**

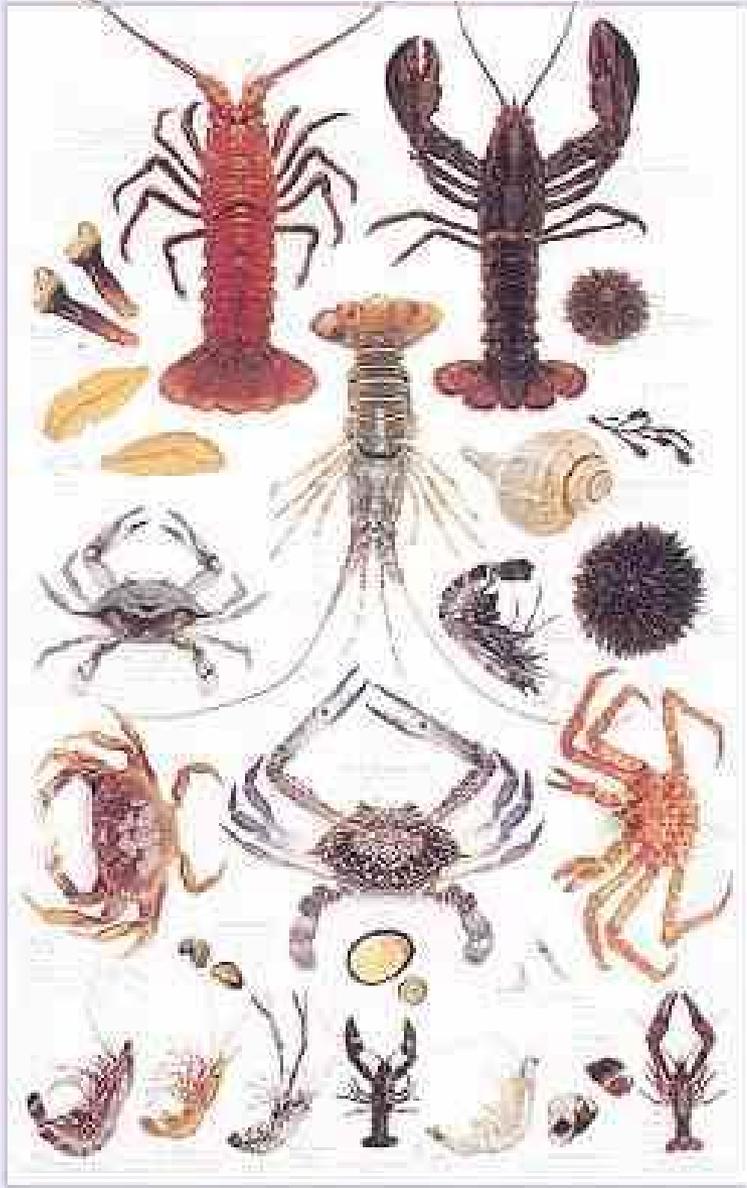


**CHEWS THE CUD**

# BIRDS THAT EAT MEAT, DEAD OR ALIVE, ARE UNCLEAN



UNCLEAN



# SWARMING

- Swarming creatures are UNCLEAN
- Swarming = *sherets*
- Means it moves at random, darts about, crawls
- Frogs, mice, rats, ants

S H E L L F E E T S H

# CONDITIONS WHEN A CLEAN ANIMAL BECOMES UNCLEAN

- When an otherwise clean animal dies of natural causes or accident or killed by wild animal, it is considered UNCLEAN
- May be given to a *ger*, or sold to a *nokri*
- *Ger* = non-Hebrew living among Israel
- *Nokri* = non-Hebrew living OUTSIDE the camp
- This is NOT about the meat becoming unhealthy

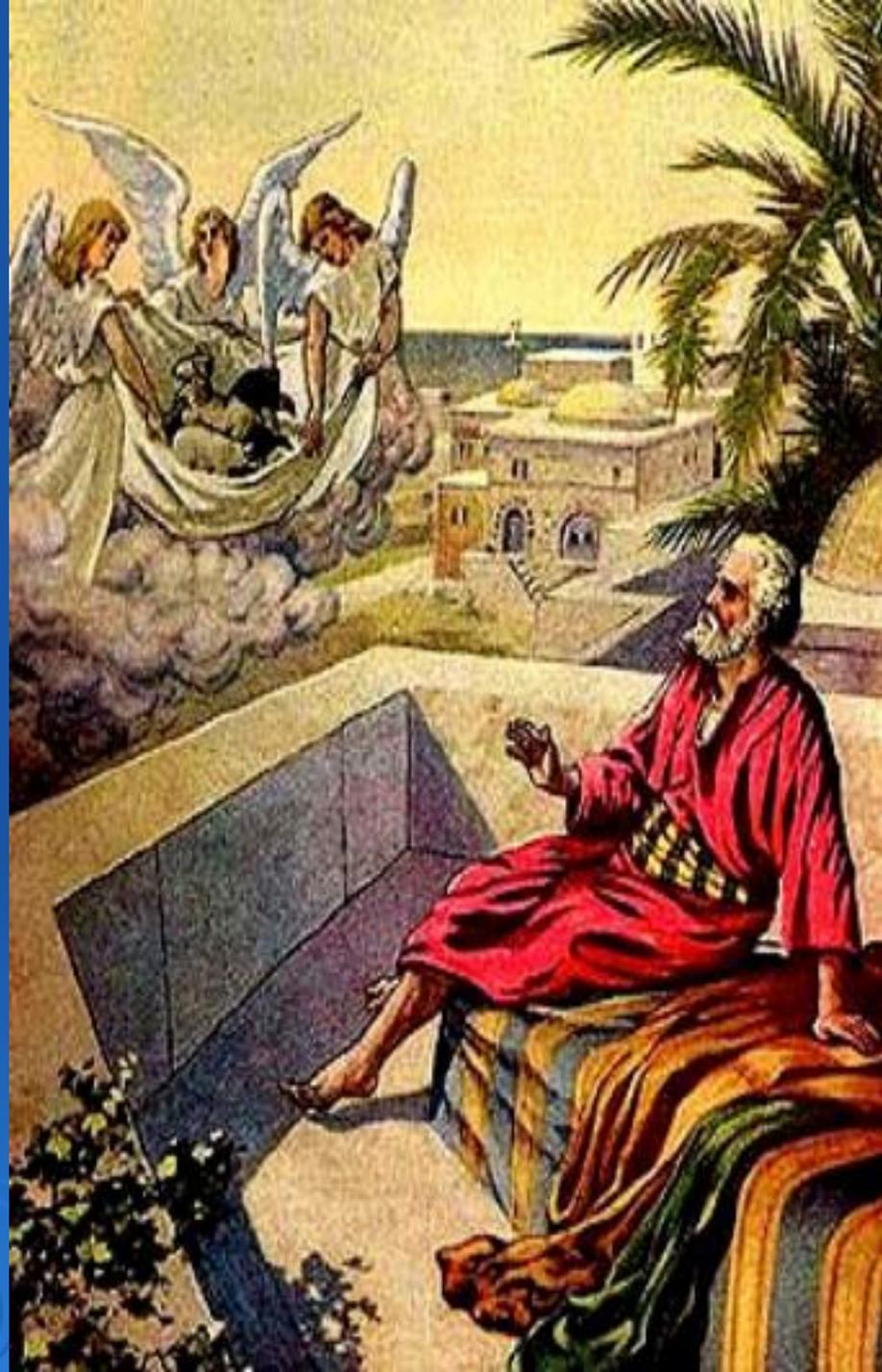
# RULES OF THE RABBIS



- Moses probably wouldn't have recognized the food laws found in the Talmud
- The Rabbis greatly expanded and inflated the food laws
- Yeshua directly addressed this issue

# PETER'S VISION

- The unclean animals were a metaphor for gentiles
- Duane Christensen: *“Peter’s vision..... primarily symbolic.....of including the gentile man....with the people of God...”*
- Tradition had made all gentiles inherently UNCLEAN
- Kosher laws made eating with a gentile practically impossible
- *Kal V’homer* = light vs. heavy



# SOCIAL JUSTICE



- Hebrews have always put an emphasis on social justice
- Christian doctrines often pick one scripture verse to focus on and diminish others creating an unbalanced approach
- Jews have historically overbalanced fairness and social justice at the expense of God's laws and commands
- Joshua and his successors would allow intermarriage, pagan worship, etc. in order to achieve their ideas of social justice
- Modern Israel is driven to self-destruction with the same intent

# DON'T NEGLECT LEVITES

- Tithe (1/10<sup>th</sup>) to be brought to the Tabernacle EVERY YEAR
- Every 3 years the tithe was so be stored locally
- Food and money for poor, widows, orphans, strangers
- Priests = temple officials
- Levites = temple workers

