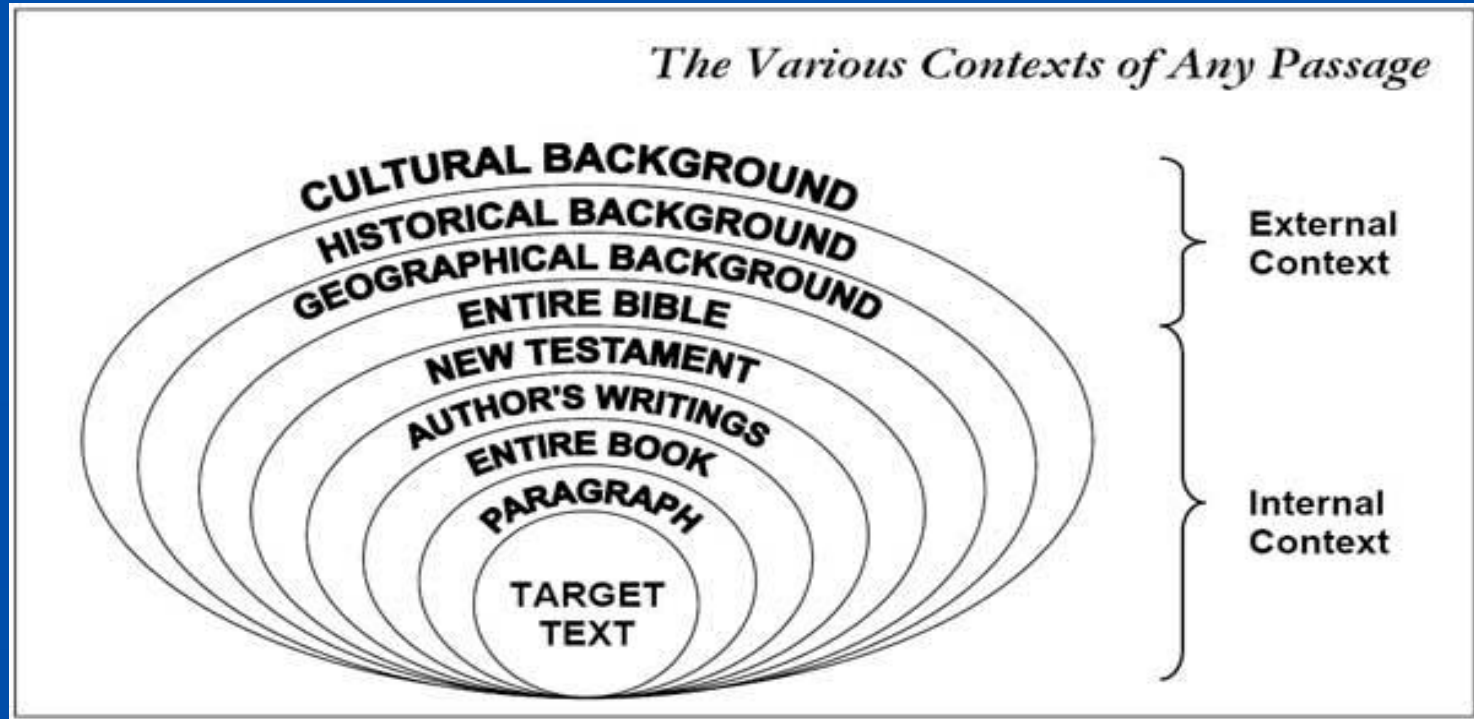


ROMANS CHAPTER 14



- Romans 14 can't be understood except in the proper context of Jewish identity and Jewish cultural mindset
- Chapter and verse markings are a great study aid to help communicate and divide-up the Bible into bite-sized chunks
- But....chapter and verse markings can also distort and make it seem as though a chapter is a self contained literary unit

**Weak and
strong in
faith???**



- No scholarly consensus on exactly what problem Paul is addressing
- Instruction to Believers is: embrace the “weak in faith”
- The issue is about inter-personal relationships
- The rationale behind Paul’s approach is: Love your neighbor

That “Love Thy Neighbor” thing...
I meant that.

-God

I AMAR

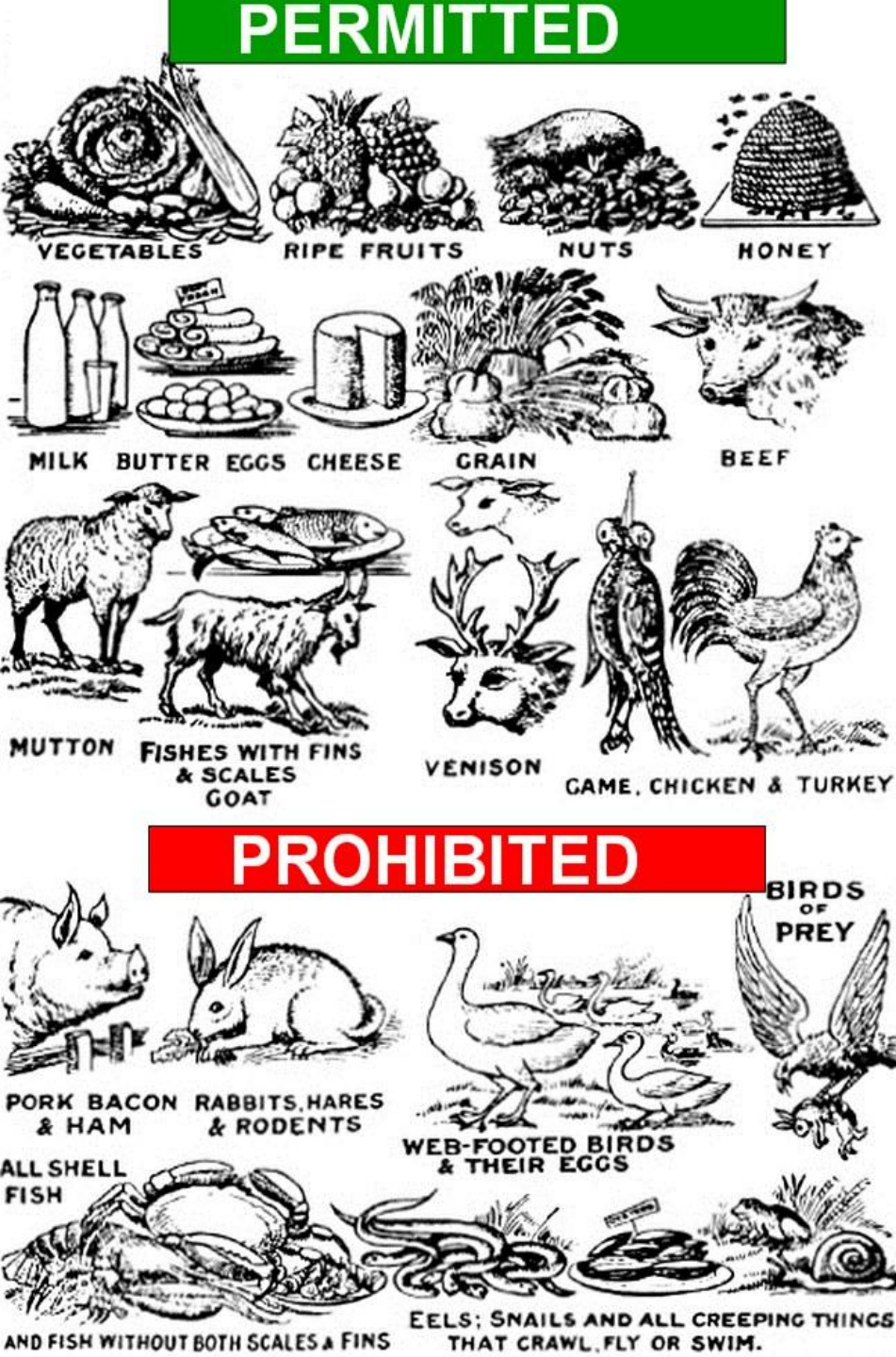
HOW NOT TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

- Romans 12:1 – 5
- The Congregation will be very diverse; accept the weak in faith as-is !
- Some Believers will have great trust, others small, so treat them accordingly
- Those with small faith are fragile and can be driven away, so be tender
- Paul is talking about ALL Believers
- The weak in faith are also valuable members of the Body of Christ and are important to God



JEWES THE WEAK, GENTILES THE STRONG?

- Paul the Jewish Rabbi automatically thinks of food in terms of Kosher
- Eating “anything” means “any permitted thing”
- As opposed to eating only vegetables
- Vegetables pose few Kosher risks; meat poses many
- Fear of accidentally eating something unclean





THE PROBLEM WITH MEAT

- In Rome meat likely had been offered to idols
- Meat easily became ritually unclean
- Strong in faith took reasonable precautions and knew Yeshua was the Living Water
- Rules of Halakhah much more rigid than biblical Torah
- Believers shouldn't pass judgment on one another in such matters

looks down on

attitude

Rom 14:1-12

behavior

Rom 14:13-23

Strong

Weak

attitude

Rom 14:1-12

judges



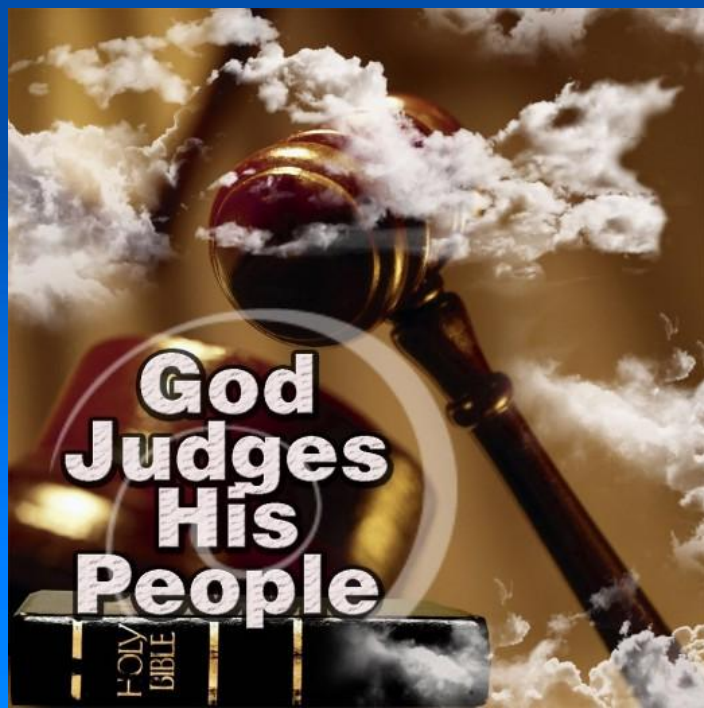
THE PROBLEM WITH “DAYS”

- Monday - dies Lūnae [day of the Moon] (lunar, lunatic)
- Tuesday – dies Martis [day of Mars] (martial) in Greek, Ares God of War
- Wednesday – dies Mercuriī [day of Mercury] (mercurial temper) in Greek, Hermes Messenger of the Gods
- Thursday – dies Jovis [day of Jupiter] in Greek, Zeus the Sky God and King of the Gods
- Friday – dies Veneris [day of Venus] in Greek, Aphrodite Goddess of Love
- Saturday - dies Saturnī [day of Saturn] in Greek, Kronus or Cronus, the Titan, father of Zeus

- The word “holy” does NOT appear in the Greek
- RSV more literal: ***“One man esteems one day as better than another.....”***
- Paul is NOT referring to biblical holy days
- Since this has nothing to do with Torah commands, it is each Believers’ preference



- A prayer blessing is always part of daily Jewish life
- For the Believer, God is part of every relationship
- Whether in life or death our relationship with God continues into eternity
- Believers are so bonded together through God's Spirit that we should not judge one another
- Isaiah 45:23
- No one escapes being judged
- Through Yeshua Jews and gentiles form Spiritual Israel
- We will all have to give an account of ourselves before the Lord





- Romans 14:13 a Midrash on Lev.19:14
- In Judaism the term “blind” was a metaphor for not knowing the Torah
- To Paul, the root cause of being “weak in faith” is lack of knowledge of God’s Word
- It is the “strong” who wields the stumbling block
- Always important that we understand Paul within the context of his time and his culture

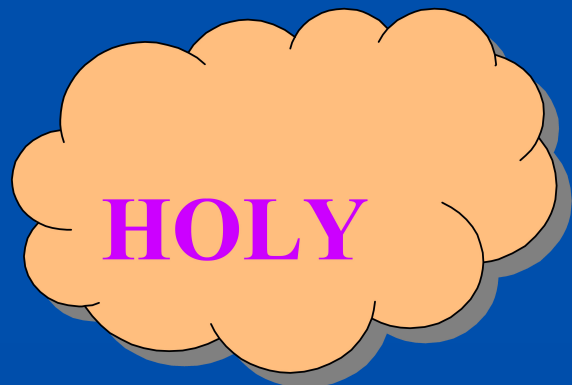
THE STRANGE USE OF “KOINOS”

- Romans 14:14
a mystery
- Using the word “unclean” here is quite questionable
- ***Koinos*** = common
- ***Akathartos*** = unclean
- Acts 10:14 KJV: “*For I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean...*”
- English translation likely chooses “unclean” to uphold traditional Christian doctrine that the Law is abolished, along with the food laws

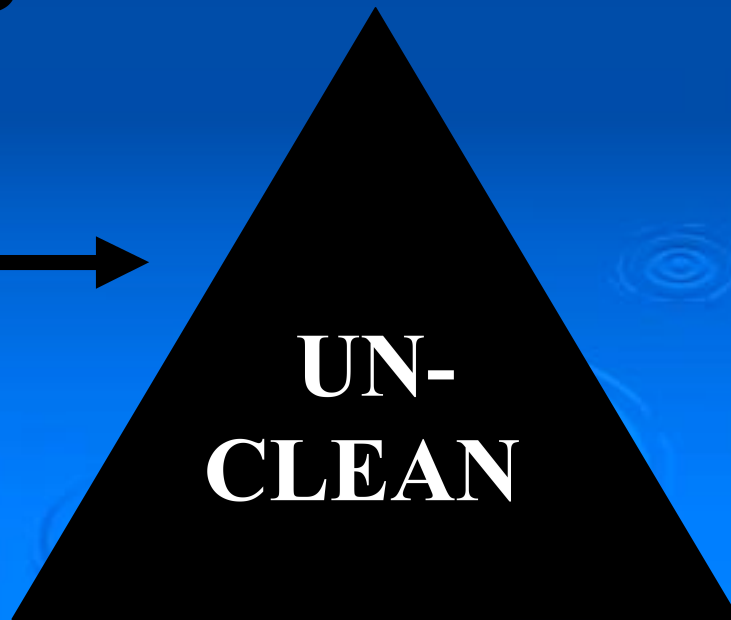


RARE SET-APART HIGHEST VALUE

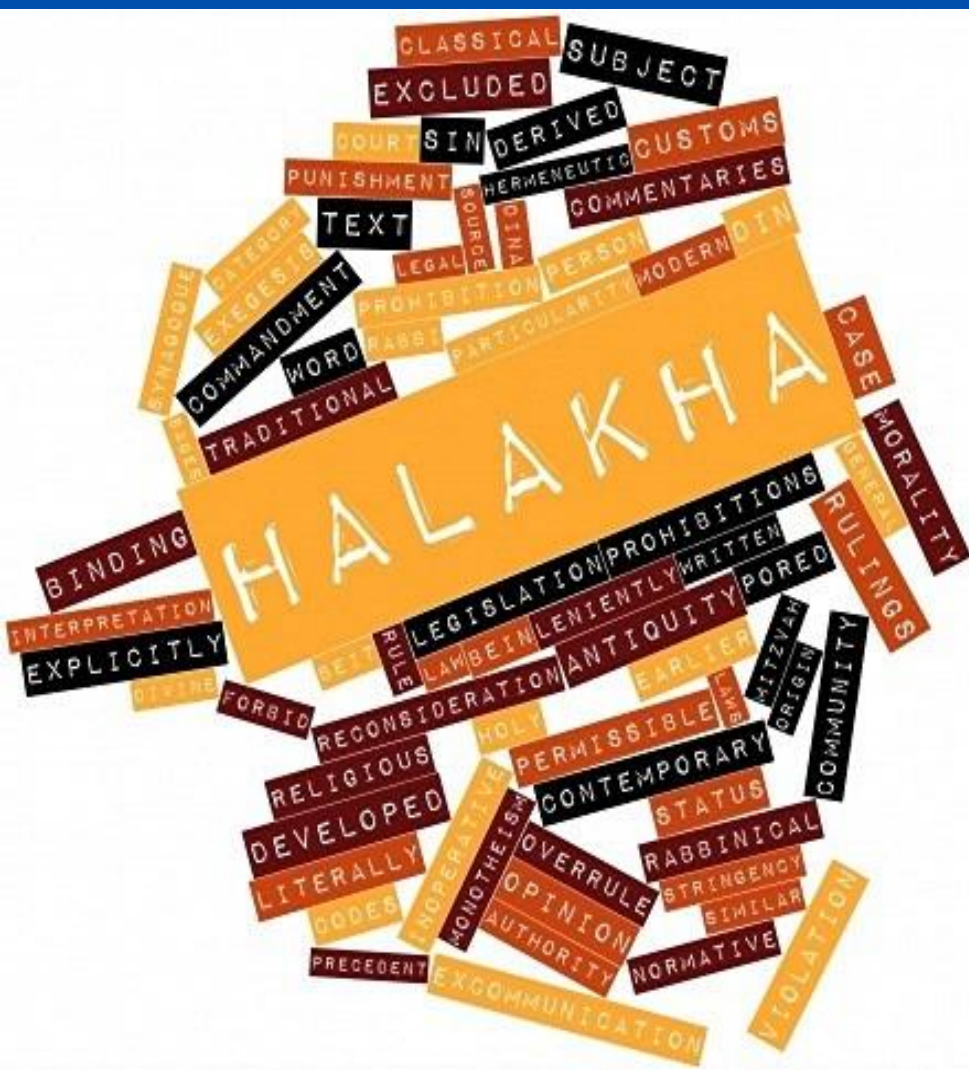
TYPICAL NO SPECIAL VALUE



OPPOSITES



THE ISSUE IS *HALAKHAH*



- *Koinos* = common
- *Akathartos* = unclean
- Common is something that is not holy
- Unclean means not ritually pure
- Common and unclean are separate issues
- Common is NOT a food classification