

Torah: Vayikra (Leviticus) 9:1 – 11:47
Haftarah: Sh'mu'el Bet (2 Samuel) 6:1-7:17
B'rit Hadashah: Acts 10:1-35

	yr. 1 9:1-10:11	yr. 2 10:12-11:32	yr. 3 11:1-47
1	9:1 – 6	10:12 – 15	11:1 – 8
2	9:7 – 10	10:16 – 20	11:9 – 12
3	9:11 – 16	11:1 – 8	11:13 – 19
4	9:17 – 23	11:9 – 12	11:20 – 28
5	9:24 – 10:3	11:13 – 19	11:29 – 32
6	10:4 – 7	11:20 – 28	11:33 – 38
7	10:8 – 11	11:29 – 32	11:39 – 47

and HaShem spoke to Moshe
 and to Aharon saying to them:
 speak to the sons of Israel saying
 these are the living which you may eat
 from all the beasts which are on the earth

*vayedaber ADONÁI el-Moshéh
 ve'el-Aharón le'mor alehem
 dabru el b'ney Israél le'mor
 zot ha'khaya ashér toklu
 mi'kol ha'behema ashér al'ha'áretz*

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה
 וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר אֲלֵהֶם:
 דַּבְּרוּ אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר
 זֹאת הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר תֹּאכְלוּ
 מִכָּל-הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר עַל-הָאָרֶץ:

This parshah documents the first celebration of sacrifice on the eighth day - the day after the seven-day ordination of Aaron and the other priests. It also speaks of the unauthorized offerings of Aaron's sons, Nadav and Avihu, who offered "strange" fire and were themselves consumed by fire. Aaron and his surviving sons were told not to observe normal mourning rituals. Chapter 11 describes the offerings that are normally eaten by the priests, and specifies the kosher meat, fish, birds and other species, and other rules about kosher food, also described in Le. 20:22-26 and De. 14.

The haftarah emphasizes the holiness of objects even when the best of intentions causes violations.

Aliyah Highlights

- Le. 11:1-8** Permitted and forbidden land animals for food. The general rule is stated here along with borderline cases, whereas De. 14:4 lists the ten permitted land animals. "Unclean" (טָמֵא - *ta-mei*) is better translated "impure" or "unfit" as a ritual condition, not a hygienic one.
- Le. 11:9-12** Permitted and forbidden water creatures are differentiated by those with scales and fins.
- Le. 11:13-19** Creatures of the sky that are not permitted as food are virtually all birds of prey.
- Le. 11:20-28** Vs. 20 and 23 form an *inclusio* regarding winged insects. Physical contact with carcasses of impure creatures causes impurity.
- Le. 11:29-32** Impure small land creatures are listed, followed by types of contact causing impurity.
- Le. 11:33-38** Instruction for purity in food preparation and associated articles.
- Le. 11:39-47** Physical contact with the carcass (*ne-ve-lah* - נֶבֶלָה) even of a permitted animal renders a person impure until evening. Creatures that swarm on the ground are detestable (*she-qetz* - שֶׁקֶץ). This may involve health considerations, but this forbidden contact was to be accepted on the simple basis of trust and obedience to HaShem. The term "belly" (*ga-khon* - גִּחְוֹן) is only used here and in the curse of the serpent (Ge. 3:14). The admonition is to distinguish (*ba-dal* - בָּדַל) between permitted and forbidden (Le. 20:25).

Food for Thought

Does HaShem care about what we eat? Judaism sees four distinct stages in the ethical development of humanity that is revealed in biblical dietary restrictions.

The first stage is delineated in the Garden of Eden (Ge. 2:16). The diet of all living creatures was vegetarian. Taking the life of any living creature was not allowed. This is the natural order of creation.

Stage two began right after the flood in the time of Noakh when HaShem permitted human consumption of meat (Ge. 9:3). Sages suggest that the original prohibition to eat meat allowed people to think that humans were not superior to animals (Ec. 3:19) and therefore, with the decline of humanities moral and spiritual development, led indirectly to murder. The permission to consume meat emphasizes the difference between the death of humans and animals.

The third stage began with the revelation at Sinai with the laws of kashrut. Prohibition of predatory animals and birds distanced humans from their violent traits. Only ten herbivore animals, killed with swift and near-painless death, could be sacrificed or eaten.

A fourth and future era will be a return to the lofty state of The Garden of Eden, where animals will no longer serve as food for humans, because the knowledge and compassion of HaShem will fill the earth (Is. 11:6-9, Ps. 145:9).

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (11:47) How do the biblical concepts of “clean” and “unclean” apply to your life? (De. 30:19, 2Co 6:14-18, Mat 5:19, 1Jo 1:6-7)
2. (9:17) God is a God of order, and He never changes. Do you walk in His ways, or those of your own? (Pr. 3:6, 2Sa 6:6-11, Mat 3:13-17, Mar 1:43-44, Joh 14:6, 1Co 14:33)
3. (9:24) Depending on signs and wonders can destroy our faith. How do you look for God's acceptance and pleasure? (Heb 11:6, Joh 4:24, 2Ch 7:1-3, Isa 29:13-14, Jud 6:21, 1Ki 18:36,38, 1Ch 21:26, Luk 9:56)
4. (10:12) The priesthood partook of the offerings brought by the people. How do you support those who minister and serve you? (Deu 25:4, 1Co 9:4-14, Luk 10:5-11, Eph 4:11, 1Ti 5:18)
5. (10:16) Do you inquire (look into, learn) about the truth? To what source(s) do you turn? (Luk 1:3-4, Act 17:10-12, Act 19:1-6, 2Ti 3:14-15, 1Pe 1:10-12)
6. (11:2) How do you determine what is food (physical, spiritual, visual, etc.) for you? (Lev 10:10, Psa 34:5, 2Pe 3:13-14, Phil 4:8-9, 1Co 10:23, Mar 7:15-23)
7. (11:33) You are an “earthenware vessel.” What do you allow inside your life? How does it affect you? (Mat 23:25-27, Luk 11:39-41, Mar 7:14-23, 2Co 4:7-9, Phil 4:7-8, 1Jo 1:9)