

"God Made Them All"



All God's Creatures

'And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind. . . And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind. . . and let them (man) have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.'

Genesis 1:23-26

If we were all created good why do we seem to do bad things. Are we any different then the first people and animals God created?

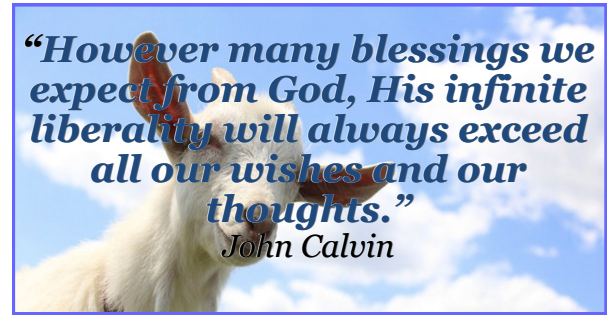
We don't know the time period, but it must have been sometime after God declared that everything was good when we see a serpent doing something that was not good in our eyes.

A serpent actually had a conversation with Eve and convinced her to eat fruit from a

tree that was forbidden. Genesis 3. Why did God make something that was forbidden. Does he still do that today? According to what the serpent said Adam and Eve would know the difference between good and evil and be like God. That didn't seem to happen to them in this situation. God gave them everything and the knowledge to know good and evil. Just as they learned, we also must learn the hard way many times. God doesn't hold our hand. He gives us everything, but we have free will to choose what we want to do. At this point, many research people think Adam and Eve were allowed to eat everything.

By Genesis 7 we learn that some animals are clean and some are not. Most of us know that Noah took two of each animal into the ark, but that is not exactly what the Bible says. "Take on board with you seven pairs of every clean animal, a male and a female; one pair of every unclean animal, a male and a female; and seven pairs of every kind of bird, a male and a female, to insure their survival on Earth." Genesis 7:2-4. Evidently Noah knew which were clean and which were unclean. Researchers have many ideas about this but most seem to say that the extra animals were for them to eat, and also to sacrifice. We are told in chapter 8 that after the flood Noah built an altar

GOD IS ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN ANYTIME YOU ARE READY TO TALK TO HIM. PRAYER IS SIMPLY TALKING WITH GOD.



"However many blessings we expect from God, His infinite liberality will always exceed all our wishes and our thoughts."
John Calvin

and sacrificed some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings. There can be much discussion on whether or not we should eat the animals that were labeled as unclean. The Orthodox Jewish people still pay some attention to that today. God of the Old Testament didn't make the laws just for the Jews. He made them for Judah and Israel and to benefit mankind.

Many feel the reason for the difference was actually a helpful dietary rule to help the people eat what was best for them and those rules are no longer in place today.

It is interesting though how many of the "unclean" animals we eat today. But what animals are unclean. I don't ever remember being taught that in school or Sunday School. Wouldn't that be important to know.

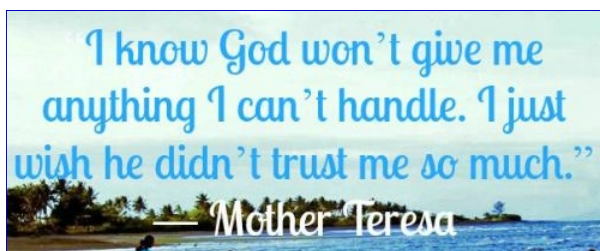
Leviticus 11 lists all the clean and unclean animals and much information about each. "God spoke to Moses and Aaron and told them what animals they could eat. "Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat. Nevertheless, among those that chew the cud or part the hoof, you shall not eat these: The camel, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you" Leviticus 11

Each religion seems to have changed the list over the years, but a primary list of “clean” animals would include: Chicken, Dove, Duck, Grouse, Antelope, Bison, Cattle, Deer, Elk, Goat, Moose, Sheep, types of locusts, crickets, grasshoppers, Carp, Cod, Crappie, Flounder, Haddock, Tuna, and Whitefish, etc.

A brief list of the “unclean” Dog, Fox, Hyena, Cat, Leopard, Donkey, Horse, zebra, Boar, Pig, Bat, Buzzard, Crow, Eagle, Flamingo, Seagull, all insects except some in the locust family, Catfish, Eel, Shark, Squid, Sturgeon, Clam, Crab, Lobster, Jellyfish, Dolphin, and the list goes on.

Some feel that the “unclean” animals were a part of an Old Testament Covenant and those rules have been taken away. Many people throughout the world eat some of these animals and have lived happily. However, there are still some that are not eaten and are harmful. Why are they here? They have other jobs. The environmental food chain and cycle of life for everyone is important in some way. Some we know, some we haven't discovered yet.

In Acts 10 Peter had a vision of a sheet full of animals, and a voice said to him *“Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”* But Peter hesitated because some of the animals on the sheet were “unclean.” Peter replied *“Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean”* Then the



voice replied to Peter *“What God has cleansed you must not call common.”* Whoa! Does that mean that all animals can be eaten? This is almost like a parable when we really study it.

The sheet of animals was an illustration. Peter was told by God to go to see Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, a Gentile. Peter had been very close to Christ for several years and he surely knew clean and unclean meats. In this “parable”, God shows him a sheet of animals-clean and unclean. Most scholars believe this represents the many people on the earth.

It was something that Peter would understand. To our knowledge in reading, we find that Peter did understand and he went to Cornelius and he was the first Gentile baptized into the church.

After this there is no mention again of who was welcome in God's kingdom. God had sent a message to Peter that all understood and the Gospel continued to spread throughout the known world.

Paul talks about certain foods being set aside for eating, and then also encourages us to be thankful and bless what we have *“Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.”* Luke 9:16

This discussion could go on for a long time and there are many opinions on each side that I haven't even touched. I think the wonderful part of all this is that God gave us EVERYTHING we could ever need.

Prayer: God, there is so much I don't understand and so much I want to learn. Please guide me in the things I need to learn, and especially help me to seek to do Your will in this confusing world. Amen

1. What did God mean by “green pastures and still waters?”
2. What do you consider an “unclean” animal?
3. Does God speak to us in “parables” today?
4. Could these rules have been for dietary guidelines?

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