

God’s people are to be holy like he is



All small animals that scurry along the ground are detestable, and you must never eat them. This includes all animals that slither along on their bellies, as well as those with four legs and those with many feet. All such animals that scurry along the ground are detestable, and you must never eat them. Do not defile yourselves by touching them. You must not make yourselves ceremonially unclean because of them. For I am the Lord your God. You must consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. So do not defile yourselves with any of these small animals that scurry along the ground. For I, the Lord, am the one who brought you up from the land of Egypt, that I might be your God.

Therefore, you must be holy because I am holy.

These are the instructions regarding land animals, birds, marine creatures, and animals that scurry along the ground. By these instructions you will know what is unclean and clean, and which animals may be eaten and which may not be eaten.

~ Leviticus 11:41-48 (NLT) ~

As God’s people were travelling from being slaves in Egypt to the land God had promised them, he gave them instructions about how they were to live his way and how to be his people.

One of the things that God his people instructions about was what sort of meat they could and couldn’t eat. These instructions seem a little bit strange to us today, as later on in the Bible Jesus said that God’s people were allowed to eat any food.

So why did God give his people these instructions about meat in the wilderness?

Well, God wanted his people to be holy like him. That means God wanted his people to be pure and different from everyone around them, just like God is pure and different to us.

By giving his people rules about what meat they were and were not allowed to eat, God was showing his people and those around them, they were different, they were holy, just like he is.

God wanted his people then, and us now, to realise that being holy like him isn’t something that just happens when we meet with God or talk with God, but it is involves how we live our whole lives, including food.

If we are trusting Jesus, and are part of God’s people today, we too are meant to live lives that are holy – pure and different from those around us. But the good news is through God’s Holy Spirit, he helps us live that way!

Some questions to think about:

1. As God’s people travelled from being slaves in Egypt to the land God promised them, what was one of the things God gave them instructions about?
2. Why did God give his people those instructions?
3. What does holy mean?
4. How can we live holy lives now for God?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that even though you are holy you still want to be close to your people. Thank you that you have made a way for us to be holy and with you. Please, by your Holy Spirit, help us to live holy lives, because you are holy.

Amen.