

KASHRUT

The Kosher Laws

Just because it can be ingested and digested, it may still not be called food.

God gave to us His idea about what we should eat: what is food and that what is not.

We get *Kosher* from the Hebrew word קָשֶׁר *kasher*, which means fit, proper, or legitimate.

I Why even bother?

- A Didn't Jesus end these ceremonial laws? Matityahu (Matthew) 5.17-19, D'varim (Deuteronomy) 13.1-5.
- B They are too hard to follow. D'varim 30.11-14
- C But I like bacon! Romans 6.12; Ya'acov (James) 4.17

II God's definition of food

- A B'reshit (Genesis) 7.2 First indication of what is food and what is not.
- B Vayikra (Leviticus) 11.1-23 & D'varim 14.3-21: the basic yes & no lists.
- C What IS food
 - 1 Split hoof & chews cud (mammals)
 - 2 Fins & scales (fish)
 - 3 Non-carnivorous birds (except insect eaters), duck & geese
 - 4 Certain locusts & beetles (flying only)
- D What is NOT food
 - 1 Blood Vayikra 17.10-14. Blood can be removed by:
 - a washing/salting
 - b broiling/barbeque
 - 2 That which dies by itself or is killed by another beast (torn - *treif*) Vayikra 17.15
 - 3 Peace offering leftovers after 3 days Vayikra 19.5-8
 - 4 Fruit from new trees, first 4 years Vayikra 19.23-25
 - 5 Kid cooked in its mother's milk Sh'mot (Exodus) 23.19; 34.26; D'varim 14.21
 - 6 Bugs, amphibians, reptiles, snakes. Vayikra 11.41-45
 - 7 Everything not in the Yes list.
- E Why is this so important? Aren't we capable of making all things 'clean' (edible)? vaYikra 11.44-45.

III Rabbinic influence on Kashrut

- A No mixing dairy (*milchig*) with meat (*fleishig*) in same meal Sh'mot 23.19; 34.26; D'varim 14.21. *Pareve* (neutral) is the term for food neither meat nor dairy, including fish, honey, and eggs.
 - 1 Although the Torah relates the practice of cooking a kid in its mother's milk to pagan rites occurring about the time of Firstfruits, the fact the command appears three times suggested to the Rabbis there was a larger application than what is in the plain text.
 - 2 It happens to be a good thing: our bodies do not process calcium (dairy) and phosphorus (red meats) at the same time.
 - 3 There should be a separation of at least one hour between a dairy meal and a meat meal (B'reshit 18.8), and three hours between a meat meal and dairy.

- B *Glatt Kosher* refers to meats which have passed the inspection of a *shochet* (ritual slaughterer), who inspects the internal organs (*glatt* – lungs) for evidence of disease or damage.
- C Ban on hindquarters of meat animals B'reshit (Genesis) 32.32. If the sciatic nerve is not removed, the hindquarters are sold as non-kosher.
- D Gelatin, glycerin, & rennet, when derived from a kosher animal, are considered food. Some discussion arises from the consideration gelatin & rennet are so changed from their original sources they no longer carry the status as meat, but is *parev*.
 - 1 Gelatin – ‘Jello,’ rendered from hides or hooves of animals.
 - a Read the package – there are non-animal gelatins in some foods.
 - 2 Rennet – enzyme rendered from stomach lining of animals. Used to process cheese.

IV Messiah in Kashrut

- A Luke 11.41 ‘all things are clean to you.’ Context vs 37-41.
- B Matthew 15.1-20, Mark 7.19 ‘thus making all foods clean’ (NIV version only)
Context vs 1-23.
The arguments are about ritual purity, not what was food!

V Kosher Acts

- A Kefa’s vision 10.1-48, also 11.1-18: did God make all things food?
 - 1 Plot: the chapter has to do with Gentiles, not food!
 - 2 ‘Not so’ v14. About 41 CE, 8 years after Yeshua, and still kosher!
 - 3 Three visions, three men: v16 & 19.
 - 4 Kefa’s understanding of the vision: v28 and ch 11.
- B 15.20-21: meats from idol offerings, strangled animals, and blood forbidden to Gentiles. Therefore, all other things are food?
 - 1 This edict must be in coordination with Matityahu 5.17.
 - 2 What immediately follows v20 explains: the Gentiles are to learn *Torah*, including *Kashrut*, as they attach themselves to the synagogue.
- C 21.20 ‘All are zealous of the law.’ Including *Kashrut*.
- D 21.21-24 ***False*** accusations re not keeping the Law. If anyone could have defended an anti-Torah (and anti-*kashrut*) position, it would have been Sha’ul: but he did not!
- E 28.17: ‘Committed nothing against...customs of our fathers.’ This again would include *Kashrut*.

VI Writing About Food

- A Romans 14.1-23 – ‘nothing unclean by itself’ v14 must coordinate with Vayikra 11.1-23 & D’varim 14.3-21, D’varim 13.1-5 and Matityahu 5.17.
 - 1 The context is about meats offered to idols: are they forbidden or are they permitted? Compare v15 to 1 Corinthians 8.4.
 - 2 The context does not discuss kosher v non-kosher!
- B 1 Timothy 4.4 ‘every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused.’ Must coordinate with v3: ‘which God has created to be received:’ ***God’s*** definition of food!

VII Where to Go

- A www.kosher.co.il, www.kosher911.com, www.cornerstone1.org
- B Trader Joes lists kosher products at their stores.
- C Tillamook & Sargento cheeses.
- D Read all packages for ingredients. Ask about the source of gelatin, glycerin, and rennet.
- E Becca’s Kitchen