

Laws That Mark the Believer As a Child of God: As Holy, Different, Distinctive Deuteronomy 14:01–29

1. *Law 1: Must not bear the marks of false religion*

- a. The fact: Are a child of God
- b. The mark: Concerns the way one mourns for the dead
- c. The reason for being different
 - 1) Are holy
 - 2) Are chosen to be God's treasured possession

2. *Law 2: Must not eat detestable things, only clean things*

- a. The land animals
 - 1) May eat these animals
 - Ox, sheep, goat
 - Deer, gazelle, roe deer
 - Wild goat, mountain goat, antelope
 - Mountain sheep
 - Any animal that has a split hoof and that chews the cud
 - 2) May not eat these animals
 - The camel, rabbit, coney or rock badger:
Do not have a split hoof
 - The pig
- b. The water creatures
 - 1) May eat any with fins and scales

- 1 You are the children of the LORD your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead,
- 2 for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.
- 3 Do not eat any detestable thing.
- 4 These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,
- 5 the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope and the mountain sheep.
- 6 You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud.
- 7 However, of those that chew the cud or that have a divided hoof you may not eat the camel, the rabbit or the hyrax. Although they chew the cud, they do not have a divided hoof; they are ceremonially unclean for you.
- 8 The pig is also unclean; although it has a divided hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses.
- 9 Of all the creatures living in the water, you may eat any that has fins and scales.

2) May not eat any without fins and scales

c. The birds

1) May eat any clean bird

2) May not eat these birds

- Eagle, vulture, buzzard
- Red kite, black kite, falcon
- Raven
- Ostrich, screech owl, sea gull, hawk
- Little owl, great owl, white owl
- Pelican, osprey, cormorant
- Stork, heron, hoopoe, bat

d. The insects

1) May not eat flying insects

2) May eat any winged insect that is clean

e. The animals found dead

1) The law: May not eat

2) The allowance: May give it or sell it to a foreigner

3) The reason: Are holy — distinctive, different

f. The young goat: Must not cook in its mother's milk

3. **Law 3: Must tithe**

a. Tithing is to be a regular practice

b. Tithing is to be offered at the worship centre

c. Tithing is to be a spiritual testimony: Tithing strengthens and teaches reverence and fear for the LORD

10 But anything that does not have fins and scales you may not eat; for you it is unclean.

11 You may eat any clean bird.

12 But these you may not eat:

the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture,

13 the red kite, the black kite, any kind of falcon,

14 any kind of raven,

15 the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,

16 the little owl, the great owl, the white owl,

17 the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant,

18 the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat.

19 All flying insects are unclean to you; do not eat them.

20 But any winged creature that is clean you may eat.

21 Do not eat anything you find already dead.

You may give it to the foreigner residing in any of your towns, and they may eat it, or you may sell it to any other foreigner.

But you are a people holy to the LORD your God.

Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the first-born of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

d. Tithing is to be a flexible law:
Circumstances of a person's situation are to be considered

- 1) The circumstance:
A person lived too far away to carry his tithe
- 2) The person could exchange the tithe — crops and animals — for silver

3) The person could then use the silver to buy whatever he wished as a tithe at the worship center

e. Tithing is to be a joyful experience

f. Tithing is to be a benevolent witness

1) The law:
To store all tithing produce in each town every third year

2) The purpose:
To provide for the ministers and needy of every town

g. Tithing is to be a fruitful exercise:
The tither will be blessed by God — all his work and labour

24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away),

25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.

26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.

27 And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

28 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns,

29 so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.