

# PROVING THE BIBLE

## Lesson Two

### Scientific Foreknowledge:

#### What was Safe to Eat, How to Handle Food Safely, and Paths of the Sea

While the Bible does not present itself as a scientific or medical textbook, it is reasonable that if God really did inspire the books of the Bible, they would be completely accurate in every scientific or medical detail found within them. Furthermore, all scientific and medical errors that were in other ancient writings should not be in the Bible. Is the Bible always right when it speaks about science?

Last time we saw the Bible was accurate in the rules for quarantine, hand washing, dealing with illness and dead bodies. Things no other nations around the Israelites were practicing. Today we will continue with a few more facts.

#### Eating Food Safely

In the United States, there are regulations that are put into place by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that help keep people alive by regulating what can be eaten, how it can be eaten, and how it is packaged. Did you know that the first five books of the Bible, written thousands of years ago, have something similar to the FDA's regulations? Through the Bible's scientific foreknowledge, the Israelites were provided with safe eating rules.

In 1450 BC (over 3500 years ago) Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, including Leviticus 11 which we are going to look at now. Moses was going to bring the Israelites out of Egypt and the laws were to keep them alive while having to camp out in the desert.

What were these regulations? Let's read in Leviticus where the Lord is talking to Moses and his brother Aaron as to what to tell the Israelites about what the Israelites could eat.

It talks about chewing the cud. Cud is a portion of food that returns from the stomach to the mouth to be chewed for the second time by certain animals.

#### Leviticus 11:3, 7-8

*You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud.*

*And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. <sup>8</sup> You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.*



## Questions:

**What was the rule talking about?** Animals they could eat and not eat.

**Give an example of an animal they could eat?** Cow

**What was the animal they could not eat?** Pig

They could eat cows, which are herbivores – only eat plants. They could not eat pigs, which are scavengers who will eat living or dead animals and anything they can find. If a pig is not killed and cooked properly you can become very sick. Pork, which is the meat of pigs, has to be fully, properly cooked. Even today we can't eat rare pork chops, but we can choose to eat rare steak.

In archeological discoveries they can tell which camps or areas were Jewish because they won't find any pig bones. Yet, in other areas of non-Jewish peoples, for example, the Babylonians and Assyrians who lived in and near the same areas, did eat pork.

This shows, this was not something known by the other people around them. And, yet the Bible clearly states to stay away from animals like pig because of the disease they could carry.



## Leviticus 11:9-10

*“Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams you may eat any that have fins and scales. But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water—you are to regard as unclean.*

This discusses water creatures they can and cannot eat (catfish – a scavenger, and oysters to name a few).

Do you know the oyster rule? You should not eat oysters in May, June, July and August because in hot months, transportation might mean the oysters become too hot when transported. In fact, bacteria in oysters if allowed to grow, can cause a death rate of 50%. Bacteria you can't taste, see, or smell. That's very dangerous.

### **Question:**

### **Do you see why having these rules would be wise when living in desert?**

This is especially interesting since the people around them were consuming pig and other unclean things. So the knowledge about what to eat for safety did not come from the other people around them.

These animal rules were meant for the Israelites but not a bad idea for us to be careful today as well!



**Creeping things they could eat and not eat**

### **Leviticus 11:29-31**

*“Of the animals that move along the ground, these are unclean for you: the weasel, the rat, any kind of great lizard, the gecko, the monitor lizard, the wall lizard, the skink and the chameleon. Of all those that move along the ground, these are unclean for you. Whoever touches them when they are dead will be unclean till evening.*

The AVMA and ARVA, which are two major food regulators in America, say that you should treat all amphibians and reptiles as if they carry Salmonella (a very serious bacteria). The risk is that high. In fact, they state you need to wash your hands every time you touch a reptile and even wash hands after touching something the reptile has touched to avoid salmonella poisoning.



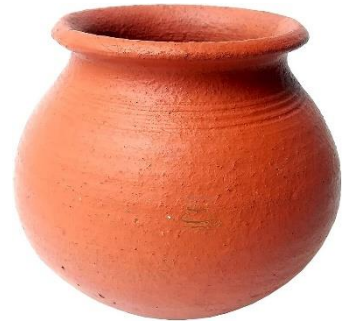
### Question:

#### Have you ever wanted to eat a mouse, lizard or mole?

Yet in some cultures they still do! The Bible is wise in sharing things that should be avoided.

#### Leviticus 11:32-33

*When one of them dies and falls on something, that article, whatever its use, will be unclean, whether it is made of wood, cloth, hide or sackcloth. Put it in water; it will be unclean till evening, and then it will be clean. If one of them falls into a clay pot, everything in it will be unclean, and you must break the pot.*



### Questions:

**What do these verses say to do if a dead animal, like a lizard, falls into a jar or cup?** The Bible says to even wash or destroy bowls that have come in contact with!

This is because clay is very porous and absorbs whatever is put into it, making the bacteria to be able to survive even after being washed.

**What does this show about the Bible?** It is another example of the Bible being straight from God.

This is a knowledge of food-borne diseases that is greater than anything that was available at the time.

Next we will look at one more scientific fact listed in the Bible.

Paths of the Sea - Psalm 8:8



## Paths in the Sea

### Psalm 8:8

*the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.*

#### Question:

**Where exactly does it say the fish are swimming?** Through the paths.

Fish passing through the paths in the ocean.

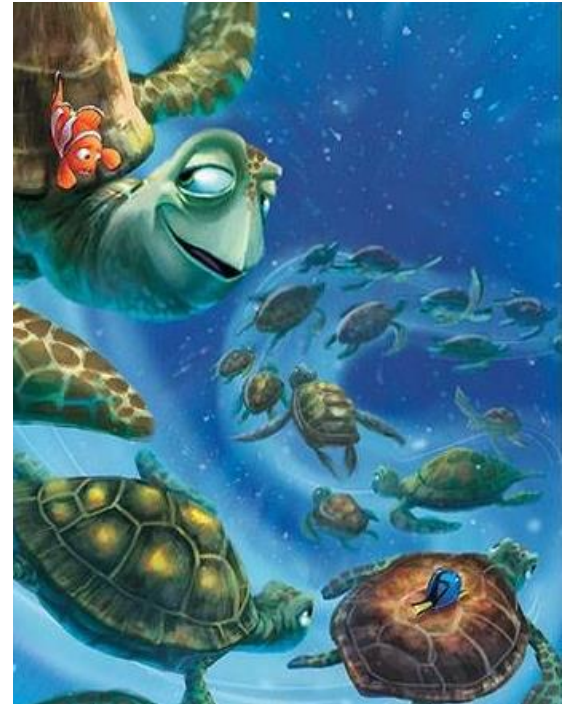
This was not known until the year 1854, when these paths were discovered and used to make shipping easier. In fact, the man that determined this, Matthew Maury, had read this verse in the Bible and realized that there must be currents of water in the oceans and atmosphere. (If you ever watched Finding Nemo and remember when all the fish would “ride” the current in the ocean).

Thanks to the Bible, airplanes and ships have made use of this previously unknown fact. The Bible again is accurate.

So we can see great evidence of scientific accuracy in the Bible that was beyond what the people of the time practiced, knew of, or believed.

These are not the only examples of scientific foreknowledge but there are enough to show that the Bible is accurate scientifically and that this knowledge was not available at the time it was written. This gives strong evidence that the writers were not writing on their own but had some divine help.

Next time we will look at archeological evidence to help further show that the Bible is accurate in everything it claims.



#### Questions:

**What was the most interesting thing you learned today?**

**Why was it interesting to you?**

**Any thoughts or questions?**