

The MENTAL foods you should never eat

Leviticus 11:1-23

[SLIDE] 5 Foods to never eat

[SLIDE] From the Facebook ads: [CLICK FOR EACH]

1. Concentrated fruit juice.
2. Margarine
3. White bread
4. Processed Soy
5. GM Corn and derivatives (or Artificial Sweeteners)

[SLIDE] The MENTAL foods you should never eat for a sharp mind and an accurate grasp on reality.

[CLICK] It's a look at the internal meaning of Jewish dietary law, as found in the book of Leviticus, chapter 11.

[SLIDE] Surely what the Bible writes about food is ... about food? NO!

[CLICK] "Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." (John 4:34)

[CLICK] "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD." (Amos 8:11 NKJV)

[SLIDE] ITS NOT ABOUT THE INFLUENCES WE'RE SUBJECT TO EVERY DAY, ITS ABOUT THE STUFF WE TAKE ON AND MAKE OUR OWN

[CLICK] "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." (Matthew 15:11)

Just as your digestive tract absorbs what it needs from food, and rejects the waste, so our mind is designed to sift through the thoughts and feelings we experience, accepting some, rejecting others. While physical digestion is a largely unconscious process, mental digestion is a largely conscious one.

[SLIDE] SUMMARY - four groups [CLICK FOR EACH]

- Animals
- Seafood
- Birds
- Insects

[SLIDE] ANIMALS

Lev 11:2,3 (animals) [=Deut 14:6]

"These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth: Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud--that you may eat."

Animals represent affections and desires, the province of a person's Will. Swedenborg describes how we have two wills: the first, old, unregenerate will, and the second, the new,

regenerate will. The old looks to and desires what is external, worldly, self-centred. The new looks is internal, spiritual, heavenly, and focussed on the welfare of others. In theory, the distinction is easy to understand, but in practice they are difficult to separate - we know only what our will desires, not whether it is good or bad. And so, we must consult our understanding - and in particular, our conscience.

[CLICK] ... with parted hoof

[CLICK] "every natural affection which is in correspondence with spiritual affection external or internal;" [THAT IS, those affections which look to spiritual ideals, rejecting those concerned with bodily, sensual concerns and ideas and those that are self-serving.]

[CLICK]... and chewing the cud

[CLICK] "and every natural affection of truth acquired by reflection."

"Chewing it over"

You like coffee. You see a report claiming the health benefits of 2-4 cups of coffee a day. Do you ... [a] instantly believe it? [b] instantly reject it? [c] take time to read it and weigh up the facts? [<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/diet-and-fitness/what-coffee-does-to-your-body-20150927-gjw18r.html>]

Sales tactics, shopping - "Act now!" Designed to short-circuit our rational faculty, and go straight to the unthinking desire.

Our tendency is to acquiesce to the will, our desires easily rule our thinking.

“... the affections we may make Our own, ... must be in harmony with what comes from the Lord; and must be the result of due reflection at the same time. ..., a naturally kind disposition agrees with love to the Lord and love ‘to the neighbour, but if it is simply natural, and acts without discrimination and reflection, it cannot, and ought not, to become a substantial part of our life. And on the other hand, we may cultivate an affection by very careful thought, and yet it may not be good for us because it does not agree with genuine good from the Lord. Thoughtless charity is very bad for us, and deliberated selfishness is a great deal worse.” (MacLagan page 150)

[SLIDE] FISH AND SEAFOOD

Lev 11:9 (fish & sea food) [=Deut 14:9]

“These you may eat of all that are in the water: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers--that you may eat.”

In the realm of the Understanding.

[SLIDE] Fish represent factual knowledge [MacLagan - truths from the Divine Word].

[CLICK] Must be cultivated with a view to progress in spiritual life, and ...

[CLICK] ... embodied or expressed in ultimates or in good works.

LOOKING AT THE WORD: Of itself, analysis of the Bible, academic textual criticism, knowledge of bible stories does us no spiritual good. We need to ask one simple question: "WHY?"

BUT, also relates to knowledge of the spiritual sense! These must be confirmed from the literal sense and applied to life.

My knowledge of the Word much challenge ME! When I read the Word, its not about you, its about me, when we read the Word, its about us, not them. And what I learn from the Word I must carry forward into my daily life.

Jas 1:23,24 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

Jas 4:11* Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

[SLIDE] BIRDS

Lev 11:13-19 (birds) [cf. Deut 14:11-18]

13 And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard,

14* 'the kite, and the falcon after its kind;

15* 'every raven after its kind,

16* 'the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk after its kind;

17* 'the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl;

18* 'the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture;

19* 'the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

[CLICK] BIRDS represent the rational mind

MacLagan - falsities (inmost, interior and ultimate) arising from the abuse of the rational faculty as to will, understanding, and action. falsities (inmost, interior and external) from evil. Whatever relates to the abuse of the sensual affections.

Just as birds can gain new perspectives by viewing the landscape from a height, so the rational can look down on our mental landscape and see relationships and connections that are not always visible up close.

We are to reject the lies and excuses we tell ourselves wanting to feel better about the poor way we treat others. We are to reject judgment according to appearances, knowing that we can never know another person's heart. Acknowledge the same is true of spiritual matters:

“Man's thought is altogether earthly, bodily, and material because it is born of things that are earthly, bodily, and material which cling to it all the time and which the ideas comprising his thought are based on and encompassed by. Consequently to think and reason about Divine matters from such things is to run into errors and perversities, and from that position it is as impossible to acquire faith as it is 'for a camel to go through the eye of a needle'.” (AC 1072)

[SLIDE] INSECTS

Lev 11:20-23 (insects) [cf. Deut 14:19,20]

20* ¶ 'All flying insects that creep on all fours shall be an abomination to you.

21* 'Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth.

22* 'These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind.

23* 'But all other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you.

[CLICK] MacLagan on Insects - every thought and feeling of the unregenerate will, having the appearance of spiritual life, yet degraded and active from the conjunction of falsity with evil.

What is popularly called, "thought"! The noises of the external mind. Anyone who's ever been annoyed by a fly can understand the comparison. Just because something pops into your head doesn't mean that you should follow through with it or even entertain it. Sometime's they're easily dismissed, other times they really appeal to us.

MacLagan on Insects [vv. 21,22] - those that may be elevated about the sensual and bodily.

We're not to reject everything out of hand - sometimes a thought or impulse to lend a hand or show kindness to a stranger simply pops up in our heads - but we do need to discern between what is good and useful, and what is evil and false.

“... that all evil flows in from hell, and all good through heaven from the Lord. But the reason why evil is appropriated to a man is that he believes and persuades himself that he thinks and does it from himself, and in this way makes it his own. If he believed as is really the case, then evil would not be appropriated to him, but good from the Lord would be appropriated to him; for the moment that evil flowed in, he would reflect that it was from the evil spirits with him, and as soon as he thought this, the angels would avert and reject it.” (AC 6206)

OTHER QUOTES - FOOD

John 6:27,35,47-51.

“And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

John 6:35 NKJV

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

John 6:51 NKJV

““But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this, In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind? Does not the ear test words And the mouth taste its food?”

Job 12:7-11 NKJV

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?”

I Corinthians 3:1-4 NKJV

AC 5576 - A famine in the spiritual world or heaven is not a hunger for [bodily] food, for angels do not feed on material food, which is the food for that body which a person carries around in the world. Rather it is a hunger for the kind of food that nourishes their minds, and this, which is called spiritual food, consists in understanding what is true and in having a wise discernment of what is good.

OTHER QUOTES - WHAT WE TAKE ON

"Man's will is the very Esse of his life, because it is the receptacle of good, and his understanding is the Existere of life therefrom, because it is the receptacle of truth, nos. 3619, 5002, 9282. The life of the will, consequently, is the chief life of man, and the life of the understanding proceeds therefrom, nos. 585, 590, 3619, 7342, 8885, 9282, 10076, 10109, 10110; comparatively as light proceeds from a fire or flame, nos. 6032, 6314. The things which enter into the understanding and at the same time into the will, are appropriated by man, but not those which are received only in the understanding, nos. 9009, 9069, 9071, 9129, 9182, 9386, 9393, 10076, 10109, 10110." (NJHD 35)

"Man's will ... is the receptacle of good, and his understanding ... is the receptacle of truth. ... The things which enter into the understanding and at the same time into the will, are appropriated by man ..." (NJHD 35)

KEY VERSES - Lev 11:3 (animals) [=Deut 14:6], Lev 11:9 (fish & sea food) [=Deut 14:9], Lev 11:13-19 (birds) [cf. Deut 14:11-18], Lev 11:20-22 (insects) [cf. Deut 14:19,20], Deut 14:21 (already dead, milk & meat) [cf. Ex 23:19 & 34:26]

MacLagan - regarding good to be appropriated in the external.

OTHER QUOTES - ANIMALS

Parted hoof. Should NOT acquire:

[1] merely external affections (Coney - love of merely intellectual knowledge, Hare - merely sensual love of knowledge)

[2] self serving affections (Camel - selfish love of knowledge)

Chew Cud. Should NOT acquire:

Swine - the greedy love of acquiring wealth, which is avarice, or corporeal covetousness, because although it may be brought into correspondence with spiritual love, yet it does not reflect upon truths for this purpose.

AC 5008.3 - [3] Those guided by spiritual natural truth consider every individual person to be their neighbour, yet each one to be such in a different manner and degree. In their hearts they say that those governed by good are pre-eminently the neighbour to whom good should be done. They also say that those governed by evil are likewise the neighbour, but that good is done to these if they suffer the punishments prescribed by laws, because those punishments serve to correct them, as well as to prevent evil being done to the good by them and the bad examples they set. Those within the Church who are guided by unspiritual natural truth likewise call every individual person the neighbour; but they do not take into consideration the degree or manner in which each one is a neighbour. Therefore if motivated by natural goodness they do good indiscriminately, to everyone who moves them to pity, most of all to the evil rather than the good because the evil in their malice know how to arouse feelings of pity. From this example too one may see that this outermost truth brings together those guided by unspiritual natural truth and those guided by spiritual natural truth, and yet the two are still not joined together but have merely an association with each other, since one has a different idea and different perception from the other of the neighbour and of charity towards him.

"An INFJ who is concerned with personal growth will pay close attention to the subject of their judgments, and their motivation for making judgments. Are they judging something external to themselves, or are they judging something that they have sifted through their intuition? Is the motivation for judging something to be able to understand its usefulness in the world, or to dismiss it? Too often, an INFJ will judge something without properly understanding it, and with the intention of dismissing it. Seek first to understand, then to judge." (MBTI Personality Type Test & descriptors.pdf)

OTHER QUOTES - BODIES OF WATER

"Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth." (Proverbs 5:15-18 NKJV)

THE RIVER [NILE here]

"The burden against Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.

The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, And they will consult the idols and the charmers, The mediums and the sorcerers.

The waters will fail from the sea, And the river will be wasted and dried up. The rivers will turn foul; The brooks of defense will be emptied and dried up; The reeds and rushes will wither.

The fishermen also will mourn; All those will lament who cast hooks into the River, And they will languish who spread nets on the waters.

Surely the princes of Zoan are fools; Pharaoh's wise counselors give foolish counsel. How do you say to Pharaoh, "I am the son of the wise, The son of ancient kings?"
Isaiah 19:1, 3, 5-6, 8, 11 NKJV check out v. 10!!!

"Thus says the LORD: "Where is the certificate of your mother's divorce, Whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, And for your transgressions your mother has been put away. Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink because there is no water, And die of thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, And I make sackcloth their covering."
"The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned."
Isaiah 50:1-4 NKJV

"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail." Isaiah 58:11.

Living water in John:

Joh 4:10,11 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"
Joh 7:38* "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

OTHER QUOTES - FISH

Association of bodies of water with the Word or wisdom - lakes, rivers, springs, the sea.

[Jesus said], "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10)

Without the internal sense what would any historical description be but history as found in any secular author? And so what would be the use of knowing Noah's exact age, or the month and day when the Flood took place, if it did not embody a heavenly arcanum? And who cannot see that 'all the fountains of the great deep were split open, and the floodgates of heaven were opened' is a prophetic utterance, as is much else besides? (AC 7550.5)

AE 1089.2,3 - ... all things of doctrine must be confirmed by the sense of the letter of the Word, because the Divine truth is in its fulness and in its power in that sense, and through it man is in conjunction with the Lord and in consociation with the angels.

none can see whether the doctrine of their church is true, except those who are in the affection of truth for the sake of the uses of life. They who have this end are continually enlightened by the Lord. (AC 8521.3)

OTHER QUOTES - BIRDS AND INSECTS

Isa 40:31* But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

AC 1588 - The rational is intelligence as it exists in the external man.

... at the present time with members of the Christian Church good present in the understanding is starting to perish, so much so that little of it is left. The reason for this is that they believe nothing except that which they grasp with the senses, and nowadays they not only reason from the senses but also do so about Divine

arcana by means of a philosophy unknown to the ancients. As a result the light of understanding is utterly darkened; and that darkness is growing so deep that it can hardly be dispelled. (ac 2124)

AC 10201.3 - The words 'intelligence and wisdom' are not used to mean the ability to think and reason about any matter whatever, for this ability exists with the evil just as much as it does with the good. Instead they are used to mean the ability to see and perceive the truths and forms of good that belong to faith and charity, and that go with love to the Lord. This ability exists only with those who receive enlightenment from the Lord; and the amount of enlightenment they receive is determined by the amount of love to Him and charity towards the neighbour which they possess.

They have been told that angelic wisdom involves perceiving whether a thing is good or true without reasoning about it, but they have no conception of the possibility of a perception such as this. They are people who during their lifetime had thrown truth and good into confusion by means of scientific and philosophical arguments, and in so doing had seemed to themselves to be more learned than everybody else (AC 1385)

MacLagan [on insects] - every thought and feeling of the unregenerate will, having the appearance of spiritual life, yet degraded and active from the conjunction of falsity with evil.

OTHER QUOTES - MILK & MEAT

Deut 14:21 (already dead, milk & meat) [cf. Ex 23:19 & 34:26] AC 9301

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."
Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

"A list of some kosher foods are found in the books of Leviticus 11:1-47 and Deuteronomy 14: 3-20, as are also certain kosher rules. Reasons for food not being kosher include the presence of ingredients derived from non-kosher animals or from kosher animals that were not slaughtered in a ritually proper manner, a mixture of meat and milk, wine and grape juice (or their derivatives) produced without supervision, the use of produce from Israel that has not been tithed, or the use of non-kosher cooking utensils and machinery." (Wikipedia on "kosher")