



Clean and Unclean Animals According to the Bible



Overview based on Leviticus 11
and Deuteronomy 14



Below is an overview of clean and unclean animals according to the directions in the Bible, which can be found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

Although this list has been compiled with care, it is impossible to name every animal species. The following is therefore indicative and not complete. If you are in doubt whether an animal is clean or unclean, I advise you not to eat it.

For more information about eating meat, clean and unclean animals and arguments to choose a vegetarian or plant-based diet based on God's Word, I would like to refer you to my website: <https://en.woordenwelzijn.net/home/search/meat>

Clean

Leviticus 11:2-3: “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These *are* the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that *are* on the earth.

Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, *and* cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.”

Deuteronomy 14:4-6: “These *are* the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox, the sheep, and the goat, the hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois. And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, *and* cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat.”

Clean Mammals

Antelope	Chamois	Moose
Bison, Buffelo	Gazelle	Reindeer
Caribou	Giraffe	Sheep, Lamb, Mutton
Cattle, Beef, Calf, Cow, Ox, Veal	Goat	
	Ibex	

Leviticus 11:9: “These shall ye eat of all that *are* in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.”

Deuteronomy 14:9: “These ye shall eat of all that *are* in the waters: all that have fins and scales shall ye eat:”

Clean fish and other water animals

Anchovies	Grunt	Sardine
Bass	Haddock	Shad
Black Drum	Hake	Sheepshead
Bluefish	Halibut	Silversides
Blue Runner	Herring, Alewives	Smelt
Bonito	Jacks, Crevalle, Hardtail	Snapper
Bowfin	Kingfish	Sucker fish
Buffalo fish	Mackerel	Sunfish, Bluegill
Carp	Menhaden	Tilapia
Chubs	Pike	Trout
Cod	Pollock	Tuna, Albacore
Crappies	Porgy, Scup	White fish
Flounder	Red Drum, Redfish	Whiting
Grouper	Salmon	Yellow Perch

Deuteronomy 14:11: “Of all clean birds ye shall eat.”

From the list of unclean birds in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, six characteristics can be taken that distinguish clean and unclean birds. Clean birds:

- have a crop
- have a double-layered gizzard that can be easily separated
- are not birds of prey
- do not eat food while flying
- the back toe and the middle front toe are both long
- spread their toes when perched on a branch so that the front three toes are on one side of the stick and the back toe is on the other.

In unclean birds at least one of the characteristics mentioned above is missing.

Clean birds

Chicken	Partridge	Quail
Dove	Peafowl	Sparrow
Duck	Pheasant	Teal
Goose	Pigeon	Turkey
Grouse	Prairie Chicken	All Song Birds
Guinea Fowl	Ptarmigan	

Leviticus 11:20-22: “All fowls that creep, going upon *all four*, *shall be* an abomination unto you.

Yet these may ye eat of every flying creeping thing that goeth upon *all four*, which have legs above their feet, to leap withal upon the earth;

Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.”

Clean insects

Certain types of locusts, grasshoppers, and possibly also crickets.
There are differences among Bible translations.

Reptiles and Amphibians

None of these are clean.

Unclean

Leviticus 11:4-8: “ Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: *as* the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he *is* unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they *are* unclean to you.”

Leviticus 11:26-29: “*The carcases* of every beast which divideth the hoof, and *is* not clovenfooted, nor cheweth the cud, *are* unclean unto you: every one that toucheth them shall be unclean. And whatsoever goeth upon his paws, among all manner of beasts that go on *all* four, those *are* unclean unto you: whoso toucheth their carcase shall be unclean until the even. And he that beareth the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: they *are* unclean unto you. These also *shall be* unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the weasel, and the mouse.”

Deuteronomy 14:7-8: “ Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; *as* the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; *therefore* they *are* unclean unto you. And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it *is* unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcase.”

Unclean mammals

All apes, monkeys,	All Dogs, Coyote, Fox, Hyena, Jackal, Wolf	Porcupine
Armadillo	Elephant	Possum
Badger	Hippopotamus	Rhinoceros
Bat	Horses, Donkey, Mule, Onager, Zebra	All Rodents, Hare, Mole, Mouse, Rabbit, Rat, Squirrel
All Bears, Panda, Raccoon	Kangaroo, Wallaby	Skunk
Beaver	Llama, Alpaca	Weasel

Camel	Otter	Wolverine
All Cats, Cheetah, Cougar, Jaguar, Leopard, Lion, Panther, Tiger	Pig, Swine, Pork	

Leviticus 11:10-12: “ And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which *is* in the waters, they *shall be* an abomination unto you:

They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination.

Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that *shall be* an abomination unto you.”

Deuteronomy 14:10: “And whatsoever hath not fins and scales ye may not eat; it *is* unclean unto you.”

Unclean fish and water animals

Butterfish	Swordfish	Walrus
Catfish		Whale
Dolphin		
Eel	All Crustaceans, All Mollusks	All Shellfish, For example:
Frostfish	Abalones	Lobster
Marlin	Clams	Mussel
Paddlefish	Conch	Octopus
Pompano	Crab	Oyster
Porpoise	Crayfish	Scallop
Seal	Crawfish	Shrimp
Shark	Cuttlefish	Snail
Stickleback	Jellyfish	Squid (calamari)
Sturgeon	Limpet	

Leviticus 11:13-19: “And these *are they which* ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they *are* an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray, And the vulture, and the kite after his kind; Every raven after his kind; And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind, And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl, And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle, And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.”

Deuteronomy 14:12-18: “But these *are they* of which ye shall not eat: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray, And the glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind, And every raven after his kind, And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind, The little owl, and the great owl, and the swan, And the pelican, and the gier eagle, and the cormorant, And the stork, and the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.”

Unclean birds

Albatross	Gull	Plover
Birds of Prey	Hawk	Rail
Bittern	Heron	Raven
Buzzard	Kite	Roadrunner
Condor	Lapwing	Sandpiper
Coot	Loon	Stork
Cormorant	Magpie	Swallow
Crane	Osprey	Swift
Crow	Ostrich	Vultures
Cuckoo	Owls	Water hen
Eagle	Parrot	Woodpecker
Flamingo	Pelican	
Grebe	Penguin	
Grosbeak	All other birds that are not specifically mentioned as clean	

Leviticus 11:23: “But all *other* flying creeping things, which have four feet, *shall be* an abomination unto you.”

Leviticus 11:41-42: “And every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth *shall be* an abomination; it shall not be eaten. Whatsoever goeth upon the belly, and whatsoever goeth upon *all* four, or whatsoever hath more feet among all creeping things that creep upon the earth, them ye shall not eat; for they *are* an abomination.”

Deuteronomy 14:19: “And every creeping thing that flieth *is* unclean unto you: they shall not be eaten.”

Unclean Insects and Creeping Things

Spiders	Slugs and Snails	Worms
And (almost) all other insects		

Leviticus 11:29-31: “These also *shall be* unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind, And the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole. These *are* unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.”

Unclean Reptiles and Amphibians

Alligator	Gecko	Toads
Caiman	Lizards	Tortoise
Chameleon	Salamander	Turtle
Crocodiles	Snakes	
Frogs	And all other reptiles and amphibians	

Disclaimer

Although this list has been compiled with care, it is impossible to name every species. The above is therefore indicative and not complete. The information is educational and general in nature. No rights can be derived from it. If you are in doubt whether an animal is clean or unclean, I advise you not to eat it.