

PETER'S VISION (Acts 11:5-11) HAND WASHING RITUAL, (N'TILAT-YADAYIM)

Many people have been misguided by the true meaning of a vision Peter had in

Acts 11:5-11 *"I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, a certain object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, and when I had fixed my gaze upon it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the **wild beasts and the***



crawling creatures and the birds of the air. (unclean) "And I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Arise, Peter; kill and eat.' "But I said, 'By no means, Yah, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What Yah has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' "And this happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky. "And behold, at that moment three men appeared before the house in which we were {staying,} having been sent to me from Caesarea."

To understand this passage properly you must go back to where Peter was talking about the unclean Gentiles; you must go back to **Acts 10:28** *"And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and {yet} **Yah has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.**"* Peter had difficulty trying to understand His vision because at first glance it appeared that Yah was telling Him to do something that was against Yah's own rules. Peter was literally arguing with Yah and couldn't

understand. He had trouble trying to grasp this, because He knew that Yah could not, and would not tell Him to do something against the very rules that were established in His word. During the visions three appearances, Peter was interrupted by men asking him to come over to the house of some Gentiles in Caesarea. There, Peter told the Gentiles about Yeshua, and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Gentiles and Jews were never allowed to mix, or be together in those days, because the Jews considered the Gentiles "**unclean,**" (because of the unclean foods they ate as described in Lev. 11). In the vision that Peter had just received, while being interrupted, the Holy Spirit showed Peter "**unclean animals**". These unclean animals appeared on what might have been a giant "**prayer shaul/tallit**" coming down from the sky. The Holy Spirit told him that "**what Yah has cleansed, no longer consider unholy**". Then Peter realized the full meaning of the vision; this was referring to the Gentiles (considered unclean by the Jews), whom he was sent to share the word of Yah with. **The vision had nothing whatsoever to do with food!** He was to go to the "**unclean**" Gentiles, and cleanse them with the word of Yah. He was to "**make them clean**", therefore they would no longer be considered "**unholy**" to Yah. Peter didn't fully understand his vision until he went to the house of Cornelius immediately afterwards.

Cornelius was a "God fearing Gentile" who was circumcised, that's why Peter went to Him after His vision, as explained in **Acts 10:2** *"a devout man, and **one who feared Yah** with all his household, and gave many alms to the {Jewish} people, and prayed to Yah continually."* What most people fail to realize is that Cornelius was a member of the "phoboumenouton Theo" class of people (Gentiles) who worshipped Israel's God and kept Jewish customs to the extent of having kosher (halachically fit) homes. Although Cornelius was considered a Gentile, He was actually a true Believer.

One must keep in mind that one day prior to Peter having his vision, Cornelius had a vision take place. In his vision, a discussion with angels took place, they told him to send some men to Joppa to find a man called Simon Peter. Yah had the visions of Simon Peter and Cornelius in that order to reveal the fullness of the meaning of "unclean" to both Cornelius and Peter. Yah had shown Peter in his vision that no man was considered unclean or unholy in Yah's eyes because there was always the possibility that the person would come to believe and be saved. Yah showed Peter that all mankind, both Jew, and supposed unclean Gentile, could come to Him directly and receive salvation through faith. Man could approach Yah without having to go through the rituals of the cleanliness laws associated with the Temple.

Another misunderstood passage is **Matt. 15:11** *"**Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.**"* Here Yeshua was scolding them for elevating tradition (the ritual of washing one's hands before eating), above what garbage proceeds from their mouth. If you go back a little, you will see verse **Matt. 15:3** *"And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of Yah **for the sake of your tradition?** Remember Yeshua only considered kosher food as food, He wasn't talking here of anything but clean food. In the following verses Yeshua tells them frankly what He thought of them. **Matt. 15:7-9** *"**You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'**"**

Another misunderstood passage **Mark 7:19** *"because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" ({Thus He} **declared all foods clean.**)* If you read a few verses prior, you will see that

here Yeshua was talking to the crowd about clean and unclean rituals like washing your hands before eating. He was referring to **“food”** as being clean, not animals. They were discussing “food”. **Unclean “animals” were not considered “food”**.



Yeshua told us, Paul told us, and many others, that Yah’s righteous ordinances are everlasting. **Ps. 119:160** *“The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.”* Yah’s ordinances about food were made available to us for a good reason. Adonai knew what He was doing, we must trust Him in this like we are to trust Him in “ALL THINGS”.

Another passage that is sometimes misunderstood is in **1Tim. 4:4** *“For everything created by Yah is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;”* Of course everything created by Yah is good, or He wouldn’t have created it. Food is not being talked about here. This is a general statement. Everything Abba does is perfect!

For those who are afraid to eat dairy products with meat, like many Ultra Orthodox Jews, the passage in the first book of Moses tells about it being okay/normal. **Gen. 18:8** *“And he took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed {it} before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.”*

Many Gentile Believers today don’t realize that the unclean foods they have been traditionally lead to eat are because of anti-Semitism of the past. In the past, the early Believers were duped into worshipping on SUNDAY in the same manner they were duped into eating filthy food. Those early Believers and even those proclaiming to be Christians today, didn’t and don’t want to be associated with the Jews because of persecution, so they quit eating clean food. Again, we have a perfect example of anti-Semitism at its best. The “un-clean spirit” of anti-Semitism rears its ugly head up again. The scriptures throughout, refer to **“demons” as “un-clean spirits”**. Just maybe, the word, **“unclean”** has a much farther reaching meaning than we are comprehending at first glance. Maybe this is just another example of how the devil gets his hook in your mouth; (no pun intended). If we compromise with food, then it’s easier to compromise with stealing or murder. If we compromise with the Saturday Sabbath or any commandments, if it’s easier to compromise with stealing and murder, then it’s easier to compromise with idolatry, and so on. Then the people compromise with the very word “compromise,” and deem it to mean “grace”. That, in turn, brings us to the New Christian acceptance that “grace” lets us get away with everything in the name of Jesus, another total misconception. This kind of easy “greasy grace” makes no demands on the deceived Believers duped into going along with it. The practices of the past that used to distinguish pagans from Believers, have found a way to be indoctrinated into our supposed New Christianity.