



Deuteronomy 14

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Deuteronomy 14.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

INTRODUCTION: this is a continuation of the previous chapter; Israel is soon to cross over the River Jordan and enter into the Promised Land. The primary focus of all the following chapters is upon Moses re-telling to the new generation about to cross the River Jordan all the covenant laws the LORD originally gave to Israel at Mount Sinai so that the new generation would renew the covenant with the LORD before they enter the Promised Land.

The final chapter finishes with the LORD burying Moses and Joshua being ready to lead Israel over the River Jordan and into the Promised Land (see also the introduction to chapter one).

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

DEUTERONOMY 14 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 14:1-29** “You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead.² For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.³ “You shall not eat any abomination.⁴ These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,⁵ the deer, the gazelle, the roebuck, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope, and the mountain sheep.⁶ Every animal that parts the hoof and has the hoof cloven in two and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat.⁷ Yet of those that chew the cud or have the hoof cloven you shall not eat these: the camel, the hare, and the rock badger, because they chew the cud but do not part the hoof, are unclean for you.⁸ And the pig, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud, is unclean for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch.⁹ “Of all that are in the waters you may eat these: whatever has fins and scales you may eat.¹⁰ And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you.¹¹ “You may eat all clean birds.¹² But these are the ones that you shall not eat: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,¹³ the kite, the falcon of any kind;¹⁴ every raven of any kind;¹⁵ the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind;¹⁶ the little owl and the short-eared owl, the barn owl¹⁷ and the tawny owl, the carrion vulture and the cormorant,¹⁸ the stork, the heron of any kind; the hoopoe and the bat.¹⁹ And all winged insects are unclean for you; they shall not be eaten.²⁰ All clean winged things you may eat.²¹ “You shall not eat anything that has died naturally. You may give it to the sojourner who is within your towns, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. “You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.²² “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year.²³ And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.²⁴ And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set his name there,²⁵ then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses²⁶ and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.²⁷ And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.²⁸ “At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns.²⁹ And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

Moses tells Israel they are the sons of the LORD their God to be a people holy to the LORD, because He has chosen them to be a people for his treasured possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth and that they were not to cut themselves or make any baldness on their foreheads for the dead. In this chapter we read about foods Israel could eat and foods they were forbidden to eat. All foods that Israel could not eat was considered unclean to them and an abomination to the LORD.

Foods Israel was permitted to eat

Animals: ox, sheep, goat, deer, gazelle, roebuck, wild goat, ibex, antelope and the mountain sheep, every animal that parts the hoof (has the hoof cloven in two) and chews the cud.

Fish: all fish that has fins and scales.

Birds: all clean winged birds.

Foods Israel was not permitted to eat

Animals: camel, hare, rock badger, because they chew the cud but do not part the hoof, the pig, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud. Israel was not to eat any animal that chewed the cud or had a cloven hoof (in one piece) or touch their carcasses.

Fish: all fish that does not have fins and scales.

Birds: the eagle, the bearded vulture and the black vulture, the kite and falcon of any kind. Ravens of any kind, the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull and the hawk of any kind, the little owl, the short-eared owl, the barn owl and the tawny owl, the carrion, the vulture and the cormorant, the stork, the heron of any kind and the hoopoe bat.

Insects: all insects that have wings.

Creatures that died naturally: Israel could not eat anything that died naturally because they were a people holy to the LORD their God, but they could give it to the sojourner who was in their towns or sell it to a foreigner, neither was Israel to boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

Tithing

Israel was to tithe all the yield of their seed that comes from the field year by year, and eat it in the place that the LORD chose, to make his name dwell so that they might learn to fear the LORD always.

If they travelled great distances: if the way was too long so that they were unable to carry the tithe to the place the LORD chose, they could turn the tithe into money and go to the place that the LORD chose and spend the money for whatever food or drink their appetites desired or craved, oxen, sheep, wine or strong drink, then eat and drink at the place the LORD chose and rejoice with their household.

The Levites: the people of the towns, villages and cities were not to neglect the Levite who is in their towns, villages and cities, because they had no portion or inheritance with Israel.

A three year tithe: at the end of every three years Israel was to bring out all the tithe of their produce in the same year and lay it up in their towns, then the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless and the widow, who are in their towns, could come and eat and be filled.

Tithing and Malachi: the prophet Malachi said to the nation of Israel:

- Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (Malachi 3:10).

Malachi tells Judah and Israel that God will pour down a blessing if they bring the full tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food in Gods house for the priesthood. Notice the tithe is always food, most of the people's sacrifices and offerings of grain and wine, though offered to the LORD, became food for the priesthood and their families. They are spoken of as being offered to the LORD because the high priest and the Levitical priesthood were God's ambassadors on earth. At this time doing something for the priest was counted by God as doing it for Him. Likewise, Jesus says, "When we help the poor it is the same as if we are helping him." Some teachers in the Christian church today use these verses of Malachi to make those in their congregations feel guiltily if they are not giving 10% of their income to the church. The motivation of these manipulative teachers of course is to influence those who belong to Christ to give money to their church. When this happens, it is a gross distortion and misuse of Malachi's message and a good example of how Scriptures when lifted out of their context and isolated from their historical period can be twisted and misused. No Christian today is under the Old Testament commanded law of tithing nor does any Christian have to tithe 10% of their income to receive God's blessing.

A personal note: many years ago, I was in a church and the minister was asked, "Should we tithe 10% on our gross income or our net income?" His answer was, "That depends whether you want gross blessings or net blessings." One young family who were devoted and faithful to Christ and who had two five-year-old twin girls and one six-year-old boy stop coming to the church. When I asked them why, the mother almost with tears in her eyes said, "We feel so guilty after the service because we cannot give 10% percent of our income." How tragic is this? And I wonder how many others have come under the same guilt; because of manipulative preachers who claim God's blessings are dependent on our finances. For further information on tithing and New Testament giving, see the title:

- Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Conclusion

If Israel kept all these laws the LORD their God would bless them in all the work that they did.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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