

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Text : Leviticus 11: 1 - 23

Title : Clean And Unclean: All Of Life Belongs To God

Introduction

‘Clean’, ‘unclean’: the new terms introduced in Leviticus 11–16

‘Cleanness’: fitness to stand in God’s presence

But what sort of realities is Leviticus 11–16 really talking about?

Leviticus 11

Clean and unclean animals, water creatures, birds, insects: an orderly presentation

The link between cleanness and holiness (11:44–45; cf. 10:10) – not explained

Interpretations of Leviticus 11

Metaphorical (cud-chewing = meditation on law, etc): but this is arbitrary

Medical/dietary (Lev 11 = ‘God’s diet plan’): but this is not a complete explanation

A Symbolic Interpretation

Leviticus sets out its world-view by a series of interlocking symbols.

A world-view of ‘graded holiness’:

- Space: holy of holies → tabernacle → Israelite camp → area outside camp
- People: priests/Levites → Israelites → Gentiles
- Animals: sacrificial → clean → unclean

For the link between people and animals, see Lev. 20:22–26

‘I have separated you’ ~ ‘you shall make a distinction’

Clean/unclean represents Israel’s status as a holy nation

The NT teaching is in line with this:

- Proclaims a gospel available to both Jew and Gentile
- Abolishes the distinction between clean and unclean (Mark 7; Acts 10; Romans 14)

Conclusion

All of life belongs to God: the need for a thought-out, consistent discipleship

‘Touch not the unclean thing’: be careful what you allow into your life