



THE BOOK OF  
**DEUTERONOMY**

Sermon Series Notes



## “A New Way of Life” (Deuteronomy 14-15)

Danny Hodges – OT3510

vv.1-2 The Bible says that as a child of God, there should be a divine difference in my life from that of unbelievers. I am to be separate from the world (II Cor.6:17-18). This does not mean that I join a monastery or live in a Christian commune (I Cor.5:9-10). It simply means that I am to act and react in life differently and distinctively from unbelievers. There is to be a divine difference that marks me as a Christian.

See Matthew 5:33-47; 6:1-34

Luke 22: 25-26 Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”

I Peter 2: 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

### HOW WE DEAL WITH DEATH (14:1)

You might be thinking, I have never cut myself or shaved my head for the dead. But they did among the nations in this day. And it was a pagan practice in response to death. So God is saying to believers, don't respond to death the same way they do. See I Thess.4:13; Memorial service for Amanda Mueller Tuesday, two types of tears.

### DIET (14:1-21a)

This diet did not make them more spiritual, but rather marked them as special. See Mark 7:14-19; Acts 10:9ff; Col.2:13-17; I Tim.4:1-5.

God used physical food to try and teach them a spiritual lesson. As a Christian, what are some things that need to change in my “diet?” See Gal.5:16-21; Phil.4:8; Let me put it as simply as I know how. As a Christian, I am to feed my mind things that are pure and holy, and I am to say no to any appetite of my flesh.

I want to add an item that was on the Israelites diet after being delivered from Egypt that is not in our text, but should be mentioned because of how essential it was to their spiritual health. That essential food was

called manna. It was the staple food in their journey to the Promised Land (for forty years!). And guess what? They did not like manna as much as they liked the food they had back in Egypt, especially in times of testing. See Numbers 11:4-6.

The manna represented Christ (John 6:32-35); See also John 1:1, 14; Rev.19:13.

So the main staple food for the Christian is to be the Word of God.

Staple: Food that is eaten routinely, and in such quantities that it constitutes a dominate portion of a standard diet.

The regularly diet of the Word of God is intended to be a progression.

I Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

See Hebrews 5:11-6:1a

Illus: Baby bottle, Gerber, Cheerios, hamburger, steak

The Word will not feed your flesh AT ALL! That's why the flesh naturally wars against this new diet. Anybody ever started a new diet? How hard was it?

When I was young I was a very picky eater. One of the treats my brother and I really looked forward to was going to the Florence Mall and eating at Hardees. I would order a hamburger, fries, & a Coke. But I would have my mother wipe off all the mustard and ketchup, etc. from my burger. I didn't want it completely plain, but I didn't want it fully dressed.

The first steak I ever had was at Myrtle Beach with my friend Tommy Braddock. His dad took us out to eat. I was in line behind Tommy, and I just ordered whatever he ordered. I loved the steak, but the Thousand Island dressing gagged me. At that time in life I did not eat many fruits and vegetables. But over time I made decisions to eat healthier. In trying new things, it took time to develop an appetite for some foods. That's the way it is with our new diet as Christians. We have to develop new appetites and say no to old appetites.

Before we move on, let me share some suggested thoughts about the animals listed in the diet of Deut.14.

The split hoof has been suggested to represent a separated life.

The split hoof may also represent a distinctive walk.

Eph.5: 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.

Chewing of the cud has been suggested to represent chewing on the Word of God. These animals re-chewed the grass over and over again.

Psalm 1: 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Joshua 1: 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

The clean animals were ones that had both the split hoof and chewed the cud.

Some have a split hoof but do not chew the cud. There are those who live a separated life, but never develop a time chewing on the Word of God. In time, these people either fall away from the Lord, or never mature in their faith (Heb.5:11-6:1a). They may faithfully attend church their whole lives, but they are never transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

Some chew the cud but do not live a separated life. These people deceive themselves. They may know a lot about the Bible, but they do not reflect a living relationship with the Lord.

John 5: 39-40 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

DEPENDENCE (14:21b)

Cooking a young goat in its mother's milk was a Canaanite fertility rite.

DOLLARS (14:22-29)

The Israelites came out of Egypt rich beyond their wildest dreams, but those riches were meant to be invested for God's purposes – tabernacle, support of Levites (full time ministers); See I Cor.9:4-6, 11, 13-14.

Mal.3:8-12

Financial increase through giving (14:29b; 15:10; Haggai 1:2-11; II Cor.9:6-11; Prov.11:24).

DEBT (15:1-11)

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors

Col.2:13...He forgave us all our sins.

...Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Col.3:13b)