

# Clean vs Unclean The Biblical Categories

## The Core Idea

The Torah separates animals into two simple categories:

**Clean animals** is permitted for food

**Unclean animals** is not permitted for food

This distinction is not about preference it is about learning to recognize categories and obey clear instruction.

Think of it as a sorting system taught for everyday living.

## Why Categories Matter

Instead of memorizing endless animal lists, the Torah teaches **identification patterns**. Once you learn the pattern, you can recognize what belongs in each category.

This makes obedience practical and repeatable.

## Land Animals

### Clean Land Animals Permitted

A land animal is considered clean when it:

- Chews the cud
- Has split hooves

Both characteristics must be present.

Examples:

- Cattle
- Sheep
- Goats
- Deer

These animals fit the full identification pattern.

## **Unclean Land Animals Not Permitted**

Animals missing one or both traits are unclean.

Examples:

- Pig have split hooves but does not chew cud
- Camel has chews cud but no split hoof
- Rabbit has incomplete traits

If the pattern is incomplete, it's not permitted.

## **Sea Creatures**

### **Clean Sea Creatures Permitted**

Must have:

- Fins
- Scales

Both are required.

Examples:

- Salmon
- Tuna
- Cod

### **Unclean Sea Creatures Not Permitted**

Creatures missing fins or scales are unclean.

Examples:

- Shrimp
- Crab
- Lobster
- Catfish

No full pattern it's not permitted.

## **Birds**

### **Clean Birds Permitted**

The Torah identifies permitted birds mostly by type. Generally, clean birds are:

- Non-predatory
- Grain or plant feeders

Examples:

- Chicken
- Dove
- Turkey

### **Unclean Birds Not Permitted**

Typically birds that are:

- Predatory
- Scavengers

Examples:

- Eagle
- Vulture
- Hawk
- Raven

## **Insects**

### **Clean Insects Permitted**

Very limited category.

Permitted insects are:

- Locust-type insects with jumping legs

## **Unclean Insects Not Permitted**

All other crawling or flying insects are unclean.

Examples:

- Flies
- Beetles
- Roaches

## **Beginner Recognition Summary**

Instead of memorizing every animal:

Learn the **pattern**:

- Land animals have cud and split hoof
- Sea animals have fins and scales
- Birds are not non-predatory types
- Insects are jumping locust-type only

If the identifying traits are missing then its unclean.

## **The Practical Goal**

This system teaches:

- Awareness
- discernment
- everyday obedience

You don't need advanced science just clear recognition and intentional choice.

**Clean vs unclean is about learning to identify and obey.**