

# Bringing Home the Bacon : Pork. Chops.

## 1. Gen 7:2

**“You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female”**

At least since the Fall, the animals were divided into clean and unclean, as the gathering into Noah's Ark shows. The concept of clean and unclean predates Sinai and the sanctuary service, making it very likely to be active still under the New Testament dispensation.

Note: It's not clear whether 2 unclean entered the ark or *two pairs*. In either case, had Noah eaten two unclean pigs, potentially both female, we would no longer have pigs  on earth at all! It would be all Chick-Filet.

## 2. Gen 9:3-4

**“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.”**

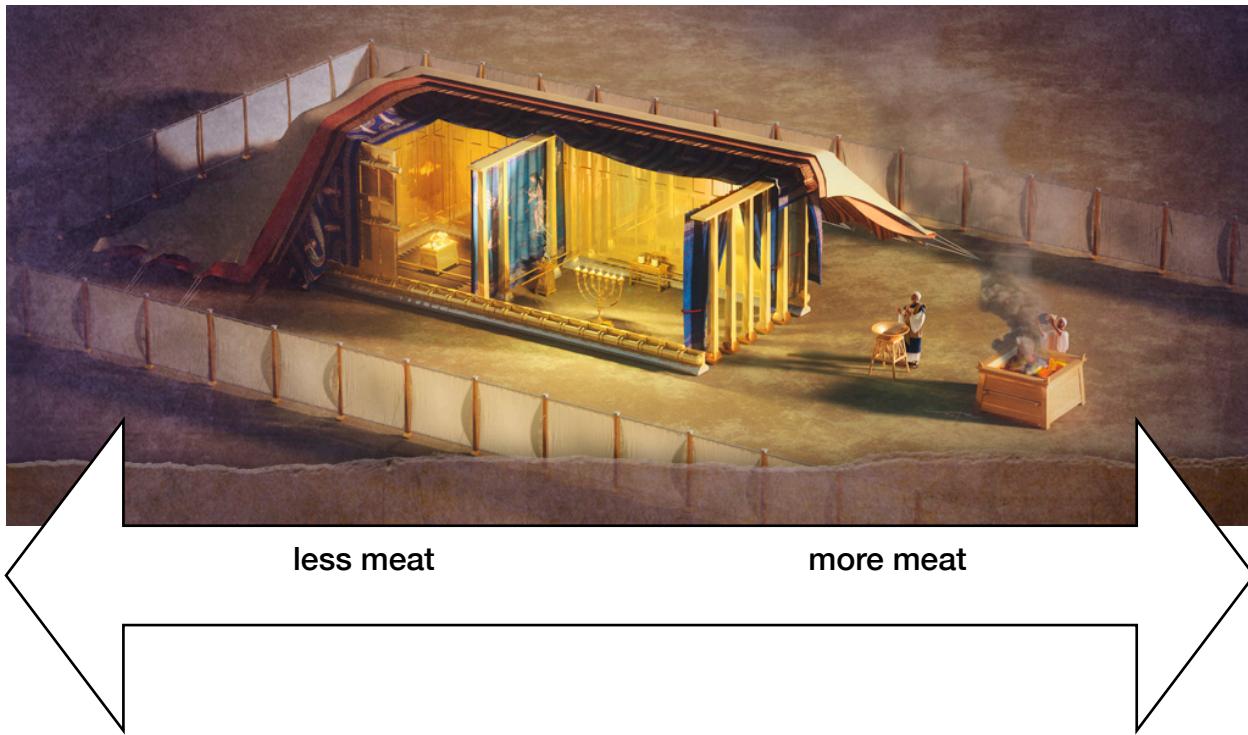
Let me go backwards, to verse 4: this prohibits most restaurant meats, as they haven't been properly drained. Rare, medium rare, medium would be out. Well-done might be the only biblically permissible mode of cooking meat.

Verse 3: Technically, the distinction between clean and unclean is not mentioned here, but in context it is possible and reasonable to assume that the distinction was maintained, and so well-known to Noah that it didn't require explicit repetition here!

- Noah was instructed about clean and unclean in Gen 7:2
- Noah was not explicitly instructed about clean and unclean sacrifices, but only offered clean animals in Gen 8:20 nonetheless. So the concept was on his mind.
- Gen 9 is full of other restrictions: “moving” (= can't be a carcass), “no blood”
- Leviticus makes the distinction between clean and unclean clear. So it would be difficult to imagine that some animals are unclean, then can be eaten (Gen 9:3), but then are declared unclean again.
- it all might have been a temporary injunction anyway as vegetation for food was not readily available right after the flood - the Exodus diet was specifically meat-free vegan!

## 3. The Sanctuary Service

It is interesting to note that the closer we come to the physical presence of God in the sanctuary system, the less meat we find. Courtyard altar: meat, and flesh food. But Holy Place: bread, with sprinkling of blood. Most Holy Place: Mannah = no meat at all!



#### 4. Leviticus 11/Deuteronomy 14

Unclean animals have no cleansing procedure. Women could be unclean and become clean with the passing of time. Men could be unclean and have a cleansing process, or a waiting period. Houses could be unclean and have a detailed, priest-supervised cleansing process. But unclean animals had no Scriptural cleansing process. The pig, for example, could not be cleansed in any way or through any passing of time. It was intrinsically unclean. Always and forever. Makes sense, considering what all the pig eats, including its own dead. 

Technically, based on Matt 5:17-19, all Levitical laws still apply except those directly pertaining to the Sanctuary service (something most Christians, even Adventists, ignore, but that would make for a good discussion).

#### 5. Isaiah 66:17

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“Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, To go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine’s flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together,” says the LORD.”

Within 5 verses (v22) Isaiah speaks of a new heaven and a new earth, so there’s a high chance that verse 17 is in an endtime context, with - gasp - a death penalty for those who consume unclean items.

## 6. Mark 5:11-13

Jesus is ok with 2,000 pigs drowned. That’s a lot of “food” for a lot of people. Bye bye piggie. 

## 7. Mark 7: The disciples and their unclean hands

The conclusion in Mark 7:15 “There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man” has a context:

The context of Mark 7 is NOT about clean vs unclean foods. The disciples are eating bread with unwashed hands (v2). It’s not about pig or no pig. It’s about clean or unclean hands (actually “common” hands).

The issue is the traditions of men, NOT the law of God (v3, 5, 7, 13).

Mark 7:19 “For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)”

That’s right. Foods are declared clean by Jesus, not pigs. Pigs not food. Foods which were already ok to eat according to Old Testament law are confirmed clean to eat by Jesus, contrary to human tradition which declared clean foods “common” = inedible based on human traditions.

## 8. Acts 10: Peter’s Rooftop vision

God sends a sheet with clean and unclean animals down to Peter and says “Slaughter, kill, and eat!” Who can argue with that?!

Not so fast. Peter’s response (and audacity to argue with God!) is most insightful but requires some technical detail to understand correctly. Note Peter’s response:

“But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” Acts 10:14.

Did you catch that?! Peter classifies the animals in the sheet NOT as clean vs unclean, but “**common** or unclean”. So here is what’s happening. Peter - long after the Cross - still thinks he shouldn’t eat unclean animals. So the assumption is that the Cross had **not** cleansed the pig. But there is more. He also says he can’t eat anything “common”. What is “common”? It’s a clean meat (like chicken) that is next to an unclean pig. So you have: clean - common - unclean

Peter says he can’t eat the clean chicken because it’s next to an unclean pig, which makes the chicken “common” and not edible according to Jewish law. Clean becomes common = defiled. Not unclean like the pig, but nonetheless common, and therefore inedible.

In any case, “unclean” still exists as a conscious, active category for food laws!

But, the point of the story is something totally different. It’s not about the pig that can be eaten now as a Christian. No . . .

Peter himself explains within the same chapter that the vision is not about clean vs unclean animals, but how we perceive people in a mission context: “Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. **But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean”** (Acts 10:28). That’s what the chapter is about.

## 9. Acts 15: The Jerusalem Council

Notice something astonishing! Although the Gentiles are saved by faith (Acts 15:9, 11 ), the church still imposed lifestyle rules on the Gentiles! A salvation issue and affirmation was not enough! And 3 of those 4 rules are food laws from Leviticus (Acts 15:20). It is forbidden by NEW Testament law to eat meat that was strangled or still has blood in it. Salvation-only faith-only grace-only Christians are forbidden to ingest blood!

Acts 15:29 repeats the injunction.

It’s really a small thing to respect the law of God, regardless of cultural inconvenience or social reputation. God matters more than man. It’s our body, anyways, not our neighbors. I can control and determine what goes in.

## 10. Romans 14

Vegetables are looked down upon in this chapter not because they are vegetables, but because some foods had been sacrificed to idols, rendering it common (not unclean). The issue is not clean vs unclean meat, but fast days (not Sabbath) and meats sacrificed to idols. Specific cultural context.

## 11. Revelation

16:13; 18:2; 21:27 show that the concept of “unclean” is still active and understood, 2 generations after the Cross, and now in an end-time context.

## 12. Modern medical convention

Pork is considered the worst meat on the market, regardless of religion. Google “Pork worst meat” or “Pork most unhealthy meat” (or “Bacon . . . ”) Lots of nonSDA studies. The world knows.

Bill Clinton became vegan after having stents put in:

YouTube: Bill Clinton Wolf Blitzer Vegan



Joel Osteen gave up pork based on Scripture: YouTube Joel Osteen No Pork



Also recommended: YouTube Michael Claper A Diet for all Reasons - old but a must watch



John Robbins from the Baskin Robbins Empire also went veg:



### 13. Heaven

There won't be death or killing in heaven, so we will presumably be vegetarians in heaven/on the new earth; not a bad idea to start practicing now!

### 14. Ellen White

Christians pride themselves in "Sola Scriptura", but that's a fallacious concept. If God sent a prophet after the closing of the biblical canon, should we listen to that prophet or can we excuse ourselves with "Sola Scriptura"? If the Bible itself points toward the gift of prophecy among God's endtime people (Eph 4:11!; Rev 1:9; 12:17; 19:10; 22:9). In Revelation we have "the word of God" PLUS the testimony of Jesus. Claiming Sola Scriptura makes sense and sounds good, but it potentially ignores something that God sent Himself!

Recommendation: become familiar with Ellen White. Not because of Adventism or church, but because God sent her a prophet for the endtime. Reject His gift = reject the giver of the gift. Before the first coming of Jesus God sent John the Baptist: no writings in Scripture, a change in diet, and a change in dress. It makes parallel sense that God would do this again before the Second Coming of Jesus.

Ellen White is pure gold! Caution: the internet doesn't think so. What would your worst enemy say about you on social media?!

Read for yourself. Ignore the noise and naysayers. Just start reading. Steps to Christ. Desire of Ages. Great Controversy. Ministry of Healing. A little every day.

More info? YouTube "Dwight Nelson Ellen White" - good series.

### 15. Islam and Judaism

The oldest and one of the largest religion in the world have both concluded not to eat pork. Witnessing as a Christian to both groups is greatly aided when we don't eat pork.

### 16. Salvation Issue?

I personally avoid this phrase. I am not in the place of God, and by declaring something "not a salvation issue" I might excuse myself from an explicit command/prohibition of God. It's a risky minimalization of the law of God based on human terms and preferences. Details matter in a relationship.

## For Further Study

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/listen/bible-question-archive/is-it-unhealthy-to-eat-pork/>

Scholarly Analysis, with similar texts as above - worth a read with a hot chocolate:

<https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/articles/clean-and-unclean-meats>

Short summary of the issue; must read (because it was written by a German ):

👉 <https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/articles/scripture-and-food> 👈

No judgment on my part if someone eats pork (or frog  legs), and I think the SDA church has become tolerant and loving enough that overall there is no judgment on visitors. Now church members, they might get put in the church basement with tools from the Middle Ages.

Blessings!

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