

God's Progressive Revelation on Eating Meat

GARDEN OF EDEN

No meat eaten before sin - Man ate grass (that which grows of itself) Trees bearing seed, fruits, nuts. Gen. 1:29-30

MAN REMOVED FROM THE GARDEN TILL THE FLOOD

No Tree of Life - No meat - The ground cursed, must plant, fight weeds/thorns - Work and raise vegetables for food like Cain Gen. 3:17-24 for 1,656 years. From Creation to the Flood. Clean/Unclean refers only to what could be sacrificed, not for food.

AFTER THE FLOOD

All meats clean - Gen. 9:2-3 - Meat with blood forbidden - All men could eat meat - Patriarch's were all meat eaters.

THE LAW OF ISRAEL

Only selective meat approved by God for food - Jewish dietary laws only for the Jews to keep them distinct from nations. Leviticus 11

CHRISTIANITY

Several facts must be recognized to see that eating meat was progressively revealed to Christians. At Rome, Corinth, Colossae, some Christians disagreed on the eating of meat - It was a period of transition. There were Christians who:

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| a. Were vegetarians. | d. Were eaters of meat sacrificed to idols. |
| b. Were keeping Jewish dietary laws. | e. Paul had to correct all of them in his letters to the churches. |
| c. Were meat eaters. | f. The Holy Spirit led them into all truth as Jesus promised to do. Acts 15:28-29 |

SEE THE REVELATION ON MEAT EATING WAS PROGRESSIVE – REVEALED IN TRANSITION

1. In AD 41, (11 years after Pentecost) Peter learned that all meats were cleansed. Acts 10-11
2. In AD 46, The apostles conference revealed the Jewish dietary law was not important except not to eat meat sacrificed to idols or eat blood - Acts 15:28-29
3. In 59 AD, No meat knowingly offered to idols permitted to be eaten. Eat, asking no questions for conscience sake but not knowingly. 1 Cor. 10:19-30
4. In 59 AD, No eating of meat which might cause a brother to stumble or be emboldened to violate his conscience. To do so was a sin against him and thus a sin against Christ. 1 Cor. 8:4-13
5. In 59 AD, No meat sacrificed to idols. It is sacrificing to demons and having fellowship with demons even though an idol is nothing. 1 Cor. 10:18-30
6. In 61 AD, Warned not to judge or condemn a strict vegetarian or a meat eater. Not to take place of God as judge and He who is able to make one stand. Rom. 14:4, 13. Paul admits it is the meat eater who is strong, but he is to support the vegetarian not despise him. Rom. 14:2-3
7. In 64 AD, Shows Jewish dietary laws were part of the Law of Moses and we are not to let men judge us by our diet. Col. 2:16
8. In 65 AD, Points out those who depart from faith give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. He informs us all meats are clean, nothing is to be refused if sanctified by the Word of God and prayers. 1 Tim. 4:1-5

You can see from this progressive chart of revelation of God's Will why some early Christians were confused and why God did not want the Church quarrelling over a doctrine not totally revealed for three decades. Today, those who believe and know the truth can clearly see God's Will on eating meat.

Jesus, Himself gave us a "hint" - Mark 7:18-19, "18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him: 19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, **purging all meats?"

**Many commentators and manuscripts believe the latter phrase were Mark's words. He added his comment in retrospect as he understood it when he wrote. The draught is in different gender and thus not what causes the meat to be purified but Mark was explaining what Jesus was teaching.

"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" – Romans 14:17