

Audio Transcript of Sermon

December 7, 2019

Why is the World so Messed Up? Part Two

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. Last week, we asked the question, “Why is the world so messed up?” We looked at some of the political candidates who are running for President in the United States who want to tax the very rich as much as what would be the equivalent to a one hundred fifty-eight percent income tax rate. We asked questions about why we are seeing more and more wildfires, why climate change is having a bigger impact on this planet, and why people around the world seem to be uneasy and frustrated with the governments that are ruling over them in their countries.

Last week, we had the opportunity to look at some of the financial reasons why the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. We looked at the concept that is taught in the Old Testament of the Jubilee Year, where property gets restored to people after fifty years. In the modern era, people exploit other people, the rich become increasingly more rich, they become richer and richer almost every day. The poor and the middle class struggle just to maintain what they already have. We looked at tithing as one of the financial laws from the Bible that could go a long way to explain why the world is so messed up today. We also looked at how tithing is an agricultural law based on the increase of the crops of the field and how we need to take that and apply it in the modern era.

Aside from the financial laws and that it seems, maybe just the opinion, that the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer is the understanding that more people are suffering from what is called food insecurity. People may not know where their next meal is coming from. We are not talking about people who are totally dependent upon somebody else, say the little children or the very old. We’re talking about working-class people who should be fully responsible for themselves and for their family. It’s these people who are having great difficulty in an increasing manner in understanding where their next meal is coming from. In some major cities where the cost of living is very high more families are becoming homeless not because people are making poor personal choices, people can no longer afford the cost of rent or a mortgage. More people are living in tents, under a bridge, or in their cars. Financial situations have gotten worse

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and with worse financial situations comes the concept of food insecurity. Food banks in the community can only take care of so much of the need. It's important for each of us as we come across people who may need assistance to get their next meal, that we consider their needs and as God has blessed us, that we share with them the blessing that God has also given to us.

There are some reasons why we have problems with food insecurity that are related to financial inequalities in our society, where the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. There are also agricultural reasons why we have concerns with our crops. We'll take a look at a verse we looked at last week from Leviticus twenty-five. Let's look at Leviticus twenty-five verse nineteen. Leviticus twenty-five verse nineteen.

Leviticus 25:19-22

19. And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety.

20. And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase:

21. Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.

22. And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

The seventh year that is talked about in these verses was a year when the fruit was not harvested. It was a year when the ground was allowed to lay fallow, untilled, anything that would grow would simply be allowed to stay for the wild animals to eat, and when it became time to plow the land the next year, everything would be plowed under increasing the nutrients of the field. Today, we believe we should use artificial fertilizers to increase our crop harvests. Fertilizers are used to increase the quantity of food that is grown in each field, and while it is a similar concept to what is being talked about in Leviticus twenty-five, it's much different. What's talked about in Leviticus twenty-five verse nineteen is organic in nature. There's nothing artificial in what was being discussed in Leviticus twenty-five verse nineteen. Taking man-made fertilizers, chemically engineered fertilizers, and putting them into the ground is not an organic response to manage our food needs in this nation or around the world. Because we are not paying careful attention to the crops that we eat, the fruit that we eat, we have increased problems with food and disease. The use of man-made fertilizers

created in a lab is having an impact on crops and fruit. Beyond that is the modern belief that any animal is good to eat. And sadly, that information is based on passages from the New Testament. Some people believe that animals that were declared unclean in the Old Testament are perfectly fine to eat today. Let's take a look at some of the reasons why people might believe that, and we'll begin in first Timothy four verse one, first Timothy four verse one.

1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3. Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

And then they take a look closely at verse four and look at these words.

4. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

5. For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Some people look at the passage from first Timothy and say, "See, we can eat any animal." What is being taught to us in verse three is there are some people who will teach not to eat animals. One of the modern teachings in the modern era is to go low on the food chain, to eat vegetables and plants instead of animals. What we are being taught in verse three is those animals which God created to be received with thanksgiving are perfectly fine to eat. We'll learn in the Old Testament which animals were created to be received with thanksgiving and which animals were created to serve another purpose here on earth. There's a big difference between the two kinds of animals.

Some people will look at a passage from the Book of Acts as why we should eat clean and unclean animals today. Let's look at Acts ten verse nine, Acts ten verse nine.

Acts 10:9-22

9. On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

This would be the middle of the day, noon time, lunchtime.

10. And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

Peter went into what we might jokingly call a food coma today. His mind wandered; he was hungry. But in this case, we'll see it was much more than this. It was spiritually brought on by the Holy Spirit so that Peter could learn something of great importance that he wasn't willing to consider before this time. Verse eleven, and Peter,

11. And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12. Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

16. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

And so from verse sixteen, we can see that the rooster crowed three times for Peter to get the message. Peter had to have information repeated to him for him to get the concept. So what was the concept that Peter was being taught here? He was being taught that what God had cleansed, Peter should not call common. And the vision that God used in this sequence for Peter to understand was clean and unclean animals. Peter correctly said, "I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." Many people will look to this passage in Acts ten nine through sixteen and say, "See, we are to eat both the clean and unclean meats as listed in the Old Testament." We get an explanation of what this vision was intended to convey, the message that Peter was to learn from this particular vision. Let's look at verse seventeen.

17. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

So, right before these representatives of a gentile, a Roman Centurion, were to make contact with Peter, God and the Holy Spirit gave Peter this vision that what was considered to be common, should not be considered common if God had cleansed it. Verse eighteen, these people,

18. And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

19. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

So, Peter was a hard-head. He had to have stuff repeated for him multiple times for him to get the concept. Peter got into this huge argument and disagreement with the Apostle Paul regarding the question if Gentiles could be called and become believers of Jesus Christ. God went through this great extent to teach Peter this particular lesson. Verse twenty-one.

21. Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

Verse twenty-two.

22. And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Before this vision, Peter would have rejected these people. He would have seen these people as common, as unclean. God used this incredible vision not to tell Peter to eat unclean meats, but to teach Peter who was headstrong, who was stubborn, who needed information repeated to him often that Gentiles could be

called by God, and when they are called by God, should be treated no differently than people who were Jews should be treated in the conversion to Christianity.

Neither the passage from first Timothy four or from this Book of Acts tell us that we should be eating unclean meats. Eating foods that were not intended to be eaten today, not only are unhealthy for us, there is an environmental impact that is not being understood by people in the modern era. Let's look at Deuteronomy chapter fourteen, beginning with verse three. Here's where we are taught about clean and unclean animals, what we should eat and what we shouldn't eat. And we'll see that there is this difference, this dichotomy between the two kinds of animals. We'll talk about that as we go through these verses. Verse three of Deuteronomy chapter fourteen.

Deuteronomy 14:3-21

3. Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.

4. These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox, the sheep, and the goat,

5. The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois.

6. And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat.

These verses show us that among the red meats we would be looking at things like cattle, sheep, lamb, goat, deer, the venison, bison, ox. Those are the kind of animals we should be eating. Let's take a look at some of the animals we should not be eating. Verse seven.

7. Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you.

So, even though the camel is a huge animal that is used in certain parts of the world to transport goods and for racing, even though it is as big as cattle, it is not an animal we should be using for food, because here we are taught not to do that. Verse eight.

8. And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcase.

So, pigs, pork, bacon, ham, these are all foods we should not be eating because verse eight tells us not to eat those foods. When we think of the difference between a pig and a cow, one of the big differences is the pig is known to be a garbage eater. It's sort of nature's land-based garbage disposal system. The pig will eat a dead animal that is tossed into its food area. It will eat garbage, it will eat leftovers, it will eat things that are rotten. Compared to the other animals which are known to eat grasses and vegetables and crops, that's what makes the big difference, where the food source comes from. When we think of the environmental impact, when we don't have swine that are eating garbage, we have a garbage situation we need to take care of. And, what do we do in the modern era for garbage, we take it out and we dump it in the ocean, we bury it in the land, and yet God had instituted this biological system called the pig, and whatever toxins would have been in the garbage, would have been destroyed by the biology of the pig, and what would have been left, would have been something that simply could have been composted and then mixed into the soil and increase the organic quality of the earth. Here we have a good description, the first few verses of land animals. Let's take a look at what we might get out of the ocean, lakes, or streams. Verse nine.

9. These ye shall eat of all that are in the waters: all that have fins and scales shall ye eat:

Verse ten.

10. And whatsoever hath not fins and scales ye may not eat; it is unclean unto you.

So, when we are talking about ocean critters that have fins and scales, we know we are not going to eat whales, we know we are not going to eat dolphins or shark because even though all of those have fins, they don't have scales. We know we are not going to eat catfish because catfish also do not have scales. It's a smoothed skin fish as is an eel. What we would be eating are things like salmon, trout, cod, fish that have both scales and fins. Looking at verse nine and ten, we should come to the realization we are not going to eat shrimp, because shrimp live in the water, but they don't have fins and scales. We're not going to eat lobster, because again, those animals don't have fins and scales. We're not going

to eat crab because crabs don't have fins and scales. So, when we compare the difference between the two styles of animals, and we look at the shrimp, we look at the crab, and the lobster, and the catfish, all of those are bottom feeding animals. They eat the crud and the sediment that filters down to the lowest levels of the river and the lake, the ocean. They are the garbage eaters of the aquatic system. And when we harvest shrimp, crab, and lobster for food, we upset the ecosystem that God created at the very beginning of time. And so, when we look around and see horrible things happening in our oceans, beyond us taking garbage and dumping it in the ocean, some of this is directly coming from this imbalance that occurs because we have rotting and decaying materials in the ocean which are not being consumed by these bottom feeders. If you take something and let it decompose in a body of water, it's going to change and upset the pH level of that body of water. And that's going to increase, maybe, algae bloom in the water, and all of a sudden you have dramatically changed the ecosystem, and everything gets out of whack. When we wonder why are the oceans out of whack today, part of it comes down to we are eating the wrong kinds of animals out the ocean. Eating animals with fins and scales are fine. Eating other kinds of animals which are your animals of prey, or animals that are the garbage eaters, those are the kinds of animals we need to be avoiding. Let's look at verse eleven. We'll consider what kinds of birds we should be eating. Verse eleven,

11. Of all clean birds ye shall eat.

12. But these are they of which ye shall not eat: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

13. And the glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind,

14. And every raven after his kind,

15. And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

16. The little owl, and the great owl, and the swan,

17. And the pelican, and the gier eagle, and the cormorant,

18. And the stork, and the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

Here for the birds, we are given a long list of the kinds of birds we should not be eating. And when we carefully consider the birds, we have birds of prey, eagles, hawks. We have scavenger birds, the vultures. Even birds like the owl, that's a predator. The swan as beautiful as it looks is a predator because it goes after fish,

as does the pelican, and the heron. The bat in verse eighteen is a different kind of animal altogether. It's not a bird but it flies at night. We should not be eating that. Verse nineteen.

19. And every creeping thing that flieth is unclean unto you: they shall not be eaten.

So, anything that crawls along the ground that has wings like a cockroach, we shouldn't be eating. Verse twenty.

20. But of all clean fowls ye may eat.

So, the chickens, the duck, the Cornish game hen, and the turkey, anything that is clean we can eat. Even among the clean animals, people were not to eat anything that died of natural causes. An animal can be slaughtered for food, but an animal that died by itself was not an animal that should be eaten by people. Verse twenty-one.

21. Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God.

And something else to consider in verse twenty-one,

Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

Veal is not to be prepared in milk according to verse twenty-one. To God, that is something that is just totally wrong. When we take a look at the environmental problems we have in the world today, the environmental problems are man-made. It's because man has rejected God, we see these environmental problems.

Part of the environmental problems that we do see are caused because we use man-made fertilizers instead of allowing the fields to lie dormant every seventh year. By doing that, we would increase the ability of the earth to produce more crops. Another reason why we have environmental problems is as a society, we are mistakenly eating animals that God did not create to be eaten with thanksgiving; we are eating animals that God created to be the garbage disposal systems of land and oceans. And, as a result, we have problems with refuse in

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land and trash dumps that are just burgeoning at the seams. We have problems with oceans where the pH level is totally out of whack, where we see reefs dying, where we see algae blooms out of control. All of this could be changed by simply reverting back to what God taught from the very beginning of time.

Something else that God taught from the very beginning of time that was codified for the ancient Israelites were the ten commandments. We tend to think that the ten commandments no longer apply because Jesus came and died for us. Everything that Jesus did was based on these ten commandments that he summarized as loving God with all your heart and all your mind and loving your neighbor as yourself. That's a very good summary of the ten commandments where the first four commandments show us how to love God and the final six commandments show us how to love our fellow man. So, let's take a look at Exodus twenty beginning with verse one, Exodus twenty beginning with verse one.

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. And God spake all these words, saying,**
- 2. I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**
- 3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
- 4. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:**
- 5. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;**
- 6. And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**

We are not to anthropomorphize God, or to put God into the form of any animal, creature that we see anywhere in the earth that we know. God is much more than His creation. Verse seven.

- 7. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**

Many people look at verse seven and say we should not use God's name in conjunction with cuss words, and that is a very fair assessment of verse seven. The bigger problem that most people get themselves into in verse seven without ever realizing is they pretend to be God's children, they pretend to be God's children, but they do things that in fact show they are not God's children. If we are going to commit ourselves to God, we have to commit ourselves to God in a way that is truthful, that is not phony. We cannot be the children of God in name only. The name that I have is directly taken from my physical father, and much of what I enjoy in my life today as a man in his fifties is a result of the sacrifice he made in his life and that my mother is making throughout her life. All of that has benefited me even to this later time in my life. We cannot simply take the name of God and pretend to be his children, to take the name of God in vain, and other than that totally ignore God in what He would have us do. If we are going to be God's children, we need to be very mindful of what God would have us do, because if we are simply God's children in name only, we are taking the name of God in vain, and that's something that God says is totally not cool with him. He will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Verse eight.

8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The fourth commandment, the Sabbath day, is something that is ignored in today's world. The Sabbath day as listed in the ten commandments is firmly understood to be what we would think of as Saturday on the modern calendar, from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. That's the Sabbath that is talked about in the fourth commandment. Some people think, "Didn't that change when Jesus died, because Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week, wouldn't that make that the Lord's Day, and should we observe and worship God on the Lord's Day?" That's not what is discussed at all in the ten commandments. If we are indeed God's children, we will listen to God, we will follow what He has for us to do, and part of that is following Him in the observance of the Sabbath day. Let's look at verse twelve.

12. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

We have Father's Day and we have Mother's Day. Here on the border with Mexico, 2020 will be a very unique year because the Mother's Day as it is observed in Mexico and Mother's Day as it is observed in the United States will occur on exactly the same day. In most years, there is a few days difference in the celebration in the two countries. But, that is a tradition we have in most countries to honor fathers and mothers on a day. But honoring a father or a mother solely on Mother's Day is insufficient to fulfill the requirement of verse twelve. If we honor our father and our mother, we listen to what they told us when we were younger, and we apply that as adults in our life. Parents, whether you agree with them or disagree with them, take action and do things generally with the best interest of their children in mind. Parents do not take a course of action to harm their children unless there is some kind of mental illness or derangement that might be going on with them. There are sadly, some folks who are very unable to be parents. Those children in those families are typically taken by the state and placed into foster care. But, the vast majority of parents do have the best interest of their kids in heart, and they want good things to happen for them. And so, children need to take the effort to listen to what their parents would have them do in life, because parents do have the best interests of their children. Verse thirteen.

13. Thou shalt not kill.

Beyond murder, we should never do anything that is going to endanger the life of another person, but verse thirteen is talking about the act of murder. Verse fourteen.

14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

When you are in a marriage relationship, you should be committed to your spouse. You should not take advantage and cheat on your spouse by having an extra-marital affair. Verse fifteen.

15. Thou shalt not steal.

Stealing happens in many different ways. Part of the reason businesses have difficulty is because employees steal from them. If you work for a business, you have certain perks and benefits that come from that job. All jobs have those perks and benefits. When I worked in education, I knew at certain times of the year, I would have vacation and still effectively be paid. That's a perk or benefit of working in public education. Some people appropriate benefits to themselves without permission. And, when you appropriate benefits to yourself without permission, that's called stealing, and that's one of the reasons why we have economic difficulties in the modern era. People work for a company and they steal from them, they have this false idea of entitlement that they can simply take from the company because they are sticking it to the man.

There once many years ago was a wonderful pastry and floral shop close to my house. What I liked about this pastry and floral shop was not the flowers, because I didn't go there to buy flowers. I went there to buy the pastries because the pastries were huge, and they were huge at the average-sized price. We think of the bear claw pastry, well my joke was they served the Kodiak bear claw pastry, because it was a huge bear claw. Most people when they eat a bear claw pastry, they might eat a pastry the size of a closed fist. This particular bear claw pastry was more the size of a show that is sized twelve, thirteen, or fourteen. It was a huge bear claw. The donuts were three times the size of your average donut. The apple fritters looked like they could be the size of an entire pie. The pastries were huge, and this was a wonderful pastry shop. But because employees appropriated to themselves without permission certain things, the pastry shop lost money and went out of business. You see the pastry shop in addition to selling pastries and cakes for weddings also sold flowers. And what did the employees steal from the business? Well, they stole the flowers. When it came time for Mother's Day the flowers went missing. When it came time for Valentine's Day the flowers went missing. Some of the employees took the flowers and sold them on the side, others made sure their friends and family were all taken care of on these days. Yet others just gave them away to customers who smiled nicely. The business lacked the security controls to make sure the employees wouldn't steal from them, and because they suffered extensive floral losses, the business was not viable, and it had to close. And, when the business closed because employees were stealing the flowers, that meant you know, the incredibly large-sized Kodiak bear claws and the donuts that were triple the size you would find anywhere else,

a sad day for those who like food when this particular pastry and floral shop closed down. Let's look at verse sixteen.

16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

When we live with a neighbor, we live next to each other for mutual benefit, for mutual safety. It's important to treat neighbors with courtesy, kindness, and respect. It may not always be possible to get along with neighbors, especially if they have greatly different personalities and perspectives. Sometimes, sadly, cultural differences come into the problems neighbors have with each other. We should live peaceably with all people, because it is only to our benefit when we do that. Verse sixteen tells us we should not bear false witness against our neighbor. We should not lie, and we should especially not lie when it causes a problem or somebody else. Verse seventeen.

17. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Coveting is the lowest form and lowest common denominator to evils that follow. I think of a child that was kidnapped and his parents were brutalized, and it all began with an act of coveting. The perpetrator saw the teenager, wanted the teenager, and everything stemmed from there. It's horrible that coveting can lead to so much grief.

Sometimes people look at the tenth commandment and wonder if they should have any ambition in life. Having ambition and coveting are two different things. When we desire to do something, we should always desire to do something with the understanding that what we desire to do will only happen for us if it is God's will for it to happen in our life. And, if God would want our life to go in another direction, whatever we might want to do, won't happen the way we would want it to happen because it wouldn't go according to God's will. There's a big difference between ambition and coveting. So, if you happen to see your neighbor's house, and you covet it, you would be willing to do something very evil and vile down the road to take your neighbor's house. So, coveting always has this element of wanting something so badly you would take it without any legitimate transaction that would occur for you to acquire that property. So,

when we covet something, we would be willing to take it when there is no merit for us to take it. We would take it through theft or other unsavory means. If we see our neighbor's house and we happen to like our neighbor's house, and we have the financial capacity to make an offer to buy our neighbor's house, that's a different matter. If we see our neighbor's house, and we think, "Wow! They really have done a nice job on their front yard, I would like to do something like that in my front yard," that's OK as well. We wouldn't want to go over at night and steal everything from their front yard and move it over to our front yard. That would be coveting, that would be stealing, that would be wrong. There is nothing wrong in seeing something that we don't have, and working hard to get to that point. But there is something totally wrong with us when we see something that we want, and we develop a scheme or a way to take it when there is no merit for us to have that particular item.

Today, we looked at some of the reasons why the world is so messed up. We took a look at the dietary laws and the land laws. We reviewed the fact that every seven years the land should be allowed to stay fallow, and that anything that grows on its own accord during that year, should be tilled back into the ground so that the nutrients can grow and develop in the land.

We looked at God's law of clean and unclean meats and we learned that many of the verses that people will look at as allowing us to eat clean and unclean meats really do not apply. They are a misunderstanding. And we also learned that the animals that are the unclean animals are really there to serve an ecological purpose. When we look at why the ecosystem is so messed up in the world, part of it is we are eating God's natural garbage disposal system on land and in the ocean, and as a result the world is not as it was intended to be by God. The world is polluted and rather messed up.

Next week, we'll take a look at the Holy Days that God intended for mankind to keep and compare them to the holidays that men typically keep, and we'll see why the holidays men keep are not the holidays we should be keeping as Christians. Thank you for joining us today, God willing, we'll get together again next week on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.

