

ML303 Unclean Creeping Things

Lesson ML301 teaches that “speech without work is dead.” Lesson ML302 teaches that “faith without works is dead.” Jesus likened work to the eating of meat:

Joh 4:31: *In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. 32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.*

This lesson teaches that dead words and dead works bind the soul to the world of death. The mouth speaks from the heart and the body works via the mind. Thus, to escape this spiritual death we must purify our hearts from unclean feelings and our minds from unclean thoughts. The OT provides some special symbols to help identify this uncleanness.

Le 11:29-31: *These also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind, And the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole. These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.*

These creeping things [creepers] are unclean when dead. Their number [8] teaches that we should “put off” what these represent. After “putting off” that which is unclean, you should “put on” that which is clean [see FL204 and ML104].

Some of the definitions listed below are from Strong’s Concordance. These may not apply to the creatures we know today, not because of Darwin’s Theory of Evolution, but because of language translations.

It’s also possible for these to apply to animal families and not to specific members. For example, the members of the weasel family are small, active predators, with long and slender bodies and short legs. These include polecats, mink, badgers, otters, etc. [Wikipedia]. As you can see, “to glide” describes snakes better than any one of these four.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Weasel | to glide swiftly |
| 2 Mouse | nibbling or entangling [as a web] |
| 3 Tortoise | establish, a canopy |
| 4 Ferret | the gecko [focus on its sound] |
| 5 Chameleon | might, power, breathe hard |
| 6 Lizard | to hide |
| 7 Snail | to lie low |
| 8 Mole | changing color? |

What’s important is that we understand how earth bound creepers teach us how to recognize uncleanness within ourselves.

For example, the Tortoise avoids being hurt by withdrawing into its shell. We please God by trusting Him and confronting our enemies in faith — not by hiding from our problems. Even worse, we shouldn’t do as the mole, go underground and live in the darkness. God has called us to be children of the day and not children of the night.