**R782\_Rumination for Jan. 26, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The Creeping Rat** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *These also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things…* ***the mouse****…* Lev. 11:29

The **T**hots:

Intro. Yesterday, Jan. 25, 2020 was the first day of the Chinese New Year.

It is **R**egarded by those who celebrated it as *The Year of the* ***R****at.*

The **C**elebration will last for 15 days when they will **C**onclude it by bringing it into a **C**limax on the fifteenth day of the new moon. What has the **B**ible have to say about the Rat?

* The word "***R****at*" is not found in the King James Version of the Bible. The closest to it is “*mouse*” or "*mice*".
* The Hebrew word, *'akbar* is translated "*mouse/mice/rat/****R****odent*" in different English versions.
* In the NIV, it is translated “***R****at*” and it **O**ccurs 6 times in the **O**T - Lev. 11:29; Isa. 66:17; I Sam. 6:4, 5, 11, 18
* For the Study of the Year of The Rat visit…

<http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/messages-pps/BWGH_2020-Chinese-New-Year-of-the-Rat.ppsx>

<http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/Audio/BWGH_2020-Year-of-the-Rat.mp3>

1. **The Regulations Regarding the Rat Lev. 11:29; Isa. 66:17**
	1. The **R**at is not fit for **C**onsumption. **Lev. 11:29, 42, 43**

*These also shall be unclean unto you among the* ***C****reeping things that* ***C****reep upon the earth;*

*the weasel,* ***and the mouse,*** *and the tortoise after his kind…*

* + 1. The **P**ronouncement on the "**U**nclean" **R**at.
			1. It has legs, but it is **C**ategorised among the "**C**reeping **C**reatures". Lev. 11:42

 The rat was *unclean* because being short-legged it was **C**onsidered a **C**reeping creature.

* **B**eware of Human “Rats” that **C**reep (*Worm*, NIV) into **H**ouses or **H**omes to **C**aptivate. II Tim. 3:6

*For of this sort are they which* ***creep*** *into houses, and lead* ***captive*** *silly women…* KJV

*For among them are those who make their way into households and* ***captivate*** *silly women* NRSV

* They **C**reep into Homes and Target **W**eak-**W**illed **W**omen.
* They **C**aptivate them with their **F**anciful **F**ables.
* Finally, they make them **C**aptive in **F**ollowing them.
* **B**e wary of **C**rafty men who **C**reep in unawares or **S**ecretly **S**lip in into the **C**hurch. Jude 4, NIV

*For there are* ***C****ertain men* ***Crept*** *in unawares…*or*…have* ***S****ecretly* ***S****lipped in among you.*

* + *These* ***L****ibertines turn the grace of our God into “a* ***L****icense for”* ***L****asciviousness [immorality],* NIV
	+ They **D**eny the **D**eity of theLord *-* ***d****enying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

* Be Wary of **C**rafty **C**onfidence tricksters who **C**aptivate gulli**ble** and vulnera**ble** “***C****hildren*” *–*
* *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth* II Tim. 3:7
* The victims’ **I**mmaturity and **I**mmorality make them easy targets.cf. Eph. 4:14
* **B**e Aware of our **C**ommon salvation and earnestly **C**ontend for the Faith. Jude 3 cf. I Pet. 3:15
	+ *Be* ***R****eady always to give an answer to every man that asketh you*

 *A* ***R****eason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

* + *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,*

 ***R****ightly dividing the word of* *truth.* II Tim. 2:15

* + 1. The **P**urpose of the "**U**nclean" **R**egister - Lev. 11:47 cf. II Cor. 6:14-7:1
	1. To make a **D**ifference in the **F**ood to be eaten – to safeguard Physic**al H**ealth. Lev. 11:42, 47
	2. To make a **D**istinction in **F**ellowship – to safeguard Spiritu**al H**oliness. Lev. 11:44, 45
		+ - * *I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:*

 *neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

 *For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God:*

 *ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

1. The **R**at-eaters are marked for **C**ondemnation - **They Set up the Rats’ Table!**  **Isa. 66:17** **Cf. Isa. 65:1-4**
2. Their **S**ecret **S**upper to **S**anctify themselves to their **S**ole leader:

*Those who* ***S****anctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following the one in the centre* (NRSV)

1. They ate ***S****wine's flesh, and the abomination, and the* ***mouse*** *–* an abomination unto the Lord!
2. They ***S****ay,* ***S****tand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou.*
3. The Lord **S**ays, “They…*shall be consumed together*”. Isa. 66:17c
4. **The Remembrance of the Lord or Sitting at The Lord’s Table. I Cor. 10:21; 11:23-26;**
5. The **P**rohibition in the **P**articipation at the Lord’s Table. I Cor. 10:21, NKJV
6. *You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons;*
7. *You cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons…*
8. The **C**ommand to **C**ommemorate the Lord at the Lord’s Table. I Cor. 11:23-26
9. *Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*
10. *Th is cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*
11. *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*

 Are you Remembering the Lord or have you allowed the rats to come into your life

 To make you not to remember Him as He commanded you to?

*And gathered at one table His holy church shall see*

 *Our Master is still calling Do This; Remember Me!* [**Keith H. Mc­Il­wain**](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/m/c/i/mcilwain_kh.htm)

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R.782**

1. Though the rat has four legs it is Categorized as a Creeping Creature, and hence,

Classified as an animal that is not Clean, and not fit for Consumption:

Leviticus 11:29 – *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,*

In the New Testament, Christians are urged *come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,* and *touch not the unclean thing*; *and I will receive you,* *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* (II Cor. 6:17, 18).

Christians are also warned of two-legged creatures that can creep into their lives, e.g.

1. Be Wary of the “*unclean*” two-legged human beings that creep into Homes and Houses:

*For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.* (II Tim. 3:6)

They creep into houses and homes and target unstable women (and even men) who are easily influenced with their so-called amazing tales; captivate them with these “miraculous” stories and fables into believing what they say, with the result that the listeners soon find themselves captives to their insidious thoughts and teachings.

1. Beware too of those two-legged Creatures that Creep into Churches and work their way into leadership positions to Lead the church into Licentious and Libellous teachings and practices against the clear teaching of the Word –

*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Jude 1:4)

They desecrate the Word of God, deny the God of the Bible and decry the claims of Jesus as Lord to lead the church into licentious living and lifestyle, foreign to what is taught in scripture.

1. Beware also of these very same human-creatures that creep into our lives to influence us to live as the world dictates; making us to conform to the principles and practices of the world against what the Word of God teaches –

I Jn. 2:15-17 – *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

To Counter these two-legged human creatures that creep into our Homes/Houses, Churches and our own lives, we need to be Aware of and know the Word of God. Hence,

II Tim. 2:15 – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*.

Do you know the Word enough to be able to counter all these “rats” which seek to creep into your homes, churches and lifestyles to make you conform to them and deny your very God and Lord Jesus Christ? Will you be able to answer them when they seek to captivate you? **REFLECT**

1. The Primary Purpose of God giving His People a list of creatures they could eat and those which they must stay away from was to Safeguard their Spiritual Holiness so that they would live Holy lives, Sacrifice only Clean beasts unto the Lord and be obedient to Him all the way during their journey to the Promised Land.

Today we are also on the Journey of life. It is important that we keep ourselves Holy as God is holy. Are you living a Holy life? Resolve that you will do so in this Year of the Rat? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:**

*Take* ***C****are not to be* ***C****aptivated by the Rats that* ***C****reep into your lives and be* ***C****aptured by them.*

**My wife and I take this Opportunity and Occasion**

**to wish all our Prayer-Partners in the Chinese Community in Christ**

***A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS* (III Jn. 2) *CHINESE NEW YEAR.***