**R939 Rumination for Jan. 22, 2023**

The **T**heme: **The RABBIT** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: ***the rabbit****, though it is bringing up the cud, yet the hoof it divideth not--unclean it is to you;*

Lev. 11:6, YLT

The **T**hots:

Intro. This Lord’s Day **C**oincides with the **C**hinese Lunar **C**alendar of the Year of the Rabbit.

 *Rabbit* is Heb."*arnebeth*", translated `hare' in KJV, `rabbit' in NIV, RV. Occurs only twice in Scripture.

**A. THE BIBLICAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE RABBIT.**

 Consider the **D**ivine **D**ivisions in the classification of animals into *Clean* and *Unclean*. Lev. 11:1-31

**1. The Purpose of Classification**

1. Probably for the Purpose of **S**anitation (For the **H**ealth of **H**is People)

 for their Preservation from **C**ontamination. Cp. II Cor.6:17-7:1

 i. They could not **E**at the Unclean.

ii. They could not **E**xtend their touch the Unclean.

1. Probably for the Purpose of **S**anctification (For the **H**oliness of **H**is Person)

 for their Preservation from **C**onformation. Lev. 11: 44, 45 cp. I Pet. 1:14-17

i. God’s **P**erson is Holy.

ii. God’s **P**eople ought to be Holy.

 c. Probably for the Purpose of **S**eparation, Deut. 14:1-3

 for their **P**reservation from the **A**bomination **A**round.

 i. That they should not **C**onform to their **S**urroundings. ct. Deut.12:30

* The Unclean is an Abomination. Deut. 14:1
* The Abomination is to **C**onform and **C**ompromise. Deut.14:2, 3

ii. That they should not **C**ompromise with the **S**urroundings. "*even so will I do likewise*." Deut.12:30

**2. The Principles of Classification**. (re. quadrupeds)

a. The **Specification** of the **R**ules.

i. To be clean... Deut.14:6 - In Relation to the **W**alk:

* The Hoof must be **C**loven. - Ini**tia**l Separation
* The Cleft must be **C**omplete. - Subsequen**tial** Separation
* The Animal must **C**hew the **C**ud. - In Relation to the **W**ord: Meditation and Digestion

ii. To be unclean... Deut.14:7 - any ONE of the following:

* + The Hoof is not **C**loven,
	+ The **C**left is not **C**omplete,
	+ The Animal does not **C**hew the **C**ud.

 b. The **Classification** of the **R**abbit. It is unclean because...

i. it **C**hews the **C**ud (actually it only goes through the motions only)

* An **E**xercise in **E**xternal Motions only.
* An **E**xternal **E**ating without Internal **I**ngestion.

ii. Its hoof is not **C**loven. (The claws are joined by a membrane).

* No **C**omplete separation in **W**alk; **C**ompromise in **W**itness.

**3. The Parallel Requirements for Participation at the Lord’s Supper.** I Cor. 11:28-29

1. The **R**equired Conditions:

*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.* 11:28

1. The **R**esulting Condemnation:

*For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself,* 11:29a

1. The **R**eason for the Cause:  *not discerning the Lord's body.* 11:29b
2. The **R**ationale - *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:* II Cor. 6:14-18
3. The Need for a **S**tand: *for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?*

 *and what communion hath light with darkness?* 6:14

 *And what concord hath Christ with Belial?*

 *or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?* 6:15

1. The Need for **S**anctification: *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?*

 *for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God,*

 *and they shall be My people.* 6:16

1. The Need for **S**eparation:

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,*

*and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,* 6:17

*And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* 618

***and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.***I Cor. 11:2

*“Come and dine,” the Master calleth, “Come and dine”; You may feast at Jesus’ table all the time;*

*He Who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine, To the hungry calleth now, “Come and dine.”*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 939**

**B. The Spiritual Challenge of the Rabbit** [Continued from Rumination above]

 **1**. But you can be a **C**oney **C**hristian.

 Intro. # A Coney is also in the Rabbit family.

 # Heb."*Shaphan*" translated `coney' in AV, NIV, RV, but is regarded to be a `badger'.

 It occurs in Lev.11:5; Deut.14:7; Psa. 104:18; Pro. 30:26 only.

A **C**oney **C**hristian was once unclean but had been washed clean by Christ’s blood....

 a. A person that touched an unclean **C**arcass must be **W**ashed. cp. Lev. 11:39, 40

 (Note: even an unclean animal could be made **C**lean! cp. Acts 10:13-16)

 i. Be **W**aiting, and Repent from your **W**ays. An unclean person is `*unclean until the evening'*.

 ii. Be **W**ashed of your **W**ays and put on Christ – *Wash his clothes*

* + - * Cp. "*Put off*" - Col. 3:8-9, 5-7.
			* Cp. "*Put on*" - Col. 3: 10,12-14

 iii. Be **W**ashed in the **W**ater of the **W**ord - "*shall wash*" Psa. 11:9, NKJV  *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

 b. … must be **W**ise. Who are the Wise? Pro. 30:24-28

 i. The Ants, in summer they stock their **F**ood.

 ii. The Coneys, they make the rocks their **F**ortresses.

 iii. The Locusts, unity is their **F**orte.

 iv. The Spiders, they work hard and live life to the **F**ull.

 c. …must be **W**on (Restored) to the Lord again.

 The Lord is the Rock. Psa. 18:2

 i. The Rock **S**helters. `*my Fortress'*

 ii. The Rock **S**aves. `*my Deliverer'/`the Rock of my Salvation'*

 iii. The Rock **S**trengthens.

 iv. The Rock **S**hields.

 v. The Rock **S**atisfies. Ex. 16:6, Deut.8:15 cp. Psa.81:13-16

Conclusion: This Chinese New Year, will you want to be

 (1) an *Arnebeth*, Unclean, Worldly, a Semblance of a Christian

 going through the Motions of Christian Living; **Knowing but not Doing?**

 (2) a *Shaphan*, Unclean but Cleansed by the Word,

 Finding **R**efuge in the Word,

 Satisfaction and Power for the Christian Walk in the **R**ock; **Knowing and Doing?**

"NOW THAT YOU KNOW THESE THINGS,

 YOU WILL BE BLESSED IF YOU DO THEM." **REFLECT**

**2**. During Chinese New Year, many Chinese families, relatives and friends meet for a ceremony they call “*Yee Sang*”. What is Yee Sang? From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia:

*Yee Sang…or Prosperity Toss…is a Cantonese-style raw fish salad. It usually consists of strips of raw fish (sometimes salmon), mixed with shredded vegetables and a variety of sauces and condiments, among other ingredients…Yusheng literally means "raw fish" but since "fish (魚)" is commonly conflated with its homophone "abundance (余)", Yúshēng (魚生) is interpreted as a homophone for Yúshēng (余升) meaning an increase in abundance. Therefore, yusheng* is considered a symbol of abundance, prosperity and vigour.

*The recipe generally includes ingredients such as shredded white and green radish and carrots, ginger slices, onion slices, crushed peanuts, pomelo, pepper, essence of chicken, oil, salt, vinegar, sugar and more.*

One wonders if the one dish of *yee sang* can be compared to the one body of the church composed of men and women of various races and cultures baptised together into the one body of Christ (I Cor. 12:12, 13) enjoying the prosperity of sins forgiven and the love of the Lord binding them together in one faith, one hope and one love. **Ephesians 4:4-6**

 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

 *One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of* ***all****, who is above* ***all****,*

 *and through* ***all****, and in you* ***all****.* **REFLECT**

***Blessed Bountiful Chinese New Year to the Chinese Brethren***

**and to All*, A Prosperous (Josh. 1:8; Psa. 1:3) Yee Sang in the Lord.***

 **Points To Ponder:** *One For* ***All*** *and* ***All*** *For One in the One Body of Christ.*