



# **MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS; SHOULD THEY BE CONSUMED TOGETHER?**

By George Lujack

A misunderstanding of Scripture verses has resulted in different dietary doctrines among Messianics, Jews, and Christians concerning meat and dairy consumption. This article will properly analyze and interpret the associated Scripture verses involved and will discuss the differing beliefs.

## **EXODUS 23:19, 34:26; DEUTERONOMY 14:21:**

**Do not cook a calf in its mother's milk.**

## **GENESIS 18:7-8:**

**And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hurried to prepare it. AND HE TOOK CURDS AND MILK AND THE CALF, which he had prepared, and put it before them and he stood by them under the tree AS THEY ATE.**

## **MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCT KASHRUT KOSHER RULES**

Mainstream Judaism teaches that consuming meat and dairy products together is prohibited based on God's command, repeated 3-times in Scripture, to not cook a calf in its mother's milk. Rabbinical Judaism does not allow the mixing or the eating of meat and dairy products together. During the human digestive process, consumed food literally seethes or boils inside the stomach where food is saturated in digestive acid and is chemically broken down. Therefore, Rabbinical Judaism concludes that eating meat and milk-derived dairy products together is prohibited. Meat is not to be eaten or cooked with milk, butter, cheese, or any other dairy product. Meat and dairy products are not to be consumed together within a time period spanning two to four hours (the time it normally takes food to pass from the stomach).

Jewish Talmud kashrut kosher law requires households to make provisions that meat does not come into contact with dairy. A Jewish kashrut kosher household will have at least two sets of refrigerators, dishes, pots, pans, and utensils: one set for meat and one set for dairy products. This is Jewish traditional law that far exceeds what Scripture requires. These misguided sets of rules are reminiscent of the ‘washing of hands before eating’ traditional law of the elders spoken of by the Pharisees and scribes. Yeshua (Jesus) explained that the doctrine requiring the washing of hands before eating was a false doctrine and commandment of men (Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13).

**MARK 7:7-8:**

**And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, AS THE WASHING OF POTS AND CUPS, AND MANY OTHER SUCH THINGS YOU DO.**

Rabbinical Judaism’s doctrine of prohibiting the cooking and eating of meat and milk-derived dairy products together is an incorrect interpretation of God’s command against “cooking a calf in its mother’s milk,” failing to cross-reference and acknowledge the Scripture verse (Genesis 18:7-8) that shows that meat and dairy may be served and consumed together. Due to this misinterpretation and basic lack of a precept upon precept comparison of Scripture, an erroneous belief prohibiting the consumption of meat and dairy products together has become a false doctrine and tradition. Jewish kashrut kosher rules forbidding the eating of meat and milk-derived dairy products together is incorrect.

**MEAT WITH MILK**

Scripture confirms that meat and dairy products may be consumed together as Abraham served YHWH (the Lord) and his other guests meat and dairy for a meal. Abraham served a calf together with milk and curds to YHWH (the Lord) and the two men who were with Him and they did eat (Genesis 18:7-8).

YHWH (the Lord) did not admonish Abraham for serving meat and dairy together. It is not possible that YHWH (the Lord) would eat meat and dairy together if this was a violation of God’s dietary laws. If it were unlawful to eat meat and dairy together, Abraham, as well as YHWH (the Lord) and the men with Him, would be guilty of sin by violating a dietary law. Since YHWH (the Lord) did eat what Abraham served and did not rebuke Abraham for serving meat and dairy together, we can conclude that meat and dairy consumed together is permissible.

Genesis 18:7-8 is scriptural proof that meat and milk-based dairy products may be consumed together. What then is the meaning or interpretation of what God commanded when He said to not boil (seethe) a young goat (kid) in its mother’s milk (Exodus 23:19, 34:26; Deuteronomy 14:21)?

Cattle are not mothers of lambs. If one was to eat lamb and drink a glass of milk from a cow, the milk consumed did not come from the lamb’s mother. Therefore, the rabbinical command and doctrine of not eating ALL meat and ALL dairy products together, from ALL mammal species, far exceeds the specific command to not eat a young mammal with its OWN MOTHER’S MILK.

## PROPER INTERPRETATION

The Scripture verses regarding not cooking a calf in its mother's milk should be interpreted in the following way:

### **EXODUS 23:19, 34:26; DEUTERONOMY 14:21:**

**Do not cook a calf in (THAT IS STILL FEEDING ON) its mother's milk.**

## NURSING MAMMALS

The command not to boil/seethe a young goat/kid in its mother's milk literally means not to boil/seethe (COOK) a young goat/kid (CALF) in (THAT IS STILL FEEDING ON) its mother's milk. Milk is 'in' a calf that is nursing milk from its mother. All mammals nurse their newborn young, and while young mammals are still feeding on their mother's milk, we are commanded not to cook or consume them. The command equates to: Do not cook young calves while their mother's milk is in them, or: Do not cook young calves when they are still nursing on their mother's milk. Cattle nurse their calves during their first 6 to 8 months. It is prohibited to cook a calf while it is in (nursing on) its mother's milk. This would prohibit the eating of veal, where young cattle are slaughtered while they are still nursing on their mother's milk. If you cook and consume veal, you are cooking and eating a calf that literally still has its mother's milk digesting and providing nutrition inside it. Mammals should first be weaned off their mother's milk before they are slaughtered for meat and consumed.

## SIMILAR MERCY COMMANDS

### **LEVITICUS 22:28:**

**Do not slaughter a cow or a sheep and its young on the same day.**

### **DEUTERONOMY 22:6-7:**

**When you come upon a bird's nest along the way, in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs, with the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, do not take the mother with the young – let the mother go without fail and take the young for yourself, so that it might be well with you and that you have prolonged days.**

The command against cooking young mammals while they are nursing on their mother's milk is a command demonstrating God's mercy towards animals, similar to Leviticus 22:28 and Deuteronomy 22:6-7. God commands us to not slaughter (and therefore eat) mammals and their offspring on the same day (Leviticus 22:28). Additionally, God prohibits us from capturing (slaughtering) a bird with her chicks or eggs, commanding us to let the mother go free (and live). This command of mercy, to let the mother bird go free (and live) and keep the chicks or eggs, comes with a promise of wellness and longevity.

## STRANGLERED ANIMALS

It is a command to abstain from eating mammals or birds with blood that have been strangled (Leviticus 19:26; 1 Samuel 14:33-34; Acts 15:20,29, 21:25). The command to avoid strangled creatures is also a mercy command. The most humane way to properly slaughter animals for their meat is to make a quick deep stroke across their neck with a clean sharp blade to drain their body of blood.

Messianic and other believers who wish to properly obey the command not to cook a calf in its mother's milk should simply avoid eating veal, the most common mammal calf that is slaughtered while still nursing on its mother's milk. Cooking and consuming veal is a violation of Exodus 23:19, 34:26 and Deuteronomy 14:21. Meat and dairy products can otherwise be consumed together. So go ahead and enjoy your cheeseburger, as long as it is grass-fed, hormone-free, lean, and low fat!