



NURSING CALVES (VEAL): - UNCLEAN -

NURSING CALVES (VEAL): UNCLEAN

By George Lujack

Most Jewish rabbinical authorities have an erroneous understanding of the Exodus and Deuteronomy Scripture verses concerning cooking a calf in its mother's milk, which prohibits the cooking and eating of veal meat. These verses are closely related to the mercy commands regarding the humane slaughter of animals. This article will argue the case against veal being classified as clean kosher meat, and will declare veal to be UNCLEAN.

Cattle (bulls and cows) are clean animals. Veal is the meat from cattle calves that haven't yet been weaned off from nursing on milk. Veal meat products are often certified, marketed, and sold as kosher. Calves that haven't been weaned off from nursing on their mother's milk, that are being nourished by their mother's milk, and have their mother's milk 'in' them should not be cooked, nor eaten, and should be considered unclean.

EXODUS 23:19, 34:26; DEUTERONOMY 14:21: Do not cook a calf in its mother's milk.

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 (OR EAT) a calf in (THAT IS STILL FEEDING ON) its mother's milk.

NURSING CALVES

The command not to cook a calf in its mother's milk literally means not to cook a calf in (THAT HAS MILK INSIDE IT) from its mother. Milk is 'in' a calf that is nursing milk from its mother. While young mammals are still feeding on their mother's milk, we are commanded not to cook and thereby not consume them. The command equates to: Do not cook, or eat, young calves while their mother's milk is in them, or: Do not cook, or eat, 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 or eat a calf while it is in (nursing on) its mother's milk. Milk is inside the calf, and is being digested and used as nourishment. This would prohibit the eating of veal, as young cattle would have to be slaughtered while they are still nursing on their mother's milk. If a person cooks and consumes veal, he or she is cooking and eating a calf that literally still has its mother's milk digesting and providing nourishment inside it. Calves should first be weaned off their mother's milk before they are slaughtered for meat and eaten. Veal meat, meat from a calf still nursing on milk, has a distinctively different texture and taste than matured beef.

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 calves 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.



VEAL: BAD

If a promise of wellness and prolonged days comes to those who obey God's mercy commands concerning animals, the alternative could be the case if those commands are ignored and violated. If a person slaughters and consumes a hen together with its eggs, or cooks and then eats a calf that is still feeding on its mother's milk (veal), and continually does this throughout his or her life, then a curse of sickness and a shortened lifespan could ensue. If sickness and shortened days could result from continually eating veal, then veal should be considered unclean.

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.

Genesis 18:7-8 shows that it is permissible to eat young calves, but it should be concluded that the calf served by Abraham was a mature young calf and had been weaned off from feeding on its mother's milk.

Messianic and others believers obeying God's dietary commands should avoid eating veal, the most common calves that are slaughtered while still nursing on milk. Cooking and eating veal is a violation of Exodus 23:19, 34:26, and Deuteronomy 14:21.