

# Peter's Vision and the Question of Clean and Unclean Foods

**Shalom Family, let's dive into this topic together and see what the Word of Yah reveals.**

One of the most debated passages in the New Testament concerning food is Peter's vision in Acts 10. Many use this account to claim that Yah has cleansed all foods, meaning that believers may now eat pork, shellfish, and other animals previously declared unclean in the Torah. But is this really what Peter's vision means? Let us carefully examine the Scriptures and see what they actually say.

## Peter's Vision in Acts 10

Acts 10:9–16 says:

*Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "Not so, Master! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What Elohim has cleansed you must not call common." This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.*

Notice a few important things:

1. Peter had walked with Yahshua for years, yet he still confessed, I have never eaten anything common or unclean. This shows that even after Yahshua's death and resurrection, Peter had not changed his eating habits.
2. Peter resisted the command, showing he did not interpret this vision as literal instruction to eat unclean animals.
3. The vision happened three times, emphasizing that Yah was teaching something important, but not about diet.

## The Interpretation of the Vision

The Scripture itself explains the meaning. Just a few verses later, when Peter enters Cornelius' house, he declares in Acts 10:28:

*You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But Elohim has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.*

The vision was not about food, it was about people. Yah was showing Peter that Gentiles who feared Him and practiced righteousness were not to be considered unclean.

Later, Peter retold this vision to the believers in Jerusalem in Acts 11:8:

*I said, Not so, Master: for nothing common or unclean has at any time entered into my mouth.*

Some might argue Peter was simply recalling his past statement from Acts 10. But notice how Luke records it in both chapters. Whether Peter was restating or recalling, the point remains: even after the vision, Peter still had not eaten unclean foods. The vision was never about a change in diet, but a change in how Israel was to view Gentile believers.

## **Paul's Harmony with Peter**

Some claim Paul taught differently than Peter regarding clean and unclean foods. But when we examine Paul's letters, we see that he also upheld Torah. In Galatians 2, Paul even rebuked Peter, not for eating unclean foods, but for withdrawing from Gentile believers out of fear of men. This further proves the controversy was about fellowship with Gentiles, not food laws.

## **What About 1 Timothy 4:4–5?**

A commonly used passage is Paul's words:

*For every creature of Elohim is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of Elohim and prayer. (1 Timothy 4:4–5)*

Many use this to argue that you can eat anything as long as you pray over it. But notice the context. Paul warned about false teachers in 1 Timothy 4:3:

*Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which Elohim created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

The key is this: Paul is talking about foods which Elohim created to be received. Yah never created pigs, shellfish, or other unclean animals to be food. He did create cows, sheep, goats, clean fish, and other animals for eating.

When Paul says “every creature of Elohim is good,” he adds a condition: if it is sanctified by the word of Elohim and prayer. The Torah (Word of Elohim) tells us which animals are sanctified for food (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14). **Prayer does not override the Word, it agrees with it.**

Therefore, Paul is not saying prayer makes unclean food clean. He is teaching that we should not reject the clean foods Yah created for us, but instead receive them with thanksgiving and prayer.

The Scriptures are consistent from beginning to end. Yah does not change (Malachi 3:6). Yahshua did not come to abolish the Torah, but to fulfill it and teach us how to live it (Matthew 5:17–19). Peter’s vision in Acts 10 was not a license to eat unclean animals, but a lesson that Gentiles who fear Elohim are not to be called unclean. Paul’s writings, when read in context, agree fully with this.

The idea that one can pray over living things to make it clean is a misunderstanding of 1 Timothy 4. True food is what Yah created to be received, sanctified by His Word. Our part is to obey Him, give thanks, and walk in holiness.

In the end, the message of Acts 10 is not about changing Yah’s dietary laws, it is about the widening of His family. Jew and Gentile together, both called to live in obedience to His Word, both cleansed through Messiah, and both welcomed at His table.

**Until we meet again, may we continue to walk in the undeniable truth of Yah’s Word.**

**Shalom,**

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