

Does The Bible Teach Vegetarianism?

There are many people in the world today who are either vegetarian or vegan. In many cases it's because they believe it's immoral to kill and eat animals. They claim that by eating only vegetables they are morally superior to others.

It's true that when God initially created the world He commanded Adam and Eve to only eat plants:

Genesis 1:29-30: “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.”

As you can see, in the beginning God commanded *all living creatures* to only eat plants! This applied to both people and animals. It even included all birds and insects as well. Absolutely *nothing* ate animals (including other animals). That was the rule.

However, things didn't remain that way forever. After the Flood the Lord expanded people's diet to include animals as well:

Genesis 9:1-4: “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the earth, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth

shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”

God is the one who allowed mankind to kill and eat every animal in the world. There were none that He withheld from them. The Lord gave mankind the right to eat meat. It was His decision.

Now, God didn't have to do this. He could have continued to require His people to eat only vegetables, but He didn't. God was the one who gave mankind permission to kill and eat animals. No one forced Him to do this, and there's no evidence that He did it reluctantly.

It's true that, for a time, God put certain dietary restrictions on the Jews. There were some animals they were allowed to eat, while others were forbidden. However, those restrictions were temporary. After Jesus died and rose again, God told the apostle Peter that the old dietary restrictions were no longer in place:

Acts 10:10-15: “And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.”

God was the one who told Peter to rise up, kill animals,

and eat them. Peter actually resisted this command, and God told him to stop resisting. Since God had cleansed the animals, they could be killed and eaten. It wasn't wrong for him to do so.

It's not a sin for people to kill and eat animals. Jesus was sinless and He ate meat. In fact, He even ate meat *after* His resurrection:

Luke 24:42-43: “And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them.”

Not only did Jesus eat meat, but He also served it to His disciples:

John 21:9: “As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.”

John 21:12: “Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.”

If it was sinful, wicked, or immoral to eat meat then Jesus never would have done it, and He would never have served it to others. Yet He did both of those things! Eating meat clearly isn't a vile thing in God's sight.

But it doesn't stop there. God said that forbidding people to eat meat is a doctrine of *devils*:

1 Timothy 4:1-5: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created

to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

Do you see how this verse says that God created meat to be received with thanksgiving? If God created meat as a great blessing we should receive with thanksgiving then it's clearly not a sin to partake of it! It's not a sin to eat meat – but it *is* a sin to commanding people to not eat meat. Those who do that are proclaiming a doctrine of devils.

Those who refuse to eat meat aren't taking a bold moral stance. Instead they're publicly proving that they have weak faith:

Romans 14:1-3: Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.”

Now, it's not a sin to only eat vegetables. The church must receive those who make that choice. However, it *is* a sign of weak faith. This is because God has not only given us the right to eat meat, but He wants us to receive it with thanksgiving and enjoy it. When people reject that and claim eating meat is morally wrong, they're proclaiming a demonic doctrine. They're saying that God was wrong to give people the right to eat meat – but God is never wrong.