

Chapter 10

IS THE BIBLE TRUE? **Yes! Hares Do Chew the Cud**



How could the digestive process of the lowly hare become the object of an important educational, political and theological discussion? How hares digest their food is more interesting than one would first assume. The Bible says that the hare chews the cud, but a certain humanist book claims that the Bible is in error on this point. Furthermore, this humanist book claims that since the Bible contains this error, it is not the Word of God and cannot be taken seriously on any other points either. These are serious charges. On the other hand, if the humanists be wrong on this point, perhaps it is they whom we should not take seriously on any other points either.

So let's study the hare closely to see if the Bible is indeed wrong, or if it is these atheistic religious humanists who are wrong.

The Bible Says Hares Chew the Cud

These religious humanists are right about one thing: the Bible does teach that hares chew the cud.

Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you. (Deut. 14:7)

And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. (Lev. 11:6)

These two passages of Scripture very clearly state that the children of Israel were not to eat the hare because the hare chews the cud but does not have a divided hoof. (Some people believe that not all hares can be considered rabbits. However, everyone seems to agree that all rabbits are hares. So, for this article the two terms will be used interchangeably.) It is correct to say that the Bible does, indeed, teach that rabbits (hares) chew the cud.

Humanists Say Hares Do Not Chew the Cud

It cannot be said that *all* humanists teach that hares do not chew the cud, for we would have to question every humanist in the world to ascertain that. However, it can truthfully be said that some very well known ones do so say. Rod L. Evans and Irwin M. Berent have written a book titled *Fundamentalism: Hazard and Heartbreaks* which has a forward by Steve Allen and an introduction by Isaac Asimov. Allen and Asimov are big names in the Humanist movement. Asimov was one of the signers of *Humanist Manifesto II* and has

written many books opposing Christianity and teaching humanism, and was till his death president of the American Humanist Association, so we can safely conclude that he would not have written the introduction to this book unless it was in accord with his humanistic views. This book is a collection of many of the excuses atheists have given over the years for rejecting God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ. Most of these excuses were proven erroneous years ago shortly after they were given, and only dishonest people would continue to use them. However, there was one excuse listed in this book that was new (at least to me). On page 86 of their book, Evans and Berent state:

Evidently the belief in perfect Biblical accuracy is also a misconception. For Leviticus 11:6 states that “the hare . . . chews the cud . . .”, which is a demonstrably false statement.¹⁶³

Since Evans and Berent make this statement publicly in a book devoted totally to discrediting people “who believe that the Bible is infallible,”¹⁶⁴ it behooves us to see if these two atheistic religious humanists really base everything on conclusions reached by the scientific method, as they claim. Or are they simply spouting off some of the “profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called” we are warned about in 1 Tim 6.20?

What Are the Facts

Surprisingly little is known about hares. Until relatively recent times, few scientific studies were made of them. R.M. Lockley, a distinguished British biologist and field naturalist, is among the foremost hare experts. His book, *The Private Life of the Rabbit: An Account of the life and History and Social Behavior of the Wild Rabbit* (New York, Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1964), details his fascinating research and provides an authoritative answer to our question.

Lockley spent most of his life studying rabbits. As a child he raised rabbits. When he was twenty he obtained the lease to “240-acre Skokholm island, five miles off the entrance to Milford Haven.”¹⁶⁵ His intention was to kill off the wild rabbit population on this island so that he could raise a more valuable strain of rabbit which had fur resembling that of the chinchillas. He performed many experiments to try to control the wild rabbit population on this island. Says Lockley,

Indirectly my experience in studying rabbit control methods at Skokholm led to an invitation from the Nature Conservancy to investigate on their behalf the progress of myxomatosis, when it broke out in England in 1953; and subsequently from 1954 to 1959 I was able to carry out a life-history study of the rabbit on my small estate of Orierton in Pembrokeshire.¹⁶⁶

Lockley and his helpers built a special observatory where they could observe wild rabbits up close, both above ground and in their burrows, without disturbing the rabbits. From his careful and systematic observations in this unique observatory, Lockley became one of the foremost authorities on rabbits.

Chapter 10 of Lockley’s book is titled “Reingestion.” He begins this chapter by quoting Leviticus chapter 11, as we did at the beginning of this article. He then reports that rabbits do little underground except rest, sleep, and preen themselves. However, there is one exception to this relative lack of activity while underground. Writes Lockley:

So long as we could watch the rabbits underground we had an ideal opportunity to study the phenomena of coprophagy or reingestion.

The fact that rabbits . . . and hares ‘chew the cud’ was recorded in the Bible. It is mentioned in Leviticus, Chapter 11, . . . Also (the Jewish law of clean and unclean meats) in Deuteronomy XIV. . . . Later writers, even authorities on both wild and domestic rabbits, have seldom referred to this phenomenon. In general, textbooks on rabbit physiology and management ignore the subject, not because of its lowly theme but because the authors apparently were ignorant of it. Since its recent rediscovery it has been called ‘reingestion,’ a suitable term implying that it is a form of re-eating and redigestion of food.¹⁶⁷

Lockley goes on to explain that rabbits chew their cuds differently than cows, goats or sheep, which

¹⁶³ Rod L. Evans and Irwin M. Berent, *Fundamentalism: Hazard and Heartbreaks*, foreword by Steve Allen, introd. by Issac Asimov (La Salle, Illinois: Open Court Publishing Company, 1988), 86.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, xix.

¹⁶⁵ R.M. Lockley, *The Private Life of the Rabbit: An Account of the Life and History and Social Behavior of the Wild Rabbit*, introd. by Richard Adams (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1964), 14.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 101–02.

regurgitate their food and rechew it. The rabbit, instead, eats its own excrement (faecal pellets), and thus redigests them. Usually this occurs during the daytime underground as the rabbit is resting. Occasionally this was observed above ground, but

could easily be overlooked by the casual observer. A swift bending of the head during which the long ears almost touched the ground between the hind legs, then the rabbit's head would come up and the jaws work for a few seconds as the pellet was swallowed and the tongue licked around inside the mouth afterwards. In the rabbit there is a curious infolding of the lower lips over the space between the incisor and molar teeth which protects and hides the tongue. The observer could not see the faeces because of the masking action and the closed mouth.¹⁶⁸

We are forced to conclude that simple faith in God's Word would have resulted long ago in scientists looking more specifically, and therefore seeing, rabbits chewing their cud. But unbelief kept them blinded to the facts.

But Do Hares Really "Chew" the Cud?

Lockley reports that researchers Mervyn Griffiths and David Davies in Australia have

demonstrated that each soft pellet is separate and by the time it reaches the rectum is enveloped in a strong membrane. . . . These soft pellets pass down to the rectum in glossy clusters. They are swallowed whole by the rabbit, that is, without breaking the enveloping membranes. This in itself is a remarkable feat, as, although the rabbit (under observation in the open as well as in our artificial burrow) sometimes appears to chew this faecal 'cud' after collecting it from the anus, with movements of the jaws varying in time from one to over one hundred seconds, Griffiths and Davies assert that the soft pellets are found whole in the stomach and therefore must be swallowed whole. The movement of the jaws may therefore be solely a swallowing, followed by a cleaning action of the tongue, during which saliva is ingested along with the soft pellets and must aid in the digestive process.¹⁶⁹

So, are the pellets (cud) chewed or not? It is perhaps impossible to ever observe what is actually going on inside the rabbit's mouth as it appears to chew the cud. I would suggest that since the Bible was right about the rabbit having a cud, it is also right about the rabbit chewing the cud. Perhaps the chewing is gentle enough so as to not break the membrane, but rough enough to crush its contents so as to make redigestion easier. This certainly seems possible as Lockley says that "the membrane is quite tough",¹⁷⁰ and would account for the fact that the rabbit spends from "one to over 100 seconds" doing something with its jaws that certainly appears to be chewing after taking the cud into its mouth. One thing for certain: God's Word has certainly proven to be more accurate than the speculation of unbelievers. Is it not significant that unbelieving "scientists" have not known about a rabbit's cud for thousands of years even though the fact of it is recorded in the oldest book on earth? It should be obvious to all that the Bible is no ordinary book to be set aside lightly.

Conclusion

Having proved humanists wrong on yet another point in which they contest the Bible, how can we trust anything they say any longer? All my life I have been examining the claims of unbelievers that there are errors in the Bible. In every case to date, after careful examination the Bible has proven to be correct and the men that questioned it have proven to be in error. God's Word has without exception proven itself fully qualified to correct men, while men have shown themselves to be totally unqualified to correct God's Word. The wise man will agree with the Bible: "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4).

Perhaps the most important lesson to be learned from this study about hares chewing the cud is this: had we gone to the library at an earlier point in history we may not have been able to find any books supporting the Bible position concerning this matter. However, the Bible would still have been true, and the men who disputed it would have been wrong. Sometimes direct research has to be done to confirm the accuracy of a questioned Bible verse, but the Bible is always proven to be true in the end.

The cud of a hare is just one example of proof that the so-called "science" of humanism is not actually science at all, but is mere philosophy—unproven opinions of men—superstition. A true scientist reports only what he observes. But no one has ever observed life come spontaneously from dead matter, or a non-

¹⁶⁸ Ibid., 103.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid., 105.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid., 106.

human give birth to a human. No one has ever observed an animal of one kind give birth to an animal of a different kind. These are the presuppositions of the religion of evolution. The fact that humanists claim such unscientific theories to be scientific shows that they are unable to look at anything without bias. The truth is that they approach all aspects of life with the fanatical belief that “the only absolute is that there are no absolutes.” They have espoused such a silly idea because God claims to be absolute authority, and the Bible claims to be the absolute truth, and so they must reject both God and the Bible to keep from feeling guilty when they purposely break God’s laws which are recorded in the Bible. Therefore, rejection of absolutes is inseparable from atheism.

The moment a person rejects absolutes that person declares war on God and Christianity, for if God is not absolute in holiness as the Bible of Christianity teaches, then there must be a better morality than God’s, in which case the Christian teaching that Christian morality is perfect would be a great hindrance to progress and therefore a great evil. As Sir Julius Huxley, one of Humanism’s most famous champions, states in *The Humanist Frame*,

Humanism . . . will have nothing to do with Absolutes, including absolute truth, absolute morality, absolute perfection and absolute authority. . . . any belief in supernatural creators, rulers, or influencers of natural or human process introduces an irreparable split into the universe, and prevents us from grasping its real unity. Any belief in Absolutes, whether the absolute validity of moral commandments, of authority of revelation, of inner certitude, or of divine inspiration, erects a formidable barrier against progress and the possibility of improvement, moral, rational, or religious.¹⁷¹

This rejection of absolutes is why humanists spend so much time, energy, and resources opposing Christianity.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to reason with most humanists. One cannot have a logical discussion with a person who believes one cannot be absolutely sure about anything, and that nothing matters except winning the argument. Since humanists are not absolutely sure that what they themselves believe is true, they possess no solid, unchanging values. Thus it is impossible to find a mutually accepted foundation upon which to base logic so as to be able to persuade them of anything. The moment they see that their challenger’s argument is valid, they change their belief so as to make their challengers efforts to communicate with them fruitless.

A humanist can justify any evil behavior—even murder of unborn babies, robbery, rape, or sodomy—with a giddy “nothing is absolutely wrong.” Having no clear concept of right and wrong, such a person constantly changes positions, and lies, sincerely believing that even lying is not absolutely wrong. Such a person therefore cannot be of high integrity or character, for he can never be trusted to tell the truth or to keep his promises.

Consider how stupid and illogical this foundational ideological belief of humanism actually is. If there are no absolutes, then it cannot be absolutely true that there are no absolutes. And if it is not absolutely true that there are no absolutes, then it must be absolutely false that there are no absolutes. And if it be absolutely false that there are no absolutes, then it must be absolutely true that there are absolutes.

Obviously then when a person rejects absolutes he is intentionally closing his eyes to the light. He can’t see because he won’t see. This is why rejecting God and the Bible makes it impossible for a person to ever find truth.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** (2 Tim. 3:1-7)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov. 1:7)

To the law and to the testimony: **if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.** (Is. 8:20)

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:8-9).

One is also reminded of Rom 1:28: “. . . as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them

¹⁷¹ Julian Huxley, *The Humanist Frame*, 14 and 40.

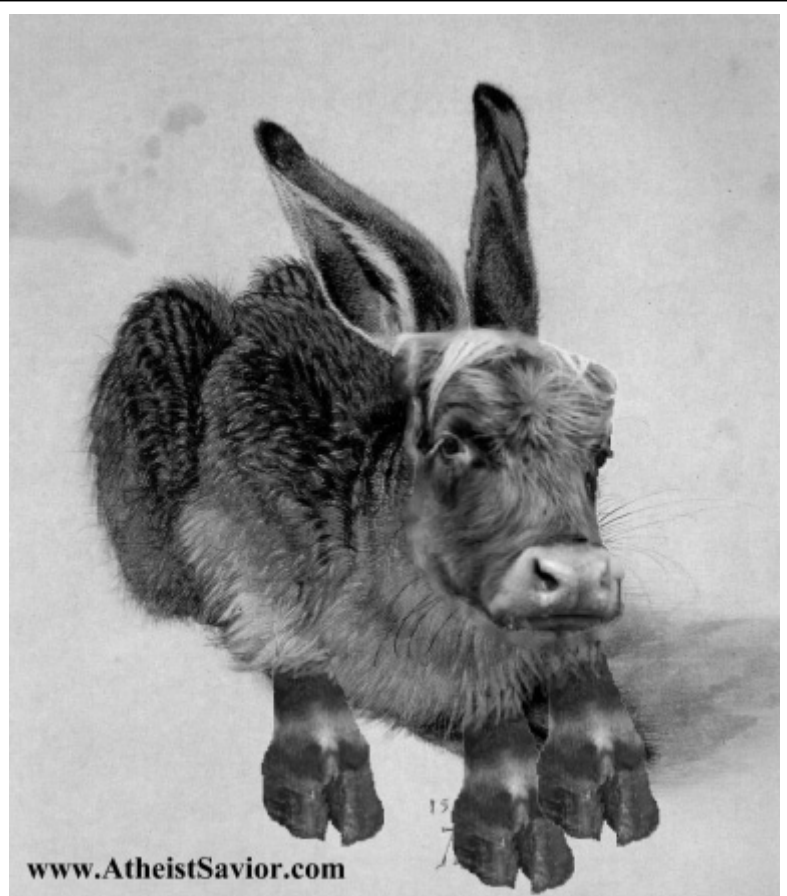
over to a reprobate mind.” Webster’s New World Dictionary, Second Edition, defines reprobate as “depraved, corrupt, unprincipled; rejected by God; excluded from salvation and lost in sin.” Such is the humanist mind—a high price to pay for closing ones eyes to the plain facts of all true science.

UPDATE

This chapter is an edited version of an article written by the author years ago. Other Christian authors also pointed out these facts. All these articles showing the truth put the humanists on the defensive, and they began to publish articles defending what Evan and Berent had written and Allen and Asimov had endorsed. All of these humanist articles that the author has read can be summed as: The Bible is wrong in Lev. 11:6 and in Deut. 14:7 because what the word “cud” means in that verse is not what modern science says the word “cud” means. Interpretation of that humanist argument: humanists can win only by redefining words so that they no longer mean what they originally meant. That is intellectual dishonesty. Lenny Esposito is correct in saying,

Now, we must also remember that artiodactyls were first defined as a separate order in 1847 by Richard Owen and the behavior of cecotropy was first recognized in 1882. Deuteronomy, however, was written approximately 1500 BC in an ancient Hebrew. It would be intellectually dishonest for someone to claim that a 3500 year old writing is contradictory because it doesn't match with a scientific classification invented only about a hundred years ago. Further, if the ancient Hebrews defined 'cud-chewing' as that process where half digested vegetation was re-chewed by an animal for easier re-digestion (and that is a very specific and scientific definition), I would say the hare fits here fine.¹⁷²

¹⁷² Lenny Esposito, “Does the Hare Really Chew Cud?” *ComeReason.Org* (2007), [Http://www.comereason.org/bibl_cntr/con055.asp](http://www.comereason.org/bibl_cntr/con055.asp).



One atheist published this Photoshopped image to mock what the Bible says about hares chewing the cud. But actually the joke is on him. Atheists believe that new kinds of animals such as this can actually happen. According to them, their god, Evolution, is still making new kinds of animals like this even today! They've never seen it happen; but they have faith! They claim to have common ancestry with the apes. But Apes take that as an insult!