

Biblical Kosher Defined (March 2019)

B'nai Chayim is a Messianic Jewish congregation which recognizes the authority of the Bible in all things, ***nothing more and nothing less***.

Kosher is described in two places in the Bible, Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Kosher describes which animals are safe to eat, ***nothing more and nothing less***.

There are only **FIVE** kinds of animals according to the Bible.

1. **Animals that walk.** They must have hooves that are divided and split. Pigs, horses and all animals with paws or feet are not Kosher. The big kosher **FOUR** are: Beef, Mutton, Goat, and most antelope, including buffalo and deer.
2. **Animals that crawl**, must have jumping legs. Locusts and grasshoppers, not spiders or ants. Frogs are not kosher because they only jump and do not crawl.
3. **Animals that Slither.** No animals that slither are kosher (snakes, snails, slugs)
4. **Animals that fly** must have feathers and animals with wings must fly. The big kosher four are: chicken, turkey, ducks and geese, along with many game birds. Birds that **scavenge** are not kosher (sea gulls, crows, eagles, vultures) and neither are those who **eat fish or meat** (pelicans, albatross, owls etc.) Bats are not kosher, neither are ostriches, penguins, or kiwi).
5. **Animals which swim** must have fins and scales. They are kosher even if they are carnivorous like tuna. Whales, seals, and sharks are not kosher, neither are cat fish or sturgeon. No crustaceans (shell fish) are kosher (crabs, lobsters, clams, muscles). Octopus and squid are not kosher.

Three more considerations that relate to the difference between Talmudic Kosher and Biblical Kosher.

1. The life is in the blood, so we are not to eat animals alive. Once they are killed, the life is no longer in the blood and their meat may be eaten (and gravy may be made).
2. You should not boil a baby goat in its mother's milk, but you can mix dairy products with kosher meat (including poultry and fish).
3. You should not eat the fat from a sacrificial animal, otherwise fat is not a problem. Neither is **organ meat** (liver and kidneys) as long as it comes from kosher animals.

NOTE: All fruit and vegetables are kosher. You do not have to add salt to your food to make it kosher. You have to salt your offerings, not your food. Honey is kosher because it is just collected nectar from flowers. Bees are not kosher.

The two big offenders are **PORK** and **SHELL FISH**. When in doubt, ask your rabbi before you bring any doubtful food to a Nosh or an Oneg.