

Paper Proposal
The World of Food
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on What We Eat and Grow

Presenter

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Title: Rise, Kill, and Eat: The Abrogation of Jewish Food Laws in Early Christianity

Abstract

This paper explores the intersection of food and religion as it is portrayed in the historical narrative recorded by Luke, the writer of the New Testament book Acts of the Apostles. Specifically, I will examine the tenth chapter of this book and its background in the kosher food laws of the Jewish people reflected in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Through the vision, the audition, and the divine Spirit's word, the account of Cornelius' vision illustrates that Judaism's cleanliness laws regarding food do not apply to Gentiles. Therefore, there is nothing that blocks Jewish associations with Gentiles who are seeking God. This narrative serves as the foundation for the Christian teaching that followers of the Way need not follow food laws identified in the Scriptures of Israel.

Key Words: kashrut, Lev 11, Acts 10, Judaism, Christianity

Themes: Food in Religion and Religious Practice; Food in Literature; Food throughout History