**‘A Diet of Herbs and Fruit – Yum!’**

***29And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. 31Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*** Genesis 1:29-31

There aren’t many people who can imagine eating nothing but herbs and fruit morning, noon, and night for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. But God did not allow man to eat fish, fowl, or animal in the beginning. The vegetarians probably like hearing this. They may be thinking, ‘We knew we were right all along.’ Are they right? Should we be eating nothing but herbs and fruit?

When faced with a passage such as this one in the Bible, we’ve got to think about the context of the text. We need to ask: *What’s going on here? What are the circumstances? Where are we in the timeline of history?* *What is God thinking? Why would He put this limitation on man?* When we consider these questions, I believe we are able to understand what is going on and why God would exclude meat from man’s diet.

The first thing we realize is this: We are at the beginning of planet earth and the dawn of human history. Everything is just getting started. Everything is just as God wants it to be and God has said it is ‘Very good.’

Since we are “in the beginning,” we might conclude that God didn’t allow man to eat meat simply because the animals haven’t yet had a chance to ‘be fruitful and multiply.’ Really? How much could one man and one woman eat? No, the moratorium against eating meat wasn’t because animals were scarce at this time. If this was the answer, then God would have kept the suspension in place after Noah’s Flood until the animals that had been in the ark with Noah had had a chance to reproduce. However, instead of keeping this rule in place, after the Flood is when God allowed man to eat the flesh of fish, birds, and animals.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftn1) So, the presumed lack of animals to eat can’t be the reason God didn’t allow these creatures to be eaten by man.

May I suggest that a better reason for this moratorium might be this: There was no death in God’s very good creation. Jesus taught his disciples to pray ***‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’*** Death doesn’t exist in heaven and it didn’t exist in the earth until after Adam and Eve sinned. So, it may very well be that meat wasn’t included in man’s diet because it would have brought about the deaths of animals.

We do know this: God was likely the One who killed the first animal(s) to make “garments of skin” to cover Adam and Eve’s nakedness after they sinned.

Kathleen

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftnref1) Genesis 9:2-4