

# FAQ

**FROM THE MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS ARCHIVES (2000-2018)**

**J.K. McKee**

**MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS**  
messianicapologetics.net

# Frequently Asked Questions

**FROM THE MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS ARCHIVES**

© 2021, 2024 John Kimball McKee

All rights reserved. With the exception of quotations for academic purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission of the publisher.

Cover Image: nullplus via Istockphoto

ISBN 979-8317009786 (paperback)

ASIN B09F1MWGB7 (eBook)

Published by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries

P.O. Box 516

McKinney, Texas 75070

(407) 933-2002

[outreachisrael.net](http://outreachisrael.net) / [outreachisrael.blog](http://outreachisrael.blog)

[messianicapologetics.net](http://messianicapologetics.net) / [messianicapologetics.blog](http://messianicapologetics.blog)

**Fair Use Notice:** This publication contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We make use of this material as a matter of teaching, scholarship, research, and commentary. We believe in good faith that this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law, and is in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. For more information go to: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/107>

Outreach Israel Ministries is a non-profit 501(c)3. All prices listed on the publications of Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics are suggested donations.

# Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*  
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*  
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)  
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament  
Ara: Aramaic  
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)  
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)  
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)  
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.  
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)  
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*  
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.  
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)  
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)  
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)  
CJB: *Complete Jewish Bible* (1998)  
CJSB: *Complete Jewish Study Bible* (2016)  
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition  
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls  
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*  
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*  
ESV: *English Standard Version* (2001)  
Ger: German  
GNT: *Greek New Testament*  
Grk: Greek  
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)  
HCSB: *Holman Christian Standard Bible* (2004)  
Heb: Hebrew  
HNV: *Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible*  
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*  
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*  
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*  
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*  
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)  
JBK: *New Jerusalem Bible-Koren* (2000)  
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*  
KJV: *King James Version*  
Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)  
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)  
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)  
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)  
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)  
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)  
LXX: *Septuagint*  
m. Mishnah  
MT: *Masoretic Text*  
NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)  
NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)  
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*  
NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)  
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*  
NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)  
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*  
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*  
NIV: *New International Version* (1984)  
NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)  
NJSB: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)  
NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)  
NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)  
NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)  
NT: *New Testament*  
OT: *Old Testament*  
REB: *Revised English Bible* (1989)  
RSV: *Revised Standard Version* (1952)  
t. Tosefta  
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament  
Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*  
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*  
TLV: *Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version* (2014)  
TNIV: *Today's New International Version* (2005)  
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*  
UBSHNT: *United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition*  
v(s). *verse(s)*  
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*  
Vul: *Latin Vulgate*  
YLT: *Young's Literal Translation* (1862/1898)  
WMB: *World Messianic Bible* (2020)

# Halal Meat (Islam)

**What do you think about Messianic people eating Islamic *halal* meat? Is this something acceptable, or is it tantamount to eating meat sacrificed to idols?**

The issue of *halal* products, those deemed fit for consumption by Muslims according to Islamic custom and tradition, is one which has become somewhat controversial in the post-9/11 world, with an unfair amount of prejudices displayed toward various processed meats or packaged foods which have been certified as “*halal*.” Some of the same prejudices have been displayed, in past history, toward processed meats or packaged foods which have been certified as “kosher,” by various Jewish regulatory agencies.

While the various rules and customs surrounding what food products are *halal*, and thus acceptable for consumption by religious Muslims, are lengthy, it is a fact that Muslims will often consider food products certified as “kosher” as acceptable for their eating. There are various similarities and differences seen, between traditional Jewish kosher and traditional Islamic *halal*. Both Jewish kosher and Islamic *halal* avoid pork, with Jewish *shechitah* slaughter and Islamic slaughter similar although different. A major difference is that both fish and shellfish are permitted in Islamic *halal*, and not all land animals have to have split hooves and chew a cud.<sup>1</sup>

A basic summary of what the Quran specifies is acceptable and unacceptable for Muslims to eat—obviously with some echoes of the Torah’s instruction—is as follows:

“You are forbidden carrion, blood, and the flesh of swine; and also any flesh dedicated to any other than God. You are forbidden the flesh of strangled animals and of those beaten or gored to death; of those killed by a fall or mangled by beasts of prey (unless you make it clean by giving the deathstroke yourselves); also of animals sacrificed to idols” (Surah 5:3 [al-Ma’idah {the Table}]).<sup>2</sup>

Many people in today’s Messianic community—even when holding a less-strict kosher-style of diet, which would buy commercially-processed meat from the clean animals of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14—will not eat *halal* meat as a matter of principle. At times, this can be guided by inappropriate, overly-conservative political views which tend to look at your average Muslim person as a terrorist, when he or she is not. Ironically though, many people in today’s Messianic community do tend to have personal preferences for eating a great deal of Middle Eastern cuisine, and will frequent restaurants owned by Muslims, with a large Muslim clientele, or even where Arabic is freely spoken. This means, that in many cases, the meat used by the restaurant may come from an Islamic *halal* source.

Very few people in the Messianic movement have addressed whether it is acceptable or not to eat *halal* meat, given the thought that with the name of Allah invoked during the slaughtering process, *halal* meat may be sacrificed to idols. Aaron Eby, author of the 2012 book *Biblically Kosher*, while noting that while the Jewish traditions surrounding *shechitah* or ritual slaughter are more stringent than *halal*, Islamic *halal* meat has never been viewed as inherently idolatrous by the Jewish community, and indeed notes how the main Hebrew and Aramaic terms for God all share Semitic roots. Also recognized is how meat slaughtered according to Jewish kosher

---

<sup>1</sup> Sue Fishkoff, *Kosher Nation: Why More and More of America’s Food Answers to a Higher Authority* (New York: Schoken Books, 2010), pp 152-153.

<sup>2</sup> *The Koran With a Parallel Arabic Text*, trans. N.J. Dawood (London: Penguin Books, 2006), 106.

---

## Halal Meat (Islam)

---

tradition, is widely considered acceptable for Muslims to consume.<sup>3</sup> As the Quran states, “All wholesome things have this day been made lawful for you. The food of those to whom the Book was given is lawful for you, and yours for them” (Surah 5:5 [al-Ma'idah {the Table}]).<sup>4</sup>

There will be Messianic people, holding to a kosher-style of diet, who will consider *halal* meat to be sacrificed to idols. Others, not considering it idolatry proper, will not eat it in view of issues pertaining to Islamic law being forced in various, otherwise, religiously free and open Western communities.

---

<sup>3</sup> Aaron Eby, *Biblically Kosher: A Messianic Jewish Perspective on Kashrut* (Marshfield, MO: First Fruits of Zion, 2012), pp 121-122.

<sup>4</sup> Dawood, *Koran*, 106.