

Study guide questions
Key/Allen: “The Levitical Dietary Laws in the Light of Modern Science”

As mentioned in the article “Leviticus 11 presents dietary laws, specifying which animals are ‘clean’ (edible) and ‘unclean’ (inedible).” Nine major theories that account for these dietary laws as well as their pros and cons are in the article that you have just read.

Be able to briefly describe each theory and explain the pros and cons of each.

Q: What makes an animal “clean” or “unclean” – what are the requirements as stated in Leviticus 11?

1) Obedience Testing Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

2) Arbitrary Divine Command Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

3) Divine Authority Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

4) Moral Discipline Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

5) Hygiene Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

6) Spiritual Symbolism Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

7) Pagan Worship Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

8) Religious Badge or Mark Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

9) Eclectic Theory:

Pros:

Cons:

Q: What conclusion do the authors come to? What do we need before we can come to a decisive answer? What do the authors suggest as one of the most reasonable answers based upon what we actually know?